

# Going Viral: LSU ID NOLA Newsletter

LSU Infectious Diseases  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
Summer 2021



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From Left: Julio Figueroa, LSU ID Section Chief, Taras Nebeluk, Graduate Class of 2021

**Graduation 2021**— Taras Nebeluk graduated in June from the LSU ID Fellowship Program. He is joining an Infectious Diseases practice in Charleston, West Virginia. Julio Figueroa and his wife Annette hosted a going away party for Taras/welcoming party for incoming Fellows at their home on Sunday June 27, 2021. The group was able to get together indoors in a relaxed mask-less fashion prior to the 4th COVID surge!!! (See Graduation page 3)

## Worth Losing Sleep Over

Scattered throughout this issue are photographs of Night Blooming Cereus—more to come...



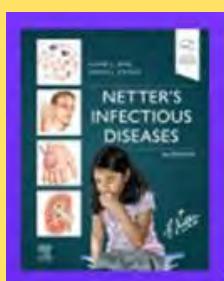


## Bo Retires

Dr. Charles "Bo" Sanders has headed the Department of Medicine at the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans since 1988, first as acting chair and then as Edgar Hull Professor and Chairman of the Department of Medicine from 1989 until April 30, 2021. Dr. Sanders has served the Department of Medicine for over 50 years, having come to LSU June 1, 1970. He served as the Chair of Internal Medicine for 31 years (and 10 months) making him the second longest running Chair in the country. From 1975 to 1989, Dr. Sanders was chief of the Section of Infectious Diseases at LSU. His last day of work was 8/14/2021. As with all things these days, COVID has prevented us from having a proper retirement celebration for Dr. Sanders.

We all salute you, Bo, and can't wait to party in your honor!!!

## Achievements of the LSU Infectious Diseases Section



- **Stephanie Taylor**—Served as lead author for the "Infection with Neisseria gonorrhoea" chapter in the recently published 2nd edition of Netter's Infectious Diseases
- **UMC Difference Makers—John Nanfro ID Faculty and Taras Nebeluk ID Fellow**—were identified by recently discharged patients as having made a difference in the patients' care

(See Faculty Assembly Award Page 4)



From Left: Nanfro, Nebeluk

## Graduation 2021 *(Continued from page 1)*



Top Left: Associate Program Director Paula Seal and Taras Nebeluk '21; Top Right: more graduation photos

Taras Nebeluk will join Charleston Area Medical Center Infectious Diseases Group in Charleston, West Virginia, covering three hospitals in the area.

LSU ID Section gathers around graduate Taras Nebeluk Class of 2021 at Julio Figueroa's House

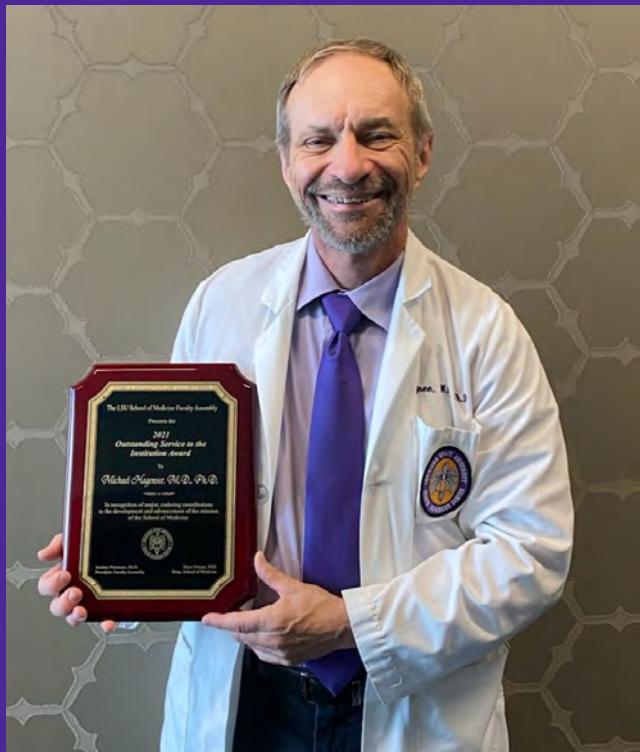


*(See Graduation page 6)*

## Welcome First Year LSU ID Fellows Tat and Terrence!!!



From Left:  
Incoming  
ID Fellows  
Tat Yau  
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### **Michael Hagensee re- ceived the LSU School of Medicine Faculty Assembly Outstanding Service to the In- stitution Award 2021**

This award recognizes those individuals who have made major, enduring contributions to the development of the LSU School of Medicine and who have advanced its mission. Congratulations Mike!!!

*(See Achievements Page 6)*

## Former LSU ID Fellows Making Their Mark

### Shu-Hua Wang '04

Shu-Hua Wang, MD, MPH&TM, PharmD, FIDSA

Professor of Medicine

The Ohio State University, Division of Infectious Diseases, Dept of Internal Medicine  
-Medical Director, Ben Franklin Tuberculosis Program, Columbus Public Health  
-Director, OSU Global One Health initiative Applied Research and Implementation Science



#### Global One Health initiative awarded CDC Cooperative Agreement to expand capacity and strengthen public health systems in Ethiopia

The Ohio State University Global One Health initiative (GOHi) has been awarded \$5.61 million in funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and bolster Ethiopia's public health system capacity for small- and large-scale disease outbreaks and emergencies.

Since 2009, GOHi has been on the front lines in Ethiopia working with in-country partners to strengthen capacity using a One Health approach—one that brings together multiple disciplines working globally to address the spread of disease, promote health and emphasize the connection among humans, animals, plants and the environment. For more information see: <https://oia.osu.edu/news/global-one-health-initiative-awarded-cdc-cooperative-agreement-to-expand-capacity-and-strengthen-public-health-systems-in-ethiopia/>

### Leandro Mena '02

Dr. Leandro Mena is the new Director of the Division of STD Prevention (DSTD) in the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP) as of August 2, 2021. In this role, Dr. Mena will manage the implementation and evaluation of CDC-supported sexually transmitted infections (STI) prevention programs in the United States. Dr. Mena is a clinician-researcher and public health advocate with expertise in the prevention and clinical management of STIs and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). He brings a wealth of experience and has held numerous positions over his 29-year career in the fields of public health and medicine in academia, research, and professional association management. He was the founding chair of the Department of Population Health Science at the University of Mississippi Medical Center John D. Bower School of Population Health and Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases, directed the Center for HIV/AIDS Research, Education & Policy at the Myrlie Evers-Williams

Institute for Elimination of Health Disparities, and served as the STD Medical Director for the state of Mississippi. He was also the Medical Director of the Five Points Clinic (Jackson's public STD clinic) and co-founded Open Arms Healthcare Center (first LGBT clinic in Mississippi).



Leandro Mena '04 in his office at CDC—day 14 on the job—Congratulations!!!

## Graduation 2021 (Continued from page 3)



From Left: Taras Nebeluk '21 and Ashaur Azhar



## Worth Losing Sleep Over

It is a New Orleans thing—have a party for a plant!!! One perk of summer is experiencing the wonder of the night blooming cereus. This is a group of plants in the cactus family that, at face value, is an ugly duckling at best—the greenery is gangly and sprawling. One curses the plant every winter because it has to be brought inside—won't tolerate a freeze. But, in the summer, when it chooses to bloom, it is magnificent. Each bloom is for one night only, starting at sundown and opening fully by midnight or later. The fragrance is amazing!!!

For more information: [https://www.nola.com/entertainment\\_life/home\\_garden/article\\_7c758c3a-ac46-5272-b23b-906c54c528a7.html](https://www.nola.com/entertainment_life/home_garden/article_7c758c3a-ac46-5272-b23b-906c54c528a7.html) and <https://www.house-plant-hobbyist.com/blog/2019/5/14/night-blooming-cereus-care>



## Achievements of the LSU Infectious Diseases Section (Continued from Page 4)

### Fred A. Lopez, MD, MACP—gave these presentations in Spring 2021

- ◆ Update in Infectious Diseases for the Louisiana Chapter of the American College of Physicians in March 2021
- ◆ Alpha Omega Alpha Lecture for the Beta Chapter at the University of Tennessee in April 2021
- ◆ Update in Infectious Diseases for the National American College of Physicians Annual Session in April 2021.

**Night Blooming Cereus** (Continued from page 6)

Photos courtesy Julio Figueroa and Joanne Maffei



## In and Around New Orleans

**Retirement Celebration for former LSU ID Faculty Rebecca Clark and Mary Murphy at Ralph's on the Park—April 24, 2021 mask-less celebration before the 4th COVID wave!!!**



Pictured from left: Lynn Besch, Anne Hull, Carole Pindaro, Sheila Bradford, Joanne Maffei, Mark Monte, Rhonda Eubanks, and Becky Clark



Oak tree in City Park



Hyams Fountain in Audubon Park



Pictured from left: Mitch Handrich, Sheila Bradford, Mary Murphy, and Cheryl Wilson

## Can't Get Enough—Night Blooming Cereus



### In the spirit of giving...

For the grateful graduate of our program interested in supporting future LSU ID Fellows: did you know that you can earmark donations within the institution to our Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program? All donations generously given to the LSU Health Foundation can be preferentially directed to the LSU ID Fellowship Program account to support our trainees. We utilize these funds to help defray costs for our ID Fellows to attend professional conferences to present their work by covering conference registration fees, travel, and lodging expenses. Foundation funds helped send both of our ID fellows to IDWeek in Washington DC in 2019 for this purpose to present their clinical research. All donations are tax-deductible through this non-profit entity and can even be used to acquire TAF points for the avid LSU sports fan. For more information, please contact Krystal Oliveira at [koliveira@lsuhealthfoundation.org](mailto:koliveira@lsuhealthfoundation.org) or visit the Foundation website <https://www.lsuhealthfoundation.org>.

Send us your thoughts on the COVID-19 Pandemic, the changing face of the HIV Epidemic, or anything else you want to share. Let us know how you, your family and your practice are doing. Next issue of Going Viral is the Fall/Winter issue—please send items by December 15, 2021 to be included.