

## The Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC)-New Orleans Schools Science Partnership Program

We believe that New Orleans students need a strong educational foundation in the sciences and should be introduced to professional role models from the scientific community to enhance their academic enthusiasm and opportunity for success.

The goals of the program include:

- Making science more interesting, easier to understand, and accessible in the classroom through hands-on science activities in coordination with the school administrators and teachers based on their current curriculum
- Improving 4th grade science classroom and standardized test scores
- Introducing 4th graders attending New Orleans schools to positive and diverse science professionals and trainees as role models

Volunteer instructors include students, post-doctoral fellows, staff, and faculty from the Schools of Graduate Studies, Medicine, Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Public Health, and Nursing.

The Director of the SYI and Science Partnership Programs is Dr. Fern Tsien from the Department of Genetics. The SYI Co-Director is Ms. Martha Cuccia from the School of Public Health. We have reached more than 700 children since 2009 at our partner schools, St. Peter Claver, Esperanza, Lafayette Academy, McDonough 42, Good Shepherd School, Banneker, Langston Hughes, and Medard Nelson School. To volunteer for the Science Partnership, click [Here](#)



From left to right: Dr. Joseph Moerschbaecher III, LSUHSC Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Dean, School of Graduate Studies; Dr. Fern Tsien, Director of the SYI and LSUHSC New Orleans Schools Science Partnership Program; Dr. Kathleen McDonough.



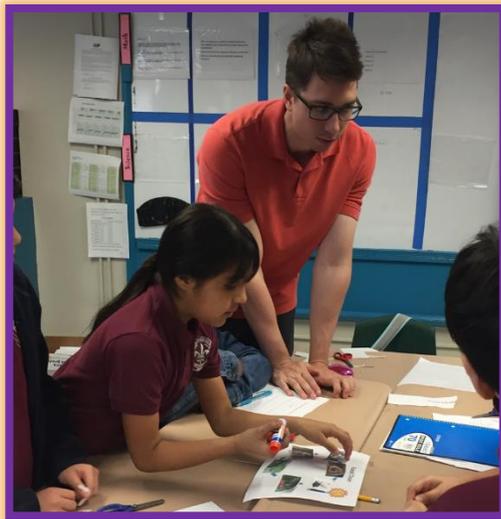
Vivian Jaber (Graduate Studies/ Medicine) at St. Peter Claver



Nancy Tran (Medicine), Dr. Fern Tsien, Ms. Martha Cuccia (Public Health), Ian Denys (Medicine) with St. Peter Claver teachers.

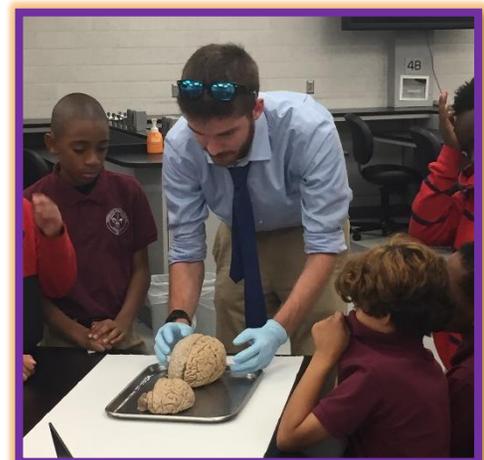


**Top Left:** Jorge Peñas (Graduate Studies) demonstrating the anatomy of the heart  
**Top Right:** Katy Adams (Public Health) teaching students about the GI system  
**Bottom Left:** Ian Denys (Graduate Studies/ Medicine) quizzing students on the life cycle  
**Bottom Right:** Joseph Romito (Medicine) teaching about the GI system.



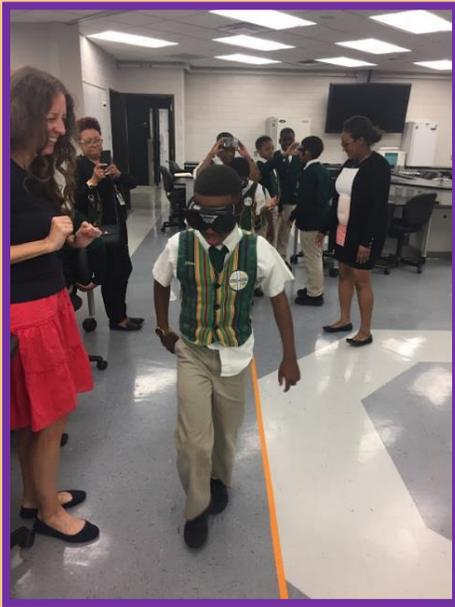
### LSUHSC-New Orleans School Science Partnership Program Field Day

The year-long program culminates with a field trip to LSUHSC. Laboratory activities included DNA isolation from strawberries; human organ demonstrations including the effects of smoking on the human lungs; and an activity on blood components. Instructors and tour guides included: Ayesha Umrigar (Graduate Studies), Steven Eastlack (Graduate Studies/ Medicine), Vivian Jaber (Graduate Studies/ Medicine), Jorge Peñas (Graduate Studies), Ian Denys (Graduate Studies/ Medicine) Katelyn Robillard (Graduate Studies/ Medicine), Jacob Stover (Medicine), Dr. Tracy Dodd (Medicine), Jason Schroeder (Medicine), Allie Young (Medicine), Dr. Flavia Souza-Smith (Graduate Studies/ Medicine), Dr. Ches'Nique Phillips (Graduate Studies), Amber Brown (Public Health), Katy Adams (Public Health), Dr. Danielle Mercer (Graduate Studies/ Allied Health), Ms. Martha Cuccia (Public Health), Dr. Allison Augustus-Wallace (Medicine/Office of Diversity and Community Engagement) and special guest Dr. Corey Hébert (Medicine). Visiting students also received books donated through the LSUHSC campus wide book drive.



Jacob Stover (Medicine) demonstrating the parts of the brain.

Dr. Danielle Mercer (Graduate Studies/ Allied Health) teaching students the affects and dangers of alcohol use.



Medical students Allie Young and Jason Schroeder doing a blood composition activity.



Jorge Peñas, Dr. Corey Hébert, and Dr. Fern T sien handing out books to students from the book drive.



Ayesha Umrigar (Graduate Studies) demonstrating how to isolate DNA from



Special guest Dr. Corey Hébert with students from St. Peter Claver showing their DNA from strawberries.



Students from Esperanza Elementary holding up their books from the book drive.

