

DOM NEWS BLAST

The LSU Department of Medicine Weekly Communication

The Department of Medicine has lots of awardees to celebrate!

The following residents, fellows and faculty have been selected for membership into the **Louisiana Beta Chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society:**

Residents and Fellows:

- Farhan Mohiuddin, MD - Internal Medicine (New Orleans)
- Erika Haviland, DO - Internal Medicine (New Orleans)
- Anna Chatagner, MD - Internal Medicine (New Orleans)
- Michael Brands, MD - Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Asad Mussarat, MD - Internal Medicine (New Orleans)
- Gurtaj Mahil, DO - Internal Medicine (New Orleans)
- Joshua Campbell, MD - Internal Medicine (Baton Rouge)
- Luke Sharrock, DO - Internal Medicine (New Orleans)
- Katherine Westbrook Cates, DO - Gastroenterology



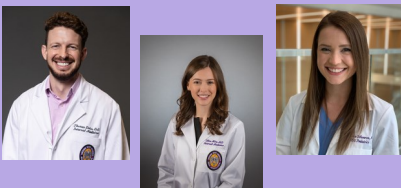
Faculty:

- Sarah Griffin, MD - Internal Medicine (New Orleans)
- Victoria Lulich McCray, MD - Internal Medicine (New Orleans)
- Nicholas Raush, MD - Internal Medicine (Baton Rouge)
- Lauren Miles, MD - Nephrology and Critical Care (Baton Rouge)



The **Gold Humanism Honor Society** (GHHS) recognizes individuals who exemplify humanistic patient care and who can serve as role models, mentors, and leaders in medicine. All awardees have been selected through a nomination process and vote amongst the student body.

The following Department of Medicine residents have been selected for the Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award and membership into the LSUHSC New Orleans Chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society:



- Dr. Thomas Deiss – Internal Medicine
- Dr. Ellen Mire – Internal Medicine
- Dr. McKenzie Schwarze – Internal Medicine/Pediatrics

Dr. Matthew Foy – Nephrology (Baton Rouge) was selected for membership into the LSUHSC New Orleans Chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society.



Dr. Taniya de Silva (Endocrinology) was awarded the *Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award* by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation for her commitment to humanism, teaching, patient-centered care, and enthusiasm or skill in student interactions.

Dr. Pia Chowdry (Hematology-Oncology) was awarded a UMC STEM award. The STEM Award was established by leadership at University Medical Center to recognize providers who demonstrate Service, Teamwork, Excellence, and Mentorship. Created to honor those who consistently go beyond expectations, this award celebrates providers whose compassion, collaboration, and clinical excellence make an extraordinary impact on our patients, colleagues, and community.



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Dr. Hayle Scanlan (Pulmonary/Critical Care Fellow) was voted the 2026 Fellow of the Year by the medical staff at UMC and honored at a recent Doctor's Day lunch.

Congratulations to the 2026 LSUHSC-Lafayette Research Symposium poster presentation winners. This event was held for the first time since COVID, and highlighted a significant number of excellent case studies, quality improvement initiatives, and other scholarly inquiry.



Award for Scholarly Excellence in Medicine Presentation: Vy Luong, DO; Department of Internal Medicine
Poster Title: When Common Symptoms Hide Rare Diseases: A Case of Prolonged Arthralgia and Chronic Diarrhea Unveiled as Whipple's Disease



Award for Outstanding Clinical Case Insight: Jonathan Deck, DO; Department of Sports Medicine
Poster Title: 2nd Rib Fracture After 1st Rib Resection for Thoracic Outlet Syndrome in a Softball Pitcher

Award for Outstanding Innovation in Quality and Process Improvement: Natalie Touchet, MD; Department of Family Medicine
Poster Title: "Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep": A Quality Improvement Initiative to Improve Infant Safe Sleep Practices

Award for Outstanding Clinical Research Impact: Kwasi Boateng, MD; Jonathan Deck, DO; Jake Fries, DO- Department of Sports Medicine
Poster Title: Protection or Perception? A Multi-Year Evaluation of Concussion Rates in Division I Football with and Without Guardian Caps



Class of 2029

 Sapna Abbulbali William Carey University, CDM Hometown: Memphis, TN	 Mohammad Affas University of Aleppo Hometown: Aleppo, Syria Arab Republic	 Zarraf Arafdeen McGovern Medical School UTHealth Houston Hometown: Dallas, TX	 Annie Die Androsian University of Queensland Hometown: Queensland, CA
 Tyson Dooley Edward Via - LA Campus Hometown: Lafayette, LA	 Brennan Hagan LSU SOM New Orleans Hometown: Hammond, LA	 Mykyla Lyapshenko Edward Via - LA Campus Hometown: Houston, TX	 Brookelyn Hanks Edward Via - LA Campus Hometown: Crowley, LA
 Ashlin Sapkota Kathmandu University, SCM Hometown: Nepal	 Arjun Verma Tulane University, SOM Hometown: New Orleans, LA	 Kevin Hardy Pittner LSU SOM New Orleans Hometown: Lake Charles, LA	 Carol Upchurch Pittner (Pediatric Oncology) LSU SOM New Orleans Hometown: Houston, TX



Our own Melody Jackson (DOM Chair Office) completed the 5K Tiger Run, which benefits student-run community clinics and organizations, providing medical care to the underserved and homeless population in New Orleans.