

Going Viral: LSU ID NOLA Newsletter

*LSU Infectious Diseases
New Orleans, Louisiana
Summer 2019*

Summer in New Orleans. This July, we survived a flash flood followed by hurricane Barry, and we are hunkering down for the rest of the season. Hope El Niño has our backs. July marks the new academic year, and we are fortunate to have a first year ID Fellow—Taras Nebeluk. Thanks for the response to the first newsletter. Keep your emails coming—we want to know how you are doing, and **Why ID?** Email jmaffe@lsuhsc.edu



Maffei with sand art at Lakeside Shopping Center Metairie, LA

LSU is hosting NOID Citywide Conference this Academic Year
It was 1975 in New Orleans and the three academic institutions were carrying on with their Infectious Diseases services (see **Citywide** p. 4)



HOP Participated in National HIV Testing Day 6/27/19 with an awareness table on the first floor of UMC and administered free HIV tests.

I am very proud to be an LSU ID graduate. The 2 year ID fellowship helped me tremendously. When I returned



to Houston, I started merging my old medicine practice with ID, and after a year or so it became 100% Infectious Diseases. I became the head of the Antibiotic Stewardship Program in my hospital and one of the four main ID consultants in my area. I spend half of my day seeing inpatient consultations. I do four half-days in clinic—one of them is just for HIV outpatient care. Three years ago I added my outpatient infusion center. I follow hospital discharges requiring outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy (OPAT) in that facility. I am able to streamline treatment options to avoid hospital admissions. OPAT is challenging due to managed care and reimbursement issues. Finally, I would like to say that I owe it all to LSU ID NOLA staff, physicians, and employees who helped me achieve my goal. I want to mention one person in particular who took the time to see who's calling about the fellowship position—Dr. Julio Figueroa—a wonderful human and a great friend. I will always buy and wear my white coat with LSU NO logo on it until I retire. 2019 is a special year for my family—we have our first high school graduate—he will be attending the University of Colorado engineering school this fall.—**AKRAM SHAKHASHIRO, M.D.**



Akram Shakhshiro '13 with family: Son Ramez, wife Rula, Daughters : Sreen Tuleen Lena and Jenna



ID Fellows' Forum Notes

LSU ID Fellowship Program sponsored my attendance at the Mayo Clinic's 16th Annual ID Fellows' Forum, this April in Rochester, MN. It was a nice learning experience. Some controversial hot topics covered included the transition from IV to PO antibiotics in bone/joint infections and left sided endocarditis. There were interesting debates by Faculty regarding (See **Fellows' Forum** page 3)

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In and Around New Orleans



Meredith Clement and her mother and sister enjoying Jazz Fest 2019.

Dr. Meredith Clement joined the faculty of LSU ID in October 2018 after completing residency and fellowship at Duke University. Her academic focus is HIV and sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention, and her K23 Career Development Award from NIH/NIAID focuses on STI prevention in the setting of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). She also was recently awarded a Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) Supplement to study methods to enhance PrEP uptake among African American women in New Orleans. Dr. Clement is very excited about the clinical and research opportunities at LSUHSC-New Orleans. LSU ID NOLA is equally excited to have her on faculty.



From Left: Julio Figueroa and Andreas Tietz '03 at UMC - a visit to the hospital just before Mardi Gras 2019

My Infectious Diseases Fellowship at LSU opened the world for me. After my return to Switzerland in 2003, I added a 2-year fellowship in Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control at the University Hospital Basel, before I was hired away into the pharmaceutical industry. The two years in New Orleans were great preparation for a European Medical Affairs position with J&J, and my days in the South Roman St. HIV/HCV co-infection clinic were the foundation for a global role within Roche's HCV franchise. In between, I turned to a stint at the YouTube of Medicine: telemedicine, before moving on to Global Medical Affairs at Novartis. Here, I am working on early products in NASH and autoimmune hepatitis. I cannot express enough how much I owe to my clinical training at LSU ID. As humans, our sense of being is shaped by four areas: what we love, what the world needs, what we are good at, and what we get paid for. If I look back on my fellowship, the skills and knowledge that I acquired in New Orleans have shaped who I am as a person, a physician and a professional. And yes, after 18 years I am still in love with New Orleans! Kind regards, and I hope to come back and visit soon,

—**Andreas Tietz**



HOP Clinic Outing at City Putt Spring 2019



Gaston catching up on his ID reading—almost finished Mandell's

Meet Gaston the Fellow's Clinic Mascot

"Hi I'm Gaston, the emotional support alligator at the ID clinic. I enjoy long walks on the bayou and comforting people. My unique position as an ALWH (alligator living with Herpetitis) which is well controlled on Bite-tarvy, allows me to empathize with some of our much-loved patients. My side hustle is keeping ID fellows in line but otherwise I'm harmless, despite the menacing smile. Visit our clinic and see me in my natural habitat!" — **Gaston**



Gaston taking a break in Fellow's Clinic basking in the sun. It's a thermoregulatory thing.



Dr. Sanders hosts a dinner for the UMC LSU ID Consult Team in June at Jacques-Imo's Restaurant. From left: Kamir Boodoo and Ashaur Azhar ID Fellows, Simon Shamass PGY 5 EM/IM Resident (and future faculty), Mrs. Julia Sanders and Dr. Charles (Bo) Sanders

LSU ID Fellows have lunch at Mandina's Restaurant



From left: Kamir Boodoo, Scott Melton, Ashaur Azhar, and Taras Nebeluk

The group gathered to say goodbye to Scott as he finished his fellowship and welcomed Taras, incoming LSU ID Fellow. The second year ID Fellows stated they will miss Scott and that it was great having him on the team. Gaston and the HOP Clinic team also had a celebration for Scott. Gaston ate most of the cake!!



Fellows' Forum (Continued from page 1) topics such as U=U, should CMV in ICU be treated, and OPAT in special populations IV vs PO. The Transplant ID talks were informative. There was a presentation on new antimicrobials with mechanism of action and FDA approved use. I think it was a great opportunity for the Fellows to network and have a chance to present their research and case abstracts. One of my favorite sessions was ID Jeopardy which was exciting with challenging questions.

— **Ashaur Azhar**



The coveted parking spot—reserved for the Physician of the Quarter.
Photo courtesy of Ashaur Azhar.

From Left: Stephen Robinson – OMC-K CEO, Dr. Julio Figueroa OMC-K Physician of the Quarter (Q1 2019), Dr. Julie Gayle OMC-K Medical Staff President, and Dr. Alisha Lacour OMC-K VP of Medical Affairs

Ochsner Medical Center Kenner (OMC-K) started the Physician of the Quarter program in 2018 to recognize physicians who have demonstrated: high quality, compassionate patient care, commitment to quality & safety, teamwork & collaboration, and ongoing education & development. Physicians can be nominated by colleagues, employees, or patients. The recipient of the award for the 1st quarter 2019 was Dr. Julio Figueroa. In addition to providing excellent patient care, Dr. Figueroa also chairs OMC-K P&T and Infection Control Committees & represents OMC-Kenner at the system level for these areas. He goes above and beyond for our patients and the hospital. As a part of this recognition, he has a designated parking spot, and a \$250 donation is made to the recipient's charity of choice. Dr. Figueroa selected Second Harvest Food Bank, and that donation has been made in his name.

KUDOS to members of the LSU Infectious Diseases Section:

Attending Physician of the Quarter for UMC 11/2018—Dr. Lynn Besch

2019 Physician Recognition Award Winners 3/29/2019:

UMC Clinical Researcher Award—Dr. Michael Hagensee

UMC Best Physician Consultant Award—Dr. Youssef Bennani

NIH Study Section—Dr. Michael Hagensee, Dr. Stephanie Taylor

Editor Clinical Infectious Diseases—Dr. Stephanie Taylor

UMC Antimicrobial Stewardship Program—IDSA Antimicrobial Stewardship Center of Excellence 2018

Citywide (from page 1)

and training of fellows entirely independently. Then came along Dr. Sanders, the sprightly new chief of Infectious Diseases at LSU. Dr. Sanders and Dr. Pankey, the Chief of ID at Ochsner, roped in Dr. Mogabgab from Tulane and the three Chiefs began a tradition of weekly lectures on topics of ID interest. These "citywide" talks provided an opportunity for exchange of ideas between the intellectual powerhouses. The location of the lectures initially rotated between LSU, Tulane and Ochsner but eventually settled at Ochsner Main Campus. The responsibility for arranging lectures, however, continues to rotate. This year the NOID Citywide Lecture series is spearheaded by LSU. We welcome interested alumni to attend the conference (Fridays 8 AM), and volunteer to speak on topics of their interest. Volunteer is the key word—we are still a state institution!!! Let us continue to realize the dream of an integrated Infectious Disease community in our great city and beyond. —Kamir Boodoo

LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, Louisiana

Department of Medicine Section of Infectious Diseases/HIV https://www.medschool.lsuhschool.edu/internal_medicine/fellowship_id.aspx

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