

THE SCALPEL

April 2024 Newsletter

Progress and Prospects

Welcome to the April edition of the Scalpel. So many exciting things continue to happen in our department. In July, we will be welcoming a very talented and diverse class of interns in all our three residency programs. We look forward to training this next generation of surgeons who will proudly carry the torch forward for LSU Surgery as true ambassadors. Our faculty and residents have continued to represent us in national meetings and winning many awards.

We also had our annual Cohn-Rives Society meeting in March and welcomed new members to the society. We were privileged to have some of the past Department Chairs in attendance together with many alumni. Dr. Gray did an excellent job during her presidency and started new initiatives that will last in perpetuity. We will continue to grow this society because it is a pivotal partner for the department.

Our collective mission has been to train our residents to be life-long learners and more importantly, grow our department to be a nationally and internationally recognized academic surgery department. We are definitely getting there, thanks to the efforts of everyone; residents, faculty, staff and alumni. Let's keep the momentum going!!!

Geaux Tigers!!




Valentine N. Nfonsam, MD, MS, FACS, FASCRS
Professor and Chair
Isidore Cohn Jr., MD Endowed Chair of Surgery
Department of Surgery
School of Medicine
LSU Health New Orleans





RESEARCH CORNER



- Messa GE, Fontenot CJ, Deville PE, Hunt JP, Marr AB, Schoen JE, Stuke LE, Greiffenstein PP, Smith AA. Chest Tube Size Selection: Evaluating Provider Practices, Treatment Efficacy, and Complications in Management of Thoracic Trauma. *Am Surg.* 2024 Apr 1:31348241241735. doi: 10.1177/00031348241241735. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38557288.
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 - Pillado E, Li RD, Chia MC, Eng JS, DiLosa K, Grafmuller L, Conway A, Escobar GA, Shaw P, Sheahan MG 3rd, Bilimoria KY, Hu YY, Coleman DM. Reported pain at work is a risk factor for vascular surgery trainee burnout. *J Vasc Surg.* 2024 Jan 11:S0741-5214(24)00018-1. doi: 10.1016/j.jvs.2024.01.003. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38215953.
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 - Aslam M, Rajbdad F, Azmat S, Li Z, Boudreaux JP, Thiagarajan R, Yao S, Xu J. A novel method for detection of pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma using explainable machine learning. *Comput Methods Programs Biomed.* 2024 Mar;245:108019. doi: 10.1016/j.cmpb.2024.108019. Epub 2024 Jan 13. PMID: 38237450.
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LSU HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

2ND ANNUAL
RESEARCH
SYMPOSIUM 2024

Building a Team- Oriented Culture



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
CENTER AUDITORIUM
MAY 9, 2024

BREAKFAST @ 6:30 AM

SYMPOSIUM @ 6:55 AM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

HERBERT CHEN, MD

Chair, Department of Surgery
Surgeon-in-Chief,
UAB Hospital and Health System

Congratulations to Our New Residents!

Vascular Surgery 2024-2025



Sarah Lazro
LSU School of Medicine
Shreveport



Adam Winkley
USF Morsani
College of Medicine

Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery



Mary Holohan
Indiana University
School of Medicine



Mark Maier
Louisiana State University School of
Medicine in New Orleans

Academic Year 2024-2025

General Surgery 2024 - 2025

Categorical Interns



Kelly Bartz
LSU-NO



Iyla Hunt
LSU-NO



Benson Beardsmore
Rush



Ansley Johnson
U Queensland



Laurin Johnson
Morehouse



Stacey Kowales
LSU-NO



Christopher Marlowe
Purdue

Prelim Interns



Heather Conner
Edward Via



Muhammad Farooq
LSU-NO



Julia Griffin
Telam



Pavan Gokul
Telam



Michael Hsu
Texas A&M



Cameron LaFlour
LSU-NO



Cayley LaBlanc
LSU-NO



Mitch Melito
LSU-NO



Chris Oelke
LSU-NO



Parker Tobin
Albert Einstein



Sabrina Tu Alfonso
George Washington



Brandon Munster
LSU-NO



Sakhi Patel
UCF



Rafi Tlango
Telam



Gaea Woodie
LSU-NO

Welcome to The Team!



Dr. Kevin Sullivan

Welcome Dr. Kevin Sullivan to the Department of Surgery and Division of Surgical Oncology as an Assistant Professor! Dr. Sullivan did his surgery residency at the University of Washington, Seattle and completed his fellowship in surgical oncology at the renowned City of Hope National Medical Center in California.





Congratulations to Drs. Gabrielle Prezko and Celia Short for taking home the Louisiana Chapter of the American College of Surgeons Resident Skills Cup!



THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY AT

LA ACS



Dr. Brandon Davila



Dr. Sophia Trinh



Dr. Steve Bordes



Dr. Jake Stover



Dr. Yumiko Gely



Dr. Ikenna Ifearulundu



Drs. Ikenna Ifearulundu & Yumiko Gely



- Jeopardy Competitors -
Drs. Jake Stover and Paige Deville



Dr. Jessica Zagory Moderating the Pediatric Surgery Presentations with 3rd-Year Student Emma Cole Presenting



Drs. Alex Dooley, Alison Smith, Rebecca Moreci, James Charles, Yumiko Gely, Jessica Zagory, Lance Stuke, John Hunt, & Sophia Trinh



EPA Panel with the 5 Louisiana Program Directors/ Associate Program Directors (Including the Department's Own EPA Champion, Dr. Elyse Bevier-Rawls) with Dr. Valentine Nfonsam Moderating



THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY AT
AHPBA 2024



Above: Dr. Stephen Bordes gave two oral presentations - PMO 36. OBSTRUCTIVE JAUNDICE DUE TO MALIGNANCY: DO ALL PATIENTS NEED TREATMENT? and MO 65. DISPARITIES IN SURGICAL MANAGEMENT AND OUTCOMES OF PATIENTS WITH PRIMARY LIVER CANCER IN LOUISIANA

Below: Drs. Moaven, Lyons, Bordes, and Al Efishat posing at AHPBA in Miami Beach.



Inaugural J. Patrick O'Leary Academic Resident Scholarship



Congratulations Tino Castanon!

The J. Patrick O'Leary Academic Resident Scholarship is a scholarship to fund a 3rd year resident to travel to an academic conference of their choice.

Celestino Castanon won the award this year. He plans to apply for a cardiothoracic fellowship, and is looking forward to a career in academic medicine. He is passionate about surgical education and global surgery. He will be attending the American Association for Thoracic Surgery's (AATS) 104th annual meeting in Toronto, Canada later this month, and looks forward to engaging in some of the mentoring opportunities available at the conference.

This is what Dr. O'Leary said about having the award named in his honor:
"What a Surprise. I feel deeply privileged to have the Resident Traveling Fellowship named in my honor. I think that it is outstanding that the Cohn-Rives organization has taken on funding such a project. It will certainly benefit any resident that has such an experience. Thank each of you and the entire organization for this honor".

Dr. Irving and Lillian Levin Lectureship

In 2016 LSU Department of Surgery and the Section of Colon and Rectal Surgery established the **Dr. Irving & Mrs. Lillian Levin Lectureship Series** in honor of Dr. Irving & Mrs. Lillian Levin. Dr. Levin was a colon and rectal surgeon and Professor of Surgery in our department. His father, Dr. Abraham Louis Levin, the inventor of the "Levin Tube" in 1921, was a member of the staff of the Charity Hospital through the LSU School of Medicine. Dr. Irving Levin, a graduate of Louisiana State University and Louisiana State University Medical School, was a general surgery resident at Charity Hospital and Touro Infirmary in New Orleans and developed his reputation as a specialist in Colon and Rectal Surgery in New Orleans.



*Dr. Patricia Sylla
2024's Honoree*

Part of Dr. Irving & Mrs. Lillian Levin's legacy is that two of their sons, Alan and Louis, also attended the LSU School of Medicine. Dr. Levin and his sons were faculty members of the LSU Department of Surgery and the School of Medicine. Dr. Irving Levin had a lifelong interest in teaching students, residents and nurses. It is with this lifelong interest in mind that the LSU Department of Surgery and the LSU School of Medicine established the Dr. Irving & Mrs. Lillian Levin Lectureship Series in Colon & Rectal Surgery.

Each year during March, which is Colon Cancer Awareness Month, a national expert in the field of Colon & Rectal Surgery visits LSUHSC to give a lecture to the faculty, residents and medical students on recent developments in the specialty of Colon and Rectal Surgery. The visiting Professor presents a lecture at the Department of Surgery's Grand Rounds, they attend the Morbidity and Mortality Conference, and then will meet with the surgery residents who will present interesting patients with complex colon and rectal diseases.



PLASTIC SURGERY GRAND ROUNDS ON MAR. 8TH



PRESENTERS: SEAN BOUTROS, MD, FACS LSU'S OWN BOB ALLEN, MD

TOPIC: BREAST AUGMENTATION WITH DIEP FLAPS

On March 8th, the LSUHSC-NO's Division of Plastic Surgery hosted a Grand Rounds event featuring guest speaker Dr. Sean Boutros and Dr. Bob Allen. Tulane's Plastic Surgery Residency program and faculty were invited to attend in a show of community spirit. Thank you to the presenters and organizers!

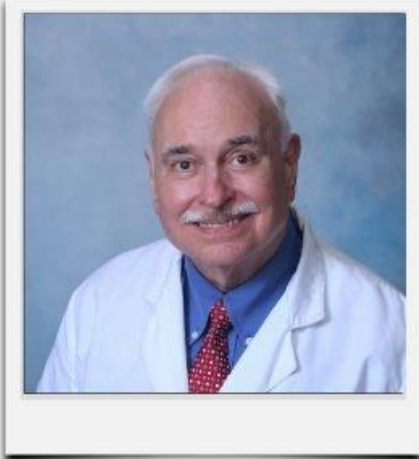
Click [here](#) to learn more about Dr. Sean Boutros.

Cohn-Rives 2024



Congratulations to the 2024 Inductees to the Cohn-Rives Society and thank you to all of the presenters, R. Todd Maxson, the attendees, the Cohn-Rives officers, and the staff for making this year's Cohn-Rives so great! See you all next year!

Faculty Spotlight



Alan B. Marr, MD, FACS

Professor of Clinical Surgery

Division of Trauma Surgery

Joined Faculty: July 2003

Hometown: Elizabeth City, North Carolina

Medical School: East Carolina University, School of Medicine, Greenville, N.C. 05/1981

Residency: General Surgery Residency, Lutheran Medical Center, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine Affiliate, Cleveland, OH 1983-1986

Fellowship: Surgical Education Fellow, Waltham Weston Hospital & Medical Center, Waltham, MA, 1987-1988

Surgical Critical Care Fellow, University of Texas at Houston, Houston, Texas, 2002-2003

Why did you choose LSU Surgery? I was drawn to the immense opportunities this Department presented for making a significant impact in the fields of medicine and surgery. The potential for innovation and advancement in these areas at LSU Surgery was truly compelling.

What makes you proud of LSU Surgery? When asked about what makes me proud of LSU Surgery, I would highlight three key aspects. Firstly, the exceptional education and training we provide to our residents, which is a testament to our commitment to nurturing the next generation of medical professionals. Secondly, the high-quality care we deliver to our patients, ensuring their health and well-being is at the forefront of what we do. Lastly, the opportunities for research that LSU Surgery offers, allowing us to continuously innovate and contribute to the advancement of medical and surgical practices. These elements collectively instill a great sense of pride in being part of LSU Surgery.

What's your biggest project right now?

My current focus involves two key projects. First, we're optimizing coagulation management for geriatric patients using an anti-coagulant. Second, we're aligning our nutritional guidelines with the Aspen SCCM recommendations at the University Medical Center. These initiatives enhance patient care and medical knowledge, and while challenging, are incredibly rewarding as they contribute to the advancement of patient care and medical knowledge.

What are your future hopes for the Department of Surgery? Looking ahead, I aspire to enhance our Department of Surgery. This includes continued success through resident education, research, and training. Additionally, I aim for the expansion of our Trauma Division, which can significantly impact our community. Lastly, I anticipate greater use of robotics in surgical procedures, improving patient outcomes.



Fellow Spotlight



Danielle Atwood MD, PhD

PGY-7, Aesthetic Plastic Surgery Fellow

Hometown: Bryant, AR

Medical School: University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Residency Program: Integrated Plastic Surgery, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO

Future Plans: I will be joining a private practice cosmetic plastic surgeon in Little Rock, Arkansas, my home state.

Good to be home, but I will definitely miss my time here.

Why did you choose your fellowship program?

I chose the LSU Aesthetic Plastic Surgery Fellowship for its reputation of advanced and innovative aesthetic techniques. Residency focused on plastic surgery as a whole, while this year provides me the guidance and autonomy to delve deeper into private practice cosmetic plastic surgery which is unparalleled. Not only have I gained so much surgical experience, I have also been allowed the opportunity to learn practice management as well as tips and tricks to manage life as a private practice plastic surgeon. Plus, New Orleans is my favorite city, so who could say no to that? I could not have made a better decision for me.

What are your hopes for the future for your program / the department?

The LSU Plastic surgery program is a wonderful group of attendings and residents. I hope to see it grow in the future and to keep producing top tier plastic surgeons.

Fun Facts!

I have a 1-year-old son and two fur babies who are my whole world. Lucille Ball has been my role model, and I watched every episode of I Love Lucy while I was in the single digits. I love singing karaoke (please invite me if you go!). I have thousands of books that I hope to turn into my own personal library someday soon. My senior year of college I lost horribly on the Wheel of Fortune (yes, the real one with Pat and Vanna).



Staff Spotlight



Rose Rousselle, BS, RHIA
Department Coordinator
Joined the Department Feb. 12, 2024

Hometown: Port Sulphur, LA
University Attended: Louisiana Tech

What are your favorite parts of your job?

The folks I work with.

What is your proudest moment with the department?

Will keep you posted on this one.

Fun facts!

Will purchase lemonade from a kid's lemonade stand whether I am thirsty or not, will turn the car around and go back to get the lemonade if I have passed up the stand. Will buy candy from kids going door to door for their school fund raiser whether I am on a diet or not. Will buy a box of Girl Scout cookies from each Girl Scout who asks me, then give the cookies away because I can't eat them.



NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

April marks **National Minority Health Month**, an annual observance that sheds light on the health disparities faced by racial and ethnic minority and American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities. Despite progress in healthcare, these inequities persist, affecting access to quality care, health outcomes, and overall well-being.

Factors such as socioeconomic status, cultural beliefs, and access to care significantly impact health outcomes.

Key Actions for Equity:

1. **Cultural Competence:** Providing patient-centered care requires understanding cultural nuances. Tailoring communication, respecting diverse perspectives, and addressing patients' cultural needs contribute to better health outcomes.
2. **Community Engagement:** Engage with minority communities to build trust and awareness. Outreach programs, health education, and mentorship initiatives can empower individuals to seek timely medical interventions.
3. **Research and Advocacy:** Doctors and healthcare professionals can advocate for policies that address health disparities. Research focused on minority health can inform evidence-based practices and improve healthcare delivery.
4. **Collaboration:** Collaborate with colleagues, community leaders, and organizations to create a supportive environment. By working together, we can enhance patient experiences and outcomes.

This National Minority Health Month, let's reaffirm our commitment to equitable healthcare. By embracing diversity, fostering cultural competence, and advocating for change, we can drive positive change and make a lasting impact on the health of all patients.



For additional information on National Minority Health Month, check out the [National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities](#) website.

National Stress Awareness Month



As we navigate the demands of academia, clinical practice, and research, stress can become an unwelcome companion. **April**, designated as **National Stress Awareness Month**, invites us to pause, reflect, and take proactive steps toward managing stress effectively.

Recognizing Stress:

- **Listen to Your Body:** Pay attention to signs like tension, fatigue, and changes in mood. Acknowledge when stress is affecting your well-being.
- **Building Resilience:** At LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, we foster resilience through community support, mindfulness practices, and self-care. Consider joining wellness programs, connecting with peers, and exploring stress-reduction techniques.
- **Resources Within Reach:** Our campus offers valuable resources, including counseling services, workshops, and access to mental health professionals. Reach out to the [Campus Assistance Program \(CAP\)](#) for confidential guidance.

Remember, stress management isn't a luxury—it's an essential part of maintaining balance and thriving in our academic and healthcare endeavors! Let's support one another and create a healthier, more resilient community.

For additional information on National Stress Awareness Month, check out the [National Institutes of Health](#) website.



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- Chief, Pediatric General Surgery
- Thoracic Surgical Oncology
- Plastic Surgery



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