Family Medicine welcomes new residents

This year’s Match was a great success for Family Medicine. Across the state of Louisiana, the number of Family Medicine residents is up 11.3 percent. Our programs in Kenner, Lafayette and Lake Charles are proud to welcome their newest residents:

Kenner Family Practice Residency
- Danyel Edwards, Wright State University
- Miyoshi Henry, LSUHSC New Orleans
- William Holmes Jr., Meharry Medical College
- Sajida Mokhashi, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College
- Nimesh Patel, Ross University
- Preety Singh, Medical College, Amritsar

The program has also added two new second-year residents:
- Thomas Britt Taylor, American University of the Caribbean
- Prashanthi Yalamanchili, Mahadevappa Rampure Medical College

Lafayette Family Practice Residency
- Prashanthi Atluri, Siddhartha Medical College

Lake Charles Family Practice Residency
- Nancy Briley, LSUHSC New Orleans
- Kelly Cahill, LSUHSC New Orleans
- Michel Dioufate, University of Liberia
- Hector Fabregas, Instituto Superior de Ciencias Medicas de la Habana
- Chang Soo Kim, Kyungpook National University
- Claude Meeks, Spartan Health Sciences University School of Medicine
- Clyde Patroni, American University of the Caribbean
- Kathryn Strother, LSUHSC Shreveport

Section of Geriatric Medicine expands patient care

- Dr. Charles A. Cefalu, Professor and Chief, Section of Geriatric Medicine, is heading up a number of initiatives within the section. With Assistant Professors Drs. Lainie V. Moncada and Daniel A. Yacono, as well as nurse practitioner Susan Dutsch-Bohl, the Section of Geriatric Medicine has added new clinical and educational components:
  - The MCL Geriatric Consult Service was initiated in March in conjunction with Dr. Charles V. Sanders Jr., Edgar Hull Professor and Chairman, Department of Medicine, and the Medical College team. The Geriatric Medicine faculty will provide consultation on Geriatric Medicine syndromes including drug appropriateness, psychosocial disposition and cognitive dysfunction, as well as evaluation for functional decline, falls, nutrition, urinary incontinence or catheter care, pressure ulcers, and ethical issues.
  - PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care of the Elderly) will be operational by the end of 2004 as a component of the new Geriatric Medicine service at the Medical Center of Louisiana. This program will involve true interdisciplinary team participation of LSU Health Sciences Center, the School of Allied Health, and Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy services. Frail elderly patients at risk for falls and nursing-home placement will be enrolled. The Section of Geriatric Medicine will provide faculty staffing for PACE, and Dr. Cefalu will serve as Medical Director.
  - A new component on Geriatric Medicine has been added to the Family Medicine Third-Year Clerkship curriculum. Drs. Moncada and Yacono are the instructors for this new educational initiative.
Loan repayment offered to doctors in underserved areas

The Louisiana State Loan Repayment Program encourages primary-care practitioners to serve in health-professional-shortage areas, including rural and inner-city areas. Eligible practitioners include those who are specialty board-certified or who have completed a residency in family practice, osteopathic general practice, obstetrics/gynecology, internal medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry or dentistry.

To be eligible for the program, you must also:
- work in a federally designated health-professional-shortage area
- work for a public or non-profit entity
- work full-time (40 hours per week) in an outpatient capacity
- accept Medicare, Medicaid, sliding fee scale and patients unable to pay
- be a U.S. citizen
- be licensed to practice in Louisiana
- have no other obligation for health-professional service
- have not defaulted on educational loans
- have not breached a health-professional-service contract.

Physicians can receive up to $13,333 per year for a two-year commitment and up to $20,000 per year for a three-year commitment.

For more information, contact Paula Kramer, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, at (225) 342-4702 or pkramer@dhh.state.la.us.