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## May 2023 Newsletter

Welcome to the second edition of The Scalpel. In this edition I would like to focus on the efforts we are making to continuously improve the education of our medical students, residents, and fellows. The entire department's education team, led by the Vice Chair of Education and our Program Directors are committed to our learners' continued growth. In the last few months, we have continued to revamp, align, and unify the didactics curriculum on all our campuses so that our learners are equipped with the tools they need to succeed. I would like to particularly highlight the contributions of this effort from our partners in Baton Rouge and Lafayette. Our goal is to continue to have our residents do well in the in-service exams and ultimately maintain a 100% pass rate in the qualifying and certifying board exams. We are intentionally pivoting to train our residents for the future in this ever-changing healthcare environment because we know that doing anything less will leave them far less prepared. We are also acutely aware that being a faculty member does not necessarily make one a good teacher. In the coming year, we will be focusing heavily on faculty development, providing tools to help our faculty develop skills to be good educators. We will do this by sending our faculty to national meetings and education courses and inviting national leaders in education to be our grand rounds speakers. As educators and an academic department, our commitment to our residents and fellows is to equip them with the necessary tools to keep innovation in their practice of medicine and surgery and to be life-long learners. Please, you can support us in this mission by donating to the Surgery Department foundation or any other way you can.

Sincerely,



**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



## Wins and Accomplishments

*We are proud to match two of our PGY-4 General Surgery residents into competitive Pediatric Surgery Fellowships for 2024*



**Celia Short, MD**  
Children's Hospital Los Angeles



**Jenny Stevens, MD, MPH**  
University of Colorado

# Faculty Assembly Awards

*We want to take a moment and highlight our faculty that received nominations for the 2023 Faculty Assembly Awards, and congratulations to Dr. Alison Smith for being selected for the Faculty Assembly Outstanding Accomplishments by a Junior Faculty Member Award!*



**Alison A. Smith, MD, PhD**  
*Outstanding Accomplishments by a Junior Faculty Member*

## Nominations



**Charles Dupin, MD, FACS**  
*Outstanding Service to the Institution Nomination*



**John Morrison Jr., MD, FACS**  
*Outstanding Service to the Community Nomination*



**Sharon Stanley, MD**  
*Outstanding Mentor Nomination*



**Jessica Zagory, MD, FACS**  
*Outstanding Accomplishments by a Junior Faculty Member Nomination*

## Education Updates



Last month, Department Head Valentine Nfonsam, MD and Program Director Lance Stuke, MD traveled to Baton Rouge to tour the OLOL Children's Hospital, meet with faculty, and attend M&M and Grand Rounds. At this

duties of the Dr. Eugene Barry Scholarship for Surgical Education.



## 1st Annual Research Symposium



May 4, 2023 was the Department of Surgery's first annual Research Symposium. Our keynote speaker was Timothy Pawlik, MD, the Chair of Surgery at Ohio State University. You can find out more about Dr. Pawlik by checking out the Research Symposium program via the link below.

The symposium was a great way for residents, students, fellows, and faculty to present some of their research over the last year. We had over fifty abstract



## Research Symposium Program

# Faculty Spotlight



## Mary Maluccio, MD, MPH, FACS

**James Rives Professor of Surgery and Surgical Oncology**

**Division of Surgical Oncology**

**Joined Faculty:** July 2019

**Hometown:** San Francisco, CA

**Medical School:** Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health (combined MD and MPH)

**Residency:** Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons

**Fellowship:** Surgical Oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

I was recruited to LSU as someone with the cancer programmatic skillset to transition the neuroendocrine program through the retirement of Dr. Woltering. LSU surgery has an incredible grit and commitment to patients in Louisiana regardless of the challenges.

with a cancer prevention and/or surveillance program that addresses unique risk factors for cancer development. Based on reviews of systems, age, family history, type of work, where a person lives, and whether they smoke, drink, or chew tobacco products, almost every patient should get information on how they can get plugged in for cancer screening and surveillance.

At NOLA NETS, we have four main research pillars:

1. Tissue acquisition
2. Developing blood biomarkers that would reflect response to treatment
3. How immune-nutrition can help patients with treatment related side effects or recovery from surgery
4. New therapies for patients who struggle with progression of disease.

Tissue acquisition has allowed us to develop relationships with investigators on and off campus, including the National Cancer Institute. Through this relationship, we have access to cutting edge technology to evaluate how the disease grows and spreads in humans. Our bio-acquisition services are at no cost to patients and allow us to hold on to tissue and blood on their behalf as information comes available that is relevant to their case. Blood biomarkers would allow us to better understand response to non-surgical treatments, like PRRT, chemotherapy/immune therapy, and liver directed therapies. The goal of immune based nutritional supplements is to counter the immunosuppressive nature of anti-cancer treatment. Neuroendocrine patients struggle with unique nutritional deficiencies that influence both quality and quantity of life and how they tolerate certain treatments, surgery in particular.

Our commitment to novel treatment options has brought 4 (soon to be 5) new clinical trials to a part of the country where patients have historically not had access to novel therapies. Where we struggled to bring clinical trials to fruition with Ochsner, East Jefferson Hospital has embraced these efforts. For this, I am genuinely grateful. Our goal for 2023 is to bring additional clinical trials that address the unique needs of neuroendocrine and rare cancer patients in the Gulf South. Very often clinical trial offerings include treatment that is not available and potentially a better option for some patients. I cannot express enough how important it was for me to deliver on this promise when I took the directorship role 3 years ago.

# Resident Spotlight



## **Jenny Stevens, MD, MPH**

**PGY-4, General Surgery Resident**

**Hometown:** Jackson, AL

**Medical School:** University of Alabama at Birmingham

**Fellowship:** University of Colorado (Starting 2024)

Why did I chose LSU for residency? I loved everything about LSU Surgery! Even though I grew up in Alabama, my family has a long history with LSU (My great-grandfather was the last person to letter in 4 sports at LSU and my grandfather played QB at LSU in the late 50s!) and I had spent lots of time in New Orleans and Baton Rouge growing up. When I was interviewing for residency, I really wanted to go to a program that would train me to be an excellent clinical general surgeon if I decided not to subspecialize while also offering me opportunities to pursue competitive fellowships and a career in academic surgery should I choose that route. LSU Surgery seemed to offer all of those things and this program has exceeded my expectations.

When I am out in the community and people ask me “what do you do for work?” I am proud to say that I am an LSU Surgery Resident. I am proud of the type of doctor that I have become as I have progressed through my training at LSU. This program has a reputation of training excellent clinical surgeons and that is something to be proud of. I am also proud in the growing emphasis on research and the work that many residents and faculty in our program are doing at the regional and national level. I hope that LSU will continue our tradition of training strong, competent, and compassionate clinical surgeons for many years to come. I would love for our department to continue to develop a national presence that highlights the work we are doing in South Louisiana both clinically and academically. Additionally, working to further diversify our department would be a great goal and seeking to recruit faculty and residents that can bring their own unique experiences to make this institution even stronger.

I have a specific interest in public health and health policy as it pertains to pediatric trauma patients and injury prevention strategies. I am currently working at both the local and national level to study and develop solutions to the pediatric firearm injury epidemic in our country. I am involved with national organizations including the

March Fourth, and the American College of Surgeons Advocacy Group.

## Wellness Corner



We have a new gym in the CALS Building! All LSUHSC faculty, staff, house officers, and students and spouses of these groups can use the Wellness Center on the 3rd floor of CALS. You'll have a few quick forms to sign during your first visit, and then you're good to go! You will need your LSU Health ID card to access the facilities.

The space includes your usual gym fare: cardio machines, weight machines, free weights, and some studio spaces. The Wellness Center locker rooms each contain a sauna. Also, they are planning to offer group classes like yoga, pilates, HIIT, and more. So stay tuned for more information!

### **Hours of Operation**

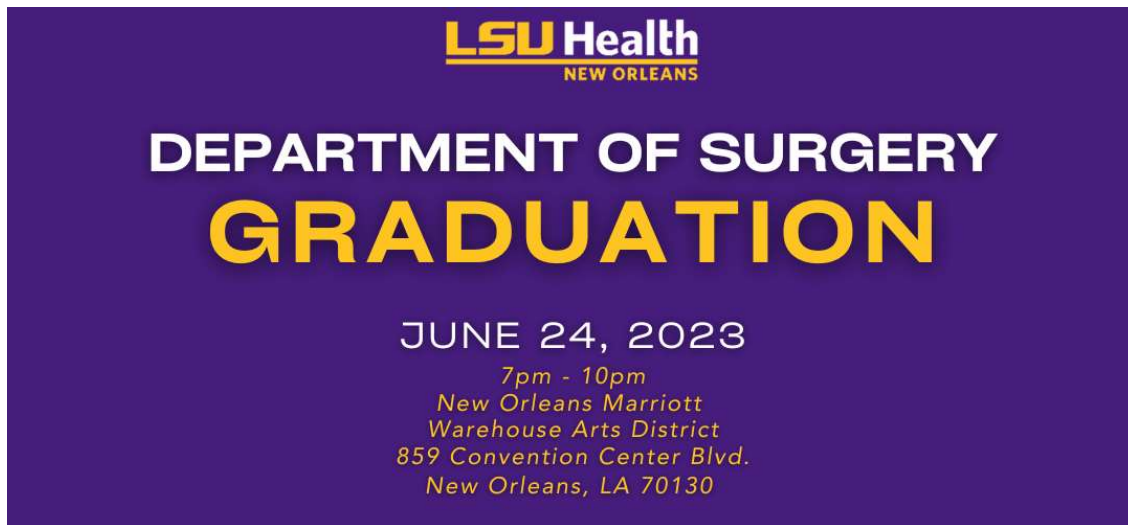
Monday-Thursday 6am-10pm

Friday 6am-8pm

Saturday 9am-4pm



## Mark Your Calendars



It's that time of year! Graduation is right around the corner. This year, we are holding graduation on Saturday, June 24, 2023 at the New Orleans Marriott Warehouse Arts District. Pricing for graduation is below. We are also asking our supportive alumni to help sponsor a table for graduation. Your donation helps us be able to celebrate this momentous achievement for our residents. You can use the link below to purchase tickets and sponsor a table.

### **Pricing**

Graduating Residents — \$0 (plus 5 guests)

Graduating Fellows — \$0 (plus 2 guests)

Current Residents — \$25/each (plus \$50 for one optional guest)

Faculty and other Guests — \$150/each

Sponsor a Table of 12 — \$1,500

[Purchase Tickets Here](#)

# NEW HEADSHOTS

Come by during any of the times below for a new headshot.  
This is **REQUIRED** for all faculty, staff, and residents.



## CALS Building – 8th Floor

Friday, June 2  
1pm - 3pm

Monday, June 26  
9am - 11am

**\*\* WHITE COATS REQUIRED \*\***



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