

## NEUROSCIENCE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

School of Medicine

Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, New Orleans

Nicolas G. Bazan, M.D., Ph.D.

Ernest C. and Yvette C. Villere Endowed Chair

for Retinal Degenerations Research

Professor and Director

### NOTABLE MILESTONES

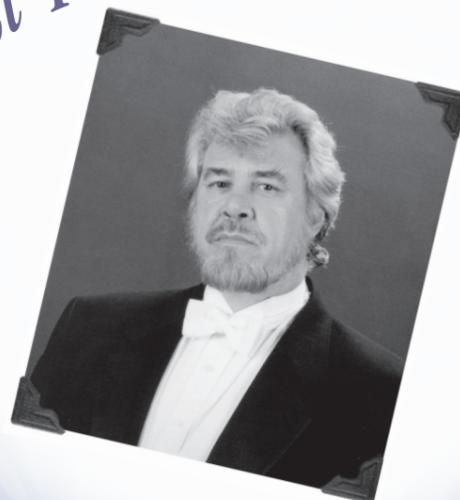
- 1989 Neuroscience Center established and authorized by the LSU Board of Supervisors and the Board of Regents
- 1994 Began Summer Undergraduate program in Neuroscience (SUN).
- 1994-1998 Attracted \$13.8 million from the Department of Defense for a research program on Neural Response to Injury: Prevention, Protection and Repair. This led to construction of the 8th and 9th floors of the Neuroscience Center of Excellence at 2020 Gravier, completed in 1996.
- 1997 Recruitment of faculty to occupy new laboratories.
- 2002 Neuroscience Center receives first COBRE (Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence) award from NIH in the State of Louisiana. This \$9.8 M grant fosters a culture of mentoring at LSUHSC, Tulane, Xavier and Nicholls State Universities. The first competing renewal for this COBRE was awarded in 2007, granting an additional \$10.6 M in support until 2012, and this the final competing renewal for this COBRE was awarded in 2012, granting an additional \$5.2 M in support until 2017.
- 2005-2006 Rebuilding of Neuroscience Center after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
- 2006 Established Medical students' Outstanding Opportunities in Neuroscience (MOON) Program, focused on LSU medical students to nurture future medical scientists.

### DISCOVERIES AND INVENTIONS

- 1997 New analgesic (similar to Tylenol) with no liver/kidney toxicity (N.Bazan)
- 2000 Signal integration in the hippocampus critical for memory formation (J.Magee)
- 2001 New brain genes critical in neurotransmission and neuronal function (J.Erickson)
- 2002 Receptor proteins important in drug addiction (R.Anand)
- 2003-2004 Neuroprotectin D1, novel mediator with potential to protect against neurodegenerative disease, stroke, retinitis pigmentosa, and macular degeneration (N.Bazan and colleagues)
- 2004 Mechanisms in the development of Alzheimer's (W.Lukiw)
- 2006 Synaptic properties key in memory (S.Gasparini)
- 2006 New mechanisms and neuroprotection for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's (N.Bazan)
- 2006 Experimental therapeutics for dry eye an refractive surgery (H.Bazan)
- 2007 Photoreceptor protection for retinitis pigmentosa and macular degeneration (N.Bazan)
- 2008 New experimental therapeutics for stroke (L.Belayev and N.Bazan)

25 patents/patent applications. The analgesics have been licensed and early clinical trials have been started by St. Charles Pharmaceuticals, the first company of its kind in the state.

*Special Thanks to*



*Maestro Robert Lyall  
General and Artistic Director  
New Orleans Opera Association*



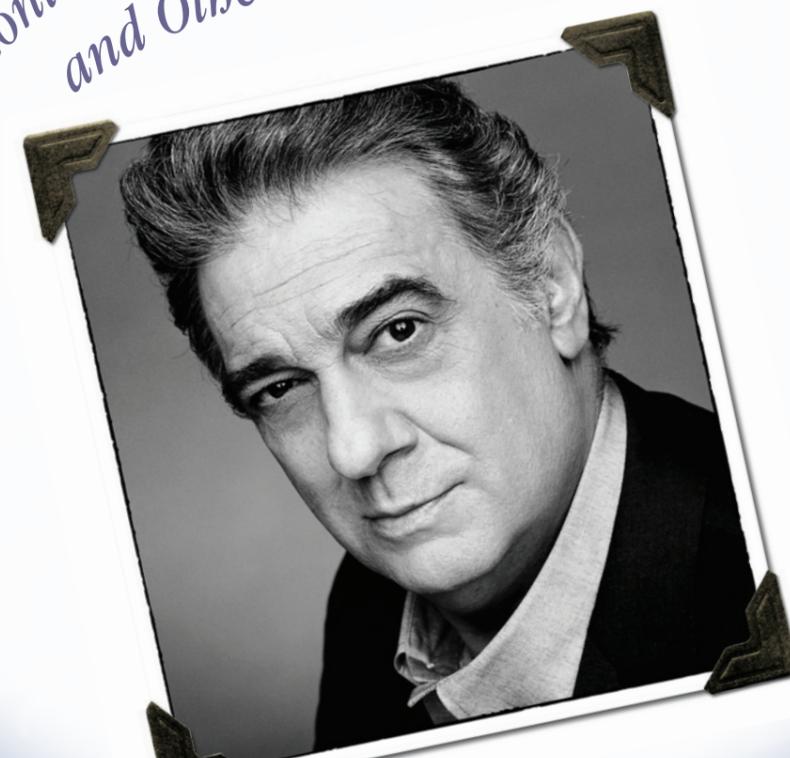
*Chef John Besh  
American Sector, Besh Steakhouse, Borgne, Domenica,  
La Provence, Lüke, and Restaurant August*

*Neuroscience Center  
of Excellence  
LSUHSC School of Medicine*



*and the  
New Orleans Opera Association  
with*

*Plácido Domingo  
Celebrating Research That Will  
Contribute to Conquering Alzheimer's  
and Other Brain Diseases*



Dear Friends,

The ability to dream gives human beings hope for what might be. The ability to achieve that dream requires perseverance, patience, creativity, faith and an infectious passion that makes other people want to join in. Placido Domingo is an example of making dreams a reality. His genius, creativity and generosity are an incentive for the scientists at our center to accelerate the pace of research to conquer Alzheimer's disease and all other devastating brain diseases.

This dream is also represented today by the partnership between Maestro Robert Lyall and Dr. Nicolas Bazan. Maestro Lyall generously facilitated this event.

By your presence here today, you have joined a dream in progress. Thirty-one years ago, Dr. Bazan came to LSU as a faculty member in the Department of Ophthalmology. The Villere family endowed a chair, and Dr. Bazan was given the honor to hold the Ernest C. and Yvette C. Villere Endowed Chair of Ophthalmology. His research had and still has exciting implications for the treatment of age-related macular degeneration and other retinal diseases that lead to blindness. While his focus centered on the eye, his vision extended past this window into the brain.

In 1988, Dr. Bazan harnessed the energy of faculty and captured the imagination of campus leadership and developed a plan for an interdisciplinary research center in the neurosciences. The Regents officially approved the LSU Neuroscience Center in 1989 and Dr. Bazan was appointed Director. The building blocks were in place and a leader who dared to dream and pursue that dream would make it a reality.

In 1994, Dr. Bazan successfully secured \$13.8 million from the Department of Defense to build two floors onto the LSU Lions/Clinic Building and to further stimulate neuroscience research in several departments (Neurosurgery, Ophthalmology, Pharmacology, Bio-chemistry and Molecular Biology, Cell Biology and Anatomy). Floors eight, nine and part of seven now house the LSU Neuroscience Center that boasts over 100 scientists and staff and has attracted more

than \$100 million in research grants over the years. Research space has reached maximum capacity. Young investigators are well-funded and vulnerable to recruitment elsewhere. The Neuroscience Center has already fostered research by clinicians. In addition, the power of innovation has led to more than twenty patents with potential for development into new treatment for diseases.

Now, the LSU Neuroscience Center is poised to fully realize its dream.

Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, stroke, epilepsy, degenerative eye diseases, schizophrenia – these are just a few, yet profound manifestations of the human brain gone awry. With increasingly sophisticated technology and the new knowledge that accompanies it, the prospects for research in these areas of neuroscience seem boundless. With the aging of our population, the need for more knowledge on these diseases has never been greater.

This vision integrates fundamental research with clinician neuroscientists and more efficient transfer knowledge from the bench to the bedside. You, your loved ones, your friends and colleagues will all be the beneficiaries of this research. The New Orleans and Louisiana economies will also feel the effect.

We can be as big as our dreams. Today, I thank you for being willing to step into our dream and be a part of making it happen. Enjoy!

Sincerely,  
Boysie Bollinger  
Chair, Honorary Committee



Contributions to research on Alzheimer's and other brain diseases should be made payable to **LSU Health Foundation**.

Mail to:  
Dr. Nicolas G. Bazan  
Neuroscience Center of Excellence  
2020 Gravier Street, Suite D  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

## Honorary Committee

*Boysie Bollinger, Chair*

*Scott Brady*

*Joseph Canizaro*

*Michael Hecht*

*Maestro Robert Lyall*

*R. Ranney Mixe*

*Emel Songu-Mixe*

*Lennart Mucke*

*Pierluigi Nicotera*

*Susumu Tonegawa*

*St. Denis Villere*

*Kurt Weigle*



*Appetizers by Rio Mar Restaurant*

- Gambas al ajillo
- Scallop Tiradito
- Portuguese Octopus



*Chef Miles Prescott*

*Menu*  
*(created by Chef John Besh)*

*1st course*

arugula salad with beets,  
Gorgonzola and spiced pistachios

*2nd course*

chilled heirloom tomato soup with  
pesto and blue crab

*3rd course*

Garganelli pasta with white bolognese

*4th course*

brown butter roasted Redfish with eggplant  
fonduta and olive vinaigrette

*5th course*

almond and fig torta with vin santo gelato

*Wines*

*Nicolas Bazan Pinot Noir Una Vida 2008*

*Nicolas Bazan Pinot Noir Haydee 2009*

*Nicolas Bazan Pinot Gris Mis Hijos 2009*

*[www.nicolasbazanwines.com](http://www.nicolasbazanwines.com)*

*A thank you to those who believe in the  
power of research to cure brain disease*

## *Benefactors*

*Acadian Ambulance Service*

*Mr. and Mrs. Donald "Boysie" Bollinger*

*Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Canizaro*

*J.P. Morgan Chase*

*Dr. Jeffrey Erickson*

*First Bank and Trust*

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*John Kallenborn*

*L.S.U. Health Foundation*

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*Mark Wahle, MD*

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*Jayne S. Weiss, MD*



Better. Bigger. Stronger. St. Bernard Parish.