A Message from the Dean

Dr. Nelson has asked that I offer some information about the Cardiovascular Center in his column. It is with great pleasure that I begin my tenure as the Director of the LSU Cardiovascular Center of Excellence. The LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans has had a very rich and distinguished history in cardiovascular research and medicine and it is my hope that we can enhance and build upon the current cardiovascular strengths at LSU to create world-class cardiovascular programs in research, patient care, and education.

With strong support for the Medical School, the LSU Alumni Association, and the LSU Foundation, the CV Center is currently building a series of core laboratories and new facilities to improve the overall infrastructure for cardiovascular researchers and clinicians at LSU. One of the new core laboratories is the CV Translational Research Core involving a state-of-the-art cardiac catheterization lab and surgical suite designed for the translation of cardiovascular therapies from the bench to bedside while providing an excellent training environment for medical students, residents, and fellows with an interest in cardiovascular research and medicine. This one of a kind core laboratory has been funded by the LSU Medical School Alumni Association and represents a true collaboration between the CV Center and a host of basic science and clinical departments throughout the Medical School. In addition, the CV center will also be recruiting new scientists and clinician-scientists to bring new cardiovascular expertise to LSU.

The CV Center of Excellence will build on the existing basic science and clinical research and educational strengths at LSUHSC including the NIH COBRE Grant in the Department of Pharmacology, the NIH-funded Alcohol Center Grant in the Department of Physiology, and the NIH Pathobiological Determinants of Atherosclerosis in Youth (PDAY) Program grant. The CV Center will also collaborate with cardiovascular researchers and clinicians within the New Orleans area, the State of Louisiana to perform cutting edge cardiovascular research and enhance the overall educational experience at LSUHSC New Orleans.

I am truly looking forward to working with everyone at LSU to elevate cardiovascular research and medicine to both national and international preeminence.

Sincerely,

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

David J. Lefer, Ph.D
Director, CV Center of Excellence
LSU Health Sciences Center
HONOR ROLL

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