

# DOM NEWS BLAST

*The LSU Department of Medicine Weekly Communication*

Dr. Ben Springgate (Community and Population Medicine) spoke on the evening of Tuesday, July 8, at an event of Voters Organizing To Educate (VOTE) on the dangers of fentanyl and the promise of Medications for Opioid Use Disorder. The audience consisted of advocates, students, professionals, and people with lived experience of incarceration.



Dr. Tom Reske (Hematology Oncology/Geriatrics) and Dr. Michelle Loch (Hematology Oncology) recently spoke at the 20th Annual New Orleans Summer Cancer Meeting in New Orleans (NOSCM). Dr. Reske spoke on “Upper GI Cancer: Esophageal and Gastric - New Developments” and Dr. Loch presented difficult breast cancer patient cases for the “Oncology Tumor Board in 2025” discussion.



Dr. Ben Springgate (Community and Population Medicine) on Thursday, July 11, gave a talk to the Louisiana HOPE Council entitled "Kratom - A Primer," at the invitation of the Louisiana Department of Health. Kratom is a plant-derived substance which is commonly sold in tobacco shops, and which will be banned in Louisiana effective August 1, 2025, as the result of a recently signed state law. There are no FDA approved uses of Kratom, and the ingestion of Kratom has been associated with a wide array of adverse effects, including dependence, liver injury, seizures, and death.