

THE PULSE

Vol. 3, Issue 1
Spring Issue 2011



PHOTOS BY LESLIE CAPO

M.D., Ph.D. Student Selected for Prestigious Program

Jessica Shields, an M.D., Ph.D. student in the lab of Dr. Anne Foundas in the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy has been selected as one of 45 talented medical, dental, and veterinary students representing 34 different U.S.-accredited universities to take part in the National Institutes of Health inaugural class of the Medical Research Scholars Program (MRSP). The new NIH MRSP is a year-long enrichment program designed to provide mentored training to creative, research-oriented medical, dental, and veterinary students at the intramural campus of the NIH in Bethesda, MD. The MRSP enables scholars to conduct basic, clinical, or translational research in areas that match their personal interests and research goals. In addition to participating in mentored research, the MRSP scholars attend courses, seminars, a structured lecture series, and clinical teaching rounds, as well as present their research over the course of the academic year to the NIH community and at domestic professional conferences. Each scholar is assigned a tutor/advisor to assist with developing a well-articulated career development plan and with selecting a dedicated NIH mentor whom is approved by the program's leadership.



Help Wanted!

What:
Associate Editor for Clinical Affairs

Qualifications:
A clinician interested in providing their perspective and connection to the clinical field to assist in the production of The Pulse.

Time requirement:
About 4 – 6 hours a year

Duties:
Meet to discuss story ideas, solicit a small number of stories, contribute editing advice to final document layout.

If interested, please contact Andrew D. Hollenbach,
Head Editor
aholle@lsuhsc.edu

In Memoriam

by Andrew D. Hollenbach, Ph.D.

Recently, the LSUHSC School of Graduate Studies lost a very special person. Jack Hines, Director of the Graduate Program passed away on April 5, 2012 from complications related to cancer. He was 29 years old. Probably known to most, if not the entire Basic Sciences faculty and DEFINITELY known by all of the graduate students working in the SOM, Jack was the go-to person for anything related to the graduate school and the graduate program. Many a time I was posed with the question: “How do I do that?” or “Where do I go to...” or “What is the proper form for...” my only answer would be... “Ask Jack. He’ll

know. If he doesn’t, he’ll know where to look or who to ask.” Not only would he know, but he would get you the answer fast and with a smile. He had a calm demeanor and a relaxed, pleasant attitude that immediately set you at ease. You knew, just from talking to him, that everything was under control – and if it wasn’t? Well, that was okay because everything would be under control soon enough because he was on the job.

A fund has been established in Jack’s name that will honor an individual who shows exemplary service to the

School of Graduate Studies.

*To donate, make a check payable to LSUHSC Foundation with **Jack Hines Memorial Fund** in the memo line.*

Forward the checks to the attention of Shannon Cian, RCB Suite 824.

At his memorial service it became apparent to many of us that there was so much more to Jack than we ever knew. His calm and smiling demeanor that we saw at work stemmed from his general philosophy of life; that life was meant to be enjoyed and enjoyed every day of it. He traveled extensively to every corner of the world, not content to do the “tourist” thing but instead to fly by the seat of his pants, many times with no money, truly living in the culture and absorbing the culture, and being a part of the communities and countries that he was visiting. Spontaneity was key and no opportunity went unmissed. Jack lived more and enjoyed his life more in his 29 years than many of us will even if we live to 100.

Jack Hines

I think Jack gave us all a valuable lesson: life is too short. That grant will be there tomorrow; that student will still need mentoring next week; that manuscript will still be there when you get back. Take some time and truly enjoy life, enjoy your family, enjoy your friends; don’t let opportunities pass you by because you “don’t have the time”; because you don’t know how long you have. Work is work, it’s replaceable, it will be there when you return; family is not. Jack, you will be sorely missed, personally and professionally, by your colleagues, your family, and mostly by your wife, Mary.



Mary Kay Pelias

families whose relatives had been stricken with genetics conditions. Although she was determined to find information, Dr. Pelias managed to do so while being consoling and supportive. “She was brilliant,” New Orleans City Councilwoman Jackie Clarkson said. “She had a sense of consciousness about others that people with her education just don’t have. She had a tremendous awareness of the importance of helping people.”

Dr. Pelias was practical and down-to-earth. When she did a

Mary Kay Pelias, who taught for 26 years in the Department of Genetics and held degrees in biology and law, died June 29 of complications from strokes. She was 70. Mary Kay was particularly interested in genetic problems that may be rare elsewhere but are prevalent in southwest Louisiana, where the population is relatively stable and marriages between cousins are common.

Dr. Pelias traveled throughout the region to visit with

family interview, she carried a roll of butcher paper that she spread across a table so she could construct a family tree to help her find the origin of a particular condition, said Bronya Keats, former Department Chair and Professor Emeritus in Genetics. Based on that example, “I always used butcher paper when tracing (family) pedigrees,” said Keats.

Dr. Pelias was “very concerned, very passionate,” said Barry Potter, Department of Physiology who taught ethics courses with her. “She wanted to be sure that our graduate students understood the ramifications of all the ethical ins and outs. With the newer molecular-biology techniques, the boundaries were becoming increasingly blurred. She was concerned that the next generation of scientists be ethically informed.”

In 1996 and 1997, she was a congressional fellow in the Washington office of U.S. Sen. Pete Domenici, a New Mexico Republican who served from 1973 to 2009. She drafted and promoted legislation supporting the confidentiality of genetic information and opposing discrimination based on those data. She also worked with Jackie Clarkson, then a Louisiana legislator, to draft a law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of one’s genetic profile. That bill, one of the first such measures in the nation, “was my greatest accomplishment in the Legislature,” Clarkson said. It was the first of 12 health-related bills on which the two collaborated. “She and I never lost,” Clarkson said. “Never.”

Copping Award



Dr. Erich Conrad (center) with Interim LSU president Dr. William L. Jenkins (left) and LSUHSC Chancellor Dr. Larry Hollier (right).

Congratulations are to be extended to the SOM recipients of the Allen A. Copping Excellence in Teaching Award: Erich Conrad, M.D., Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry (award in Medicine – Clinical) and Jason Mussell, Ph.D., Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy (award in Medicine – Basic Science). Awarded each year at graduation to recognize teaching excellence, recipients are nominated by fellow faculty, students, and residents and the awards are presented each year to members of the LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans in Allied Health, Nursing, Dentistry, Medicine—Clinical, Medicine—Basic Sciences, and Public Health.



Dr. Jason Mussell (center) with Interim LSU president Dr. William L. Jenkins (left) and LSUHSC Chancellor Dr. Larry Hollier (right)

PHOTOS BY LESLIE CARO

Everyone Keeps Doing Their Part!

Congratulations to the following researchers for obtaining extramural funding from federal, state, and independent sources since November 1, 2011:

NIH P60 Multidisciplinary Clinical Research Centers:

Steve Nelson, M.D.

(Internal Medicine, Dean of the School of Medicine)

NIH R01:

Si-Qiong J. Liu, Ph.D. (Cell Biology and Anatomy)

NIH T35 Short Term Training Grants:

Paula Gregory, Ph.D. (Genetics) and Phillip Brantley, Ph.D. (Family Medicine)

Paula Gregory, Ph.D. (Genetics) and Patricia Molina, M.D./Ph.D. (Physiology)

NIH R25 Summer Research Experience Program:

Paula Gregory, Ph.D. (Genetics) and Patricia Molina, M.D. Ph.D. (Physiology)

NIH R21:

Glen Palmer, Ph.D.

(Microbiology, Immunology, and Parasitology)

Paulo Rodriguez, Ph.D.

(Microbiology, Immunology, and Parasitology)

NIH F32 Postdoctoral Training Grant:

Flavia Souza, Ph.D.(Physiology)

NIH F30 M.D./Ph.D. Training Grant:

Anasheh Halabi (Genetics)

Louisiana Board of Regents:

Sunyoung Kim, Ph.D. (Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) Patricia Molina, M.D., Ph.D. (Physiology)

American Heart Association:

Eric Lazartiques, Ph.D. (Pharmacology)

Independent Foundations:

Laura Bell

(Director, Continuing Medical Education) Smith and Nephew, DePuy Mitek, Inc., Genzyme

Jessica Bradley (Physiology) Society of Toxicology

Lauri Byerley, Ph.D. (Physiology) American Institute for Cancer Research

Carlos Choucino, M.D. (Infectious Diseases) HHS, Health Resources & Service Administration

William Claycomb, Ph.D. (Biochemistry) E. Canary, LLC

Rachel Cuchacovich, M.D. (Rheumatology) Parexel International Corp.

Bennett Deboisblanc, M.D. (Internal Medicine) ACTELION

Luis Espinoza, M.D. (Rheumatology) UCB Pharma Howard University

Melissa Gorman, M.D.(Orthopaedics) McMaster University

Jean Jacob, Ph.D. (Ophthalmology) Alcon Research, Ltd.

Dan Kapusta, Ph.D. Pharmacology) Biosense Webster

Peter Krause, M.D. (Orthopaedics) Johns Hopkins University

Christopher Marrero, M.D. (Orthopaedics) Quintiles Pacific Inc.

Christopher McGowin, Ph.D. (Microbiology, Immunology, and Parasitology) Roche Laboratories Inc.

Daniel Raines, M.D. (Gastroenterology) Cook Medical Boston Scientific Corp.

Erich Richter, M.D. (Neurosurgery) Biomet Spine and Bone Healing Technologies

Benjamin Siddoway, Ph.D. (Neuroscience Center of Excellence) Ataxia telangiectasia Children's Project

Sehzad Sooklall (Graduate Education Coordinator, Endocrinology) Mutual Pharmaceutical Company

Lance Stuke, M.D. (Surgery) Cubist Pharmaceutical

Stephanie Taylor, M.D. (Internal Medicine) Roche Molecular Systems, Inc., Hologic, Inc. Becton Dickinson Corp.

Gabriel Uwaifo, M.D. (Endocrinology) MannKind Corporation (2 awards) Amgen, Inc.

Lolie Chua Yu, M.D. (Pediatric Hematology-Oncology) Children's Hospital of Philadelphia



May 11th, 2012

Graduation Ceremonies

The annual Commencement Ceremonies for LSUHSC were held Thursday, May 17th, 2012. During the proceedings 171 Medical students and 15 Basic Science students from the School of Medicine (SOM) received their degrees. During the ceremonies the annual Allen A. Copping Excellence in Teaching Awards were presented. Initiated in 1995 by friends and colleagues of Dr. Allen A. Copping, then President of the LSU System, the award recognizes teaching excellence in Allied Health, Dentistry, Medicine – Basic Sciences, Nursing, Medicine – Clinical Medicine, and Public Health. Congratulations to all of our graduates!

Mentoring in Medicine

New Orleans has joined New York, Atlanta, and Los Angeles in a program designed to increase the participation of underrepresented minority students and low-income students in careers in medicine and related health sciences. Co-directors Dr. Lisa Moreno Walton and Dr. Dereck J. Rovaris joined forces with a team that consists of LSUHSC faculty and staff, local school superintendents and principals, area pastors, and government officials. Together they began the Mentoring in Medicine program for New Orleans. Founded in New York, the inaugural local event was held April 21st at the HSC. The event included 65 high school students from schools including Warren Easton, St. Augustine, McMain, and other area schools (as well as several UNO undergraduates). The Saturday event featured a program overview; "How I made it to LSUHSC" mini lectures by current students from all six schools; simulation lab tours and interactions; an anatomy demonstration and interactive presentation; a chance to talk with faculty and student reps from each school; lunch; and in typical local flavor, a live brass band performance!

This first event was a huge success and was followed up on June 9th with an evening program, "Dinner with the Docs". Later in the fall a host of activities will include tours, tutoring, and preparation programs for entrance into health care careers. Activities are open to all high school students in the metropolitan area with an emphasis on diversity and low-income students. Future activities will include a longitudinal mentoring program taking students from early elementary on through medical, dental, nursing or other health related graduate programs.



Lisa Moreno-Walton, M.D. (Emergency Medicine) talks to attendees.



Local students get hands-on experience



From left to right - Claire Carpenter, Jolie LeBlanc, Mary Maber, Dr. Patricia Molina, Jarratt Pytell, Carolyn Davis, Stephanie Rosales, and Mai Lam

¿Qué le duele?

This spring, a group of second year medical students, under the direction of Dr. Patricia Molina, completed a Medical Spanish Elective. The class recruited semi-fluent to fluent Spanish speaking students, whose experience with Hispanic populations have included living abroad, growing up in a primarily Spanish speaking home, or Spanish language education in school. Over the span of the semester, various Hispanic physicians and leaders from the New Orleans community visited the class and presented their respective fields of interest, such as general family medicine, pediatrics, neuropathology, cardiology, cultural awareness, and many others. This enabled the students to improve their medical knowledge of each field, while expanding their Spanish medical vocabulary relating to each specialty. Each week, the students improved their appreciation for Hispanic culture, their observation of health care disparities relating to the Hispanic community, and lastly, their language skills by physician-patient role play and by interaction with visiting physicians and fellow students. The semester ended with either student presentations in Spanish of public health interventions or volunteer time at Tiger Care, a medical clinic devoted to serving the Hispanic populations in the New Orleans area.

Leadership Diversity Lecture

On Thursday, April 26, 2012, the Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic and Multicultural Affairs hosted its second annual Leadership and Diversity Lecture. This year's lecture was conducted by Kenneth Hunter, LSUHSC-Shreveport Director of Diversity Affairs and by Kristy Anderson, LSUHSC UMC-Lafayette Director of Graduate Medical Education. Mr. Hunter presented on diversity from the perspective of teamwork – recognizing that effective diversity is not a by-product but a result achieved by working together, a process that ultimately moves the entire "team" forward. Ms. Anderson focused on diversity's role in one's spirituality and examined how people are perceived along with the necessity of more accurately assessing what the present state of diversity exists and in which areas improvement is needed.



School Science Partnership Program Field Day

The goals of the LSUHSC-New Orleans School Science Partnership Program include: exposing New Orleans 4th graders with positive and diverse health science professionals as role models, making science more interesting, and improving Science LEAP scores. Drs. Fern Tsien and Uday Pandey (both Genetics) direct the program, with assistance from Dr. Jaime Becnel (Pharmacology). The year-long program culminated with a field trip to LSUHSC, held on Friday, May 18th, 2012 with an attendance of almost 100 children from Bannaker Elementary and Langston Hughes Elementary, both New Orleans Recovery District schools. LSUHSC laboratory activities included: DNA isolation from strawberries and the use of DNA in forensics by Dr. Fern Tsien and Bradley Howe; human organ demonstrations including the effects of smoking on the human lungs by Dr. Michael Hall and Ayesha Umrigar; videos demonstrating how cells repair wounds by Dr. Shyamal Desai; alcohol simulation goggles to show how alcohol consumption impairs the senses by MD/PhD and graduate students Felix Nau, Sophie Teng, and Aditi Iyengar; and how caffeine affects the nervous system by Dr. Charles Nichols and Dr. Jaime Becnel. Volunteers Surijyodipta (Bibo) Battocharjee, Kavaljit Chhabra, Dr. Gin Chuang, Dr. Oralee Johnson, Dr. Sarah Mahne, Whitney Nichols, and Jessica Shields escorted the 4th graders to the various laboratory activities.



COMING SOON!

**The LGBT+Ally Organization for Cultural Understanding
in the Health Sciences (LOCUS)**

Welcome Mixer! ALL ARE WELCOME!

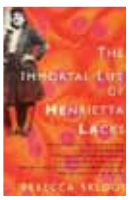
(Exact date, time, and location TBA)

for more information contact Daniel Punecky [dpunek@lsuhsc.edu] or
Andrew Hollenbach, Ph.D. aholle@lsuhsc.edu

New Student Organization to Promote Diversity and Understanding

Daniel Punecky (SOM Class 2015)

The LGBT+Ally Organization for Cultural Understanding in the Health Sciences (LOCUS) is a student organization aimed at advancing awareness and understanding of and for the LGBT community at LSUHSC and in New Orleans. Our goal is to serve at LSU by educating future healthcare professionals of the specific concerns of LGBT individuals and to serve the community through multiple outreach programs with local organizations. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we strive to foster an environment that supports LGBT individuals at LSUHSC, with strict confidence, and provides them with a safe place in which to grow as healthcare professionals. If interested or if you'd like more information, please contact Daniel Punecky (dpunek@lsuhsc.edu) or primary faculty advisor Andrew Hollenbach, Ph.D. (aholle@lsuhsc.edu).



Book Club

The Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic & Multicultural Affairs hosted the inaugural Campus wide Book Club at the beginning of May. The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (Broadway Paperbacks 2011), by Rebecca Skloot, was chosen as the reading selection based on its relevance across the campus with its issues of research ethics, health care disparities, and a variety of other health care issues. The title character Henrietta Lacks "was a poor, black tobacco farmer whose cells—taken without her knowledge in 1951—became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, in vitro fertilization, and more. Henrietta's cells (known commonly as HeLa Cells) have been bought and sold by the billions, yet she remains virtually unknown, and her family can't afford health insurance."

A distinguished panel featuring LSUHSC's Dr. Cassandra Youmans and Dr. John Estrada, along with local medical expert, Dr. Corey Hebert, was convened to lead the Book Club discussion. Panelists offered intriguing insights and points of concern that were ample grist for questions and comments from the audience which was comprised of students, faculty, and staff from across all six schools of the Health Sciences Center.

Plans are underway for our next Book Club gathering. Nine Lives by Dan Baum should prove to be equally captivating. The story of nine very diverse New Orleanians post Hurricane Betsy and those same nine folks post Hurricane Katrina present many points of discussion and debate. Join us again this fall.



Editor's Pen

Andrew Hollenbach, PhD

This issue finds me at the beginning of the third year of helming The Pulse. It's hard to believe that something that started as an idea in my mind became what it is today, an accomplishment that did not happen without extensive help from the SOM Communications Committee and my Associate Editors, and my graphic designer Gina LaBorde. To me, part of my job as the head editor is to try to bridge the gap between perception and reality: making sure that reality is communicated to you, the reader, to help dispel some of the perceptions that are sapping our strength, energy, and enthusiasm. There's a saying that goes: "Reality is nothing; Perception is everything". In some respects this is true. However, that doesn't mean that reality can't shape, mold, or change our perceptions. Yes, times are hard; budget cuts come as regular as rain on a New Orleans summer afternoon, funding levels are at a record low, and it's difficult to hire desperately needed personnel. However, a look through the present issue of The Pulse shows that, even in these difficult times, we are doing amazingly well! Our faculty are bringing in funding on a consistent level, our students are continuing to receive top quality educations and going on to highly competitive futures, we continue to win awards and recognition for our achievements, we continue to serve the community through our clinics and educational programs, construction is running full steam ahead, and we have a new web site design. So, despite these difficult times, we need to be VERY proud of what we do and realize the difference we make in so many peoples lives, here at the SOM and outside our close circle.

On another level, we say goodbye to our clinical editor, Stacey Holman, M.D.. I want to thank Stacey for her hard work and contributions over the last year. I'd also like to introduce and welcome Aditi Iyengar, 4th year graduate student in the Department of Genetics as our new graduate student editor. She joins Lauren Hayes as our second student editor.

Faculty Assembly on the Move

These are exciting times for the faculty of the School of Medicine (SOM). After years of planning, it is exciting to see, hear, and feel the construction of the hospital complex. The new hospital complex will be used to train aspiring physicians and advance the frontiers of medicine through medical research and the development of innovative healthcare practices.

Representing the diverse viewpoints of our faculty, the SOM Faculty Assembly has considered a number of initiatives pertaining to our School's preeminent role in medical education, research and medical service in Louisiana and the nation. These include:

- Programs to expand medical education of our School in Lafayette and Baton Rouge. On these initiatives, the delegates had the opportunity to have an open dialog with Dr. Larry Hollier, Chancellor of the HSC, Dean Steve Nelson and Associate Dean Richard DiCarlo about the proposed branch campuses.
- A new program involving both basic science and clinical faculty to improve professionalism among our medical students and thus better prepare them for their roles in the increasingly complex world of medical practice. This initiative aims to create "Houses" to foster longitudinal faculty-student contact and mentoring across the four year curriculum.
- Proposal to digitally capture lectures as a potential venue to enhance the learning experience of our students. As with many new ideas, delegates expressed very diverse opinions that will be explored in more detail in the coming months.
- Progress made in the LSU Health Care Network with the opening of the St. Charles Clinic facility through discussions with Dr. Cathi Fontenot.
- Ways that the LSU Foundation can benefit the faculty through discussions with its President and CEO Mr. Chad Leingang.

On its own initiative, the Assembly is working with the Dean's Office to create an evaluation tool of department heads and center directors. Once complete, the Dean will anonymously receive collated information from questionnaires the faculty submit as part of the information used to evaluate leadership performance.

The SOM Faculty Assembly also worked closely with the HSC Faculty Senate. Delegate Mike Levitzky is completing his term as President of the Senate. He also worked extensively through a Senate recommended committee to update the HSC website. The Assembly also debated a proposal by the Faculty Senate at the LSUHSC in Shreveport to extend the tenure clock from 7 to 9 years. Based on this we forwarded to our Faculty Senate a document outlining pros and cons to this extension.

As we come to the close of the 2011-2012 academic year and my term as President of the SOM Faculty Assembly, I want to express my gratitude to the delegates selected by the faculty. Our meetings have been full both in terms of numbers and opinions for which I will forever be grateful. It has also been a pleasure to work with our Chancellor on the branch campus initiative, our Dean along with his leadership team on the issues that affect the faculty. It is an exciting time to see the development of initiatives that will advance the effectiveness of our faculty. The SOM is on the move and it is my hope that the faculty, in part through our Assembly of delegates, will play a pivotal role in planning and executing our future in medical education.

Finally, it is my pleasure to introduce the new President of the Assembly starting July 1, 2012. Based on his excellent work as President-elect this year and his clear understanding of the issues facing our faculty, Dr. Zee Ali will effectively lead and represent the Assembly as a voice of the faculty.

Faculty Assembly Awards

A little over a year ago, the SOM Faculty Assembly created four awards to recognize excellence in contributions of the faculty to the mission of the School of Medicine.

Congratulations go out to this year's winners:

Outstanding Service to the Institution:

Carol Mason, M.D. (Department of Internal Medicine)

Outstanding Accomplishments by a Young Faculty Member:

Udai Pandey, Ph.D. (Genetics)

Outstanding Service to the Community:

Stephanie Taylor, M.D.
(Microbiology, Immunology, and Parasitology)

Outstanding Mentor:

Eric Lazartigues, Ph.D. (Pharmacology)

Who Ya Gonna Call

SOM support lists are building specific and are listed in the Global Address List:



- MS MEB Support**
- MS CSRB Support**
- MS LEC Support**
- MS CEB Support**
- MS CHNOLA Support**

It is preferred that you email one of the above lists instead of emailing a specific supporter. Alternatively, SOM Helpdesk:

504-599-1578



who DAT!

Brenda Galle

Position:
Director of SOM Computer Support

Years of service:
27 years



What would you like people to know about you:

I started at LSUMC in January 1985 as a Research Associate in the Dept of Biometry & Genetics writing FORTRAN code and managing the department's DEC VAX and UNIX systems at a time when the majority of LSU departments didn't have a single computer! In July 1995, when my department head/PI moved on and I chose not to follow, Dave Troendle asked me to transfer over to the Office of Computer Services. Immediately thereafter, the Professional Schools formed their own IT support teams, and I was hired on as the first SOM IT Supporter. In March 1999, my manager resigned, and I was asked to step up as Director of the SOM Computer Support Team.

In my spare time, I enjoy being involved in my Church parish, traveling, fishing, and spending time at my camp on the Amite River. My husband Greg and I have been long-time Scout Leaders during our 15-year-old's journey from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. Nicholas recently finished up his Eagle Scout project and should obtain his Eagle Scout rank soon!

What You Don't Know... But Really Should!

Brenda Galle, Director of Computer Support

Staffing:

Prior to Katrina, we had a team of 10; now we're at 7. It's difficult providing the level of support we do for such a broad area of users (MEB, CSRB, LEC, CEB, UMOB, Foundation, Children's Hospital, school-based clinics, and soon the new LCRC) in addition to addressing the tasks that Enterprise Computer Services delegates to us. Thankfully, I manage a very knowledgeable and dedicated group of folks who work tirelessly for the benefit of the SOM and the HSC. However, extra help would indeed be nice!

Computer Services vs. Computer Support:

Computer Services: They provide functionality at an Enterprise level (networking, account creation, application access, network backups, etc.), issues IT policies, and dictates which software solutions are implemented on an enterprise level (encryption, anti-virus, mobile device mgmt., etc.). They maintain the 568-HELP number and routinely forward users on to us.

SOM Computer Support: each School has their own Computer Support Team that handles desktop support and serves as the liaison between the School's end users and Computer Services. All IT requests should always be routed through your local IT supporter via the respective building distribution list (see below for a listing).

Help Desk:

We don't have a dedicated SOM Help Desk operator, so our MEB supporters take turns answering the help desk line whenever they are not in the field assisting users. If you should happen to get our answering machine, please leave a detailed message, including your name, department, phone number, building, and room number, and we'll get back to you. Please realize that it's difficult working a complaint desk day-in and day-out. Rarely is anyone in a good mood when reporting a problem about his or her computer or the network. Take some time to tell your IT supporter "Thank you" every once in a while. A few kind words go a long way!

Phishing:

Learn not to respond! While most people are getting better at reporting phishing attempts, we still have a few users who foolishly respond to these attempts and then wonder why their accounts get disabled. There is no reason to ever click on a link included in a suspicious email. Always ask your supporter when in doubt about the legitimacy of an email.

Welcome New Comers!

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to the following faculty members who have joined the School of Medicine Family since January 1, 2012:

Ritu Bhalla, M.D. (Pathology)
Todd Brickman, M.D., Ph.D. (Otorhinolaryngology)
Jennifer Cmaeron, Ph.D. (Microbiology, Immunology, and Parasitology)
Kathleen Crapanzano, M.D. (Psychiatry)
Paul DiMartino, M.D. (Orthopaedics)
Anita Jeyakumar, M.D. (Otorhinolaryngology)
Michelle Loch, M.D. (Internal Medicine)
Christopher McGowin, Ph.D. (Microbiology, Immunology, and Parasitology)
Amarjit Naura, Ph.D. (Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics)
Sanbao Ruan, M.D. (Internal Medicine)
Eliana Soto, M.D. (Surgery)
Bahri Ustunsoz, M.D. (Radiology)

If you know of anyone else who we missed, please let us know!

When searching PubMed, CINAHL, A or any other database, have you ever wished there was a better way to get from the citation to the article you want without having to look here and there to find it?

Check out the Library's WebBridge Link Resolver that will give you the opportunity to check for the available full-text or print version of an article right there at the citation.

For more info:

<https://www.lsuhsoc.edu/no/library/news/?p=6457>

It's happened!

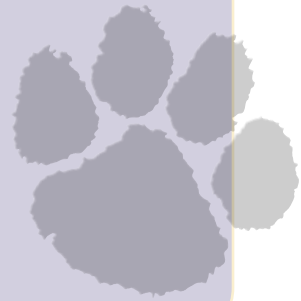
You want to smoke?
Go off campus.



LSUHSC is now completely smoke free!

Camp Tiger Auction

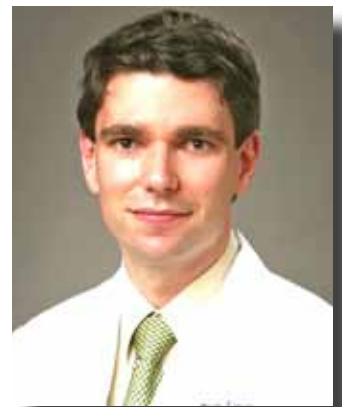
Each year since 1985 the freshman class of the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans has hosted a week-long summer day camp for children who are physically, cognitively, or emotionally challenged called Camp Tiger. The camp is organized, staffed solely by students and runs during the first week following the freshman final exams in late May. To date, Camp Tiger has served more than 1,600 children from the Greater New Orleans area and strives to host as many children as possible at each year's camp. Hosting Camp Tiger for 130 campers costs approximately \$120,000 and the Annual Camp Tiger Benefit Auction is the main source of funding for Camp Tiger. This year, the Class of 2015 stayed with tradition and held its "Wild About Camp Tiger" Benefit Auction at the New Orleans Museum of Art on April 13th. The auction consisted of a silent auction where patrons bid on items as varied as fine art and jewelry to student produced art and photography. The second component is a live auction where guests bid on vacations, special gift packages and sports memorabilia. Through the support of faculty, classmates and alumni, but most importantly from the contributions of their families and friends, the Class of 2015 held the most successful fund raising event ever in the 27-year history of Camp Tiger, raising in excess of \$65,000! Well done and kudos to the all the Camp Tiger Committees, Camp Director and Secretary, James Barrios and Daniel Punecky, and all the Auction Chairs and Auction Committees!



Researching the Researchers

Background:

I was born in Bogota, Colombia where I completed medical school at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. After medical school I worked one year at a Colombian lab performing malaria research with Manuel E. Patarroyo's group. I came to New Orleans for my residency in Neurology, which I completed at Tulane. During my last year of residency I decided I wanted to do research in neuroimmunology. Since my wife's residency program was a year longer than mine, I started a master's program in Public Health at Tulane to learn biostatistics. After this, I moved to Oregon for my fellowship in MS and neuroimmunology, where I had great mentors, Drs. Dennis Bourdette and Ruth Whitham. After a third year of fellowship in San Francisco, where I worked with Dr. Daniel Pelletier, I moved back to Oregon and started working at OHSU as a junior faculty. During the fellowship I realized that I was more interested in figuring out ways to protect neurons from dying in people with MS than to try to develop new immune therapies. My wife decided that she did not like Portland's weather and wanted to move back close to her family in New Orleans. So, upon moving back to New Orleans in 2008, Dr. Anne Foundas agreed to be my mentor for my K23 award along with Dr. Bourdette.



Jesus Lovera, MD, MsPH

Academic position and Department: Assistant Professor, Department of Neurology

What do you want to tell people about your research?

My K23 project's goal is to determine if Polyphenon E, a green tea extract, has any neuroprotective effects in people with MS. MS is an autoimmune disease where the immune system targets the myelin in the brain and spinal cord. Not only myelin is damaged, but also axons and neurons. Some of the axonal damage is acute while there is active inflammation but a significant portion of the damage may be due to slow injury to the axons and neurons that survive the first inflammatory attack. We are measuring n-acetyl-aspartate (NAA) level in the brain as our marker for neuroprotection. NAA in the adult is made only by neurons in their mitochondria. If the mitochondria are working fine then NAA levels are high; while if the neurons are being injured NAA levels drop. We are expecting to see NAA levels rise after treatment with active drug. We measure NAA levels in vivo using magnetic resonance spectroscopy using the high field (3T) scanner at LSU ILH. We completed a pilot open label phase with ten subjects where we found that treatment with Polyphenon E for six months increased NAA levels by ten percent. Now we are confirming these results in a randomized placebo controlled trial.

Realizing a Dream – Giving to the Community

Aditi S. Iyengar, Graduate Student Editor

A lot of us are probably familiar with the chirpy Ms Karen Williams, an LSUHSC employee and Custodian. However, few of us know of the amazing and inspiring work she has done through the Habitat for Humanity program in New Orleans. Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization that works with low income families to build and finance affordable homes. This program makes homeownership a distinct possibility for families that have stable jobs but are yet unable to raise home loans. Karen Williams, a proud mother of three, along with her husband Theodore Williams have always wanted to be homeowners. Habitat for Humanity has provided them with an opportunity that would let them finally realize their dreams. Apart from juggling work at LSUHSC, providing for her family and raising kids and grandkids, Ms Karen also manages to squeeze in some time to volunteer for habitat for humanity. She and her family devote 250 hours towards the construction of new homes in damaged neighborhoods in the New Orleans area and in return for their services, they will be granted an additional 100 hours of work towards the building of their own home. “This program will allow my family to be together in our own home. I am honored and blessed to be a part of this organization. Since being a part of habitat for humanity, our lives have taken a 360.” she enthusiastically quips. What motivated her to do this? Ms Karen says it was her son that made her realize that she could take her wish and make it real if she really wanted to. Smiling, she says “I didn’t think I was capable of doing it, but my son inspired me.” Asked about her experiences at habitat, she says she had a blast! She gets to meet different people and students from around the country who travel to different cities, volunteering for Habitat for Humanity. In the process, she has now made lifelong friends.



Ms Karen is a shining example of good will, faith and determination. We, at LSUHSC are very proud of Ms Karen and all her efforts! There are many more out there just like her who require volunteers to lend a helping hand and assist in building, as Ms Karen put it, “-not only new homes but also brand new lives.” Anybody interested in volunteering, please visit Habitat for Humanity online or contact the editor, Andrew D. Hollenbach, aholle@lsuhsc.edu and he will put you in touch with Ms Karen who can give more details.

Seen Out and About on the Town Serving Others!

The LSUHSC-New Orleans School Partnership Program, co-directed by Drs. Fern Tsien, Udai Pandey, and Jaime Becnel (Department of Pharmacology), hosted the 4th graders from Bannaker Elementary and Langston Hughes Elementary School for an educational workshop. (See associated story in this issue of The Pulse).

Dr. Paula Gregory is working with the students in Warren Easton’s STEM Academy, having formed a year-long partnership with the students in the genetics/forensics section of the STEM Academy. Warren Easton Charter High School is the oldest public high school in the state of LA and the only open-admission New Orleans public high school to receive an A+ rating in 2011. The STEM Academy is funded through a USDOE Gulf coast Recovery Grant. The purpose of the STEM Academy is to improve Scienc Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics for all students at Warren Easton.

Cancer Center:

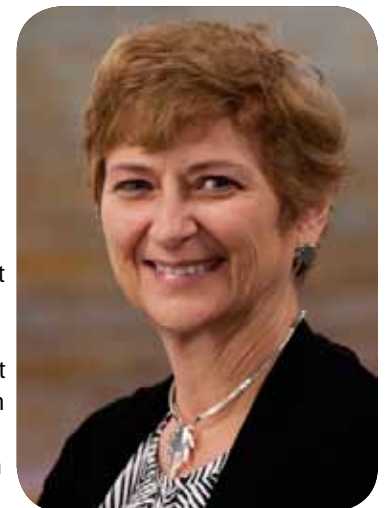
The Dillard-HSUHSC Center for Minority Health, led by the LSUHSC co-PI Dr. John Estrada, through a collaboration with the University of Alabama, Birmingham’s Minority Health & Disparities Research Center, purchased over \$8,000 in scientific supplies for the Dr. King Charter school in the lower 9th ward to support the long-term involvement of minority students in biomedical research.

Reaching Out through Innovation

Mary Coleman, MD, PhD, Director of Community Health, joined the LSU health care community and School of Medicine last July. A family physician herself, she wishes to imbue the model of the patient centered medical home throughout LSU’s primary care medical practices and training sites.

The patient centered medical home (PCMH) is a model of the organization of primary care that delivers the core functions of primary health care with five main functions and attributes. It is patient-centered, that is relationship based with an orientation toward the whole person. It is comprehensive, meeting the patient’s physical and mental health needs, including prevention and wellness, acute care and chronic care, using an interprofessional team of care providers. Care is coordinated across all elements of the health care system, including specialty care, hospital, home health and community services. The PCMH provides superb access to care, delivering services with shorter waiting times for urgent needs, providing extended office hours, and ensuring after hour access via telephone and electronically. The medical home is committed to quality and safety, by engaging in performance measurement and improvement, measuring and responding to patient experiences, using evidence based medicine and clinical decision support tools and practicing population management. Demonstration projects across the country have shown that the PCMH reduces both unnecessary emergency room visits and hospitalizations, reduces ancillary and specialty costs, improves quality indicators such as diabetes control, and maintains patient satisfaction.

Dr. Coleman is involved in several efforts and initiatives. She provides a monthly session to third year medical students rotating on their family medicine clerkship. She has spearheaded, with faculty from medicine, pharmacy, nursing and social work, the creation of a care management team of interprofessional learners that meets weekly to manage high risk diabetic patients who attend the Diabetes Internal Medicine (DIME) clinic as part of the internal medicine residency clinic on Poydras Avenue. She is working with LSU’s faculty practice to begin medical home implementation at the St. Charles Avenue. As part of that initiative, she has invited family medicine residents at the Kenner site to use their quality improvement training requirement to seek NCOA certification as a medical home. Future work includes the establishment of PCMH in the St. Bernard Bayou area. Dr. Coleman is also working with the Health Care Service Division and the School of Public Health to seek grant funds to establish a system of using patient experiences to inform quality improvement and patient centered outcomes research.



What's Going On in YOUR Neck of the Woods!

Cancer Center:

On March 25 – 26, 2012, through a grant from the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities, LSUHSC, Dillard University, and the University of Alabama Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Center hosted the “impact of Environmental Disasters on Vulnerable Populations” conference. This conference provided a first Opportunity for the three states to develop a comprehensive approach to addressing both the short- and long-term consequences of the BP Oil Spill and other man-made Disasters.

Dr. Paulo Rodriguez, Ph.D (Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Parasitology) received his first NIH R21 grant award entitled “Notch-1 in T Cells: a central mediator of tumor induced anergy”, which aims to provide mechanistic insights into the suppression of T-cells by myeloid-derived suppressor cells (MDSC) in cancer. This study may also enable the design of new therapeutic approaches to reverse T cell tolerance in cancer or other conditions such as autoimmune diseases, chronic infections, and trauma, which are characterized by the accumulation of MDSC.

Otolaryngology:

The LSU Department of Otolaryngology announces the opening of The New Orleans Head and Neck Center: A Joint Program of LSU Health, Touro Infirmary, and Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, opening in July 2012 in the St. Charles Medical Office Building on the Touro campus. Doctors throughout the Louisiana and the Gulf Coast region refer their most challenging, unusual, advanced and complex head and neck patients to physicians of the LSU Department of Otolaryngology. With a reputation for outstanding patient care in an efficient, compassionate environment, including multiple recognitions for excellence in U.S. News and World Report, we are uniquely equipped to provide highly specialized care for patients who suffer from virtually any problem affecting the head and neck. The services that will be provided in our new location address a wide spectrum of specialized problems. The physicians of the NOHNC are well-known and broadly experienced.

Dr. Daniel Nuss, the director of the practice and chairman of the Department, has a clinical practice that includes traditional head and neck oncology as well as management of skull base diseases, using minimally invasive and endoscopic technology.

Dr. Anna Pou offers expertise in head and neck oncology, microvascular reconstruction for head and neck deformities, thyroid and parathyroid surgery, and rehabilitation of the head and neck cancer patient.

Dr. Rohan Walvekar practices head and neck oncology and endoscopic, minimally invasive thyroid surgery, robotic surgery, and sialendoscopy.

Dr. Sean Weiss focuses on Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, with special interest in minimally invasive techniques to achieve optimal results providing a comprehensive approach to facial aesthetics.

Dr. Todd Brickman has expertise in resection and reconstruction of head and neck tumors, and also performs endocrine surgery; ha also has vast experience in management of facial trauma and reconstruction.

This aggregate of expertise, along with a multidisciplinary and individualized patient care approach, allows the doctors of LSU Health, New Orleans to continue offering patients the most advanced, comprehensive and specialized services available anywhere. For appointments please call (504) 412-1122.



Genetics:

Judy Crabtree, Ph.D., received a travel award from The Endocrine Society to attend the How to Secure Promotion and Tenure Workshop and Reception at the ENDO 2012: The Endocrine Society's 94th Annual Meeting and Expo being held June 23 – 26, 2012 in Houston, TX.

Dr. Crabtree was appointed as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge, LA.

Dr. Crabtree was also accepted for participation in the Early Career Reviewer (ECR) program at the Center for Scientific Review (CSR) for the National Institutes of Health. This program allows junior, non-NIH funded investigators to participate in NIH-study section reviews to provide them with critical experience in the grant review process.

Paula Gregory, Ph.D., received the first ever T35 grant issued by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), Dr. Gregory also received an R25 grant from the NIAAA, which allows the support of five high school students, ten undergraduate students, and five medical students in the Summer Research Internship Program. Dr. Gregory was also awarded a second T35 grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) to support twelve medical students. Finally, Dr. Gregory will also serve as a Co-PI on the SEPA grant entitled “Best Science” with Ochsner Hospital.

Dr. Gregory was also nominated for the Aesculapian Excellence in teaching Award for the spring freshman and medical school courses.

Andrew Hollenbach, Ph.D., was selected from nearly 100 applicants to serve on the Association of American Medical College's LGBT Patient Care Advisory Panel, whose job is to develop methods and curricula for the incorporation of Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender issues into undergraduate medical education.

Diptasri Mandal, Ph.D. has been appointed Associate in the Department of Health, Behavior & Society in the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD.

Udai Pandey, Ph.D. was invited and has accepted a position as Academic Editor for the scientific journal PLoS ONE.

Pediatrics:

R. Adam Noel, M.D. presented information about his recent cases and the cases he has collected nationally of injuries associated with children swallowing “rare earth” magnets to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission on June 5, 2012.

Rural Track Awards

The LSU School of Medicine recognized the graduating members of the Rural Scholars Track (RST) Class of 2012 at two events in April. Nine students in Lafayette and five students in New Orleans, as well as their families and rural physician mentors, gathered to celebrate their achievements and commitment to rural medicine in Louisiana. The graduating students include: Sharhonda Biley of Washington, Ashley Bordelon of New Roads, Amanda Bray of Negreet, Jacob Breaux of Breaux Bridge, Megan Butler of Amite, Rachel Coleman-Pierron of Bourg, Wonestta Collins of Donaldsonville, Sara Doguet of Tepeate, Megan Hartman of Valentine, Kimberly Hoffpaair of Indian Bayou, Derek Johnson of Jonesville, Ashley Mullins of Arcadia, Julie Rodgers of Bastrop, and Christopher Whipple of Bourg. Each of these students have committed to practicing primary care in rural Louisiana upon the completion of their residency training. Including the class of 2012, the Rural Scholars Track has 53 graduates, with 13 RST physicians in practice since 2005.



Rural Scholars Track – New Orleans students (from left): Megan Hartman, Christopher Whipple, Rachel Coleman-Pierron, and Wonestta Collins. Not pictured Megan Butler.

During the recognition ceremony, students offered their thoughts on their experiences working with the physicians. Of her rural physician Dr. James Taylor, student Megan Butler said, “In his office I learned the art of practicing medicine. He taught me the importance of knowing the right answer and doing the right thing; but by example he also taught me how to connect and build a partnership built on trust with patients. I know what it means to work a little harder for a patient because they trust that you will do the right thing for them from working with Dr. Taylor.”



Rural Scholars Track – Lafayette students (from left): Derek Johnson, Julie Rodgers, Ashley Mullins, Amanda Bray, Sharhonda Biley, Sara Doguet, and Ashley Bordelon. Not pictured Jacob Breaux and Kimberly Hoffpaair.

RST students spend one day a week, every week, of their third and fourth years of medical school working with their rural physicians, or preceptors. This affords them the opportunity to provide continuity care for patients, as well as get an in-depth look at how a rural practice is managed and maintained. By the completion of medical school, the RST students have a significant head start on understanding the needs and nuances of the delivery of medical care in a rural environment.

Medicine Research Day

Medicine Research Day was held on February 3 and again was a huge success! Congratulations for this year's winners:

Best Poster:

Tayyab Rehman

“T Helper 17 cells are increased in lungs of older mice”

Best Poster – Honorable Mention:

Samuel Harris

“Multiple liver abscesses due to Yersinia enterocolitica uncovering hemochromatosis”

Best Oral Presentation – Basic Research:

Michelle Kelly

“Memory CD4+ T cells are required for optimal natural killer cell effector function against the opportunistic fungal pathogen, Pneumocystis murina”

Best Oral Presentation – Clinical Research:

Lan Chi Luu

“Impaired metabolic flexibility in the Vietnamese Americans”

Best Oral Presentation – Clinical Vignette:

Brian Corcoran

“Metastatic cavitary lung nodules: an uncommon presentation of ovarian cancer”

Each winner received a \$250 credit at the LSUHSC bookstore for purchase of educational materials.

Aesculapian Society

The Aesculapian Society would like to congratulate the following winners of the Excellence in Teaching Awards:

L1 Faculty Excellence in Teaching:

Wayne Vedeckis, Ph.D. (Biochemistry)

Richard Whitworth, Ph.D. (Cell Biology and Anatomy)

L2 Faculty Excellence in Teaching:

Richard DeCarlo, M.D. (SPM)

Robin McGoe, M.D. (Pathology)

Intern Excellence in Teaching:

Lindsey Beakley, M.D. (Surgery)

(Nominated by the class of 2013)

Bahnsen Miller, M.D. (Internal Medicine) (Nominated by the class of 2012)

Resident Excellence in Teaching:

Katie Bruno, M.D. (Pediatrics)

(Nominated by the class of 2013)

Ikechukwu “Ike” Obih, M.D. (Neurology)

(Nominated by the class of 2012)

Attending Excellence in Teaching:

Dean Laurel, M.D. (Internal Medicine)

(Nominated by the class of 2013)

Jen Avegno, M.D. (Emergency Medicine)

(Nominated by the class of 2012)

Junior Faculty Excellence in Teaching:

Murtuza “Zee” Ali, M.D. (Internal Medicine)

AOA inductees

Congratulations to the following individuals for election to membership in the Beta of Louisiana Chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society:

Junior Students:

Jenny Zhang, Ryan Rebowe, Ben Niland, Daniel Kolinsky, John Wilkinson, Ahmad Jabbar, Lauren Bergeron.

House Staff:

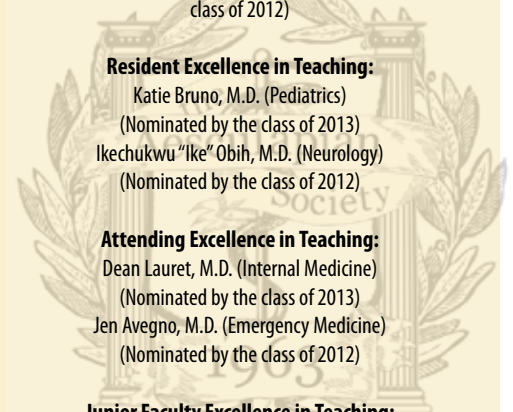
Elizabeth Bollinger, Justin Fowlkes, Kelly Lastrapes

Faculty:

Jess Duet, Lee Nesbit

Alumni/Alumnae:

Sandra Kemmerly, Charles Schible



the students' forum

Serendipity, Fish Tacos, and Science – Lessons Learned from EB

Aditi S. Iyengar, Graduate Student in Genetics

Experimental Biology (EB) 2012, San Diego, 5 days away from lab – this is what I had been waiting for since Christmas! Armed with a ton of formal wear (nice clothes we never usually wear in lab), and oodles of enthusiasm, we touched down in San Diego ready to learn science, to be inspired, to bask in the glory of biological gobbledegook most normal people don't understand and a lot of people just ignore. This was going to be great! Well, it was... just not the way we expected it to be. EB is a gargantuan, multi-disciplinary scientific conference that brings together researchers from various fields of the biological sciences. As a result, the science is too fragmented and research areas too broad to enable any sort of education in sub specialized fields like mine. So apart from a handful of short talks and posters, I found very few events that were applicable to me in a purely scientific manner.

However, when our PI whisked us away to non-science related talks, including one on the use of social media as a tool for career development, I found myself eagerly listening and learning. This short seminar, followed by a quick chat with the presenter was more riveting than the entire afternoon of poster sessions. This got me thinking that maybe there is more to learn from these conferences than just how to conduct bench research. Another non science related event was a career development workshop for burgeoning graduate students and post-doctoral fellows, which was primarily designed to impart to us a 'skill set' we might want to employ in finding jobs out in the real world. As well known and successful scientists and entrepreneurs took the stage and hypnotized us with their glossy bio data impressively displayed in crisp bullet points, a general theme stood out – serendipity, lucky break, unexpected results, and curious coincidence. As a grad student, I greatly appreciate the all-powerful might of luck, or its lack thereof. However, the aggressive advertisement of serendipity as the poster child of research was disturbing. Over fish tacos (which my PI and lab-mate insisted on eating everyday) under the not so sunny San Diego sky, we asked ourselves - Does serendipity play such a huge role in the paving of a path in research? Do we need to 'coincidentally' live in the

basement of Nobel laureates to kick-start our careers? Is our most defining moment going to be a mere accidental byproduct of a failed experiment? And what is all this fuss about networking?

After a grueling day of poster presentations and categorically purloining free merchandise from the vendor shows, we decided to attend a mixer hosted by ASBMB at a local brewery. This is where I had my first brush with 'networking' and 'serendipitous meetings'. Over complimentary drinks and food (two thumbs up!) we met some really interesting people who had opted out of the traditional route of academics or industry and forged a career away from the bench in small businesses, science policy, writing, editing and blogging. Talking with this eclectic mix of professionals, I realized how vast the world of science is and how multifaceted the business of research could be. What I took away from that night was the dire need for us, especially students and post docs, to really educate ourselves and explore the many opportunities that are being continually offered by organizations such as ASBMB or AAAS to hone skills other than those that we acquire working at the bench. As important as networking and serendipity are, it is what we make of these chances that come our way that is vital to fulfilling our expectations.

On the whole, I urge all students to attend a big meeting like EB if you get a chance. You never know what you will get to learn! My lessons were that slaving away at the bench, while important, isn't the crux of science, that there is a huge network of people out there that do things differently within the sphere of research and still make a huge impact in the life sciences community, and 'fish tacos' and 'serendipity' are my least favorite words.



PhD Recipients

Congratulations go out to the following SOM graduate students as they received their Ph.D.'s and were hooded during the May 17th graduation ceremonies:

Matthew William Auten

Microbiology, Immunology and Parasitology, Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics,
Alistair J. Ramsey PI

Sarah Mahne

Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics,
Kurt Varner, PI

Lyndsey Buckner

Microbiology, Immunology and Parasitology, Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics,
Alison J. Quayle PI

Manish Kumar Rana

Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics,
Becky Worthylake, PI

Sun Mi Choi

Genetics,
Jay Kolls, PI

Annie Whitaker

Physiology,
Patricia Molina, PI

Alain D'Souza

Genetics,
Judd Shellito PI

Purvaba Sarvaiya

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology,
Wayne Vedeckis, PI

Youssef Errami

Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics,
Hamid Boulares, PI

David Stark

Neuroscience,
Nicolas Bazan, PI

Mary Worrel Hulin

Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics,
Peter Winsauer, PI

Benjamin Siddoway

Neuroscience,
Hugh Xia, PI

Rennie Jacobs

Cell Biology and Anatomy,
Erich Richter, PI

Xin Xu

Neuroscience,
Youming Lu, PI

Elisa Ledet

Genetics,
Diptasri Mandal, PI

David Edward Litner

Masters of Science Neuroscience,
Nicolas Bazan, PI

Conference Guide for Medical Students: Lessons Learned from Internal Medicine 2012

Ryan Estaris (SOM Class of 2014)

Are you a novice at the professional conference circuit? The ACP council of Student Members recollected their experiences at Internal Medicine 2012 and compiled a helpful guide for prospective conference attendees. Here are some tips to make the most of your next professional conference:

- Search for funds: Many medical school Departments of Medicine are willing to support student attendance and possibly travel. Check with your department office, internal medicine clerkship director or residency program director for more details.
- Plan a schedule: Many times meetings have on-line planners. Use these planners to help develop a schedule of the scientific courses, exhibits or clinical skills sessions you are most interested in attending.
- Dress for Success: It is best to check the conference website for any specifics and when in doubt, go formal.
- Explore and take notes: Make sure you stop by the poster sessions. You might be interested to see what others are researching. If you see something interesting, make a note of it. You never know what might be useful to you later. Go through the exhibition halls at least once during the conference.
- Utilize the clinical skills sessions: You get opportunities to practice some procedures, learn new surgical techniques, and get hands on experience with physical examination tutorials.
- Network! Take the time to network with other fellow students and physicians. You can also attend your local chapter at the chapter receptions to meet people from your area. Also, stop by the student hospitality suite and attend student socials. You might want to bring personalized business cards for some serious networking.
- Enjoy! Apart from the attending the meeting and participating in professional activities, make sure you take time off to enjoy and explore the city where the conference is being held. Over all, make the most of your experience both professionally and personally!

the students' forum cont.

A Jungle Adventure for Children with Special Needs: Camp Tiger 2012

By James Barrios

Camp Tiger was founded in 1985 by first-year students from the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans. Its mission is to give children with special needs an enjoyable summer camp experience. For the campers, this may be their only chance during the summer to participate in an organized summer camp that allows them to socialize with other children without being singled out for their disability. Camp Tiger is organized and staffed each year by volunteers from the first-year medical class. Due to extensive fundraising efforts by the freshman medical class, the campers get to participate at no cost to their families. Each year, Dr. Joseph Delcarpio, the Camp Tiger faculty advisor, works closely with the camp director to make the week-long camp as successful as possible for all involved. James Barrios, the Vice-President of Community Affairs for the Class of 2015, served as the 2012 Camp Tiger director for this year's camp.

The camp theme for this year was "Wild about Camp Tiger 2012," a jungle theme, which set the tone for the fun that was had all week. The campers enjoyed trips to exciting places such as the Audubon Zoo and Aquarium, the New Orleans Children's Museum, Global Wildlife Center, Adventure Quest Lazertag to name just a few. The camp was nonstop fun for not only the campers but the counselors as well. The Class of 2015 would like to thank all those involved with planning and operating Camp Tiger including Dr. Delcarpio, the Office of Student Affairs Staff, the Camp Tiger Chairpersons, and the incoming Medical Class of 2016 for making Camp Tiger 2012 a wild success. Most of all, the Class of 2015 will be forever grateful for the opportunity to interact with such a special group of campers and their families. Camp Tiger 2012 was a huge success and the perfect ending to an exciting first year of medical school.

Graduate Student SGA Report

The spring semester was filled with opportunities for the graduate students to broaden their horizons for life after professional school. The School of Allied Health Professions sponsored a lecture series geared towards graduating students that covered home ownership, finances, and different types of insurances to prepare students for life after professional school. In addition the Department of Biochemistry opened its Professional Skills course to the entire student body providing seminars focused on alternative career paths, ranging from industry to patent law. Graduate students also participated in the LSUHSC-New Orleans School Science Partnership Science Field Day, which is part of the ongoing program that helps provide elementary students with a better understanding of science through hands on experience. The graduate students teamed up with the School of Public Health for intramural softball, in which team Haz Dat had an awesome season! Finally kudos to the following awardees: Kavaljit Chhabra, 2012 recipient of the Mead Johnson Research Award-Endocrine Section (American Physiological Society); Travis Doggett, Young Investigator Award (Society of Experimental Biology and Medicine); Anasheh Halabi, travel grant and selected for oral presentation (American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology); Arturo Luna Tapia, Invited to the 2012 Fulbright Seminar "From Lab to Market"; and Melissa Scroggin, Caroline Tum Student Research Recognition award for Experimental Biology 2012 (American Physiological Society).



Research Spotlight

Jessica Shields, an M.D./Ph.D. candidate at LSUHSC, was recently accepted into the Medical Research Scholars Program (MRSP) at the National Institutes of Health. The NIH selected a group of 45 students representing 34 different universities for the inaugural class of the program. The MRSP is a year-long research enrichment program designed to provide mentored training to students at the NIH campus in Bethesda, MD. The program accepts medical (both MD and MD/PhD), osteopathic, dental, and veterinary students. In addition to research, the program incorporates clinical rounds, journal clubs, and speaker series given by NIH leaders.

After finishing the data collection for her dissertation research, Jessica applied to the MRSP to further the training she received at LSUHSC. She will be conducting clinical neurological research building upon the skills that she has been using in her dissertation research. She would like to thank the LSUHSC community for being so supportive of this venture, especially Dr. Anne Foundas, Dr. Kathleen McDonough, and Dr. Paula Gregory. "I am honored to have this opportunity and am looking forward to spending the year at the "Disney land of science" (as the NIH was affectionately called by a speaker at the MRSP interview)," states Shields.

For more info on the program, please visit the website: <http://www.cc.nih.gov/training/mrsp/>

Student Spotlight

Questions with Corey Fredericks



How did you become involved in Rugby?

In college I had a few friends who were on the rugby team, and they convinced me to come out for a practice. After one practice, I was hooked.

How long have you been on the US team? What is your position?

I have been in the US team pool for one year. I play for the 7s team, which is the type of game that will be debuted in the 2016 Olympics. I play either center or prop.

What are the top most memorable competitions you have participated in?

One of my most memorable moments was attending the 7s All-Stars Tournament in New York City as part of the South All-Stars team in 2010. I had never competed at that of high level, surrounded by national players and former national team members. We ended up getting second place after a hard-fought final, which shocked many teams because the South isn't known for its great rugby prowess on the national stage.

Have you gotten to meet any interesting people through rugby?

Rugby is filled with interesting characters. I have been privileged to play with a woman who went to the Olympics twice for handball, with a female Army helicopter pilot who toured in Iraq, and with the top scoring female Eagles player in the history of the sport. These women served as my mentors, dousing me in their knowledge with every game. However, some of the more impressive people I've met through rugby are the "weekend warriors," those players that must maintain a full-time job and a family while also dedicating themselves to the sport. Without those men and women, the sport would quickly fizzle out.

How are you able to balance life as a medical student with your rugby commitments?

I simply tell myself I have to do it. It's what makes me happy; what keeps me grounded. All of my close friends are in this sport, and without their support, I wouldn't be where I am today. I owe it to them and to the sport to not abandon it as soon as I've reached all of my personal goals.

Do you feel that your unique experience will help you as a doctor?

In relation to being a doctor, if I pursue a career in sports medicine my experiences will definitely help me. Only athletes can truly understand other athletes. That understanding is even more important when it comes to rugby players – only a rugger can understand another rugger. Outside spectators watch the sport in the horror while players just see amazing tackles. I hope to be a touring doctor with the women's team one day so I can stay involved in the sport even when I'm too old to play.

Seen in the papers

Dr Shyamal Desai, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology LSUHSC recently published an article (Shyamal D Desai, Ryan E Reed, et al. "ISG15 disrupts cytoskeletal architecture and promotes motility in human breast cancer cells"), which reports a key change in the body's defense system which increases the incidence of breast cancer metastasis. This research, published in the January 2012 issue of *Experimental Biology and Medicine*, brings to attention the cellular defense system ISG15 which is deregulated in breast cancer, bringing about disruption of cytoskeletal function and increased metastasis.



Russell R. Russo, M.D., Department of Orthopaedics, have identified the street drug 'bath salts' as a new source of life threatening necrotizing fasciitis (Russo R, Marks N, Morris K, King H, Gelvin A, Rooney R, "Life-threatening necrotizing fasciitis due to 'bath salts' injection"). This report, published in the January 2012 issue of *Orthopedics*, is one of the first known studies describing the development of necrotizing fasciitis from an intramuscular injection of the street drug 'bath salts'. This study also makes a point of noting that as these street drugs gain popularity, medical centers must be prepared to deal with not only effects of intoxication, but also side effects including deadly necrotizing fasciitis.

Dr Wanguo Liu, Department of Genetics at LSUHSC has identified a new protein, ARD1, as critical to the development and growth of prostate cancer. These findings published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (Wang Z, Guo J, Li Y, Bavarva JH, Qian C, Brahimi-Horn MC, Tan D, Liu W "Inactivation of androgen-induced regulator ARD1 inhibits androgen receptor acetylation and prostate tumorigenesis") found that ARD1, a protein associated with the male hormone androgen, is overproduced in a majority of prostate cancer samples and that its inhibition results in the complete suppression of prostate cancer cell growth. This study provides a novel mechanism for controlling Androgen Receptor mediated prostate cancer by directly inhibiting the function of ARD1 or AR-ARD1 interaction.



Honors, Awards, and Congratulations

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Dr. Suresh Alahari

has been selected as one of *New Orleans Magazine's* Top People to Watch in 2012! His picture and profile will appear in the annual People to Watch Issue, which will hit newsstands in September of this year.

Cell Biology and Anatomy

Jessica Shields,

M.D./Ph.D. student, received the Roland P. Mackay Award at the 64th American Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting in New Orleans on April 25. This award is given in recognition of outstanding achievement in historical research.

Genetics

Dr. Paula Gregory,

along with Dr. Jawed Alam at Ochsner, will serve as a Co-PI in a 5-year, \$1.25 million Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) from the National Institutes of Health to fund BEST (Bioscience Enrichment for Students and Teachers) Science! This award is one of only two SEPA grants awarded in the entire state of Louisiana to date. BEST Science! aims to advance an interest in biomedical research and health sciences in New Orleans area high school students and ultimately stimulate further education and vocation in these areas and is expected to impact more than 11,000 students and more than 130 teachers in the New Orleans Metropolitan Area through 2017. The program is a partnership between LSUHSC, Ochsner's Academic Community Outreach Department, and local school districts.

Infant, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Dr Martin J. Drell, MD,

the Carlo Adatto professor of community psychiatry and Head of Infant, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at LSUHSC has been installed as President of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP). He will serve a two year term. The AACAP is the leading national professional medical association dedicated to treating and improving the quality of life for children, adolescents, and families affected by mental, behavioral or mental disorders.

OB/GYN

Dr Amy Young, MD,

who is the Abe Mickal Professor and Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology at LSUHSC, was installed as President of the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics (APGO) during the APGO annual meeting in Orlando, Florida. APGO represents academic obstetrician-gynecologists in the US and Canada.

Physiology

Dr Jerome Breslin, PhD.,

was presented with the Microcirculatory Society Travel Award for Outstanding Young Investigator at the Experimental Biology conference 2012.

Psychiatry

Dr Howard Osfosky, MD, PhD.,

(Professor and Chairman of Psychiatry, LSUHSC) and Dr Joy Osfosky, PhD., (Professor and Head of the Division of Pediatric Mental Health, LSUHSC) have been provisionally awarded a \$14.4 million grant through the BP Oil Spill Settlement Agreement to fund mental and behavioral health treatment and longer-term supportive services to people and communities affected by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

Urology

Dr J. Christian Winters MD.,

the H. Eustis Reily Professor and Chairman of Urology at LSUHSC has been elected President of the Society of Urodynamics, Female Pelvic Medicine and Urogenital Reconstruction for a two year term.



Postdocs in Action!

The Postdoctoral Association had a productive year. We held elections in December, 2011: Jaime Becnel, President, Gyanendra Singh, Vice President, Oralee Johnson, Secretary and Virginia Ronchi, Treasurer.

We are continuing to host Career Development activities. Dr. Richard Wainford and Dr. Dennis Paul held a seminar on Academic Job interviews for postdocs and senior level grad students, where they gave tips for giving an effective job presentation and negotiating during the interview process. We also hosted several webinars through AWIS on research project management, team leadership, networking and interview techniques. Stay tuned for upcoming career development events. PDA members were included in Biochemistry's Professional Skills Course with invited speakers focusing on technology commercialization, research science in big pharma, medical affairs/medical science liaison, and patent law. Members were also invited to Physiology's

Career Opportunities Session with Dr. Dennis Kelleher, Director of Clinical Pharmacology, Department of Respiratory Medicines Discovery and Development at GlaxoSmithKline. We'd like to thank both departments for extending the invitations to the PDA members.

We held a joint Mardi Gras social with the Graduate Students in February, where members came out to enjoy king cake a coffee and we held a few off-campus "Friday Stress Relief" meet-ups at Tonic on St. Claude and Deanies on Iberville.

We'd like to take a moment to recognize some individual members for awards and achievements over the last few months. Congratulations to Gyanendra Singh (Vice-President) for his appointments to two editorial positions: Editor, Journal of Metabolomics and Systems Biology, and Associate Editor, Universal Journal of Biotechnology and Bioinformatics. He was also awarded full membership from the American College of Toxicology and

appointed lead faculty in Toxicology from webmedcentral, UK. Srinivas Sriramula, PhD (Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics) has had two publications released in Cardiovascular Research (20011, 92:402-408), and in American Journal of Physiological Regulation and Integrated Comprehensive Physiology (2011, 301:R1293-1299). Srinivas also received awards at the 2011 Annual High Blood Pressure Research Conference New Investigator Award (oral presentation) and at the 2012 Central Nervous System section Research Recognition (poster presentation). Finally, Michelle Kelly (Pulmonary Medicine) was awarded a LVC Commercialization grant; Virginia Ronchi (Biochemistry) won 2nd place for the Best Post-doc Poster Award at Graduate Research Day; and Jaime Becnel (Pharmacology) was part of a JOVE video article on techniques and methods used in Drosophila research (3/07/2012). Jaime was also very active with the LSUHSC-Public Schools Science Partnership.



(Left to right) Dr. Stephanie Cormier, Monica Ertel, Dr. Donna Neumann, and Dr. Crabtree sport the AWIS t-shirt.

The South Louisiana Chapter of the Association for Women in Science welcomed the newly elected 2012-2013 chapter officers in January. Those officers serving the local chapter this year are Jamie Becnel as the post-doctoral representative (Pharmacology); Xiping Yue as the treasurer (Physiology); Elizabeth Abboud as the chapter secretary (Tulane University-Dept. of Biochemistry); Paula Gregory as the past-president (Genetics); and Donna Neumann as the president (Pharmacology). One of the goals of the South Louisiana chapter of AWIS is to provide networking opportunities for students, post-doctoral researchers and faculty from all South Louisiana Regional Universities that foster mentoring and collaborative scientific relationships. This year, AWIS member and graduate student Monica Ertel spearheaded a campaign to increase AWIS visibility in the community by organizing an AWIS sponsored running team, consisting of faculty and students, that participate in monthly 5K walks and runs that benefit various charity events. In April, the team participated in their first 5K race, the Nicole Murphy Memorial Tiger Run, held in Audubon Park. Despite the torrential downpour that occurred during the race, all eight members completed the run! For more information about AWIS-SL or the AWIS-SL sponsored running team, please contact Donna Neumann (dneum1@lsuhsc.edu) or Monica Ertel (mkenn1@lsuhsc.edu).

M.D./Ph.D. News

Kathleen McDonough, Ph.D., M.D./Ph.D. Program Director

We want to congratulate our two new graduates of the MD/PhD program – **Alex Yang** and **Rahul Datta**. Alex will be doing a residency in Neurosurgery at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Rahul will join last year's graduate **Sharell Bindom** in the Pediatrics residency program at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. We wish them the best of luck in their future training. Congratulations also go to **Mary Beth Hulin** and **Sun Mi Choi** who received their PhD diplomas on May 17th. They will return to medical school in June. **Ryan Craig** and **Lori Hutcherson** will return to medical school this year also.

Jessica Shields was selected to spend a year at NIH through the Medical Research Scholars Program, which will include participation in research opportunities at the NIH Clinical Center. This program's purpose is to enhance training for future scientists particularly in the promotion of translational research. According to the description published by NIH "MRSP scholars attend courses, seminars, a structured lecture series, and clinical teaching rounds, as well as present their research over the course of the academic year to the NIH community and at domestic professional conferences." Best of luck, Jessica.

Congratulations to **Anasheh Halabi** for receiving funding for her F30 grant from the National Institutes of Health – Institute on Aging. Anasheh joins 7 other MD/PhD students who have received fellowships from the NIH – **Jesse Sulzer, Nick Melvan, Tiffany Eady, David Stark, Rahul Datta, Mary Beth Hulin Sun Mi Choi**.

Six students will join the School of Graduate Studies for their PhD training after they take Step I of the National Board exams. **Minmin Luo** will join the Biochemistry Department; **Myles Ketchum** and **Brendan Burn** will join the Pharmacology program; Stephen Ford will join Physiology and **Valarie Mcmurtry** and **Ferdous Kadri** will join the Microbiology Department.

Jack DePaolo was recently elected to serve on the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) Board of Directors for a two-year term of service beginning July 1, 2012. This is the program that manages the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS).





Dr. Steve Nelson, Dean of the SOM, congratulates Chidimma Osigwe after receiving her white coat

A Rite of Passage, A Moment of Pride

The School of Medicine held its annual White Coat Ceremony on Saturday, July 28, 2012 at the Holy Cross High School Student Center, 5500 Paris Avenue. This year, 188 second-year LSU Health Sciences Center medical students received a white coat, a visible symbol of patient care. During the ceremony, students are “coated” by faculty members chosen by the class for their commitment to medical education and their students.

According to the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, which has donated a Humanism in Medicine lapel pin for each student, the cloaking with the white coat is a hands-on experience that underscores the bonding process. The coat is placed on each student’s shoulders by individuals who believe in the students’ ability to carry on the noble tradition of doctoring. It is a personally delivered gift of faith, confidence and compassion.

In some schools, the white coat marks the students’ entrance to clinical medicine; but since clinical education for LSUHSC medical students begins in their first year, the LSUHSC White Coat Ceremony signifies the students’ increased contact with patients and patient responsibilities, which expand during their sophomore year.

Alumni Awards for Excellence

The LSU SOM Alumni Association established the Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Service to the School in order to recognize and honor individuals who excel at their work and without whom it would be a lesser place. Congratulations go out to the 2011 recipients:

- Ms. Kelly Allerton (Pediatrics)
- Ms. Carmen Barreto (Alumni Affairs)
- Ms. Denise Boudreaux (Medicine/Pulmonary)
- Ms. Melanie Brown (Medicine/Student Affairs)
- Ms. Carolyn Calvin (Student Affairs)
- Ms. Vilma Cervantes (Medicine/Pediatrics)
- Dr. Joseph Delcarpio (Student Affairs)
- Dr. Timothy Foster (Microbiology, Immunology, and Parasitology)
- Dr. Sonia Gasparini (Neuroscience Center of Excellence)
- Ms. Betsy Giaimo (Physiology)
- Dr. Paula Gregory (Genetics)
- Dr. Andrew Hollenbach (Genetics)
- Ms. Karen Jorgenson (Biochemistry/Pharmacology)
- Ms. Deanna Loerwald (Otolaryngology)
- Mr. Daryl Lofaso (Graduate Medical Education)
- Dr. Fern Tsien (Genetics)
- Dr. Dennis Paul (Pharmacology)
- Ms. Andrelle Rondeno (Anesthesiology)
- Ms. Sedette Skaggs (Psychiatry)
- Ms. Kerry Wiltz (Psychiatry)

Summer Students Rock LSU!

Once again, 91 high school, undergraduate, and first year medical students (selected from over 400 applicants) descended on LSUHSC and Tulane School of Medicine for the Summer Research Program, run by Drs. Paula Gregory and Fern Tsien, with assistance from Stephanie Laurent and Heather Shields (both Department of Genetics). The summer program culminated in a poster session in which the high school and undergraduate students presented their work. (The Medical Students will present their posters at a later date.) Congratulations go out to this year’s winners and their mentors:

Tulane Med Student

Peter Gold

Mentor

Dr. Bruce Bunnell

Tulane

Undergraduate

1st Place

Matthew Haskins

(Mentor – Dr. Diptasri Mandal [Genetics])

2nd Place

Madushani Wijetunge

(Mentor – Dr. Astrid Engle [Tulane])

3rd Place

Raven Ward

(Mentor – Dr. Mairi Noverr [Dental School])

High School

1st Place

Junru Yan

(Mentor – Dr. Edward Grabczyk [Genetics])

2nd Place

Senthil Natarajan

(Mentor – Dr. Udai Pandey [Genetics])

3rd Place

Justin Magrath

(Dr. Tarun Mandal
[Xavier University, Pharmaceuticals])

