

The Editor's Pen

An Editor's Goodbye

Andrew D. Hollenbach, Ph.D.
Head Editor of The Pulse

You've heard it said that to everything there is a season and to everything there is a time. I've been the head editor of The Pulse for over nine years. I've now made the decision that it's time for my season at The Pulse to come to an end and that it is also time for someone else to take the lead and usher it into a new era.

The Pulse, originally simply called "SOM Newsletter", developed from the initiative of the School of Medicine Communications committee. I distinctly remember purchasing a copy of the computer program Adobe InDesign and teaching myself graphic design in order to produce the first issue. I look back at that issue and am proud of what it represented, but I realize now just how far the newsletter has evolved over the years.

We started out with five Associate Editors, each representing a different aspect of life at the SOM. After the first issue, Gina Laborde, my friend and amazing graphic designer, came on board bringing a new professional look to the publication. A reader survey solicited names and from your response the newsletter became known as The Pulse.

Although we did our best to bring out The Pulse on a regular schedule, it was difficult. These issues tended to read more like magazines, being distributed as pdf files, than an informative newsletter, simply because there was so much going on that was worthy of being reported. Along the way my friend and trusted colleague Judy Crabtree, Ph.D. joined the team as an Associate Editor bringing her exceptional copy editing and organizational talent to the team.

After a small hiatus during which we all took a break and recalibrated, we returned with a new look. We switched to an on-line format. We streamlined the team to Judy, Gina, and myself and established a structured production timeline to insure a regular and timely release.

We've had some changes over the last year. First was the leaving of our graphic designer and friend, Gina Laborde. I would now like to introduce you to Darlene Guillot, our new graphic designer. Darlene was instrumental in developing the new web format that you are presently reading. You can read more about her in her welcome piece located in the Top Stories section of this issue.

I would also like to introduce you to the new head editor, Denise Flock-Williams. Many of you may know Denise from her work in The Foundation. I have been working closely with Denise in order to ensure a smooth transition and I can rest assured knowing that The Pulse is in VERY capable hands. You can read more about her, too, in her welcome piece located in the Top Stories.

Denise and Darlene will have plenty of assistance from Judy Crabtree, who will be remaining as Associate Editor extraordinaire, as well as myself, who will stay in contact with all of them and serve as consultant, if they need.

I am extremely proud of what we've done over the years and what The Pulse has become. I'm greatly indebted to all of the people who have worked hard and provided their support to help make The Pulse what it is today. The Associate Editors that worked with me in the past (Joy Sturtevant, Ph.D., Cathi Fontenot, M.D., Judith Venuti, Ph.D., Stacey Holman, M.D., Diana Thien, M.D.). I am also greatly appreciative of our administration, Steve Nelson, M.D. (Dean of the SOM), Janis Letourneau, M.D. (former Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs), and Richard DiCarlo, M.D. (Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs) for their never-ending support and encouragement throughout the years.

Yes, it's time for me to step down. However, I know that what we have created is in excellent and very capable hands and will only grow and improve from here. Thanks go to all of you for your readership, for your contributions and stories over the years, and for all that you do and continue to do for the School of Medicine.

Top Stories

Research Internship Program News

Fern Tsien, Ph.D.

Department of Genetics

Area high school, undergraduate, and postbaccalaureate students participating in LSU Health New Orleans' Summer Research Internship Program recently presented their research results at the program's final poster session on July 26th, 2019 in the Medical Education Building.

The Summer Research Internship Program serves as an academic pipeline for students of diverse backgrounds interested in pursuing careers in the basic sciences or health professions. The program is highly competitive and open to high school, undergraduate, postgraduate, post baccalaureate, and medicine students. Drs. Fern Tsien and Paula Gregory co-direct the program.

Students spend eight to ten weeks during the summer with mentors in laboratories, clinics, and offices at LSU Health New Orleans, University Medical Center, and Children's Hospital. Students learn laboratory and clinical research techniques, how to develop a hypothesis, the scientific method, and how to interpret their data. They also attend weekly professional development workshops, at which they receive training on presentation skills, including how to prepare for a scientific meeting.

This is a collaborative effort of programs funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF-REU), National Institutes of Health (NCI, NIAAA, NIGMS), Entergy Foundation, LSU Health New Orleans School of Medicine, and the Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center. Since its inception in 2003, more than 500 students have benefited from these collaborative efforts, and many have gone on to pursue careers in the health sciences and basic research.

Medical students presented their projects at the Medical Student Research Day on Thursday, October 10th, 2019 from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the first-floor lobby of the MEB.

To watch a video about the students' experiences, please see this video created by Leslie Capo: <https://youtu.be/0Ywk040V1es>

Congratulation to all of the winners and their mentors!



High school Category

1st place:

Shaeera Rahman

Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy

Mentor: Dr. Denise Danos

Behavioral and Community Health Program

LSUHSC School of Public Health

2nd place:

Jasmin Elnaggar

Benjamin Franklin High School

Mentor: Dr. Liz Simon

Physiology Department

LSUHSC School of Medicine

3rd place (tie):

Naija Nelson

Patrick Taylor Science and Technology Academy

Mentor: Dr. Ed Grabczyk

Genetics Department

LSUHSC School of Medicine

Corinne Martin

Ursuline Academy

Mentor: Dr. Stefany Primeaux

Physiology Department

LSUHSC School of Medicine



Undergraduate Category

1st place:

Brian Washington

University of New Orleans

Mentor: Dr. Michael Celestin

Behavioral and Community Health Program

LSUHSC School of Public Health

2nd place (tie):

Ethan Nicklow

Duke University

Mentor: Dr. Chindo Hicks

Genetics Department

LSUHSC School of Medicine

Haley Hill

Loyola University of New Orleans

Mentor: Dr. Ping Wang

Microbiology, Immunology, and Parasitology Department

LSUHSC School of Medicine

3rd place (tie):

Claudia Rodriguez

Louisiana State University

Mentor: Dr. Hong Xin

Microbiology, Immunology, and Parasitology Department

LSUHSC School of Medicine

Amber Sylvain

Spelman College

Mentor: Dr. Rinku Majumder

Biochemistry Department

LSUHSC School of Medicine



Postbaccalaureate Category Winner:

Diego Vargas

University of Michigan

Mentor: Dr. Jason Gardner

Physiology Department

LSUHSC School of Medicine

NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduate (REU) winners (awarded July 30th, 2019):

1st place:

Haley Hill

Loyola University of New Orleans

Mentor: Dr. Ping Wang

Microbiology, Immunology, and Parasitology Department

LSUHSC School of Medicine

2nd place (tie):

Claudia Rodriguez

Louisiana State University

Mentor: Dr. Hong Xin

Microbiology, Immunology, and Parasitology Department

LSUHSC School of Medicine

Amber Sylvain

Spelman College

Mentor: Dr. Rinku Majumder

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Department

LSUHSC School of Medicine

3rd place (tie):

Jonathan Lewis

University of New Orleans

Mentor: Dr. Martin Ronis

Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics Department

LSUHSC School of Medicine

Kariza Hossain

Florida State University

Mentor: Dr. Arthur Haas

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Department

LSUHSC School of Medicine

Department Heads Moving On



Dr. Howard Osofsky Announces Stepping Down as Department Head

*Steve Nelson, MD
Dean*

*Richard DiCarlo, MD
Senior Associate Dean for Faculty and
Institutional Affairs*

Dr. Howard Osofsky recently announced that he will step down as department head of psychiatry. He was appointed to that position in 1986, when he came to LSU after serving as chief of the psychiatry service at the Menninger Foundation. He was named to the endowed Kathleen and John Bricker Chair in Psychiatry in 2001. His career is one of tremendous academic

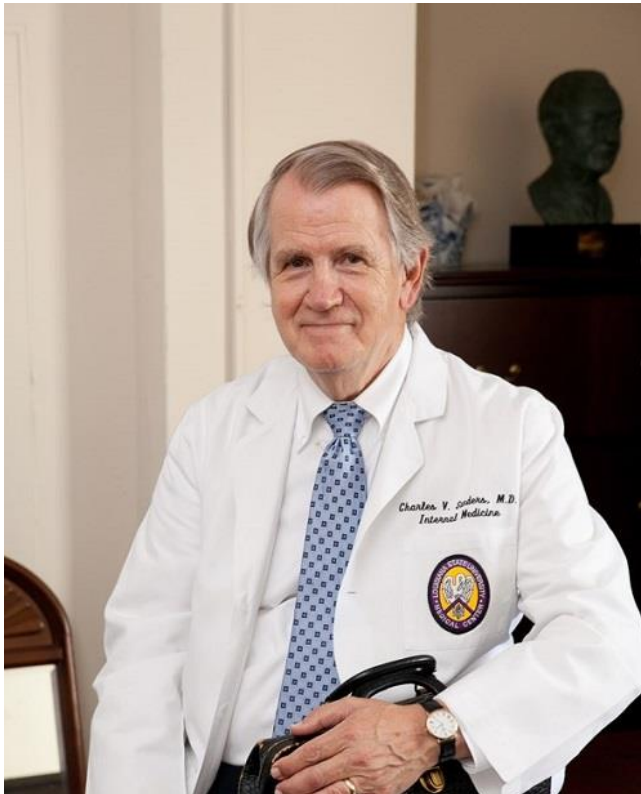
accomplishment and outstanding leadership. He has published more than 140 papers and book chapters. He continues to oversee growth in the educational, research and clinical programs of the psychiatry department. He also continues to expand the department's footprint in the community and state through outreach programs and the acquisition of new grants.

Dr. Osofsky has graciously agreed to remain in his position as department head until a new chair is appointed. He will continue to oversee all operations of the department and help ensure a smooth transition of leadership. We are pleased that he will remain on the faculty as a tenured professor to continue his research, teaching and fundraising for the department. Please join us in thanking Dr. Osofsky for his leadership. We are deeply indebted for his years of service and significant contributions to the school, the community, and the profession.

Dr. Bo Sanders To Step Down as Chair of Department of Medicine

Steve Nelson, MD
Dean

Richard DiCarlo, MD
Senior Associate Dean for Faculty and Institutional Affairs



Dr. Bo Sanders recently announced that he will step down as chair of the department of medicine.

Dr. Sanders has been a member of the LSU faculty for his entire professional career, first joining the department of medicine as an assistant professor immediately upon completing his fellowship in 1970. In the decades since then, he advanced in both rank and responsibility. He became chief of the section of infectious diseases in 1975, acting head of the department of medicine in 1988, and the Edgar Hull Professor and Chair of Medicine in 1989. He is currently the longest reigning chair of medicine in the country.

Dr. Sanders is a revered teacher who has inspired thousands of students, residents and fellows with his love of medicine. He has boundless energy and continues to maintain a busy clinical schedule. He is truly a gentleman and a scholar. He has authored 180 original peer reviewed papers, 31 book chapters and one book. He treats all patients, students, staff and colleagues with civility and respect.

Dr. Sanders has kindly agreed to remain in this position until a new chair is appointed. He will continue to oversee all departmental operations and help ensure a smooth transition of leadership. We are pleased that he will continue to remain on the faculty to teach and see patients, two of his greatest pleasures.

Please join us in thanking Dr. Sanders for his decades of dedicated service to this institution.

We are grateful to him for his tireless and unwavering commitment to the LSU School of Medicine and the entire medical profession.

Dr. Alan Kaye Accepts New Position with LSU Shreveport School of Medicine

*Steve Nelson, MD
Dean*

*Richard DiCarlo, MD
Senior Associate Dean for Faculty and Institutional Affairs*

Dr. Alan Kaye, department head of anesthesiology, announced that he accepted a position at LSU Shreveport School of Medicine where he will soon become provost, chief academic officer, and vice chancellor of academic affairs. We are happy for him to have found an exciting new opportunity.

Dr. Kaye was department head for anesthesiology at Texas Tech for six years before coming to LSU. He was appointed as department head at LSU in January 2005, a time when the department did not have a residency program. He got the residency program reinstated and fully accredited, and he has served as program director in addition to being department head. He has authored hundreds of journal articles and book chapters, and the department has grown under his direction.

We will conduct a national search for a new department head. Dr. Kaye will help us ensure that the department has solid interim leadership until a permanent chair is appointed. Please join us in thanking Dr. Kaye for his 15 years of service to the school and the department of anesthesiology.

Welcome Denise Flock-Williams



I am delighted to have the opportunity to work with so many of you as the new editor of The Pulse. As many of you know, I was originally hired by the LSU Health Foundation in 1996 and certainly feel like this campus is my second home. I am constantly inspired by the incredible work that takes place within the School of Medicine, and look forward to sharing these stories with all of you.

For those I have not yet met, I am a lifelong Tiger. I graduated from LSU with a degree in journalism and some of my earliest work included writing and editing a newsletter that reported on all the schools that comprised the LSU Health Sciences Center at the time.

Over the course of 20 years, I also wrote speeches, articles for annual reports, program summaries, presentations, website content and just about anything else related to the people and programs here at LSU Health.

I want to thank Andrew Hollenbach for all of his time and service that he has put into The Pulse over the last nine years. He has done a wonderful job, and with his team of associate editor Judy Crabtree, past graphic designer Gina Laborde, and present graphic designer Darlene Guillot, has taken The Pulse into this beautiful new format. He has been generous with his time and insight, showing me the ropes, responding to endless questions from me, and preparing me to continue to execute the vision for this newsletter.

I genuinely look forward to learning more about each department and center. Please feel free to reach out to me with a story, a photograph, or an idea for a future article anytime. My email is dflock@lsuhsc.edu.

Welcome Darlene Guillot!

Andrew D. Hollenbach, Ph.D.
Head Editor, The Pulse



I'd like to welcome Darlene Guillot to The Pulse family and introduce our new graphic designer to you, our reader.

She completed her BFA at the University of New Orleans in 1987, after which she worked hard taking the steps necessary to pursue her goal of becoming a fine artist and graphic designer. Her path took her from typesetting to becoming a journeyman stripper for magazines such as Where, Coast Life, Louisiana Horse, and Louisiana Life.

Currently, Darlene works for Dr. Nicholas Bazan in the Neuroscience Center of Excellence. She has been painting and drawing since selling her first painting at eight years of age. Her work has been displayed in the Carol Robinson gallery on Napoleon Street along with other galleries in New Orleans. She sold hand-painted t-shirts under her own label in the River Walk and the French Quarter.

We are happy to have her working with us at The Pulse and we hope you join us in welcoming her to our "publishing" family.

Funding Moves Inventions of Physician-Scientists Closer to Commercialization

Leslie Capo

Director of Information Services

Half of the grants in the latest round of LSU LIFT² funding were awarded for technologies invented by LSU Health New Orleans faculty. The LSU LIFT² Fund was created by the LSU Board of Supervisors in January 2014 to help “Leverage Innovation for Technology Transfer” across all the campuses of the LSU system. Grants are awarded to employees on a competitive basis twice a year, in amounts up to \$50,000, to validate the market potential of their inventions. LSU Health New Orleans was awarded nearly \$200,000 this round to help move its faculty inventions toward commercialization.

The newly funded LSU Health New Orleans technologies advance diagnostics for cancer and surgical repair techniques.

Two Otolaryngology faculty members – Dr. Michael Dunham and Dr. Andrew McWhorter – developed a new system to identify potentially cancerous lesions when looking at a patient's vocal cords using an endoscope. Their invention more easily distinguishes between cancerous and non-cancerous lesions. Deploying this system when scoping a patient's throat has the potential to rapidly identify cancerous vocal cord lesions and improve the success of surgically removing them. This invention could lead to faster diagnosis and fewer surgeries.

Dr. Eugene Woltering, Chief of Surgical Endocrinology, and his team created a non-invasive screening test for neuroendocrine tumors (NETs) of the gut by using stool samples. The screening test, NETDetectTM, will use DNA extracted from the stool and compare it to known genes associated with NETs. The advantages of this system over other common detection methods such as blood tests and colonoscopies are the reduced cost and elimination of testing prep. This screening kit offers the ability to detect these types of tumors early, and possibly pre-cancerous NETs as well.

Surgeons Dr. Sol Mundinger and Dr. Mandi Lopez designed an improved surgical suture anchor. Surgical suture anchors are designed to connect tendons or ligaments to bone. While highly effective, the current design presents many drawbacks for surgeons. Drs. Mundinger and Lopez created the HoldTenTM, a new surgical line fixation device that re-imagines suture anchors and gives surgeons more control over suturing. The HoldTenTM's design allows surgeons to adjust the tension on the suture prior to setting it as well as having multiple sutures to one anchor. This minimizes the need to re-drill anchors in bone to achieve desired tension and the need for excess hardware. Its design also permits for securing soft tissue to bone, making it a highly versatile surgical suture anchor for many specialties.

Surgeon Dr. Ian Hodgdon's invention improves healing after bowel surgery. Bowel removal surgeries use enteric stents to help maintain bowel integrity. Dr. Hodgdon created an absorbable

stent for the gut that is made of biologic materials that have already been successfully used in eye and hernia repairs. This stent will absorb leaking contents from the bowel as it heals and will eventually be degraded by gut enzymes effectively promoting stronger repair by encouraging healing and regrowth of the existing tissue around the biologic material framework.

“I’m thrilled that so many LSU Health New Orleans LIFT² grant proposals were selected for funding,” notes Patrick Reed, RTTP, Director of Technology Management at LSU Health New Orleans. “Of particular interest to my office is the number of physician-inventors who submitted and received an award. We have recently seen a sharp increase in medical device-related innovation from the clinical side of our institution, and I’m hopeful the trend will continue. We appreciate LSU’s foresight in creating a mechanism by which to spur additional development of commercializable technologies.”

By permanently securing a portion of licensing income for the LSU LIFT² Fund, LSU has ensured continual reinvestment in new innovation opportunities and affirmed its commitment to advancing discoveries for public benefit. Moving concepts closer to commercialization is the fundamental purpose of the LSU LIFT² Fund.

Clinical Research Grant Program

Paula Gregory, Ph.D.

Assistant Dean for Medical Student Research

The Clinical Research Grant Program was established to provide funding necessary for the development of clinical research projects into competitive applications that are supported by extramural agencies. The goal of this program is to provide institutional support for full-time clinical faculty who have a research idea that needs to be better developed before it can be submitted for extramural support. Eligibility for this program requires the PI to be an M.D., although a Basic Science co-investigator may be included and could significantly strengthen the proposal.

The six page grants must be in NIH format (similar to an R21) with an NIH type biosketch. As part of this program, the PI must commit to submitting their research proposal for extramural funding to a nationally competitive agency (e.g. NIH, NSF, DOD, PCORI, etc.). More information on this program is available at:

<https://www.medschool.lsuhschool.edu/research/docs/Clinical%20Research%202018.pdf>

LSU Health New Orleans Co-Hosts Free Community Conference on Disaster-Related Mental Health

Leslie Capo

Director of Information Services

LSU New Orleans recently hosted a community conference with the NOLA Partnership for Mental Health on the importance of community involvement in disaster-related and LGBTQ+ research in the context of mental health. The event was free and open to the public.

In disaster-prone communities such as Southeast Louisiana, the prevalence and severity of mental health disorders can be exacerbated by natural disasters. Adverse mental health rates are higher in under-resourced communities, such as LGBTQ+ communities, than in the general population. There tends to be a lack of trust of research within communities that have a high burden of mental illness, low access to or quality of care. Multi-sector coalitions and community engagement can improve the quality of care and outcomes of mental health disorders such as depression and anxiety, while also addressing social risk factors for depression, such as poverty and access to housing. Also, the results of health research often do not target or reach the affected patient populations.

The conference aimed to address some of these complex issues through a collaboration among LSU Health New Orleans, the Community Resilience Learning Collaborative and Research Network (C-LEARN), the LGBTQ+ -focused study Resilience Against Depression Disparities (RADD), and the NOLA Partnership for Mental Health.

The public was invited to explore issues and hear about research focused on mental health in the context of disaster preparedness and recovery, LGBTQ+ communities, and community resilience.

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Medical Students Present at Internal Medicine Research Day

Paula Gregory, Ph.D.

Assistant Dean of Medical Student Research

Every year we have more medical students participating in and presenting their research. This year, sixteen LSU medical students presented at Medicine Research Day. One of the students was chosen to do an oral presentation and the rest were posters. All of their research was clinically related. Listed below are the students and the topics of their research.

Students' research experiences and the mentoring they receive from faculty significantly impact their residency choices and their career trajectories. Presenting at departmental research days and at Medical Student Research Day is a good way to prepare students who also present at regional (SSCI) and national meetings.

- **Nicholas Braud**
 - “Failed Closed Reduction of Pediatric Femur Fractures Treated with Flexible Nails”
- **Anushka Das**
 - “Lobectomy reveals co-infection of *Streptococcus anginosus* and Extrapulmonary Tuberculosis”
- **Joseph A. DiTrapani**
 - “Chemotherapy Induced Pericarditis”
- **Jonte Ellison**
 - “Determining Risk Factors for Anal Dysplasia in HIV+ Individuals”
- **Muhammad Farooq**
 - “Fear Conditioning Increases Endocannabinoid Degradation”
- **Alissa Ice**
 - “Low Dose Gabapentin Therapy Resulting in Bilateral Lower Extremity Edema in a Young Female Peritoneal Dialysis Patient”
- **Vivian Jaber**
 - “Alterations in microRNA-messenger RNA (miRNA-mRNA) coupled signaling networks in sporadic Alzheimer’s disease (AD) Hippocampal CA1”
- **Morgan Laurent**
 - “Does CT Benefit Patients in ED Evaluation of Perirectal Abscess?”

- **Kaeli Morgan**
 - “A Rapid Diagnostic May Improve Health Care Delivery to Patients with Sepsis in the Emergency Department”
- **Anthony Nguyen**
 - “Laparoscopic Gastric Sleeve Surgery in a Patient on Peritoneal Dialysis”
- **Ainsley Pratt**
 - “Molecular Mechanisms in the Treatment of Pyoderma Gangrenosum with Dehydrated Human Amnion/Chorion Membrane”
- **Camille Robinson**
 - “When things aren’t as they seem: Aeromonas bacteremia presenting as an AKI and rhabdomyolysis”
- **Katelyn Robillard**
 - “Gene Therapy for Vision Loss in a Murine Model of Usher Syndrome Type 1C”
- **Charity Sylvester**
 - “L-arginine in the regulation of NOS2 expression to overcome Renal Cell Carcinoma tumor growth”
- **Rishi K. Trivedi**
 - “Early and Late Adulthood Risk Factors in the Development of Carotid Plaque: The Bogalusa Heart Study”
- **Rishi K. Trivedi**
 - “Gender and Racial Differences in Risk Factors of Carotid Plaque Development: The Bogalusa Heart Study”

LSU Health Sciences Center Partners to Host Panel Discussion on End of Life

The Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs at LSU’s Manship School in partnership with LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans hosted a panel discussion on end-of-life care with health care professionals, policymakers and community leaders from across Louisiana earlier this month.

“Designing a Better End: Transforming the Way We Look at Palliative and End-of-Life Care” aimed to identify areas of improvement in the industries of palliative and hospice care, as well as other end-of-life and long-term illness services in Louisiana. Palliative care professionals and health policy advocate Torrie Fields moderated the event. LSU Health’s own Dr. Alexis Morvant lent her expertise to the panel discussion that followed the talk by Torrie Fields, the Reilly Center’s 2019 Public Policy Fellow.

“I am very grateful that the Reilley Center provided this platform and brought in an incredible expert like Torrie Fields to partner with local experts to educate our community on palliative and hospice care,” said Dr. Morvant. “It was a beautiful night with several local experts sharing their experiences of what is happening now in our community, in addition to their hopes and dreams for effecting change in Louisiana in the future.”

Dr. Morvant discussed her work here at LSU Health and Children’s Hospital New Orleans to effect change in Louisiana to ensure that every child and family living with serious illness has comprehensive access to care through the entire disease trajectory to anticipate, prevent and mitigate suffering in all its forms, whether they are in the hospital or in their own home.

“I have nothing but hope to know that our future is bright in delivering the best care possible to children and families living with serious illness. Our leadership at LSU Health, Dean Nelson and Dr. Ray Watts, believe in our program and support our growth in development so we can achieve our mission,” she added. “I am very happy to be home and doing this incredible work. I’m exactly where I’m supposed to be, doing exactly what I was meant to do, and I have lots of gratitude as I reflect on the panel discussion.”

LSU Health Open House Shows Off Simulation Technology and Resources

Leslie Capo
Director of Information Services

As part of Health Care Simulation Week, LSU Health New Orleans, a pioneer in medical simulation education and training, held a Health Care Simulation Open House on September 17th. The simulation centers at LSU Health New Orleans Schools of Medicine and Nursing were open for hands-on demonstrations, tours and more.

As a leader in health care delivery and education across diverse disciplines, LSU Health New Orleans is committed to training the health care leaders of the future. Simulation education provides innovative, immersive interprofessional learning experiences for medical, dental, nursing and allied health students, as well as residents, through a broad range of simulation techniques. LSU Health New Orleans schools use the simulation labs as part of core curricula for students.

LSU Health New Orleans Simulation Community Fast Facts:

- LSU Health New Orleans School of Medicine
 - The Learning Center has 9 dedicated simulation labs

- The simulation labs occupy over 30,000 square feet of space, including two mock operating rooms and a demonstration laboratory
- Educate more than 32,677 learners each year
- Provide more than 82,722 hours of learning each year
- The Learning Center is an American College of Surgeons Accredited Education Institute
- LSU Health New Nursing Skills and Technology Center
 - The Nursing Skills and Technology Center has 6 dedicated simulation labs
 - The simulation labs occupy over 5,000 square feet of space
 - Educate more than 2,500 learners each year
 - Provide more than 7,500 hours of learning each year
 - The Center is a Society of Simulation in Health Care Accredited Program in Teaching/Education
- LSU Health New Orleans School of Dentistry
 - The school has 1 dedicated simulation lab
 - The simulation lab occupies 5,516 square feet of space
 - More than 600 learners each year are educated in the simulation lab
 - More than 70,000 hours of learning each year occur in the simulation

The Dental School is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation

Dean's Corner

Wayne L. Backes, Ph.D.

Associate Dean for Research, School of Medicine

Several construction projects are occurring on both the downtown and dental campuses.

Dental School – The Dental School renovation was completed a little over a year ago. It is a three-story, nearly 76,000 square-foot building. The second floor contains dental chairs, and the third floor contains a new animal care facility with eight animal-holding and procedure rooms. There is also about 1,500 square feet of lab space adjacent to the animal care facility on the second floor. The third floor also has a hardened area for maintenance of services during a weather event.

CSRB – The main part of the project is the construction of the animal care addition. The facility will be about 60,000 square feet and will contain both animal-holding and procedure rooms. The first step of this project was the building of the interior wall on the west side of the building, which was completed a few weeks ago. The next step is the driving of pilings, which will start at the end of September or early October. Subsequently, the exterior wall on the west side of the building will be removed, and then the new structure will be connected to the existing building. This phase will likely begin around the first of the year. During this time, there will be significant noise and vibration. Consequently, arrangements have been made to move the animals from the CSRB to other locations. Some animals have already been moved to the Dental School. The remainder of the animals will be transported to the Louisiana Cancer Research Consortium building. This move is expected to occur later in September, prior to the pile driving. The animal care facility will continue to maintain operations in the CSRB; if you have experiments where the vibrations will not affect your results, the animals can remain there.

Once complete, there will be a hardened facility on the eighth floor that will allow emergency personnel to maintain animal care and other essential services in the event of a hurricane or other emergency.

An animal care bridge is also being constructed that will connect the second floors of the CSRB and the MEB and allow for transport of animals between the buildings without having to use the MEB physical plant locker area.

Standby Power – This will be constructed in the small parking lot adjacent to the Roman Street parking garage. A sound and firewall has already been built in the parking garage. When complete, this power plant will provide standby power to the MEB, CSRB, Lions, Nursing, Residence Hall, and Resource Center buildings. Another power plant will be constructed in the future to provide standby power to the Seton Building, Human Development Center and the old Interim LSU Hospital (ILH).

Medical Education Building – As part of the FEMA-funded mitigation project, the first floor of the MEB will be renovated, and the elevators are being flood-proofed in both the MEB and CSRB. One classroom on the third floor is also being renovated.

Old ILH Building and Clinical Office Space – The old ILH building will be converted into office space for our clinical faculty. Once completed, clinical faculty will move from the CEB facility at 1542 Tulane Avenue to the refurbished building closer to the rest of campus. The upper floors of the old ILH will be converted into clinical offices. The fourth floor will be converted to a large testing center for the medical school. The Wellness Center will move to the third floor and be twice the size of the current one in the Stanislaus building. The second floor will be for surgical simulation and a fresh tissue demonstration lab. The first floor is expected to include a medical mall, a standardized patient care center, and an area for group meetings.

The cost of the FEMA mitigation project is about \$90 million, and the ILH renovations will cost about \$60 million. We anticipate that these projects will take two to three years to complete

In the Spotlight

LSU School of Medicine Selected as Pilot School for Aquifer Sciences Project

Robin English, M.D.

Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education

A team of LSU School of Medicine faculty and students was selected as one of 12 teams to participate in a pilot project involving the integration of basic science and clinical medicine. Aquifer is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to delivering healthcare education through virtual patient teaching, and LSU School of Medicine utilizes Aquifer's specialty-specific patient cases to teach third year students on their clerkships. Aquifer Sciences is a unique initiative within the Aquifer organization that integrates basic and clinical sciences to promote collaborative teaching and student excellence in clinical decision making and safe patient care. Aquifer Sciences has developed a national curriculum with core concepts from 11 basic science disciplines and recently entered a phase of case development, from which their Pilot School Project arose.

Over a six-month period in 2018-2019, the team wrote six cases based on integrated basic and clinical science learning objectives. The cases were designed to facilitate the integration of students' basic science knowledge into safe clinical decision making. A significant amount of time was spent in case writing and refinement, research, and conference calls with Aquifer Sciences leadership. The cases that were developed were patients with septic shock, hypertensive kidney disease, pyloric stenosis, intrauterine growth retardation, hyperlipidemia, and Factor V Leiden. All cases were peer-reviewed and selected to go forward to production. They will be available nationally as part of the Aquifer Sciences case pool.

The LSU team was led by Drs. Maureen Basha and Robin English and consisted of eight faculty and six senior students, whose names are below:

- **Dr. Grace Athas**
- **Dr. Maureen Basha**
- **Dr. Taniya De Silva**
- **Dr. Robin English**
- **Dr. Cacky Hebert**
- **Dr. Andrew Hollenbach**
- **Dr. Angela McLean**
- **Dr. Joy Sturtevant**
- **Ryan Bolotte, L4**
- **Paige Davis, L4**
- **Allison Falcon, L4**

- **Amy Galiano, L4**
- **Amelia Muhs, L4**
- **Caroline Robichaux, L4**

Further opportunities for case development will be available later this fall. If you are interested in participating, please contact Dr. Basha or Dr. English for more information.

SOM Achievements

LSU Health New Orleans Awarded \$13.6 Million for Expanded Cancer Clinical Trials Network

Leslie Capo
Director of Information Services

LSU Health New Orleans has been awarded a \$13.6 million grant by the National Cancer Institute to expand its successful statewide clinical trials network with a special emphasis on minority and underserved cancer patients. Principal Investigator Dr. Augusto Ochoa, Director of LSU Health New Orleans Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center, and his team will develop a new entity by combining LSU Health New Orleans' previously funded Gulf South Minority/Underserved NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP) with Ochsner's Community NCORP. Primary partners of the new Gulf South Minority/Underserved Clinical Trials Network NCORP will be LSU Health New Orleans Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center, LSU Health Shreveport Feist Weiller Cancer Center, Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center and Ochsner Cancer Center.

The new Clinical Trials Network will provide cancer care and access to clinical trials for more than 50% of newly diagnosed cancer patients in the region, expand the number of sites offering access to clinical trials from 22 to 42 and increase the proportion of minority patients participating in NCORP trials. It will also take advantage of the clinical subspecialties at the primary affiliate sites, utilize the valuable samples in biorepositories to advance research in health disparities and treatment, as well as expand its partnerships with community health organizations.

“This funding recognizes the expertise of LSU Health New Orleans and our partners in cancer research and care,” notes Larry Hollier, MD, Chancellor of LSU Health New Orleans. “It will allow us to bring access to the latest advances in cancer care to even more Louisiana people diagnosed with this devastating disease.”

Major health providers in the region including the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System in New Orleans, Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge and the Christus Health community sites will also participate.

“A decade ago we started building this network with Mary Bird Perkins and LSU Health Shreveport,” recalls principal investigator Augusto Ochoa, MD, Director of LSU Health New Orleans Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center. “It was recently named a recipient of the Platinum Award by the NCI for being a leading organization in enrolling cancer patients into clinical

trials. Last year alone, we enrolled more than 1,300 patients in Louisiana, and when combined with Ochsner, it was close to 1,500. We are the largest cancer clinical trials network in the state. With the addition of Ochsner, this new clinical trials network holds a hopeful future for our cancer patients. We will continue to build cancer care throughout the state through team efforts such as the Gulf South CTN.”

Study Suggests Promising New Rx Target For Obesity And Diabetes

Leslie Capo
Director of Information Services

Research led by Suresh Alahari, PhD, Fred Brazda Professor of Biochemistry and Microbiology at LSU Health New Orleans, suggests a novel protein may be a promising therapeutic target to treat or prevent metabolic disorders. The study also reported for the first time metabolic distinctions between male and female mice. The findings are published in the December 2018, issue of the *International Journal of Obesity*, available [here](#).

The researchers conducted studies in both a mouse model and in human tissue to advance our understanding of the role of *Nischarin*, a novel protein discovered by the Alahari lab, in fat distribution and insulin resistance leading to diabetes and obesity. *Nischarin* functions as a molecular scaffold and is involved in the insulin signaling pathway.

Working with experimental *Nischarin*-mutant as well as wild mice fed chow and high-fat diets, the researchers found gender differences in body fat distribution, increased insulin resistance and decreased glucose tolerance in the females.

To link the work in mice with human disease, the scientists also studied paired samples of human subcutaneous and visceral fat that were obtained from 400 individuals (267 women, 133 men), ranging in age from 19 to 93 years, with BMIs from 18.9 to 78.9 kg/m². The research team found that *Nischarin* expression was lower in both visceral and subcutaneous adipose tissues of individuals with obesity. The majority of parameters associated with obesity – impaired glucose and lipid metabolism as well as insulin resistance – were inversely correlated with *Nischarin* expression, as were weight, waist circumference and waist-hip ratio. They also found that *Nischarin* expression was higher in the visceral fat.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the age-adjusted percentage of US adults who were obese or had been diagnosed with diabetes rose in all states from 1994-2015. “In 1994, all but two states had prevalence of obesity less than 18% and no state exceeded 22%. In 2015, no state had less than 18% and all but one state exceeded 22%. Similarly for diagnosed diabetes, in 1994, no state had prevalence less than 6.0%. In 2015, all states exceeded 6.0%; 27 of these exceeded 9.0%.”

The research was supported by funds from LSU Health New Orleans School of Medicine and the Fred Brazda Foundation, as well as grants of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Obesity Mechanisms (SFB 1052, B01).

Grants and Contracts

Congratulations to the following individuals for obtaining extramural funding from federal, state, and/or independent sources between October 1, 2018 – August 15, 2019!

NOTE: The Office of the Dean provided the information below to The Pulse. If there is any information that was inadvertently omitted, please contact the editor (dflock@lsuhsc.edu) and a correction will be printed in the next issue of The Pulse.

National Institutes of Health (R01):

- Nicolas Bazan, M.D., Ph.D. (Neuroscience Center of Excellence)
 - “Docosanoids Modulate Homeostasis and Cell Survival After Ischemic Stroke”
- David Lefer, Ph.D. (Cardiovascular Center of Excellence)
 - “Endogenous Hydrogen Sulfide Enzymes in Heart Failure”
- Si-Qiong Liu, Ph.D. (Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy)
 - “Activity-Dependent Degradation of a Neuromodulator”
- Janet Rossi, M.D. (Department of Pediatrics)
 - “Altered Forebrain Circuits Following Repetitive Traumatic Brain Injury”
- Qinglin Yang, Ph.D. (Cardiovascular Center of Excellence)
 - “Improving Mitochondrial Function to Protect Against Myocardial Ischemia/Reperfusion”

National Institutes of Health (R21):

- Jeffrey Erickson, Ph.D. (Neuroscience Center of Excellence)
 - “Neuronal Activity-Regulated Glutamine Transporter”
- Imran Mungrue, Ph.D. (Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics)
 - “Proof of Principle for a Scalable Multiplex Proteome Quantitation Technology”
- Li Shen, M.D., Ph.D. (Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Parasitology)
 - “Probing Mechanism and Outcome of Chlamydia Trachomatis Response to Antimicrobial Insults”
- Guoshun Wang, DVM, Ph.D. (Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Parasitology)
 - “Myeloid CFTR Defect and CF Pathogen Selection”

National Institutes of Health (R13):

- Elizabeth Avegno, Ph.D. (Department of Physiology)
 - Travel award – Subaward from San Diego State
- Nicholas Gilpin, Ph.D. (Department of Physiology)
 - “Travel Support for the 7th International Drug Abuse Research Society Meeting (IDARS)”

National Institutes of Health (Ruth L. Kirschstein F32 Training Award)

- Elizabeth Fucich, Ph.D. (Department of Physiology)
 - “Stress Effects on Traumatic Brain Injury: Neural Mechanisms of Escalated Alcohol Drinking”
- Marcus Weera, Ph.D. (Department of Physiology)
 - “The Role of Amygdala Outputs in Stress-Induced Escalation of Alcohol Drinking”

Health and Human Services

- Matthew Whim, Ph.D. (Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy)
 - “Determining the Role of the Adrenal Y2 and Y5 Receptors in the Prevention of Hypoglycemia”

Foundations and National Associations:

- Erich Conrad, M.D., F.A.P.M. (Epilepsy Center of Excellence)
 - Spirit of Charity Foundation
 - “Inflammatory Reductions in Psychiatric Treatment of PTSD”
- Mohamed Ghonim, Ph.D. (Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics)
 - American Heart Association
 - “Novel Functions for DNA-PK in Atherogenesis and the Potential of its Inhibition in Promoting Plaque Regression”
- Jeffrey Gidday, Ph.D. (Department of Ophthalmology)
 - The Eppley Foundation for Research, Inc.
 - “DNA Methylation and the Transgenerational Epigenetic Inheritance of Adaptive Traits”
- Frank Lau, M.D. (Department of Surgery)
 - Southeastern Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons
 - “Mechanisms Linking Obesity and Breast Cancer: A Study Using a Novel, 3-Dimensional Model of Breast Cancer-Breast Cancer Parenchymal Interactions”
- Eric Lazartigues, Ph.D. (Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics)
 - American Diabetes Association
 - “Epigenetic Modulation of the Autonomous Nervous System and its Consequences for Cardio-metabolic Diseases”
- Rinku Majumder, Ph.D. (Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology)
 - American Society of Hematology
 - “ASH: Estrogen, Protein S, and Obesity Contribute to Induce Pre-Menopausal Thrombosis”

- Charles Nichols, Ph.D. (Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics)
 - The Betsy Gordon Foundation
 - “Betsy Gordon Fellowship”
- John Paige, M.D. (Department of Anesthesiology)
 - International Association of Medical Science Educators (IAMSE)
 - “Securing Unbiased Real-Time Evaluations in Team Training of Interprofessional Students *SURE T2TIPS”
- Ryan Pasternak, M.D. (Department of Pediatrics)
 - David and Lucile Packard Foundation
 - “Reproductive Education + Advocacy Louisiana (REAL) Previously funded segment 149600360A”
- Howard Osofsky, M.D., Ph.D. (Psychiatry)
 - Institute of Mental Hygiene
 - “Development of an Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Service Model”
- Howard Osofsky, M.D., Ph.D. (Psychiatry)
 - Institute of Mental Hygiene
 - “IMH 2019 Lemann Lecture”
- Ches’Nique Phillips, Ph.D. (Department of Genetics)
 - Moffitt Cancer Center
 - The Effect of miRNA Dysregulation Health Disparities Observed in African American Women in Triple Negative Breast Cancer”
- Flavia Souza-Smith, Ph.D. (Department of Physiology)
 - American Physiological Society
 - 2019 International Opportunity Program Award
- Benjamin Springgate, M.D., M.P.H., (Department of Medicine)
 - Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institution
 - “Engagement in Clinical Comparative Effectiveness and Patient-Centered Outcomes (ENCORES) (Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Award Program)
- Whitney Walkowski, (Neuroscience Center of Excellence)
 - Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology
 - “Endocrine Control of Retinal Sensitivity”
- Whitney Walkowski, (Neuroscience Center of Excellence)
 - Chicago Herpetological Society
 - “Endocrine Control of Retinal Sensitivity in the Green Treefrog”
- Whitney Walkowski, (Neuroscience Center of Excellence)
 - Animal Behavior Society
 - “Endocrine Control of Retinal Sensitivity in the Green Treefrog”

Pharmaceutical and Company Grants:

- Yussef Bennani, M.D. (Department of Medicine)
 - Gilead Sciences, Inc.
 - “A phase 3b multicenter open label study to evaluate switching from a regimen of two nucleos(ide) reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTI) plus a third agent to a fixed dose combination (FDC) of Bictegravir/Emtricitabin”

- Rajasree Chowdry, M.D. (Department of Medicine)
 - Exelixis, Inc.
 - A phase 1b dose-escalation study of Cabozantinib (XL184) Administered in Combination with Atezolizumab to Subjects with Locally advanced or Metastatic Solid Tumors”
- Robert Fuchs, MD/PhD Student (Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics)
 - PhRMA Foundation
 - “P450 Microdomain Localization Influences Psychotropic Drug Metabolism”
- Agustin Garcia, M.D. (Department of Medicine)
 - Merck & Co., Inc.
 - “A Multicenter, Open-Label, Randomized, Phase 3 Trial to Compare the Efficacy and Safety of Lenvatinib in Combination with Pembrolizumab Versus Treatment of Physician’s Choice in Participants with Advanced Endometrial Cancer”
- Frank Lau, M.D. (Department of Surgery)
 - AxoGen Corporation
 - “A Multicenter Registry Study of Advanced Nerve Graft Utilization, Evaluations and Outcomes in Peripheral Nerve Injury Repair (RANGER)”
- Paul LeLorier, M.D., F.A.C.C. (Department of Medicine)
 - Abbott Laboratories
 - Electrophysiology Fellowship Sponsorship
- Paul LeLorier,
 - EP Fellowship Program
- Paul LeLorier,
 - Medtronic, Inc.
- Lucio Miele, M.D., Ph.D. (Department of Genetics)
 - JLM ExoGrade, LLC
 - “JLM Study of Wharton’s Jelly MSC Exosomes”
- Hollis O’Neal, Jr., M.D. (Department of Pulmonary Medicine, Our Lady of the Lake)
 - CytoVale, Inc.
 - “Solving the Question of Infection or SIRS Hastily-Sepsis 3”
- Hollis O’Neal, Jr., M.D. (Department of Pulmonary Medicine, Our Lady of the Lake)
 - CytoVale, Inc.
 - “Solving the Question of Inflammation or Sepsis Hastily – BE SQUISHED”
- Frank Smart, M.D. (Department of Medicine)
 - Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals
 - “A Randomized Parallel-Group, Placebo-Controlled, Double-Blind, Multi-center Trial to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of the Oral sGC Stimulator Vericiguat to Improve Physical Functioning in Activities of Daily Living in Patients with Heart Failure and Preserved Ejection Fraction”
- Stephanie Taylor, M.D. (Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Parasitology)
 - Becton Dickinson Group
 - “HPV PreservCyt Clinical Performance as compared to the BD Viper LT System with the BD Onclarity HPV Assay”
- Stephanie Taylor, M.D. (Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Parasitology)
 - Becton Dickinson Group

- “Clinical Comparison of the BD MAX 3-in-1 Swab Collection Kit to the BD Max UVE Specimen Collection Kit with the BD MAX Vaginal Panel Assay”
- Stephanie Taylor, M.D. (Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Parasitology)
 - Becton Dickinson Group
 - “BD COR Usability and Evidence Generation Exploratory Study WO#3 to MCTA”
- Stephanie Taylor, M.D. (Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Parasitology)
 - NeuMoDx Molecular, Inc.
 - “NeuMoDx Molecular: Specimen Procurement for NeuMoDx Chlamydia Trachomatix/Neisseria Gonorrhoe Assay”

LSU LIFT Grants:

- Hong Xin, M.D., Ph.D. (Department of
 - “Antibody Therapies for the Prevention and Treatment of Fungal Sepsis”
- Michael Dunham, M.D. (Department of Otorhinolaryngology)
 - “Optical Biopsy of Vocal Fold Lesions: Sheath Based Delivery System”
- Ian Hodgdon, M.D. (Department of Surgery)
 - “Biologic enteric stent for the prevention of anastomotic leaks”
- Gerhard Munding, M.D., F.A.A.P. (Department of Surgery)
 - “HoldTen Suture Anchor Manufacturing and Clinical Development”
- Eugene Woltering, M.D., F.A.C.S. (Department of Surgery)
 - “Development of a Novel Screening Method for Neuroendocrine Tumors of the Gut”

Academic and University Awards:

- Angela Martin Amedee, Ph.D. (Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Parasitology)
 - University of California Davis
 - “RNA/DNA Quantification of SIVagm Serum”

Travel Awards:

- Nicholas Gilpin, Ph.D. (Department of Physiology)
 - American Physiological Society
 - 2019 Pan American Congress Travel Award
- Danielle Levitt-Budnar, Ph.D. (Department of Physiology)
 - Gordon Research Conferences
 - Gordon Research Conference Travel Award

Congratulations for Promotion and Tenure!

Congratulations are in order for the following faculty of the School of Medicine who received promotions and/or tenure, effective July 1, 2019!

Granted Tenure:

Chindo Hicks, Ph.D. (Professor, Department of Physiology)

Cathy Lazarus, M.D. (Professor, Department of Medicine)

Promoted to Professor:

Nicholas Gilpin, Ph.D. (Department of Physiology)

Lisa Harrison-Bernard, Ph.D. (Department of Physiology)

Stephen Kantrow, M.D. (Department of Medicine)

Promoted to Professor, Tenure Track:

David Welsh, M.D. (Department of Medicine)

Promoted to Professor, Clinical:

Murtuza Ali, M.D. (Department of Medicine)

Peter Krause, M.D. (Department of Orthopaedics)

Claudie Sheahan, M.D. (Department of Surgery)

Promoted to Associate Professor:

Scott Edwards, Ph.D. (Department of Physiology)

Promoted to Associate Professor, Tenure Track:

David Janz, M.D. (Department of Medicine)

Liz Peter, Ph.D. (Department of Physiology)

Promoted to Associate Professor, Research:

Allison Augustus-Wallace, Ph.D. (Department of Medicine)

Stefany Primeaux, Ph.D. (Department of Physiology)

Promoted to Associate Professor, Clinical:

Isa Ashoor, M.D. (Department of Medicine)

Kelly Gajewski, M.D. (Department of Pediatrics)

Patrick Greiffenstein, M.D. (Department of Surgery)

Shane Guillory, M.D. (Department of Medicine)

Raegan Gupta, M.D. (Department of Pediatrics)

Asha Heard, M.D. (Department of OB/GYN)

Michael Heffernan, M.D. (Department of Orthopaedics)

Robert Karl, M.D. (Department of Radiology)

Gerhard Munding, M.D. (Department of Surgery)

Chelsey Sandlin, M.D. (Department of Pediatrics)

Shane Sanne, D.O. (Department of Medicine)

Luke Wall, M.D. (Department of Pediatrics)

David Yu, M.D. (Department of Surgery)

Promoted to Clinical Associate Professor:

Donald Bell, M.D. (Department of Urology)

Alex Cohen, Ph.D. (Department of Psychiatry)

Lannis Tynes, M.D. (Department of Psychiatry)

Promoted to Clinical Professor:

Kamran Khoobehi, M.D. (Department of Surgery)

New Appointments

Congratulations to those faculty receiving new appointments between January 1 and July 31, 2019!

Dr. Gordon Love Appointed as Department Head of Pathology



Dr. Gordon Love has been appointed as Department Head of Pathology. Dr. Love has served as interim department head since July 2018. He is a graduate of Tulane University School of Medicine and completed his residency in pathology at Tulane Medical Center and Charity Hospital. He served on the faculty of LSU School of Medicine from 1984 – 1993. In 1993, he was named chief of pathology and laboratory medicine at the V.A. Northern California Health Care System where he designed a new hospital laboratory and coordinated core and satellite lab services in Northern California. In 2006, he began to work for Quest Diagnostics and became the Medical Director of Quest's Western Region. He returned to New Orleans in 2016 and rejoined the LSUHSC School of Medicine as professor of clinical pathology and director of laboratories at University Medical Center- New Orleans.

Dr. Love is board certified in both anatomic and clinical pathology and a world expert in medical mycology. He recently authored a definitive text and color atlas on this subject. He has been recognized as an outstanding clinician, administrator, and teacher.

Dr. Jayne Weiss Named Chief Medical Officer at LSU Healthcare Network



Dr. Jayne S. Weiss has accepted the position of Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of the LSU Healthcare Network. Dr. Weiss currently serves as Professor and Chair of the Louisiana State University Department of Ophthalmology; the Herbert E Kaufman MD endowed Chair in Ophthalmology, as well as Professor of Pathology and Pharmacology. She also serves as the Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs in the School of Medicine. Dr. Weiss accepts this position with a very unique pedigree and skill set in academic medicine and executive leadership, and has already leant considerable expertise and leadership to our Network by serving on the HCN Executive Leadership Committee during this past year. In her new role as CMO, she will facilitate our multispecialty practice in developing and maintaining practice standards in multiple areas.

Dr. Weiss is a native of New York City, graduated from State University of Buffalo and received her Doctor of Medicine degree from Mt. Sinai Medical School – receiving the highest level of honors throughout. Her ophthalmology residency was completed at the Bascom Palmer Eye

Institute, University of Miami School of Medicine followed by a fellowship in ocular pathology at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Harvard Medical School in Boston and a fellowship in cornea and external eye diseases at Emory University in Atlanta. She is Fellow of Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine, Drexel University School of Medicine.

In addition to her wealth of academic and clinical accomplishments, she brings a considerable depth of experience working with governmental and regulatory agencies. She is Chair of the FDA Ophthalmic Devices panel, Chair of the International Committee for Classification of the Corneal Dystrophies, and a member of American Ophthalmology Society Program committee. Dr. Weiss has received the Service Advisory Award from the FDA, two Secretariat Awards from the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), Senior Honor Award from the AAO, two Knight for Sight Awards from the Louisiana Lions Eye Foundation, Year of Woman Award from Women in Ophthalmology, LSU Ophthalmology Residency Teaching Award and Research Award, and is included in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in Medicine and Healthcare, Best Doctors in New Orleans and Louisiana. She is President of the New Orleans Opera club, a member of the Board of Directors of the radio station, WRBH, serving the visually impaired, and a member of the Mardi Gras Krewe, the Amelia Earhawl's.

Congratulations to Dean Nelson ***Spirit of Charity Award Recipient***



Congratulations to our own Dean Steve Nelson, the 2019 recipient of the Spirit of Charity Award. This honor acknowledges Dr. Nelson's outstanding contributions to medicine and medical education. In 1998, the Spirit of Charity Foundation, dedicated to continuing the mission and legacy of Charity Hospital, created "The Spirit of Charity Award." Each year, it is presented to a physician whose career began or was nurtured in Charity Hospital and who has made a significant contribution to medicine. A member of LSU Health New Orleans' faculty since 1984, Dr. Nelson has made enormous contributions to medicine over the years -- shaping generations of physicians through undergraduate and graduate medical education, conducting biosciences research on some of society's toughest health issues, caring for patients, and serving the community through outreach programs. He is a worthy recipient of this award.

The Spirit of Charity Foundation presented this prestigious award to Dr. Nelson at a special event on Friday, October 11th at the JW Marriott New Orleans Hotel.

HBOT Showed Improvement In Alzheimer's Disease

*Leslie Capo,
Director of Information Services*

Paul Harch, Clinical Professor and Director of Hyperbaric Medicine at LSU Health New Orleans School of Medicine, and Dr. Edward Fogarty, Chairman of Radiology at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine, report the first PET scan-documented case of improvement in brain metabolism in Alzheimer's disease in a patient treated with hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT). The report, published in the current issue of the peer-reviewed journal *Medical Gas Research*, is available [here](#).

The authors report the case of a 58-year-old female who had experienced five years of cognitive decline, which began accelerating rapidly. Single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) suggested Alzheimer's disease. The diagnosis was confirmed by ¹⁸Fluorodeoxyglucose (18FDG) positron emission tomography (PET) brain imaging, which revealed global and typical metabolic deficits of Alzheimer's disease.

The patient underwent a total of 40 HBOT treatments – five days a week over 66 days. Each treatment consisted of 1.15 atmosphere absolute/50 minutes total treatment time. After 21 treatments, the patient reported increased energy and level of activity, better mood and ability to perform daily living activities as well as work crossword puzzles. After 40 treatments, she reported increased memory and concentration, sleep, conversation, appetite, ability to use the computer, more good days (5/7) than bad days, resolved anxiety, and decreased disorientation and frustration. Tremor, deep knee bend, tandem gait, and motor speed were also improved. Repeat 18FDG PET imaging one month post-HBOT showed global 6.5–38% improvement in brain metabolism.

The physicians report that two months post-HBOT, the patient felt a recurrence in her symptoms. She was retreated over the next 20 months with 56 HBOTs (total 96) at the same dose, supplemental oxygen, and medications with stability of her symptoms and Folstein Mini-Mental Status exam.

According to the National Institutes of Health, “Alzheimer's disease is an irreversible, progressive brain disorder that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills and, eventually, the ability to carry out the simplest tasks. It is the most common cause of dementia in older adults. Alzheimer's disease is currently ranked as the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, but recent estimates indicate that the disorder may rank third, just behind heart disease and cancer, as a cause of death for older people.”

The authors note that four pathological processes have been identified and primary treatment is with acetylcholinesterase inhibitors or the N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor antagonist memantine,

which have been shown to have a positive impact on Alzheimer's disease progression with no significant disease-modifying effects.

HBOT is an epigenetic modulation of gene expression and suppression to treat wounds and disease pathophysiology, particularly inflammation. HBOT targets all four of the pathological processes of AD by affecting the microcirculation; mitochondrial dysfunction, and biogenesis; reducing amyloid burden and tau phosphorylation; controlling oxidative stress; and reducing inflammation.

The first successful HBOT-treated case of Alzheimer's disease was published in 2001. The present case report is the first patient in a series of 11 HBOT-treated patients with Alzheimer's disease whose symptomatic improvement is documented with ¹⁸fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography (18FDG PET).

Organizational Reports

Association for Women In Science (AWIS)

AWIS Update September 9, 2019

Carmen Canavier, Ph.D. (President, AWIS)

Association for Women in Science (AWIS) is the largest multi-discipline organization for women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) dedicated to achieving equity and full participation of women in all disciplines and across all employment sectors. The



AWIS Southern Louisiana chapter is dedicated to empowering women in science and technology by providing a platform for networking opportunities and career development programs, and to promoting and increasing interest in science among girls and young women. The AWIS Southern Louisiana chapter welcomes all persons interested in furthering the careers of women in science.

The Southern Louisiana chapter of the AWIS held a brown bag mentoring luncheon in the Chancellor's Reception Center earlier in the year, an

off-campus reception in the spring with legislators Sharon Hewitt and Stephanie Hilferty as our guests of honor, and a general meeting in March with a lecture by special guest Dr. Joanne Kamens, CEO of Addgene. The lecture "I'm Surviving (Happily) My Career in Science - You

"Can Too! Ten Rules of Work/Life Negotiation" was arranged by Krystal Belmonte. We also held a graduate student/postdoc mixer on August 15. We will announce the winner of the fall travel award during our September general meeting, and hold a Girl Scout Believe in Girls event on the LSU Baton Rouge campus September 28. We welcome new chapter members at our general meeting and volunteers for the Girl Scout Event.

(above left) Standing: Diana Battaglia, Jane Eason, Sonia Gasparini, Jenn Cameron, Sandy Andrieu, Katelyn Gurley, Tiffany Wills, Tahereh Mazaheri, Celeste Faia, Eleanor Holmgren, Katie Adler, Crescent Combe, Liz Simon Seated: Donna Williams, Carmen Canavier, Senator Sharon Hewitt, Representative Stephanie Hilferty (below left) Members enjoy the mixer held in

the spring.



Faculty Assembly Report

Sanjay Kamboj, M.D.

Faculty Assembly President 2019-2020

Faculty Assembly welcomed new members and also held the election for Faculty Senate delegates, Administrative Council delegates, president elect, and secretary. The roster will be on our website https://www.medschool.lsuhschool.edu/faculty_assembly/. We also met with Dean Nelson and discussed issues related to faculty, including construction involving 1542 Tulane Avenue, CSRB, and the ILH buildings. We also discussed faculty raises, the new proposed evaluation process for faculty, and the policy change related to leave days for meetings and other academic endeavors. We also congratulated Dean Nelson on winning the 2019 Spirit of Charity Award.

Faculty Assembly invites faculty to attend the Faculty Assembly meeting, which is held on the first Thursday of every month at 4 p.m. in conference room 7 on the 6th floor of the Lion's building (2020 Gravier St.). If you have any issues which need to be discussed, please feel free to email me. We sincerely appreciate all the good work done by our faculty members.

Updates from the MD/PhD Program (Winter 2019)

Angela Amedee, Ph.D.

Director, M.D., Ph.D. Program

The program bid farewell to four M.D./Ph.D. graduates this May, and we are excited to watch the careers of Drs. Stephen Ford, Minmin Luo, Spencer Robichaux, and Rishi Trivedi develop as they head into residency programs.

In June, we officially welcomed three applicants from the rising L2 medical class. Jacob Elnaggar, Carol Upchurch, and Oygul Mizalievva joined five other L2s who will matriculate into graduate school in July 2020.

In July, we were pleased to welcome a new class of five M.D./Ph.D. students into our program. The entering class includes: Jake Doiron (BS Berry College), Joshua Edavettal (BS LA Tech; MS Tulane), Grace Kim (BS NYU; MS Tulane), Anna King (BS Fordham University), and Tyler Prusisz (BS Georgia Tech).

The combined program currently has 41 students in all levels of training, with 19 enrolled in graduate studies

Students in the M.D./Ph.D. program had a busy and productive Fall, and we're off to a great start in 2019. Here are a few highlights.

The M.D./Ph.D. program was pleased to welcome one of our alumna, Jessica Shields, M.D./Ph.D. to speak at our monthly forum meeting in October 2018. Dr. Shields, a 2013 graduate from the School of Graduate Studies, completed her Ph.D. in the Cell Biology and Anatomy Department, and graduated from the School of Medicine in 2015. Dr. Shields is currently a fourth year Resident in Neurosurgery here at LSUHSC New Orleans. She presented research cases, described her journey through the dual program, and answered questions from current students. Many thanks to Dr. Shields for her encouragement and advice, and for sharing her experiences and knowledge with current students.

M.D./Ph.D. students preparing for submission of Ruth L. Kirschstein (F-series) grant applications to NIH, along with other graduate students and post-doctoral fellows, attended a five-part seminar series on writing and submitting the applications. The seminar series designed and presented by Dr. Andrew Hollenbach, Professor in SoM, Department of Genetics, provided in-depth coverage of the review process and detailed information of the purpose and structure of each individual section of the grant application. The seminar series was very well-attended and proved to be a great resource for anyone contemplating and preparing a grant submission. Many thanks to Dr. Hollenbach for providing this informative and enjoyable seminar series!

Dr. Paula Gregory, Assistant Dean for Medical Student Research, has also provided support and workshops focused on the submission of training/fellowship grants. The efforts of Drs. Gregory and Hollenbach, hard work of our students, and the dedication of faculty mentors are yielding results for grant application submission. Several grant M.D./Ph.D. students submitted applications this fall, and we are proud to announce two new grant awards, that add to the 5 grant awards currently held by M.D./Ph.D. students.

- **Zachary Stielper** received funding for his F30 grant entitled, The Role of Amygdalar Endocannabinoids in Alcohol Drinking after Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Zachary is a 2nd-year graduate student in Physiology, working under the mentorship of Drs. Molina and Gilpin.
- **Robert Fuchs**, a 2nd year graduate student in Pharmacology was awarded a PhRMA Foundation Fellowship for his graduate work in laboratory of Dr. Backes.

Other notable M.D./Ph.D. student research and presentation awards include:

- **Allyson Schreiber, Ph.D.** was presented the 2018 School of Graduate Studies Chancellor's Award, recognizing her scientific work and community involvement as a doctoral student in the Department of Physiology, under the mentorship of Dr. Nicholas Gilpin. Allyson received a plaque and \$500 check at Graduate Research Day. Congratulations to Allyson for receiving this prestigious award!
- **Katelyn Robillard** won a top poster award at the annual LSUHSC Graduate Student Research Day, describing her research in the laboratory of Dr. Jennifer Lentz.
- **Nazary Nebeluk** attended the Southeastern Medical Scientist Symposium in November 2018 and received the second-place award for oral presentation of his work done in the laboratory of Dr. Timothy Foster in MIP.

A New Labor of Love: The Tiger Scholars Undergraduate Academic Pipeline Program

*Allison C. Augustus-Wallace, PhD, MS, MNS
Associate Professor- Research for Diversity
Director of Undergraduate Academic Pipeline Programs
School of Medicine, Office of Diversity & Community Engagement*

During the 2019 summer semester, the School of Medicine Office of Diversity and Community Engagement (ODCE) celebrated the launch of its new undergraduate academic pipeline enrichment program, entitled, The Tiger Scholars Undergraduate Academic Pipeline Program. Currently funded intramurally by the School of Medicine Dean's Office, the "Tiger Scholars Program" replaces the LSUHSC-NO, Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP). In its present state, this new program was created to provide academic support to Louisiana undergraduates from underrepresented backgrounds at the 3rd and 4th year levels. The five-week

program is free, non-residential, and serves a cohort of up to 10 juniors and/or seniors from our partnered four-year institutions throughout the state of Louisiana. The enrichment is composed of a combination of didactic and small learning groups, surrounding biochemistry, physiology, genetics, and an overview of public health. Additionally, the program provides workshops/practical exposures that support an integration of leadership development activities, clinical experiences, cultural competency, financial literacy, and preparation for professional schools' entrance examinations, such as the MCAT and GRE. In our first cohort, our partnered-institutions, Louisiana State University and A & M College (LSU), Xavier University of Louisiana (XULA), and Southeastern University (SELA), were represented.



Thanks to our 2019 LSUHSC-NO Tiger Scholars programmatic faculty, who continue to support this equity initiative:

Biochemistry: Arthur Haas; **Physiology:** Lisa Harrison-Bernard, Maureen Basha, Scott Edwards, Michael Levitzky, Flavia Souza-Smith; **Public Health-Epidemiology:** Ed Trapido, Tekeda Ferguson; **Genetics:** Fern Tsien; **Clinical Exposures & Workshops in Medicine:** Pierre Detiege; **Medical Simulation Labs:** Daryl Lofaso, Sergei Rusnak.

A special thanks as well to our academic health center partner UMCNO, which continues to open its doors to our student scholars to provide an invaluable exposure to clinical medicine. Finally, it is with great pleasure that we introduce our 2019 LSUHSC-NO Tiger Scholars Program Alumni:

Destyne Bailey: Louisiana State University and A & M College (LSU), Senior, Biology Pre-Med.; 2018 UAB Summer Health Professionals Education Program (SHPEP) Alumna; continuing to study for the MCAT, planning to apply to the LSUHSC-NO, School of Medicine;

Karisma K. A. Barnes: Xavier University of Louisiana (XULA), Senior, Biochemistry Pre-Med.; continuing to study for the MCAT, preparing to apply to the LSUHSC-NO, School of Medicine;

Annise N. Green: Xavier University of Louisiana (XULA), Junior, Biology Pre-Med.; since the end of the Tiger Scholars Program, works as an undergraduate researcher in Dr. Peter Winsauer's lab (LSUHSC-NO); continuing to study for the MCAT, preparing to apply to the LSUHSC-NO, School of Medicine;

Pedro Jimenez Antenucci: Southeastern Louisiana University (SELA), Senior, Biochemistry Pre-Med.; 2017 LSUHSC-NO, Summer Health Professionals Education Program (SHPEP) Alumnus, 2018 National Science Foundation-Research Experience for Underrepresented Undergraduates (NSF-REU) at Pennsylvania State University, continuing to study for the MCAT, preparing to apply to the LSUHSC-NO School of Medicine;

Nina Nguyen: Xavier University of Louisiana (XULA), Senior, Biology Pre-Med/Dent.; 2018 LSUHSC-NO, SOD, Summer Enrichment Program; Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care Student Intern continuing to student for the MCAT/DAT, preparing to apply to the LSUHSC-NO, School of Dentistry;

Chloe A. Sterling: Xavier University of Louisiana (XULA), Junior, Biology Pre-Med.; via XULA's partnership with Tulane University, has secured provisional acceptance to the Tulane University School of Medicine.

The upcoming 2020 Tiger Scholars Program application process will begin November 1, 2019 and continue until March 31, 2020. Acceptance notifications will be provided no later than Monday, April 27, 2020. Qualifications include:

1. Current attendance at a Louisiana undergraduate institution or Louisiana resident who attends an out-of-state undergraduate institution;
2. GPA of 3.0;
3. Academic classification of junior or senior
4. Has earned academic credits in organic chemistry and physics.

Details related to the application process are posted to the website:
<https://www.medschool.lsuhsu.edu/TigerScholarsSEP/default.aspx>

Food Drive at Resource Center



As part of the graduate school orientation program, the incoming students conducted a food and toiletries drive to benefit the St. Joseph Rebuild Center. The supplies were donated in August and will be distributed by Center volunteers to families in the neighborhood.

Pictured are first year graduate students, food drive faculty sponsor Dr. Sonia Gasparini, and volunteers from the St. Joseph Rebuild Center.



Calendar of Events

Dean's Seminar Schedule 2019

November 13, 2019 Martin Ronis, PhD "Alcohol Overuse: cutting to the bone"

December 11, 2019 Hamilton Farris, PhD "Neurobiology of Auditory Processing"

Upcoming Calendar of Events

Dr. Joseph F. Rizzo III will be presenting his talk, "Unraveling the Enigma of Non-Arteritic Anterior Ischemic Optic Neuropathy" at the George S. Ellis, Sr., MD Endowed Lectureship in Ophthalmology lecture series on October 25th at 5 p.m. After obtaining his M.D. from LSU, Dr. Rizzo completed his neurology residency at Tufts University/New England Medical Center and an ophthalmology residency at Boston University. Subsequently, he joined Harvard Ophthalmology as a clinical fellow in neuro-ophthalmology and has served as a full-time faculty member since 1986. Dr. Rizzo's research focuses on understanding the mechanisms of vision loss, improving diagnostic methods, and developing new treatments for blinding diseases. In particular, his clinical research includes the study of optic neuritis/multiple sclerosis, ischemic optic neuropathy, pseudotumor cerebri, and giant cell arteritis. He also founded the Boston Retinal Implant Project in the late 1980s to develop a retinal prosthesis and offer a new therapeutic option for patients with acquired blindness.

Dr. Larissa Sweeny has been invited as a moderator at the Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Foundation Annual Meeting in New Orleans, September 2019 for the following: Abstract Moderator, Scientific Oral Presentations: Head & Neck Surgery, Sept. 16, 2019 ; Moderator, Counseling, Shared Decision Making, and Palliative Surgery, Sept. 16, 2019 ; and Moderator, Immunotherapy: What the Otolaryngologist Needs to Know, Sept. 16, 2019 . Dr. Sweeny has also been invited to present at the American Academy of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA at the Microvascular Symposium, "How to Make Microsost Effective" on October 5, 2019.

Dr. Jeffrey Joseph has been invited to present "Effective Brow Lifting" and "Lower Lid Blepharoplasty: Which Approach for Which Patient" at the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA., on October 3, 2019.

How to use the calendar of events

Do you have an upcoming event? Is your department hosting a seminar or grand rounds of interest to the SOM? If so, place it on the Calendar of Events! Would you like to see what events are coming down the road that might be of interest to you? The Calendar of Events is there! The more we use it, the more effective it will become! [For directions on how to access

and use the Calendar of Events, click on the “How to Use” link under the Calendar of Events heading.

Let’s work together and encourage our departmental administrators, seminar coordinators , and group leaders to add upcoming events to the Calendar! This can include seminars, grand rounds, special classes, open-to-the-public meetings, and any other event that is of general interest to the SOM.

The more people use the Calendar of Events , the more informative it will be and the more people will WANT to use it . Help us make the SOM Calendar of Events YOUR source for SOM information !

Using the Calendar of Events, which is part of the Outlook program that we use to access our e-mail, is as easy as knowing where to look and how to add events . Here’s how to do it:

Instructions for PC users:

1. Open Outlook and log in as if you are checking your e-mail
2. Within Outlook, click on View --> Folders (or click on the small folder icon at the bottom of the left navigation panel)
3. Within Folders, double click on Public Folders , then All Public Folders
4. Look for “Medical School NO”
5. Under that folder, open SOM Calendar
6. Double click on your date of interest and fill in the appropriate information just as you would for any appointment.
7. When finished, click “Save and Close”
8. Timesaver Tip: Right click on SOM Calendar and click Add to Favorites. A shortcut to the SOM Calendar will then be available when you click the Calendar button at the bottom of the left navigation.

Instructions for Mac users:

1. Open up Outlook and log in as if you are checking your e-mail
2. Click on “Public Folders”
3. Look for “Medical School NO”
4. Under that folder, look for SOM Calendar

5. Double click on your data of interest and fill in the appropriate information
6. When finished, click “Save and Close”
7. Timesaver Tip: Right click on SOM Calendar and click Copy Folder . A shortcut to the SOM Calendar will then be available when you click the Calendar button at the bottom of the left navigation.

If you are having trouble accessing the calendar or need assistance please contact your IT representative.

Seen in the Papers

Are you interested in seeing what your colleagues and co-workers are publishing? Are you curious to see how prolific scientists and clinicians are in their research publications? If so, then click on the following link to see a list of all of the work published by LSU investigators:

<http://www.refworks.com/refworks2/?site=028971136005200000%2fRWS2A1148886%2f000271111069551000>

If you're just interested in seeing some highlighted works, you can go to the following link on a monthly basis to see a few select articles highlighted by the library staff:

<http://www.lsuhs.edu/library/databases/facpubs.aspx>

Once there, click on the year and month to see all highlighted publications for that month.

If you do not see one of your publications listed in the comprehensive list, please contact Kathryn Kerdolff (kkerdo@lsuhs.edu) to have your publication included.

The Glomerular Disease Study and Trial Consortium: A Grassroots Initiative to Foster Collaboration and Innovation

Ali Poyan Mehr, Maryam Sadeghi-Najafabadi, Kristi Chau, Joseph Messmer, Rima Pai, Neil Roy, David Friedman, Martin R. Pollak, Johannes SchIon dorff, Mihran Nalj ayan, Tripti Singh, Stewart H. Lecker, Roger Rodby, Michael Germain, Helmut Rennke, and Isaac E. Stillma n

Abstract:

Glomerular kidney disorders account for a significant proportion of chronic kidney disease and end-stage renal disease worldwide. Nevertheless, major obstacles make breakthrough progress in diagnosis and cure an ongoing challenge. Here we report the creation of a "grassroots" initiative that aims to provide new opportunities for nephrologists, pathologists, basic and clinical scientists, patients, and industry partners to collaborate in the field of glomerular kidney disease. Members of the medical community, including trainees, nephrologists, and nephropathologists, can participate in the open-access, Web-based, multidisciplinary clinical video case conferences, which provide "peer-to-peer" exchange of clinical and pathological expertise combined with a formal didactic curriculum. Participants can also join other aspects of the broader initiative. These include the participation in a multisite research study to facilitate enrollment of patients into a longitudinal clinical data and biorepository for glomerular kidney disorders. Items included in this prospective registry include the following: an ontology-based patient medical history, which is regularly updated; interval collection and storage of blood and urine samples;

DNA collection; and a contact registry for patients who wish to participate in clinical trials. Participating sites and external scientists can leverage access to the database to pursue genetic, biomarker, epidemiological, and observational clinical effectiveness studies. Patients can independently sign up for a supplementary contact registry to participate in clinical trials if eligible. The broad spectrum of activities within this initiative will foster closer collaboration among trainees, practicing nephrologists, pathologists, and researchers, and may help to overcome some of the barriers to progress in the field of glomerular kidney disease.

The Question Of Polypharmacy Revisited

La State Med Soc

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Authors:

Erwin A. Aguilar, PharmD, MSc, MPH,² Hussein Hijazi, MD,² Rodica Nastasie, MD,¹ Sean Barry, BSc,² Thomas Reske, MD, PhD, James S. Campbell, MD

Department of Internal Medicine,¹Section of Nephrology & Hypertension and ² Section of Geriatrics,³ Department of Family Medicine

Abstract:

Polypharmacy is a common, concerning phenomenon among the elderly. Since polypharmacy can play a significant role in decreasing the quality of life of older adults, active interventions from healthcare professionals are required to reduce it. Proper communication among the multiple healthcare providers prescribing independently of each other for the same patient is essential in avoiding similar medications. Physicians should also ensure that the use of prescribed agents is clearly explained to the patient, the needed information is supplied, and the direct-to-patient educational component is not overlooked. To reduce polypharmacy in the elderly, physicians should re-evaluate and “deprescribe” medications, limit drug prescription to essential medications over brief time periods, and reduce use of over-the-counter drugs and herbal therapies/supplements. We report data from a previous cross-sectional study on geriatric population and the prevalence of polypharmacy (5-9 medications) and high-level polypharmacy (≥ 10 medications) was determined. Long Term Care Facility residents were taking a minimum of two and a maximum

Seen in the Papers

Congratulations to the following individuals for the publication of their work in respective journals from January 1 – July 31, 2019 as reported to The Pulse by individual departments.

Ophthalmology:

Dr. Maria Reinoso, among other authors, was published in *JAMA Ophthalmology* July 2019.

The article is entitled, "Gender Differences in Case Volume Among Ophthalmology Residents."

Otolaryngology:

Crawley MB, Sweeny L, Ravipati P, Heffelfinger R, Krein H, Luginbuhl A, Goldman R, Curry J. "Factors Associated with Free Flap Failures in Head and Neck Reconstruction". *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 2019 Aug 6:194599819860809. doi: 10.1177/0194599819860809. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 31382816

Sweeny L, Topf M, Wax MK, Rosenthal EL, Greene BJ, Heffelfinger R, Krein H, Luginbuhl A, Petrisor D, Troob SH, Hughley B, Hong S, Zhan T, Curry J. "Shift in the timing of microvascular free tissue transfer failures in head and neck reconstruction". *Laryngoscope.* 2019 Jul 9. doi: 10.1002/lary.28177. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 31287566

Sweeny L, Rosenthal EL, Light T, Grayson J, Petrisor D, Troob SH, Greene BJ, Carroll WR, Wax MK. Outcomes and cost implications of microvascular reconstructions of the head and neck. *Head Neck.* 2019 Apr;41(4):930-939. doi: 10.1002/hed.25424. Epub 2019 Feb 9. PMID: 30737964

Mankekar GS, Mehta R, Nuss DW: Orbito-Rhinocerebral Syndrome. In: Turgut M, Challa S, Akhaddar A (editors): Fungal Infection of the Central Nervous System, Pathogens, Diagnosis, and Management, Springer Publishers, 295-303, 2019 (chapter).

Congratulations to the following individuals for the publication of their work in respected journals from October 1 – December 31, 2018 as reported to The Pulse by individual departments:

Pediatrics

McCarthy J, Lupo PJ, Kovar E, Rech M, Bostwick B, Scott D, Kraft K, Roscioli T, Charrow J, Schrier Vergano SA, Lose E, Smiegel R, Lacassie Y, Schaaf CP, Schaaf-Yang syndrome overview: Report of 78 individuals. *Am J Med Genet A.* 2018 Oct 10.

LSU Medical Student **Katie Fellner** and Professor Emeritus **Dr. Yves Lacassie** recently collaborated on a publication for the *Journal of the Louisiana State Medical Society* titled "Some Lessons from the Genetic Evaluation of Intellectually Disabled Patients in an Institution in Louisiana."

Student's Forum

Aesculapian Society Update

Walter Guillory II

Class of 2020, LSUHSC School of Medicine

President, Aesculapian Society

The Aesculapian Society stands in its 57th year of operation as a testament to the collegial nature of the LSUHSC School of Medicine. Starting each school year with 60 medical students and expanding to 80 spread across all four classes, the Society accomplishes several functions invaluable to the continuous improvement of our curriculum.

Our administration encourages medical students to express their opinions on the didactic quality of each core course. The Aesculapians primarily facilitate such expression by disseminating end-of-course evaluations to our fellow students and analyzing the results. Based on that data, we then author summarizing reports highlighting positive course aspects and emphasizing areas that might be more effectively designed. In addition, the Society has recently begun to incorporate real-time student feedback delivery into our basic roles, demonstrated by periodic faculty-Aesculapian meetings during each course. Our faculty frequently incorporate student feedback into their plans to produce both immediate and long-term course optimizations.

Every year, the Aesculapian Society hosts the Excellence in Teaching Awards banquet, which recognizes faculty for their exceptional pedagogy and positive impact on students. Society members nominate candidates and the larger student body selects the final winners. The Aesculapians also play a role in awarding the School of Medicine's Allen A. Copping Award by contributing faculty nominations for this honor, which also recognizes teaching excellence. The nominees for this prestigious annual award are reviewed by a standing committee of faculty, residents, administrators, and medical students, and awardees are recognized at annual commencement exercises.

This year, the Society has made a full transition in our survey delivery software from SurveyMonkey to REDCap, an effort spearheaded by Aesculapian Survey Coordinator Ashley Duhon. This initiative sought to expand our survey development options, allowing us to introduce questions better representative of the course content and organization, to produce more robust and efficient data analysis, and to deliver a more professionally-appearing user interface for our survey respondents. Additionally, the REDCap software is a free service, allowing the Society to reallocate newly available funds to other purposes.

Our success as Aesculapians hinges on the ability of each member to conduct themselves professionally, advocate for the student body convincingly, report data judiciously, and consider solutions creatively. The members of the Aesculapian Society routinely demonstrate all of the above, exhibiting an admirable dedication to quality improvement. Most of the Aesculapians are aware that they may never personally reap the benefits of their efforts; despite this, they

continually endeavor to enhance the learning of their peers and posterity. I am hard-pressed to envision more commendable roles that medical students can take within our academic realm.

Among our plans for the 2019-2020 school year are the following:

- Continued merging of third year clerkship departmental and Aesculapian surveys to reduce survey burden, spearheaded by Survey Coordinator William B. Davis
- Determining ways to increase survey response rates across all four classes, led by Survey Coordinators Ashley Duhon, William Davis, Anna Catinis, and Michael Stocker
- Exploring methods to increase transparency between the Society and the larger student body, led by President Walter Guillory, Vice President Alexandra Denys, and Course Evaluation Coordinator Saman Kamal
- Increasing our online presence via the Aesculapian webpage on the LSUHSC website.

Members of the Aesculapian Society Executive Board 2019-2020 are:

- **Walter Guillory II**, President
- **Alexandra Denys**, Vice President
- **Saman Kamal**, Course Evaluation Coordinator
- **Kia Sayers**, Secretary and L3 Class Coordinator
- **Timothy Montet**, Treasurer
- **Ashley Duhon**, Lead Survey Coordinator
- **William B. Davis**, L3 Survey Coordinator
- **Anna Catinis**, L2 Survey Coordinator
- **Michael Stocker**, L1 Survey Coordinator
- **Daniel McBride**, L4 Class Coordinator
- **Amy Hui and Adam Haydel**, L4 Class Editors
- **Elizabeth Prejean**, L3 Class Editor
- **Michael Bates**, L2 Class Coordinator
- **Logan Kinamore**, L2 Class Editor

I am humbled to be part of this organization of exemplary and talented individuals. We look forward to completing our 2019-20 goals and many others throughout the year, and I am optimistic that our long tradition of open communication between the faculty and students via the Aesculapian Society will continue to flourish for years to come.

Gold Humanism Honorees

The Gold Humanism Honor Society would like to extend its congratulations to the following students & residents who were nominated and elected by their peers for Students of the Semester for Fall 2019!

- **L1s- Catherine Shield, Brandon Thrash, & Lauren Gonzalez**

- **L2s- Jewel Datri & Morgan McDougal**
- **L3s- Shaitayla Vellanki & Daniel McBride**
- **L4s- Alex Dooley & Amy Dekerlegand**

Residents- Dr. Nicholas Taylor, General Surgery & Dr. Jacob Peoples, Internal Medicine

Their interactions with their peers, patients, and community have been noted, and we want to commend them on being such great members of the LSUHSC community. These students embody the GHHS pillars of Respect, Integrity, Service, and Empathy.

Congratulations again and keep on being golden!

Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society Update

Melanie Hotz

President / AOA - LA Beta Chapter

Seth Guilbeau

Vice President / AOA - LA Beta Chapter

Congratulations to these 22 seniors from the LSU SOM Class of 2020 who have been selected for membership into the Louisiana Beta Chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society:

Elizabeth Babin

Shannon Beermann

Monica Bravo

Jourdan Brown

Spencer Brown

William Davis

Joseph Ditrapani

Sophie Forniquet

Scott Gaignard

Reed Gioe

Mitchell Guedry

Jack Jalenak

Patrick Johnson

Benjamin Melancon

Peter Morreale

Clairissa Mulloy

Joël Oubre

Paige Pocorello

Evan Powers

Ginny Russell

Brett Salomon

Tova Weiss

The following 10 members of the LSU SOM Class of 2020 were inducted as juniors into the Louisiana Beta Chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society in April:

Kelsey Casano

Elise Doran

Ashley Duhon

Richard Guidry

Seth Guilbeau

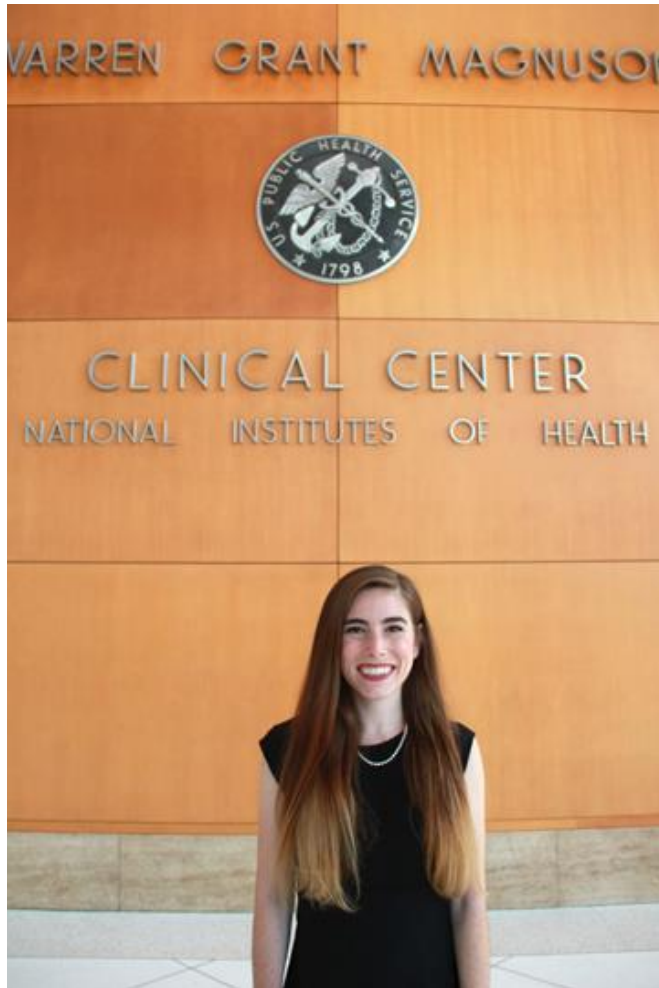
Adam Haydel

Melanie Hotz

Todd Lambert

Adam Levin

Mary Sauce Mayeaux



Student Selected for NIH Medical Research Scholars Program

Paula Gregory, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean for Medical Student Research

Third year medical school student Layne Raborn was recently selected to participate in the highly competitive NIH Medical Research Scholars Program (MRSP), becoming the school's eighth student accepted into this prestigious program. Participants are chosen from a pool of applicants that represent nearly every major research university in the United States.

"I am having such a blast at the NIH and the experience has been beyond compare. Every day I am meeting someone new who is an expert in something amazing," Layne said.

The MRSP is one of the premier training programs for future clinician-scientists that advances health by inspiring careers in biomedical research. Scholars spend a year at the NIH engaged in basic, clinical, or translational research, as well as a curriculum that includes didactics and professional development, and a mentorship program. The MRSP is designed to prepare medical students to become tomorrow's leaders in biomedical research.

"The NIH Medical Research Scholars Program attracts the brightest talent from across the country," said Thomas R. Burklow, M.D., director of the program. "These scholars are the future leaders in American medicine."

Layne started in July and is working with researchers at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. She is taking time off between her third and fourth years of medical school to participate in the program.

Words From the Library: LibGuides

Kathy Kerdolff, Librarian

[LibGuides - Medicine](#) provides shortcuts to library resources used in School of Medicine courses and departments.

[1st year medical students](#)

[2nd year medical students](#)

[3rd and 4th year Clerkships](#)

[Medicine – Resources for LSUHSC Faculty, Residents, Researchers, and Students](#)

Contact [Kathy Kerdolff](#) if your course or department is not represented in one of the medicine guides.

What's Going On in Your Neck of the Woods?

Cell Biology and Anatomy:

Emma Schachner, Ph.D., was invited to speak at the TEDxLSU event on March 23, 2019. She presented "Dino World Domination." More information about Dr. Schachner and other speakers can be found here: <http://www.tedxlsu.com/speaker-lineup.html>

TEDxLSU is the premier TEDx event in the greater Baton Rouge area. Launched in 2013, TEDxLSU is an intellectual and creative experience that brings local, regional, and statewide communities together in a way that enables them to imagine the possibilities, spur discussion and dialogue, and generate big ideas that will move the state of Louisiana forward. TEDxLSU participants, speakers, volunteers, and organizers come from all walks of life--business, non-profits, art, education, technology, and more--so you never know who you'll meet!

Family Medicine:

Glenn Barras, M.D. and Tiffany Dufrene, M.D. attended White Coats Take Over the Capital. Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians hosted the annual White Coat Day at the Louisiana state capitol earlier this spring. Over 30 physicians sat in on committee meetings, conversed with legislators, and performed health screenings for the legislators and the general public.

Charles "Beau" Vidrine, M.D. attended a conference regarding Rural Health Clinics and Rural Hospitals in June. The conference was designed to help implement strategies for success of rural facilities. This event was sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Health in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Sara Grandy, M.D., sponsored through Memorial LSUHSC Global Health Ministries, provided healthcare in March to an underserved population in Potrerillos, Honduras, located in the southwestern coffee mountains near Siguatepeque.

Genetics:

Andrew D. Hollenbach, Ph.D., department of genetics and co-director for the basic sciences curriculum in the office of undergraduate medical education, received the 2019 Allen A. Copping Excellence in Teaching Award.

Ophthalmology:

Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs and department Chair Dr. Jayne Weiss accepted the position of chief medical officer of the HealthCare Network earlier this year.

Dr. Weiss was also selected to present the keynote lecture “Two Rare Hereditary Corneal Epithelial Diseases – EREDS and Fabrys-Diagnosis and More” at the SICSSO Congress-The International Society of Cornea, Stem Cells and Ocular Surface in Turin, Italy in June.

Josh Butrick coordinated the annual Ophthalmology Residents’ Research Day in May. Dr. Wendy Lee, professor of clinical ophthalmology at the Bascom Palmer Institute, was the keynote speaker. Dr. Lee’s specialties include aesthetic, cosmetic ophthalmic, ophthalmic plastic, and reconstructive surgery.

Drs. Lena Al-Dujaili and Kevin Kirchner served on the program committee that helped organize the New Orleans Academy of Ophthalmology’s 68th Annual Symposium held in February.

Dr. Mallika Doss, an assistant professor, was selected to participate in and present at the 52 nd Scientific Program of the Retina Society in London in September. Her talk is titled “Endogenous Endophthalmitis: Empiric Antibacterial and Antifungal Management.” The mission of the Retina Society aligns with a portion of the mission of the LSU Eye Center to reduce worldwide visual disability and blindness by promoting the education and professional interaction of vitreoretinal specialists; providing optimal care for patients with vitreoretinal diseases; and encouraging, through clinical and basic research, the discovery and development of new means to further patient care.

Dr. Aravinda Rao, an associate professor, was selected to participate in and present at both the Retina Symposium in Yerevan, Armenia and in the 17 th International Conference on Ophthalmology of the Armenian EyeCare Project in July. Dr. Rao’s topic was endophthalmitis. The key to the EyeCare Project’s success over the past 25 years has been the transfer of knowledge to Armenian ophthalmologists through medical education. It is an important component of the Semi-Annual Medical Missions to Armenia from the U.S. and during these visits, U.S. ophthalmologists share their knowledge with their Armenian colleagues through surgery, patient exams, and classroom learning.

Dr. Maria Reinoso, an associate professor, was one of only 20 participants selected to attend the 22 nd class of the American Academy of Ophthalmology’s Leadership Development Program. The purpose of the program is to provide both orientation and skill development to future leaders of state, subspecialty, and specialized interest societies. The program lasts over a year and is held in San Francisco, Washington, D.C., and Las Vegas.

Otolaryngology:

The 2019 AAO-HNS/F and Otolaryngology Department hosted the following courses: LSU Sialendoscopy Hands-on Course (Dr. Rohan Walvekar) and Endoscopic Ear Surgery and Eustachian Tube Balloon Dilation Workshop (Dr. Rahul Mehta) earlier this month.

The American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology Pre-Meeting Pediatric Otolaryngology Seminar Series was held at Children’s Hospital with moderators Drs. Michael Dunham, Adele Evans, and Belinda Mantle earlier this month.

Dr. Tyler Crosby (PGY-3) and Dr. Michael Dunham won First Prize Poster entitled “Computational Fluid Dynamics Evaluation of Pediatric Laryngotracheal Stenosis” at the Triological Society Combined Sections Meeting in San Diego, California in January.

Dr. Jeffrey Joseph was invited to speak at the Foundation for Facial Aesthetic Surgery’s 26th State-of-the-Art in Facial Aesthetics Conference on “Browlifts: Indications, Approaches and Tips” in New Orleans in March.

Drs. Palak Patel and Michael Dunham received funding for their project “A Mobile Device for the Autonomous Diagnosis of Pediatric Skin Lesions Using a Convolutional Neural Network.”

Drs. Andrew McWhorter and Michael Dunham received funding for their project, “Optical Biopsy of Vocal Fold Lesions: Sheath Based Delivery System During Laryngoscopy.”

Dr. Gauri Mankekar presented a poster entitled “Rosai-Dorfman Disease Presenting as a Lateral Skull Base Tumor with Intracranial Spread: A Case Report” and a podium presentation entitled “Challenges for Cochlear Implantation Following Lateral Skull Base Encephalocele Repair - Case Studies” at the North American Skull Base Society 29th Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida in February.

Dr. Rahul Mehta was invited to speak on “Endoscopy Ear Surgery (Endoscopic Inside our Mastoidectomy. Drill, Ultrasonic Bone Aspirator or Piezo Device?) and Endoscopic Skull Base Surgery (Middle Turbinate Vascularized Flap for Reconstruction after Trans-sphenoid Pituitary Tumor Resection.) at International Conference: ENT Endoscopy, Nice, France in November 2018.

Dr. Gauri Mankekar presented at LSU Shreveport Grand Rounds, "Chronic Otitis Media - Strategies for Management" in January.

Dr. Larissa Sweeny was appointed the new research director of the department.

Dr. Robert Peden volunteered to staff the Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center Community Outreach Medical Preventive Screenings at Turner Industries in Baton Rouge in August.

Dr. Vil Vaitaitis, PGY-4 resident was awarded the TORCH award at University Hospital & Clinics in Lafayette. The "T.O.R.C.H. Carrier Award" recognizes physicians, mid-level providers or residents who provide the fuel that ignites and sustain our Journey to Excellence flames. The award is given quarterly and voted on by the staff. It is given to only one resident and one attending each quarter, December 2018.

The department held the annual alumni reception at the Copper Wine Club earlier this month.

The Otolaryngology Department sponsored the 2019 Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Banquet and Visiting Professorship in April.

Pediatrics:

Children's Hospital appointed department vice chair of education, Dr. Bonnie Desselle, as chief medical education officer and director of the department of medical education.

In February, Gary Duhon, M.D., M.P.H., assumed leadership of the LSU section of pediatric critical care as acting chief of the section, replacing Dr. Bonnie Desselle. Dr. Desselle stepped aside as section head to concentrate on her new position as chief medical education officer for Children's Hospital.

Chairman Dr. Raymond Watts named Dr. Ryan Pasternak as vice chair for pediatric community health and advocacy.

The division of general (ambulatory) pediatrics and adolescent medicine announced the Reproductive Education + Advocacy Louisiana (REAL) Program has received \$1.2 million over three years in continued funding from the David and Lucille Packard Foundation. The REAL Program will utilize these funds to work with Children's Hospital of New Orleans, LCMC, LIFT Louisiana, Physicians for Reproductive Health, Louisiana Public Health Institute and other partners to continue improving the sexual and reproductive health landscape for adolescents in Louisiana. Dr. Ryan Pasternak will serve as the principal investigator for the Packard Foundation grant.

Dr. Jovanny Zabaleta received the 2019 AACR Minority and Minority-Serving Institution Faculty Scholar in Cancer Research Award.

Dr. Chelsey Sandlin graduated from the Association of Pediatric Program Director's Leadership in Educational Academic Development (APPD LEAD) at APPD's recent annual meeting where she also presented her final project titled "Business of Medicine Training in Pediatric Residents – A Graduate Needs Assessment Survey."

The department and Children's Hospital are proud to announce the successful recruitment of Dr. Dedrick Moulton as director of the division of pediatric gastroenterology. Dr. Moulton is currently an associate professor of pediatrics at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN and serves as the program director of the pediatric inflammatory bowel disease program. He is an expert in pediatric gastroenterology, inflammatory bowel disease, and functional bowel disorders. Dr. Moulton will several positions, and assume the role of division head of pediatric gastroenterology and occupy the T.G. and Doris Solomon Family Endowed Chair for the Study of Crohn's Disease and Related Disorders. He will dedicate time to a new role of director of faculty and professional development programs for LSU Health's Office of Diversity and Community Engagement.

Dr. Maya Heath, 3rd-year neonatology fellow, was awarded the Fellow's Clinical Research Award at the Society for Pediatric Research meeting in Baltimore. Dr. Sunyoung Kim, professor of biochemistry at LSU Health, mentored Maya on her project investigating biomarkers for early recognition of necrotizing enterocolitis.

Vice Chair of Clinical Services and Neonatology Division Head Dr. Brian Barkemeyer received the 2019 Allen A. Copping Excellence in Teaching Award.

Dr. Alexis Morvant received the prestigious AAP Section on Hospice and Palliative Medicine Scholarship to support her attendance at the 2019 AAP Legislative Conference. The Conference was held in April in Washington, DC at the Capitol Hilton Hotel.

Dr. Pinki Prasad was named program director of the hematology/oncology fellowship program. Dr. Prasad has been serving as associate program director since 2015 under her predecessor, Dr. Maria Velez. Many thanks go out to Dr. Velez who lead the strong program since 2006. She also served as the super fellowship program director, leading and coordinating meetings among all core and fellowship PDs in an effort to share ideas and improve programs.

The Allergy/Immunology Division hosted the 7th annual JMC-LAPIN Symposium on Friday, November 30 and Saturday, December 1 downtown. Division Head Dr. Ken Paris along with Dr. Luke Wall, Dr. Ricardo Sorensen and Dr. Elizabeth Wisner welcomed representatives from the Louisiana Office of Public Health Laboratory to discuss Newborn Screening in Louisiana: The Impact of Early Diagnosis and Treatment of Primary Immunodeficiency.

The LSU Healthy Tigers (Pediatric Residents) received 1500+ books from their Holiday Book Drive which will be distributed throughout the year in the Pediatric Tiger Care Clinics. The Healthy Tigers also organized a volunteer effort at the mission in December and recruited volunteers for an evening of service on February 13th from 5:30-7:30 PM at Second Harvest Food Bank.