

DOM NEWS BLAST

The LSU Department of Medicine Weekly Communication



Dr. Fred Lopez (Infectious Disease) was interviewed on Fox 8 where he explained that the “brain-eating” amoeba, *Naegleria fowleri*, enters the body through the nose. Dr. Lopez advised viewers to be cautious when swimming in warm lakes, rivers and other fresh bodies of water, and explained the harm the amoeba can cause.

[Watch the clip >>](#)

Dr. Paul LeLorier (Cardiology), Dr. Alexandra Fairchild (Interventional Radiology and Ajaya Tummala (med student) had an abstract titled “Screening for Pelvic Venous Disorders in Patients with Postural Intolerance Syndromes” accepted for presentation at the American Heart Association’s Scientific Sessions 2026, the Association’s premier global event in cardiovascular science and medicine, from Nov. 6-9 in Chicago, IL.



Dr. Gala True (Community and Population Medicine) recently gave an invited presentation on The Armory Project to the VA/SAMHSA Governor’s and Mayor’s Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans and their Families 2026 Innovations Conference in Baltimore, MD. The conference was held August 19-21 and included representatives from every US state and territory.



Dr. Victoria Burke (Infectious Disease) was featured on the ACP website for her work on the ACP Council of Early Career Physicians who recently met in Philadelphia to discuss professional development, membership value, and ways to strengthen engagement and support for early career physicians.

<https://www.facebook.com/ACPIMPhysicians>



Dr. Ashley Wennerstrom and research collaborator Kira Wortmann (Community and Population Medicine and Center for Healthcare Value and Effectiveness) had two papers published in the *American Journal of Public Health*.



Holderby-Fox, L. R., **Wortmann, K.**, Witmeier, K. N., Mason, T., Park-Mroch, J., Haywood, C. G., Smithwick, J., Ohly, S. L., Caple, E. L., Bolden, S., Pesik, M., & **Wennerstrom, A.** (2026). A Community Health Worker-Led Model of Training and Technical Assistance to Support National Community Health Worker Program Implementation for COVID-19 Response: United States, 2021-2025. *American journal of public health*, 116(S4), S314–S320. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2026.308665>



Wolf, L., **Wortmann, K.**, Bristol, S. E., Salazar, S., Estrada, H. Y., Witmeier, K., & **Wennerstrom, A.** (2026). Shaping the Future: A CHW-Led Movement to Achieve Sustainability. *American journal of public health*, 116(S4), S259–S265. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2026.308617>

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Dr. Michelle Blyth (Infectious Disease) published a paper titled “From Ebola to Feline Infectious Peritonitis: The Cross-Species Journey of GS-441524 and the Future of Antiviral Translation” in the Rare Diseases and Orphan Drugs Journal.

Cerna P, Coggins S, **Blyth M**, Reagan KL. *Rare Dis Orphan Drugs J.* 2026;5(2). doi:10.20517/rdodj.2026.07



Dr. Yvonne Gilliland (Cardiology) recently published an editorial titled “Pericardial Effusion—Is It Time to TAP?” published in the Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography.

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Editorial Comment

Pericardial Effusion—Is It Time to TAP?

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