

Our New Address on the Avenue!

by Stacey Holman, M.D. and Cathi Fontenot, M.D

In early October, clinical outpatient services provided by the LSU Faculty Group Practice (better known as the LSU Healthcare Network) relocated to a newly renovated office building at 3700 St Charles Avenue. Primary care as well as many medical and surgical specialties will be represented at this location. These clinical services are provided directly by faculty of the LSU School of Medicine. In addition to physician and other provider appointments, radiology and laboratory support will also be provided for patients seen at this location making this a “one-stop shop” for the health care needs of our community. When asked about the benefits of the move, one of our physicians stated, “To me, one of the advantages of the move to St. Charles, and its multispecialty presence under one roof, is access to my colleagues for consultation in the management of complex patients.” One of our OB/GYN doctors also mentioned the quick access to inpatient care at Touro Infirmery, home to the LSU Obstetrics Service. And what do our patients think of this move? “It’s exciting, awesome, and I can’t wait to see the new place!” Refer to www.LSUHN.com to find the latest news on the LSU Faculty Group Practice.

Services will include the following Medical Specialties such as:

Allergy/Immunology, Cardiology, Endocrinology,	Surgical Specialties such as: Oncology, Orthopedics,
Gastroenterology, Neurology, Nephrology,	Thoracic Surgery, Urology, Vascular Surgery and Vein Care,
Pulmonology, Rheumatology	Obstetrics and Gynecology
Primary Care such as: Comp Med, Family Medicine, Geriatrics,	including Urogynecology, Ophthalmology
Med/Peds, Musicians’ Clinic	Support Services: Infusion Center, Laboratory Services, Radiology



PHOTOS BY LESLIE CAPO

Class of 2013 Achieves Highest Average USMLE Step 1 Scores Ever!

Joe DelCarpio, Ph.D.

In order to be promoted to the junior year of medical school, a student must achieve a minimum passing score on Step 1 of the United States Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE) as defined by the National Board of Medical Examiners, which for the current academic year is a 188. The Dean’s office is very proud and excited to report that the current third year medical student class (Class of 2013) has achieved the highest average Step 1 score on the USMLE in its history! To put this amazing achievement in perspective, our five-year average USMLE Step 1 score is 217, with a passing rate on the first attempt of 91.6 percent. The national five-year average USMLE Step 1 score is 221 with a passing rate on the first attempt of 92.8 percent. The average USMLE Step 1 score for the Class of 2013 is a 228 with a passing rate on the first attempt of 97 percent! In

addition to assessing a student’s fund of knowledge in the basic medical sciences, the Step 1 score is a key indicator of a student’s chances for success in landing a residency position in competitive graduate medical disciplines. Students who achieve a score of 230 or more usually have a much greater chance of being invited for an interview in the very competitive programs such as orthopedics or radiology. Ninety-one students in the Class of 2013 achieved a 230 or higher score, with fifty-three students scoring over 240! In previous years, the average number of students achieving a 230 or above was less than fifty. This dramatic rise in performance can be attributed to several factors including changes in the applicant pool and converting from pass/fail to actual grades in the first and second year courses. However, the single largest factor is a change in how students prepare

prior to taking the Step 1 exam. In recent years, though national Step 1 scores rose, those at LSU remained constant or even showed a tendency to decline. In response to this “flat” performance, the Academic Standards Committee now requires that a student must take the Comprehensive Basic Sciences Self Assessment examination (CBSSA), an on-line practice test providing students with feed back on their performance and identifying weaknesses, prior to being permitted to take USMLE Step1. Students are required to score at least 5 points above the minimum NBME passing score on the CBSSA before they are allowed to take the real step one. Based on this initial data we are also considering implementing a similar approach in preparing students for the Step 2, clinical knowledge exam. Congratulations to our L3s on a job well done!

Seen in the Papers

Dr. Hamilton Farris,
Department of
Otorhinolaryngology
and Neuroscience
Center reported



in a recent issue of the journal Science (Akre, K.L., Farris, H.E., Lea, A.M., Page, R.A. & Ryan, M.J. "Signal perception in frogs and bats and the evolution of mating signals." Science 333, 751-2) that two entirely different species of animal show similar perception of auditory cues driving basic biological functions. Dr. Farris, in a separate report in the journal Nature Communications (Farris, H. E. and Ryan M.J. "Relative comparisons of call parameters enable auditory grouping in frogs." Nat. Commun. 2, 410) revealed new information about the way tungara frogs in the tropical rain forest hear, sort, and process sounds, similar to the way humans do.

Dr. Howard
Osofsky, M.D.,
Professor and
Chair of Psychiatry
along with Drs. Joy
Osofsky and Tonya
Hansel recently
published an article



entitled "Commentary: Mental Health Perspectives Following the Gulf Oil Spill" (Psychiatry, in press). Also, along with Drs. Lawrence Palinkas and James Galloway, Dr. Osofsky has recently published a second article in the journal Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness entitled "The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Mental Health Effects on Residents in Heavily Impacted Areas" (In press).

Dr. Daitoku
Sakamuro,
Department of
Pathology
reported that the
nucleocytoplasmic
adaptor protein
BIN1 is capable of
acting as a MYC-independent cancer
suppressor (Lundgaard GL, Daniels NE,
Pyndiah S, Cassimere EK, Ahmed KM,
Rodrigue A, Kihara D, Post CB, Sakamuro
D. "Identification of a novel effector
domain of BIN1 for cancer suppression."
J. Cell. Biochem. 112, 2992). This article
has already attracted the broad interest of
the field and several cancer research leders,
including Dr. George Prendergast, Editor-
in-Chief of Cancer Research.



Dr. Suresh Alahari,
Department of
Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology
found that a
protein discovered
in his laboratory,
Nischarin, is
capable of inhibiting the growth of breast
cancer cells. In their report in the online
Journal of the National Cancer Institute
(Baranwal, S., Wang, Y., Rathinam, R.,
Lee, J., Jin, L., McGoey, R., Pylayeva, Y.,
Giancotti, F., Blobe, G. C., and Alahari,
S. K. "Molecular Characterization of the
Tumor-Suppressive Function of Nischarin
in Breast Cancer." JNCI 103, 1) they
describe the regulation of Nicsharin
and report the genetic mechanism by
which this protein inhibits breast tumor
growth, information important for the
development of new treatments.



LSU Docs Ranked Top by US News and World Report

Congratulations go out to several of our doctors for being recognized as US News Top Doctors in the 2011-12 Best Hospitals Ranking by US News and World Report! (US News Top Doctors bases its selections on nominations submitted by other doctors and reviewed by its physician-led research team.)

Dr. David Borne

(General Internal Medicine)

Dr. Luis Espinoza

(Rheumatology)

Dr. Martha Brewer

(OB/GYN)

Dr. Joseph Miller

(OB/GYN)

Dr. John Hunt

(Division of Trauma and Critical Care Surgery)

Dr. John Lindsey

(Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery)

Dr. Cynthia Mizgala

(Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery)

Dr. Michael Moses

(Craniofacial Surgery, Aesthetic Reconstructive Surgery)

Seven of our doctors earned special designation as ranking in the top 1% of their specialties:

Dr. Larry Hollier

(Vascular Surgery)

Dr. Eugene Woltering

(Oncology and Endocrine Surgery)

Dr. Moises Arriaga

(Otolaryngology and Neurosurgery)

Dr. Daniel Nuss

(Otorhinolaryngology)

Dr. Lowell Anthony

(Hematology and Oncology)

Dr. Frank Smart

(Cardiology)

Dr. George Ellis

(Ophthalmology)

PHOTO BY ANDREW HOULENBACH



With the last political burdle cleared, demolition and construction moves full speed ahead!

The Dean's Corner

by Steve Nelson, M.D., Dean School of Medicine

In a major step forward for the LSU Health Sciences Center and our State and its citizens, the Legislature's Joint Budget Committee gave its unanimous approval for the state facilities office to begin construction of the University Medical Center. The 424 bed facility is scheduled to open in early 2015. The committee had previously withheld its approval pending a presentation by the UMC Board of the proposed business plan, which occurred on September 16. House Budget Chairman Jim Fannin told the committee that the revised business plan, which avoids approximately \$400 million in debt and lowers the amount of yearly state fund appropriations from \$100 million to \$60 million, satisfies his concerns about the project. The \$1.088 billion project will provide comprehensive quality healthcare to our citizens and revitalize and transform our research programs. Most importantly it will provide the necessary infrastructure and patients necessary to train the future healthcare professionals for Louisiana.

LSU-New Orleans Public School Science Partnership Program

We are pleased to announce the new leadership of the LSU-New Orleans Public Schools Science Partnership Program. Dr. Fern Tsien and Dr. Udai Pandey, both faculty from the Department of Genetics, will serve as directors and along with Dr. Jaime Becnel, a post-doctoral fellow from the Department of Pharmacology, will continue the program established by Dr. Judith Venuti. The goal of the program is to improve 4th graders' performance in the LEAP exam in science, and to encourage them to have fun while they learn.



The LSUHSC Women's Alliance presents a check for the New Orleans Science Partnership Program. From left to right – Kelly Trail Zea, Mackie Gremillion, Bernadette Moerschbaecher, Dr. Kathleen McDonough, Dr. Fern Tsien, Dr. Udai Pandey, Dr. Jaime Becnel, and Betty Oseid

PHOTOS BY LESLIE CUPO

LSUHSC/Patrick F. Taylor Hands-on Genetics Workshops for Louisiana K-12 students

Dr. Fern Tsien is the Director of the LSUHSC/Patrick F. Taylor Hands-on Genetics Workshops for Louisiana K-12 students. The goal of this program is to make health science topics more interesting and accessible, to motivate students to improve their grades as they consider career in the health sciences. The workshops are coordinated with the school teachers to maximize the level of student learning and complement their classroom curriculum and academic level. The workshops are funded through an education grant awarded to Dr. Tsien from the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation. Graduate students and medical students serve as mentors to the participants as they assist. The schools participate once or twice a year. Typically, the elementary and middle school workshops are held at the schools and the high schools usually attend a morning-long field trip at LSUHSC.



Elementary and middle school students learn about heredity, cells, and DNA. They sometimes isolate DNA from strawberries and manipulate candy twists to simulate chromosome instability during cancer progression.



During field trips at LSUHSC, high school students engage in projects, lead by Daryl Lofaso, often featured in the popular media such as forensics, and participate in interactive human simulations of cardio-respiratory resuscitations and laparoscopic surgery.

Elementary Schools

Holy Name of Jesus Elementary
Seventh Ward Elementary (Abbeville)

Middle Schools

Holy Name of Jesus Middle School
Lusher Middle School

High Schools

Benjamin Franklin High School
Chalmette High School

High Schools (cont.)

Destrehan High School
Donaldsonville High School
East Ascension High School
Greater Gentilly High School
Hahnville High School
Patrick F. Taylor Science and Technology Academy
St. Martin's Episcopal School
Sarah T. Reed High School
South Lafourche High School

For more information:

http://www.medschool.lsuhsu.edu/genetics/workshop_information.aspx

Researching the Researchers

Francesca Peruzzi, Ph.D.

Academic Position and Department

Associate Professor at the Stanley S Scott Cancer Center, Section of Hematology/Oncology



Background

Received her Ph.D. in Molecular and Quantitative diagnostic Pathology from the University of Siena in Siena, Italy. She did her initial postdoctoral work in the lab of Claudio Gualerzi at the University of Camerino, Camerino, Italy. After additional postdoctoral positions at Temple University and Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, PA, she became an Assistant Professor and then Associate Professor at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA before moving to LSU in 2010.

What do you want to tell people about your research?

Although the introduction of highly active anti-retroviral therapy (HAART) improved significantly the lifespan of HIV/AIDS patients, about 50%-70% of these patients will still develop motor and/or cognitive disorders. My main research over the last ten years has focused on the investigation of the molecular mechanisms involved in neuronal injury caused by HIV-1 infection. Another line of research is aimed at understanding the role of non-coding RNAs in cellular migration and proliferation of brain tumors.

And the Money Keeps Rolling in From Everywhere!

Congratulations to the following researchers for obtaining extramural funding from federal, state, and independent sources since May 1, 2011:

NIH U01 Cooperative Agreement Award:

Edward Trapido, Sc.D. FACE, Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center

NIH R01:

Jerome Breslin, Ph.D. Physiology
Stephania Cormier, Ph.D. Pharmacology
Minghao Jin, Ph.D. Neuroscience Center
Sunyoung Kim, Ph.D. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Walter Lukiw, Ph.D. Neuroscience Center
Daitoku Sakamuro, Ph.D. Pathology
Richard Scribner, M.D., M.P.H., Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center
Richard Wainford, Ph.D. Pharmacology

NIH R00 Pathway to Independence:

Nicholas Gilpin, Ph.D., Physiology

NIH R21:

Ashok Aiyar, Ph.D. Microbiology, Immunology, and Parasitology
Jerome Breslin, Ph.D., Physiology

NIH F30:

Tiffany Eady, Neuroscience Center

Louisiana Board of Regents:

Angela Amedee, Ph.D., Microbiology, Immunology, and Parasitology
Jerome Breslin, Ph.D., Physiology
Judy Crabtree, Ph.D. Genetics
Eric Lazartigues, Ph.D., Pharmacology
Donald Mercante, Ph.D. Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center

American Heart Association:

Kavaljit Chhabra, Pharmacology
Jason Gardner, Ph.D., Cardiovascular Center of Excellence
Jihang Ju, Ph.D., Pharmacology
Yaping Tang, M.D., Ph.D., Cell Biology and Anatomy

Independent Foundations:

Nicolas Bazan, M.D., Ph.D., Ophthalmology
Doheny Eye Institute
Laura Bell, Director of Continuing Medical Education
Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation
Mary Breslin, Ph.D. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Children's Hospital, Research Institute (Two Awards)
Shyamal Desai, Ph.D. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Ataxia Telangiectasia Children's Project
Lala Dunbar, M.D., Internal Medicine
PPD Development

William Ferrante, M.D., Gastroenterology,
University of Colorado
Xiao Ching Li, Ph.D. Cell Biology and Anatomy, NARSAD
Tara Lin, M.D., Internal Medicine, Ladies Leukemia League
Melissa Nass, M.D., M.P.H., Pediatrics
National Assembly on School Based Health Center
Udai Pandey, Ph.D. Genetics
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association
Francesca Peruzzi, Ph.D., Internal Medicine
Temple University Health System, Inc.
Seth Pincus, M.D., Microbiology, Immunology, and Parasitology
Children's Hospital, Research Institute
Erich Richter, M.D., Neurosurgery
St. Jude Medical
Stephanie Taylor, M.D., Internal Medicine
Becton Dickinson Corp.
Cepheid (Two Awards)
Gen Probe Incorporated
Gabriel Uwaifo, M.D., Endocrinology
Tolerx, Inc.
Arnold Zea, Ph.D., Microbiology, Immunology, and Parasitology
Universidad de Antioquia

They're Movin' On Up!

Congratulations are in order for the following twenty-eight SOM faculty who achieved promotion, effective July 1, 2011:

Professor of Clinical:

Robert Maupin
(OB/Gyn)

Gabriel Tender (Neurosurgery)
Maria Weimer (Neurology)

Professor with Tenure:

Michael Hagensee (Medicine)
Stephanie N. Taylor (Medicine)

Associate Professor of Research:

M. Nsuami (Medicine)

Associate Professor with Tenure:

Eric Lazartigues (Pharmacology)
David Worthylake (Biochemistry)

Clinical Associate Professor:

Geeta Dalal (Pediatrics)
Carl Lavie (Medicine)
Tracy LeGros (Medicine)
Heather Murphy-Lavoie (Medicine)
Vernon K. Rhynes (Surgery)
Roxanne Townsend (Medicine)
Cassandra Youmans (Medicine)

Tenure only:

Wanguo Liu (Genetics)
Krzysztof Reiss (Medicine)

Clinical Assistant Professor:

Christine Butts (Medicine)
Tonya C. Hansel (Psychiatry)
Melissa McKay (Medicine)

Associate Professor of Clinical:

James Barbeau (Pathology)
Bryan Barootes (Family Medicine)
Catherine Hebert (Medicine)
Peter C. Krause (Orthopaedics)
Robin McGoey (Pathology)
Andrew McWhorter (Otorhinolaryngology)

Assistant Professor of Clinical:

Lan Thi Nguyen (OB/Gyn)
Juan Carlos Vargas (OB/Gyn)

Do you want to organize an "extracurricular" activity for your colleagues, like a tennis team or book club?

Do you do something for the community that you'd know about?

Do you run a non-science/clinical SOM organization that you'd like to get others involved in?

Then let us know so we can post it on the Faculty News web page!

Contact Dawanna Menzies
dmenzi@lsuhsc.edu or 504-568-6883
and she'll get you posted!

Recent Appointments

The last several months have seen the appointment of key leadership positions at LSU SOM. Join us in welcoming the following people:

Dr. Robert Batson, M.D.

– Department Head of Surgery and the Isidore Cohn Chair of Surgery. Dr. Batson had served as Interim Department Head since last fall. A graduate of LSU in Baton Rouge, LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans (AOA), and LSU New Orleans Surgery Residency Program, he completed vascular surgery training at Baylor University. Dr. Batson has been active on our faculty since 1975.



Mary Thoesen Coleman, M.D., Ph.D.

– Professor of Family Medicine and Director of Community Health Clinics. In her administrative role, she will work on the development of an LSU network of primary care health clinics. She completed her doctoral work in physiological chemistry and medicine at Ohio State University. After several years in community practice she returned to



full-time academic medicine, serving on the faculties of both Ohio State University and University of Louisville, where she was Associate Dean for Curriculum. Dr. Coleman recently served as Dean at Ross University School of Medicine.

Dr. Frank Smart, M.D.

–Professor of Medicine, Section Chief of Cardiology, and Director of the Cardiovascular Center of Excellence. He is an internationally recognized expert in heart failure and is renowned for his clinical expertise and his clinical research. Dr. Smart is an LSU medical graduate who was a previous member of LSUHSC medical faculty. Since 2007 Dr. Smart has been the Dorothy and Lloyd Huck Chair of the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine Gagnon Atlantic Health in northern New Jersey.



Dr. Jayne Weiss, M.D.

–Professor and Head of Ophthalmology and the Herbert Kaufmann Chair in Ophthalmology. Dr. Weiss is an accomplished academic ophthalmologist, specializing in corneal diseases.



A graduate of SUNY Buffalo and Mt. Sinai Medical Center (AOA), she trained at the prestigious Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami. She also completed fellowships at Harvard and Emory. Most recently she has held the post of Professor at Wayne State University, Department of Ophthalmology, and Director of Ophthalmic Pathology; she previously held a faculty appointment at the University of Massachusetts.

Dr. Amy E. Young, M.D.

–Professor and Head of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Abe Mickal Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Young is President Elect of the Association of Professors of Obstetrics and Gynecology. A graduate of Vanderbilt and University of Mississippi School of Medicine, she trained at Emory and Baylor College of Medicine. Most recently she held the Henry and Emma Meyer Endowed Chair for Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology and served as the Executive Vice Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Baylor and also the Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Harris County Hospital District.



Welcome Newcomers

Welcome Residents!

The LSU School of Medicine employs over 600 house officers per year, including both residents and fellows.

The SOM is home to nearly 60 Graduate Medical Education programs, which welcomed 132 new interns in July 2011. The LSU SOM May 2011 graduates had 58% of the class remain in the state of Louisiana for training. Of that class, 28% are currently training at the Interim LSU Hospital in New Orleans. LSU School of Medicine continues to train a majority of Louisiana physicians and looks forward to another successful year.

New Medical Students

This past August saw the matriculation of 200 new Medical Students into the School of Medicine. The Class of 2015 is comprised of nearly 96% Louisiana State Residents, demonstrating the SOM's commitment to the training of Louisiana's future health care leaders, with nearly 41% of these students being women and 26% being underrepresented minorities. In addition, there are 6 M.D./Ph.D. students. This year's class has one of the higher average GPAs (3.6) and MCAT scores (29) in recent history, which continues to reflect the upward trend in the quality of our students. Welcome to all!

New Graduate Students

This summer nineteen new students started working towards their Masters or Ph.D. in the basic sciences departments in the School of Medicine either through the Interdisciplinary Program or by directly joining departmental programs. Welcome to the following:



Farhana Musarrat (Cell Biology and Anatomy); Nirmala Tumarada, Brandon Jones, and John Cefalu (Neuroscience); Melissa Scroggins, John Connick, and Venkat Subramaniam (Pharmacology); Fokhrul Hossain, Joseph Daigle, Kusma Pyakurel, Edward LaRose, Matthew Dean, Regina Chustz, and Abdelmetalab Tarhuni (Interdisciplinary); Arturo Tapia, Shardulendra Sherchand, Arpita Das, and Rafiq Nabi (Microbiology, Immunology, and Parasitology); Xun Zhang (Physiology); and Ian Casci (Genetics)

What did they say!?!

Want to know what your colleagues are saying in the annals of science?



Visit the list of faculty publications on the library website to see what your friends and colleagues are doing:

<http://www.lsuhsoc.edu/no/library/ss&d/data/facultypubs.html>

New Faculty Orientation

by Paula Gregory, Director of Faculty Development

There's an
LSU CV format?



How do I get
involved in
teaching?

Where do I go for help with an IRB protocol?

On October 5th, the Office of Faculty Development organized a New Faculty Orientation to help answer those questions and more.

Nearly 30 new School of Medicine faculty attended the event, some of them had only been here a couple days, others a couple weeks. While there were sessions on issues of interest to everyone, there were also breakout sessions designed to address the specific needs of clinical faculty vs basic science faculty.

There is also a virtual orientation on the web:

http://www.medschool.lsuhsu.edu/faculty_affairs/faculty_development/faculty_orientation.aspx

The Inside Scope

In this recurring section of The Pulse we try to answer your questions concerning issues at LSU SOM. One question each issue is chosen by the Editors, who then try to find the person to answer it. Send your questions to any of the Editors at the e-mail addresses listed in the contacts section.

Question: How can LSUHSC/LSU Health enhance its brand recognition in the city to highlight our research, teaching, and clinical efforts?

Answer:

(Cathi Fontenot, M.D., Associate Dean for Alumni Affairs and Development, Interim CEO LSU Healthcare Network)

The LSU School of Medicine has been working with the LSU (Baton Rouge) Manship School Of Mass Communication about how best to enhance its brand recognition. An entire semester class in the spring of this year was committed to work on how best to market the new St Charles Healthcare Network location at 3700 St Charles Avenue. As a result, the LSU Health logo has been prominently displayed on a Streetcar on the St Charles route, in the Times-picayune and in a monthly "FIT" insert in the Times-Picayune that displays information about healthy lifestyles and healthcare. Current plans include a continuing collaborative relationship with the Manship School to help the School of Medicine more effectively promote our research, teaching and clinical efforts. Feel free to send the medical school administration your ideas and thoughts for consideration.



The Editor's Pen

Andrew Hollenbach, Ph.D.

This is an exciting time at LSU School of Medicine. Our students are excelling like never before. Our faculty are making names for themselves not only here in Louisiana but around the world. We have several new leadership positions filled with individuals poised to take our departments in new and exciting directions. Most of all, with the last political hurdles cleared, workers are moving full steam ahead on the building of a state of the art teaching hospital. In addition to revolutionizing how medical education and treatment will be done in New Orleans, this hospital will provide something just as important in our present economic environment: thousands of stable jobs (from construction to housekeeping to administration), jobs that are NOT dependent on tourism!

We've had several changes behind the scenes here at The Pulse, too. Kevin Gipsen (Medical Student, L4), due to increasing responsibilities of Medical Student life, has stepped down as Editor of Student Affairs. Kevin was instrumental in the development of the publication you have in front of you and was a tireless contributor on every issue. He will be greatly missed. However, we welcome Lauren Hayes (Medical Student, L3) as our new Editor of Student Affairs. We also welcome Sonia Gasparini, Ph.D. (Neuroscience), as Editor of Educational Affairs to fill the position previously held by Dr. Judith Venuti. Lauren and Sonia have made our transition seamless and very quickly demonstrated that, although Kevin and Judy left very large shoes to fill, they definitely have the skills, dedication, and drive to fill them! Welcome Lauren and Sonia, and thank you for your outstanding work and dedication, on this issue and in issues to come!



Honors Awards and Congratulations



Pathology

Dr. Giovanni Lorusso, M.D., was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award for 2010-2011 by the Aesculapian Society.

Robin McGoey, MSGC, M.D., was nominated for the Charles Hilton, M.D. Professorship of Medical Education.

Amy Collinsworth, M.D., was named Chief Resident for 2011-2012. The Pathology Residency Program was recently awarded full accreditation for five years from the ACGME.

Physiology

Graduate student and Ph.D. candidate **Annie Whitaker** (Patricia Molina, M.D., Ph.D. mentor) was awarded the Porter Physiology Fellowship Continuation Award from the American Physiological Society in 2010 and the Porter Fellowship Continuation Award for this year. In addition, Annie was designated as the Eleanor Ison Franklin Fellow for having the highest ranked Porter Fellowship renewal application.

Nick Gilpin, Ph.D. received the Young Investigator Award from the NIAAA-funded meeting for his work entitled "Alcoholism & Stress: a Framework for Future Treatment Strategies", in Volterra Italy. Nick also received the National Award of Excellence in Research by a New Investigator from the National Hispanic Science Network on Drug Abuse in Miami, FL.

Family Medicine

Charles Cefalu, M.D., M.S., was named Dorlan Geriatrician of the Year at the Annual Dorland Health Ceremony in Las Vegas, March 8th of this year.

Dr. Alan Broussard, M.D., Assistant Professor and Director of the LSU Family Medicine Residency program, was named University Medical Center's Physician of the Year.

Cell Biology and Anatomy

Ted Weyand, Ph.D. received an award from the Office of Minority Affairs as "Research Mentor of the Year". This award was given to recognize his support and dedication to the LSUHSC High School Summer Science Program.

Otorhinolaryngology

The LSU Otolaryngology service was recognized by U.S. News and World Report as the single "High Performing" service at both Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center and at Earl K. Long Hospital. This honor comes just a few months after they achieved similar recognition for their service at the LSU Interim Public Hospital.

Orthopedics

Drs. Monroe LaBorde and Peter Krause were elected to membership in the American Orthopedic Association. Membership in this organization can only be through election, of which only 5% of practicing orthopedic surgeons gain admission.

Ophthalmology

Dr. Jayne Weiss, M.D. and Chair of the Department, was awarded the Secretariat Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

Dr. Sean O'Sullivan, M.D., won a medical school teaching award.

Physician of the Year!

The Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians (LAFP) was proud to honor Kim Edward LeBlanc, M.D., as its 2011 LAFP Family Physician of the Year on August 6 at the Awards and Installation Ceremony held in New Orleans, LA. This award recognizes Dr. LeBlanc's years of service to his patients, his dedication to Family Medicine and his contributions to developing and improving the profession for future physicians and their patients. Letters of endorsement were received from patients, colleagues and friends who have known Dr. LeBlanc for numerous years, where he has been delivering health care to the State of Louisiana. Dr. LeBlanc is the Marie Lahasky Professor and Head of the Department of Family Medicine at LSUHSC School of Medicine – New Orleans. He is also the Director of Rural Education for the School of Medicine, overseeing the Rural Scholars Track, and a Professor in the Department of Orthopedics.

Congratulations Dr. LeBlanc!



AOA Inductees

Congratulations to the following individuals for election to membership in the beta of Louisiana Chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society:

Senior students: Jackie V. Abadie, Ariana Beck, Estela Amadis Brooke, Blair Budden, Patrick Clerkin, Lisa Deininger, Danny Eads, Lindsey Goodwin, Danny Johnson, Jacob Lessing, Michelle McCown, Robert Patrick Owens, Jonathan Perkins, Shane Prejean, Kim Russel, Azeen Sadeghian, Catherine Simpson, Katie St. Germain, Jessica Stark

From Cadavers to Beakers to Stethoscopes: A Glimpse into the Life of an M.D./Ph.D. Candidate

By Nick Melvan, Ph.D.

Many of my friends in medical school viewed our graduation as an end goal. We were fervent academics anxious to learn as much as we could, as fast as possible. And many of them did so, later earning high marks and well-recognized residency positions. When beginning graduate school my third year at LSUHSC, I had to quickly adjust the direction of my energies. Research is not done quickly nor is there always one “most right” answer. In addition to studying my subject area, learning vital research methodologies became both time and energy consuming. Frequently it felt that just as I had mastered a new subject area was I quickly forgetting another, most commonly aspects of my basic medical education. Experiments didn’t always work out and timelines were not as consistent as subject exams. Regularly overcoming my pride became commonplace and often the help from a colleague or advisor was essential for progressing in my studies and research. In spite of these struggles, graduate school provided me with training and opportunities that I would not have otherwise received in medical school alone. Thanks to experience with teaching, conducting and presenting hypothesis-driven research, grant and manuscript

writing, and networking through both national and international conferences, I feel more than adequately prepared for my later career in research and academics.

It has been difficult feeling in an invariable state of social and professional flux while pursuing my M.D./Ph.D. degrees. Friendships and academic roles seem to constantly change. While it has been difficult to see friends move on, it has been rewarding to build new friendships along the way. I have recently returned for my first clinical year of training, and have found myself working under many of my former medical school classmates. Learning under them, I have been consistently impressed by the physicians that they have become. Although my training thus far has been a challenge, I would not change my decision to join the M.D./Ph.D. program at LSUHSC. The struggles that I have overcome and the support that I have been fortunate to have along the way, have significantly impacted my personal and professional growth. As fellow M.D./Ph.D. candidate David Stark puts it, “It’s been a tough transition, but I’m making progress, and now I can see my research years from a care-oriented perspective. I’m happy.”



Nick Melvan, Ph.D. and currently an L3, attended the 61st Meeting of Nobel Laureates and Students in the Fields of Physiology and Medicine in Lindau Germany this summer. He was selected by the NIH as one of 70 student delegates to represent the US at the meeting. He joined 565 international students and 23 past Nobel Laureates from 77 different countries, to exchange ideas, build international networks, and discuss the progress and future of international scientific research.

Our Best and Brightest of the Next Generation Shine!

By: Leslie Capo

About 50 graduate students and post-docs performing research at LSU School of Medicine presented their research projects on Friday, November 4 at the 25th Annual LSUHSC Graduate Research Day. The event, held at the LSUHSC School of Dentistry, featured both oral and poster presentations. Research findings included evidence that inhaled particulate matter produces inflammation and oxidative stress as well as a decrease in cardiac function in healthy individuals, the identification of the Epstein-Barr Virus as a possible biomarker for a precursor to cervical cancer, and a potential new target to treat colorectal cancer.

Postdoctoral Award Winners

Abhilash Ponnath

(mentor Dr. Hamilton Farris – Neuroscience)

Virginia Ronchi

(mentor Dr. Arthur Haas – Biochemistry)

Graduate Student Poster Awards

Sherin Hashem

(mentor Dr. William Claycomb – Biochemistry)

Ji Won Park

(mentor Dr. Wayne Backes – Pharmacology)

Monica Ertel

(mentor Dr. Donna Neumann – Pharmacology)

Graduate Student Oral Presentation

Kavaljit Chhabra

(mentor Dr. Eric Lazartigues – Pharmacology)

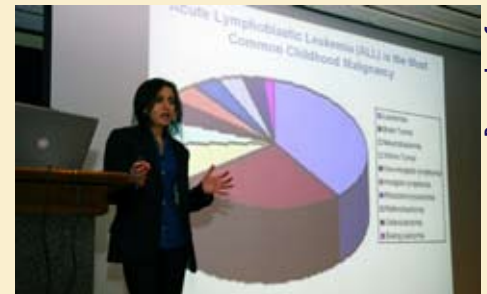
Annie Whitaker

(mentor Dr. Patricia Molina – Physiology)

Sarah Mahne

(mentor Dr. Kurt Vamer – Pharmacology)

Congratulations to our faculty, students, post-docs, and staff on a most successful day!



Purvaba Survaiya (mentor Wayne Vedeckis, Ph.D.) presents her research to fellow students and faculty.

PHOTOS BY LESLIE CAPO

M.D./Ph.D. News

By Kathleen McDounough, M.D./Ph.D. Program Director

After graduating our largest class of M.D./Ph.D. students in May we started our new class of students with the first year medical class in August (Dustin Todaro, Natalie Halapin, Tomas Vanagunas, Abdelrahim Abdel, Hannah Albritton and Garland Upchurch). Five students (Jesse Sulzer, Nick Melvan, Tabitha Quebedeaux, Tiffany Eady and David Stark) completed their Ph.D.s and have returned to the third year of medical school – sometimes they thought they would never make it back to medical school. Matt Auten will join the third year of medical school in October after completing his Ph.D. in August. In addition, six students who recently passed Step I, are now knee deep in their Ph.D. research – Felix Nau, Adam Perricone, Greg Lee, Alan Tseng, Jack DePaolo and Michael Ripple. They joined laboratories in the Departments of Genetics, Biochemistry and Pharmacology.

Three students submitted fellowship applications to NIH in August, Anasheh Halabi, Felix Nau and Lori Hutcherson – we wish them the best of luck. The best news yet – Sun Mi Choi received official notification that her NIH fellowship application, with Dr. Jay Kolls as her mentor, will be funded – great job! Sun Mi joins 6 other M.D./Ph.D. students who have received fellowships from the NIH (Jesse Sulzer, Nick Melvan, Tiffany Eady, David Stark, Rahul Datta and Mary Beth Hulin [formerly Worrel, congratulations on your recent marriage]). Monica Ertel just became a Mom for the second time – congratulations, Monica. Congratulations also go to Sophie Teng who was recently married.

Summer students shine again!

Again this summer sixty-four high school, undergraduate, and medical students from all over the country were given the opportunity to gain research experience through the Summer Research Internship Program, co-directed by Drs. Fern Tsien and Paula Gregory. The summer research culminated in a poster session for all students and a symposium for medical students. Congratulations go out to the following winners:

Medical Student Symposium Winners

M.D./Ph.D. Student Category

1st Place: Stephen Ford
Mentor: Dr. Lisa Harrison-Bernard,
LSUHSC Department of Physiology

2nd Place: Scott Melton
Mentor: Dr. Michael Hagensee,
LSUHSC Department of Medicine

M.D. Student Category

1st Place: Elise Boos
Mentor: Dr. Patricia Molina,
LSUHSC Department of Physiology

2nd Place: Douglas James
Mentor: Dr. Taby Ahsan,
Tulane Department of Biomedical Engineering

Poster Session Winners

Medical Students

1st Place: Byron Hills
Mentors: Drs. Ted Weyand, Rennie Jacobs and
Eric Richter,
LSUHSC Neuroscience Center of Excellence

2nd Place: Brittani McClain
Mentors: Drs. Alberto Musto and Nicolas Bazan,
LSUHSC Neuroscience Center of Excellence

3rd Place: Rashad Johnson
Mentors: Dr. Lisa Moreno-Walton, Departments of Internal
Medicine, Emergency Medicine, and Genetics, LSUHSC

Undergraduate Students

1st Place: Michelle Nguyen, Tulane University
Mentor: Dr. Ping Wang, Children's Hospital of New Orleans

2nd Place: Matthew Haskins, Louisiana Scholars' College at
Northwestern State University
Mentor: Dr. Diptasri Mandal
LSUHSC Department of Genetics

3rd Place: Jordana Williams, Yale University
Mentors: Drs. Jay Kolls and Derek Pociask, LSUHSC Department of
Genetics

High School Category

1st Place: Jesus Perez, Chalmette High School
Mentor: Dr. Udai Pandey
LSUHSC Department of Genetics

2nd Place: Caitlin Mitchell,
Patrick F. Taylor Science and Technology Academy
Mentor: Dr. Katy Phelan, Hayward Genetics Center,
Tulane School of Medicine

3rd Place: Maxwell Wang, Isidore Newman School
Mentors: Drs. Jay Kolls and Mingquan Zheng
LSUHSC Department of Genetics

Medical Student Research Day

Paula Gregory, Ph.D.

This year was the first time a research day was dedicated solely to medical students. There were L1s, L2s and L3s presenting the data from their research. Organized by Dr. Paula Gregory, Medical Student Research Day is designed to showcase the accomplishments of LSU School of Medicine medical students and provides them with the opportunity to present their projects to fellow students and faculty. The day consisted of poster presentations followed by a talk by the invited speaker, concluding with student oral presentations.



Amir Shabien (L1) presents his research

The keynote address was given by Dr. Vinodh Narayanan from the Barrow Neurological Clinic in Phoenix. Dr. Narayanan is the Co-Director of the Pediatric Neurogenetics Center, the Director of the Neurofibromatosis Clinics and the Director of the Developmental Neurogenetics Lab. He is an alumnus of the LSU medical school, with many connections to LSU. His talk was entitled: "Percent Effort: life as a clinician scientist", he discussed both his research and his career path.

The Best Poster Presentation winner was L2 Nisha Loganantharaj for her poster "Effects of chronic alcohol consumption on the genital microenvironment in SIV-infected Rhesus Macaques" and the Best Oral Presentation was given by L2 Amanda Henne for "Novel regulatory mechanism of the inflammatory response mediated by the messenger NPD1 targeting transcription of Wnt5a". The winners received travel scholarships from Dean Nelson and will present at the National Student Research Forum in Galveston, Texas.

LSU Medical Alumni Association provided the funding for the day.



Kristen Siccard (L2) presents her work to Mary Coleman (Director of Community Clinics) and Sam McCluggage (Department Chair, Cell Biology and Anatomy)

the students' forum

LSU White Coat Ceremony

By: Dan Logsdon

On July 30, 2011, two hundred newly coated second year medical students took a big step toward graduating from medical school. Unlike other medical schools that distribute white coats to incoming first years, LSU chooses to wait until the completion of first year. From a student's perspective, receiving the white coat after first year is like graduating from the true basic sciences and moving into the clinical sciences. Receiving the white coat after first year brings about a sense of accomplishment and provides encouragement to start the second year strong. During second year, medical students complete their first history and physicals on hospitalized patients and participate in rounds with attending physicians, yet another reminder of our future as doctors.

From a personal perspective, receiving my white coat was an overwhelming yet very satisfying experience. Coming from a family with no physicians, I felt dignified slipping into my new white coat, yet also humbled by both a desire to exude professionalism and the feeling of responsibility that the white coat represented. The white coat symbolizes the doctor-patient relationship and embodies the principles we learn throughout our medical education.



PHOTOS BY CHI CHI OBIH

After receiving their white coats, the students take their oath

Beneficence, our actions should promote the wellbeing of patients. Autonomy, the patient's right to make his or her own medical decisions. Non-maleficence, do no harm. Justice, act in a manner that is fair to all concerned. These principles are represented in the coat that we received, placed on our shoulders, literally and figuratively, by those who have come before us.

Our education, up to and continuing from this point, will determine our ability to care for patients. We must strive for excellence in the classroom so that we can provide exceptional care for our patients. As I donned my white coat for the first time, walking back to my seat among my fellow future doctors, I made the realization that this coat establishes patient trust, which carries with it a burden to care

unconditionally. This is a decision we've all made by choosing medicine as a career and deciding to wear the white coat.



PHOTOS BY MARIE TAN

Ugochi Obih (L2, left) with sister Chi-Chi Obih (L2, right)

Student Spotlight:

Who's Being Published

Clark Alsfeld, L3 Class President, has recently been published in *World Journal of Surgical Oncology* for his assistance on a research paper entitled "Robotic-assisted transoral removal of a bilateral floor of mouth ranulas" (Walvekar, R.R. et al. [2011] "Robotic-assisted transoral removal of a bilateral floor of mouth ranulas." *World J Surg Oncol* 9, 78). It is a case report and review of literature for the first robot-assisted excision of bilateral oral ranulas. In this paper, Dr. Walvekar and his team try to demonstrate that the da Vinci surgical system provides better visualization, magnification, and dexterity to preserve normal anatomy and improve recovery time.

Clark began his research career while he was an undergraduate at LSU. While there, he participated in bench research for two years at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center with Dr. Kenneth Eilertsen. Then, as an incoming medical student, he participated in the Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center's Summer Research Experience and was connected with Dr. Adam Riker. For the past two years, he has now been working with Dr. Riker on a Phase II Clinical Trial studying the effects of a combination immunotherapeutic regimen for high-risk advanced melanoma. Clark hopes to use his research experience to continue clinical research in the field of oncology.



Beware of Phishing Scams!

"Dear kindest sir. I am a poor widow and kindly request your help."

"Your bank account has been deactivated. Please send us your account information."

"\$8,000,000 is waiting for you! Please send us your username and password so we can transfer!"

Do not answer, do not send, immediately forward this e-mail to:

spam@lsuhsc.edu

Failure to do so could mean deactivation of your account, or worse!



the students' forum cont.

A Unique Opportunity to Serve: the LSUHSC Student-Run Homeless Clinic

By Elise Boos



The first two years of medical school do not always remind you of the reasons you decided to go into medicine, unless these reasons include long hours of solitary confinement and a love of highlighters. However, for the medical students who staff the LSU Student-Run Homeless Clinics, the hours of solitary highlighting are punctuated each Thursday at The New Orleans Mission and Saturday at Ozanam Inn, where ten medical students and a volunteer LSU physician

gather and care for the most marginalized in this city.

“Clinic is an outlet not only to give back to the New Orleans homeless population, but [also]... to apply the information we learn in the classroom [in order] to care for those who [are not] able to afford or access proper care,” says Brittani McClain, an L2 and New Orleans Mission Pharmacy Director. The adult patients seen at the clinics tend to have chronic diseases such as diabetes and require general checkups, STD/HIV testing, prescription refills, and referrals to continuity primary care clinics. Dr. Cathi Fontenot, the clinic faculty liaison and a regular volunteer at the New Orleans Mission clinic, stresses “our goal is not to become the continuity clinic for these patients, but instead to bridge their healthcare provider gap.”

Currently, there are about 150 medical student volunteers from the L2-L4 classes who staff the clinics. Applications for L1s interested in joining will be available September 30. The success of these clinics is entirely dependent on the generosity of the LSU physicians who volunteer to staff the clinic. “These physicians take time out of their busy lives to volunteer their time to help out a community that society completely forgets... and they do it while teaching the volunteers crucial aspects of medicine,” says Jaren Kennedy, L2 and NOM Clinic director.



Licensed LSU physicians interested in volunteering on a Thursday afternoon at New Orleans Mission should contact Jaren Kennedy (jkenn2@lsuhsc.edu), for Saturday morning clinic at Ozanam Inn contact Greg Fontenot (gfonte@lsuhsc.edu). As clinic is geared towards routine health maintenance, physicians do not need an expertise in any particular area. The LSU Student Run Homeless Clinics are always in need of monetary support and medical supplies and host clinic celebrations throughout the year to help keep the doors open. Please join us!



The LSUHSC Women's Alliance presents a check for the LSU SOM homeless clinic. From left to right - Kelly Trail Zea, Mackie Gremillion, Bernadette Moerschbaeher, Dr. Steven Nelson, Dr. Cathi Fontenot, and Betty Oseid

Student Spotlight- Questions with Sara Saad El-Dein & Jon Hall

What did you do before medical school?

Sara: Before deciding to go to medical school, I worked in international health. Jon worked in different fields and traveled, working on projects for indigenous populations in Chile and New Zealand and training with 'traditional' medical practitioners in Thailand. After graduate school, I was hired to implement a community health worker (CHW) training project for the Surmang Foundation, an organization that operates a remote rural clinic in eastern Tibet. The clinic serves the local nomadic yak-herding populations to combat the high levels of maternal and infant morbidity and mortality. We trained CHWs in basic infection control, adult and newborn CPR, the use of clean delivery kits to reduce infection during childbirth, and how to observe signs of obstetric complications in order to get women to a hospital for emergency care. Jon and I first went there in 2006 to implement the program, and we returned in the summer of 2010 to evaluate the program's accomplishments and enhance the skill-sets of the CHWs through expanded trainings.



What was your most memorable moment during your mission trips?

Probably finding out that the neonatal CPR training we did actually worked. One of the community health workers resuscitated a newborn baby that was not breathing, so that was pretty cool.

Are you planning to take time after medical school to go on more missions?

We plan on going back to Surmang to work on the community health worker program. It's good to be involved in one project over a long period of time and to be able to measure a program's impact.

Do you think the experiences you had on these trips will make you into better doctors?

It didn't help us with multiple-choice tests, but we saw first-hand the good that can come from being a doctor. We worked with 2 Tibetan doctors who would get on horses and ride for hours to go see patients without ever complaining. They treated every patient as if it was that patient's right to be cared for. They were definitely inspiring.



New Developments in your Department

Pulmonary/Critical Care Section

Dr. Richard Tejedor of the LSU Pulmonary/Critical Care Section has recently brought his skills in Endobronchial Ultrasound (E-BUS) to the Interim Louisiana Hospital and the hospital recently purchased equipment for endoscopic ultrasound guided biopsy. The E-BUS is a modification of the traditional bronchoscope with the addition of an ultrasound sensor and an angled biopsy channel. The utility of this procedure is found primarily in its ability to sample material located beyond the bronchial wall for the purpose of pathologic assessment. Dr. Tejedor will be participating with Dr. Steven Kantrow in clinical studies related to cancer research using this technique. Bronchial Thermoplasty for the treatment of Severe Persistent Asthma: LSU, through partnership with Ochsner-Kenner, is committed to a program of advanced invasive treatment of asthma through Bronchial Thermoplasty (BT). The program here at LSU is the only center in the southeastern United States performing this procedure. BT is a method of treating the smooth muscle component of the airway disease in patients with asthma. The procedure of radioablation of the bronchial smooth muscle is performed in three Bronchoscopic sessions with each session treating different lobes of the lung. Long-lasting improved asthma control can be achieved in patients with persistent asthma not amenable to standard therapies. Clinical studies have demonstrated a 32% reduction in the number of severe exacerbations, a 73% reduction in hospitalizations, and an 84% reduction in ER visits in patients treated with bronchial thermoplasty. Dr. Richard Tejedor of the LSU Pulmonary Section performs this procedure and will evaluate patients at the LSU Ochsner-Kenner Multispecialty Clinic.

Physiology

Lisa Harrison-Bernard, FAHA, FASN, Associate Professor, has been serving on the Editorial board of two peer-review journals: The American Journal of Physiology: Renal Physiology and The Journal for the Study of Sex and Gender Differences.

Nick Gilpin, Ph.D, joined the Department of Physiology as an Assistant Professor in July of 2011.

Ophthalmology

The Department of Ophthalmology would like to acknowledge and thank former alumni Dr. Alan Lacoste, Dr. Virgil Murray and all of the doctors of the EyeClinic in Lake Charles for their generous donation supporting LSUHSC-NO Ophthalmology educational efforts. With their contribution, LSU will be

able to purchase the American Academy of Ophthalmology Residency Hub for all of the LSUHSC/Ochsner Ophthalmology residents, improving their educational experience.

P. Sean O'Sullivan, M.D., is conducting a clinical study using a novel non-invasive system developed by Professor Bahram Khoobehi, for visualizing retinal oxygen saturation in patients with proliferative diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, or central retinal vein occlusion. A digital camera with an attached dual imaging system will measure oxygen delivery to the retina in healthy eyes and in eyes with these diseases to build a database. This information could eventually lead to new approaches to treat these blinding eye diseases.

The LA Lions Eye Foundation and the Department of Ophthalmology hosted a Lions Research day on Saturday August 20th, showcasing the Department's research to over 140 Louisiana Lions members.

Dr. Maria A. Reinoso joined the Department of Ophthalmology in August of this year! Dr. Reinoso is a retinal specialist who will be practicing at the Health Care Network.

Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) has awarded a grant of \$100,000 to the Department of Ophthalmology to support research into the causes, treatment, and prevention of blinding eye diseases. Dr. Jayne S. Weiss, Chairman of the Department and Director of the LSU Eye Center of Excellence, will direct the research.

Drs James Hill and Christian Clement recently presented papers at the International Herpesvirus Workshop in Poland. Dr. Jean Jacob, Director of Research, recently presented a paper and chaired a session at the International Society of Contact Lens Research meeting in Napa, CA. Dr. Jacob was also elected Vice President of the ISCLR at the meeting.

Pathology

The Department of Pathology would like to welcome back former faculty member Leo Pei, M.D. Dr. Pei is Professor of Pathology and has been named to the Ronald A. Welsh Professorship in Pathology and will serve as Director of Surgical Pathology at IPH.

On September 6th, the department hosted the Fall 2011 Emma Sadler Moss Lecturer. This year's invited speaker was Mark H. Stoler, M.D., Professor of Pathology & Gynecology at University of Virginia Health Sciences Center. This lectureship has been a recurring event for the department, whereby recognized national

and international leaders in pathology are invited to address second year medical students.

On October 27th, the department will host the William H. Sternberg and Richard J. Reed Visiting Professor in conjunction with the Tulane Department of Pathology. This year's guest lecturer is Dr. Saul Suster, Chair of Pathology of Medical College of Wisconsin.

The Department of Pathology Grand Rounds Series are held in the Gagliano Conference Room, located in MEB Room 5202 at 3:00 PM.

10/25/11 – Dr. Cindy Gardner (CME)
11/8/11 – Drs. Sherling and Collinsworth
11/15/11 – Dr. Ben DeBoisblanc (CME)
12/13/11 – Randal Craver (CME)

Psychiatry

Grammy Award winner, Irvin Mayfield recently held a concert at the Jazz Playhouse located at the Royal Sonesta Hotel for various non-profit agencies throughout the city, including the LSUHSC Department of Psychiatry. Irvin Mayfield and Kermit Ruffins' battle of the trumpets on Sunday August 21 was a huge success! Martin Drell, M.D., has become the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry President Elect 2009 – 2011. He will assume the leadership role for the 2011 – 2013 term.

Orthopedics

Dr. Michael Hartman, director of sports medicine, along with LSU physicians from adolescent medicine and family medicine, is starting a comprehensive sports medicine clinic in New Orleans for high school athletes.

Dr. Vin Dasa has been made co-director of the "Consortium for Musculoskeletal Research", a consulting and research group combining LSU department of Orthopedics, LSU veterinary school and the Pennington Research Institute.

Orthopedics welcomes Dr. Paul Dimartino to the department. Dr. Dimartino is a nationally known spine surgeon who comes to us from Richmond, VA. He will be available for consultation on all adult back problems, with offices at the LSUHCN clinics at Kenner, and St. Charles Avenue.

Want more up to date information?



Follow us on twitter!
<http://twitter.com/LSUHSCHealth>

Faculty Assembly at Work

The Faculty Assembly welcomed 10 newly elected delegates at our July 8, 2011 meeting. Because of changes to our Bylaws, we have increased our number of Delegates from 24 to 30 in the SOM Faculty Assembly. A list of all Delegates and other information can be found on the Assembly website (http://www.medschool.lsuhs.edu/faculty_assembly/).

One focus of the Assembly during the coming year will be emerging medical education programs at branch affiliates of our School. The Assembly welcomed Dr. Richard DiCarlo, Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Education, who presented information about the Medical Education Program planned for the University Medical Center Hospital in Lafayette, LA.

The delegates also elected new officers to include Murtuza Ali, M.D. as President-elect, Stephania Cormier, Ph.D. as Secretary/Treasurer, Robin McGoey, M.D. as Clinical Faculty Representative to the SOM Administrative Council and Andrew Hollenbach, Ph.D. as Basic Science Faculty Representative to the SOM Administrative Council. Three of eight HSC Faculty Senate representatives were also elected. Costa Dimitriadis, M.D. (2011-2012 Secretary) and Erich Conrad, M.D. were elected to

second terms as Senators and Jerome Breslin, Ph.D. was elected to a first term as a Senator. Other Senators are Mike Levitzky, Ph.D (2011-2012 President).

The Assembly is diligently working to represent the faculty of the SOM by addressing issues impacting the critical role we perform in executing the missions of our School. Among other activities, we expect to focus on the proposed medical education programs at affiliated hospitals and efforts by the administration that help our faculty achieve academic excellence.

The Assembly generally meets monthly on the second Thursday at 4 pm. Meeting dates and location are posted on our website. All faculty are welcome to attend these open meetings. Also, please submit any issues that you want brought to the attention of the Assembly to me, the Executive Board or any Delegate.

Greg Bagby, Ph.D.
Faculty Assembly President

South Louisiana AWIS Chapter

Current officers are: Paula Gregory, Ph.D. (president), Stephania Cormier, Ph.D. (past-president), Donna Neumann, Ph.D. (secretary) and Nicole LeCapitaine, Ph.D. (treasurer). The most recent activities of the chapter were to co-host a Welcome Reception for new women leaders within the LSU School of Medicine (Drs. Weiss, Young and Coleman) on October 5; Fern Tsien presented hands-on science activities at the Louisiana Children's Museum program called "Fetch! Super Science Saturday: Chemistry" on October 15th; and Judy Crabtree and Donna Neumann organized a team to participate in the Komen Race for the Cure on October 22.

AWIS is also organizing a suit drive for the local Dress for Success program. Dress for Success is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote economic independence for disadvantaged women by providing career development tools and professional attire to women prior to job interviews and upon being hired.

Association for Women in Science

AWIS

LSUHSC Postdoctoral Association

The LSUHSC-PDA completed all requirements and is now an officially recognized organization. If you haven't done so already, please become an active member by paying the membership fee (\$10 – see Virginia Ronchi, Biochemistry Dept., Treasurer).

LSUHSC- PDA has a LinkedIn account – be sure to join us on it!

LSUHSC- PDA held several career development events including an instructional seminar by Grant Cooper on "How to write a successful CV", and a very informative "Round-Table Discussion" in May with Arturo Casadevall, M.D., from Albert Einstein College of Med. The topics covered include the funding climate, publishing, remaining competitive, and career options.

We held many social activities including a summer social and volleyball game, and an organized trip to see the New Orleans Jesters soccer team.

Future events:

We will be hosting several seminars by LSU faculty and staff on topics of interest including a round table discussion on how to obtain the position you desire in academia, planned for late October.

Elections in November! All active members are encouraged to run for a position-excellent learning opportunity and it looks great on your resume!



Several LSUHSC postdocs enjoy a night out at the Jesters game.

An Ode to Cell Culture

(inspired by real life events and Agatha Christie's "Ten Little Indians")

Ten plates of myoblasts cultured just fine,
One got contaminated, and then there were nine.

Nine plates of myoblasts still looking great,
One more contaminated, and then there were eight.

Eight plates of myoblasts looked good at eleven,
By noon one was ruined, and then there were seven.

Seven plates of myoblasts stirring up the mix,
One more went bad, and then there were six.

Six plates of myoblasts staying alive,
Till one plate just died, and then there were five.

Five plates of myoblasts, wish there were more,
Contamination strikes, and then there were four.



Four plates of myoblasts, one screwed up by me,
PI said TOSS IT, and then there were three.

Three plates of myoblasts ... too slow, too few,
Ran short on media, and then there were two.

Two plates of myoblasts, looks close to done...
But then one got yeast, and then there was one.

One plate of myoblasts, wheels have been spun,
Grad student gives up...
And then there were none.

-Jacob Loupe
(graduate student Department of Genetics)

What do we do when we're not doing science, or treating patients, or teaching our students?

**Find out!
Visit the new
Faculty News web page**



http://www.medschool.lsuhscc.edu/faculty_affairs/faculty_activites.aspx

a page for the SOM-related, but not SOM-sponsored, activities.

Send Us Your Stories!

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WHO DAT!

Nicole Barron

Position:

Coordinator of Grants and Contracts

Years of service:

12 years

Favorite part of your job:

"Dealing with my charming investigators."

Least favorite part of your job:

Waiting on others to come through with information.

Hobbies/likes/dislikes:

Ballet (she has been doing ballet since she was ten years old); Avid bibliophile.

What would you like people to know about you:

The reason I do the job that I do is because I like knowing that what I do is important and has an impact on greater things. I'd find it hard to work anywhere that I'd have to rationalize the importance of what I do

- interview by Andrew D. Hollenbach, Ph.D.
(Department of Genetics)



If you know of someone who you feel should be featured in the WHO DAT! section, please contact us.