

Louisiana Lung Cancer Study Newsletter

LSU Health
NEW ORLEANS

School of Medicine
Department of Genetics

What's Inside?

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Welcome Aboard!



Welcome aboard our newest Research Associate Sarah North! Sarah (pictured on the left) is a recent graduate of LSU in Baton Rouge with a Bachelors in Science. Diptasri Mandal, PhD (center) is the Principal Investigator of the Genetic Epidemiology of Lung Cancer Study. Angelle Bencaz, MSPH (on the right) is a Research Associate and has been on the study team for 10 years.

LUNG CANCER FACTS/STATS

- ☆ Lung Cancer is the **2nd most common** type of cancer in both men and women.
- ☆ Recently overall cancer death rate has fallen in the U.S. due to reduction in cigarette smoking and improved treatment for cancers.
- ☆ Advanced lung cancer with metastasis is still deadly and has a survival rate of 5% for five years.
- ☆ The American Cancer Society estimates that each year as many as 20% of the people dying from lung cancer in U.S. are never smokers or non-tobacco users.

Why is genetics important for lung cancer?

In genetics, we study the transmission of genes from one generation to the next. Genetic studies teach us about the inherited genetic variation and underlying biological basis of any diseases that we are interested in studying, in our case, it is lung cancer. Primary focus of our research is studying the genetic predisposition in families with a family history of lung cancer. In other words, these families have a history of having multiple relatives with lung cancer, either alive or deceased. Our goal is to identify the genes that are making these families at high risk for lung cancer. Based on the evidence thus far, 10% of lung cancer cases have at least one first-degree relative with lung cancer and 25% have at least one first- or second-degree relative with lung cancer, signifying that family history is indeed an important risk factor.

According to the American Cancer Society, 13% of all new cancer diagnoses are lung cancers. Rapid ascertainment immediately after diagnosis is very important to our study. The Lung Cancer Study began in 1996, and continuation of this timely and important study would not have been possible without the collaborations among different universities and institutes, hospitals, physicians, genetic counselors, and certainly the study participants. We are part of the Genetic Epidemiology of Lung Cancer Consortium, which is the only consortium in the world that studies familial lung cancer, and we receive funding from the National Institutes of Health. We are grateful for everyone's support and contribution.

Over the years, we have continued working with the families and participants that are passionate about helping out the cause for lung cancer research. We are introducing new research strategies as the technology and our understanding in genetics is advancing. We are hopeful that our team work will produce great strides towards prevention, early diagnosis, and improved therapy for timely treatment of this cancer.



If you know someone who has been diagnosed with lung cancer, please share our study information with them. And if you would like to get in touch with us, please give us a call at our toll-free number **1-888-720-7757**, email us at LungCaStudy@lsuhsc.edu, or visit our website at <http://www.medschool.lsuhs.edu/lungcancer> for more information and to fill out our **Study Participation Form**.

WE ARE COUNTING ON YOUR HELP



Family genetic studies are important for lung cancer research. Since the inception of our research study in 1996, we have screened roughly 2,300 patients to see if their families qualify with our eligibility criteria. This number may look small, but that is a number pulled from over 12,000 alleged lung cancer cases. This is a multi-step study, and in order to get 2,300 patients, we needed to comply with several study steps. Of those 2,300, 35% reported a family history of lung cancer. However, we were unable to enroll all 35% because lung cancer is a rapidly fatal disease and the families understandably needed time for themselves to cope with their unfortunate circumstances. It is important for everyone to understand the significant contribution of this genetics research study to the field of lung cancer and how timely referral is key to a successful outcome. We are 100% HIPAA compliant. If you know someone who might qualify for our study, please get in touch with us. Our contact information is shared on the first page. This study is conducted remotely and we provide all the study materials free of charge to the participants through the mail.

STAY CURRENT: THE TRUTH ABOUT E-CIGARETTES AND VAPING



- * E-cigarettes and other vaping devices are NOT risk-free.
- * E-cigarettes and other vaping devices are not US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved.
- * A Juul e-cigarette that has one Juul pod corresponds to twenty cigarettes of nicotine.
- * People who vape are four times more likely to start smoking cigarettes.
- * The US FDA will ban most flavored (fruit, candy, and mint) e-cigarettes beginning February 2020.
- * Using e-cigarettes and other vaping products is not a proven method for quitting smoking. The CDC advises adults to use FDA-approved medication to quit smoking.

2020 CALENDAR

WITH HEALTH & WELLNESS OBSERVANCES

JANUARY HAPPY NEW YEAR

1-31	National Radon Action Month
1-31	National Blood Donor Month
1-31	National Mental Health Wellness Month
1	Global Family Day
2	LSUHSC is back from the holidays
25	IV Nurse Day

FEBRUARY

1-29	National Cancer Prevention Month
1-29	National Wise Health Consumer Month
4	World Cancer Day
14	Valentine's Day
25	Mardi Gras—LSUHSC Closed
29	Leap Day

MARCH

1-31	National Nutrition Month
1-31	March to Health Month
8-14	Patient Safety Awareness Week
17	St. Patrick's Day
20	Kick Butts Day
24	World Tuberculosis (TB) Day

APRIL

1-30	National Cancer Control Month
1-30	Stress Awareness Month
1-7	Global Asbestos Awareness Week
4-10	National Public Health Week
7	World Health Day
11	World Parkinson's Day
25	World DNA Day

MAY

1-31	National Cancer Research Month
1-31	American Lung Association's Clean Air Month
5	World Asthma Day
6-12	National Nurses Week
12-18	Mental Health Week
27	National Senior Health & Fitness Day
31	World No Tobacco Day

JUNE

1-30	Cancer Immunotherapy Awareness Month
1-30	National Safety Month
1-30	Men's Health Month
6	National Cancer Survivors Day
14	World Blood Donor Day

JULY

1-31	Social Wellness Month
1-31	National Minority Health Month
4	Fourth of July—LSUHSC closed

AUGUST

1	World Lung Cancer Day
7-13	National Health Center Week

SEPTEMBER

1-30	Fruits & Veggies More Matters Month
1-30	Healthy Aging Month
17	Take A Loved One to the Doctor Day
21	National Alzheimer's Day
25	World Lung Day
26	Mesothelioma Awareness Day
29	Family Health & Fitness Day

OCTOBER

1-7	Active Aging Week
1-31	Healthy Lung Month
1-31	National Family Health Month
10	World Mental Health Day
21-25	National Health Education Week
20-26	National Respiratory Care Week
31	Halloween Day

NOVEMBER

1-30	LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH
1-30	COPD Awareness Month
1-30	National Family Caregivers Month
17	International Lung Cancer Awareness Day
19	Great American Smoke-Out Day
28	National Family Health History Day
28	Thanksgiving—LSUHSC Closed

DECEMBER

5	International Volunteer Day
10	International Human Rights Day
24	LSUHSC is closed for the holidays
25	Christmas Day

Louisiana Lung Cancer Study Newsletter

The Lung Cancer Study is part of the Genetic Epidemiology of Lung Cancer Consortium (GELCC), that includes the following members:

- Baylor College of Medicine
- Harvard School of Public Health
- Karmanos Cancer Center
- Mayo Clinic and Foundation
- National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Toledo Medical Center
- **LSU Health Sciences Center—New Orleans**



*Our local network of collaborators:

- Abbeville General Hospital
- Abrom Kaplan Memorial Hospital
- Acadia—St. Landry Hospital
- Acadian Medical Center
- Acadian General Hospital
- Bunkie General Hospital
- Dauterive Hospital
- Franklin Foundation Hospital
- Iberia Medical Center
- Lady of the Sea General Hospital
- Louisiana Tumor Registry
- LSU Lallie Kemp Hospital
- Mercy Regional Medical Center
- Opelousas General Hospital
- Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center
- Pointe Coupe General Hospital
- Prevost Memorial Hospital
- Regional Medical Center of Acadiana
- ReliaPath, LLC
- St. Charles Parish Hospital
- St. Helena Parish Hospital
- St. James Parish Hospital
- St. Landry Extended Care
- St. Martin Hospital
- St. Tammany Parish Hospital
- Southpark Community Hospital
- Teche Regional Medical Center
- Thibodaux Cancer Care Hospital
- University Hospital & Clinics—Lafayette
- University Medical Center—New Orleans

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