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Celebrating decade of discovery

The Neuroscience Center of Excellence at the LSU Health Sciences Center has just celebrated its 10-year anniversary and a decade of discovery.

Under the leadership of Boyd and Villere professor of ophthalmology Dr. Nicolas Bazan, the Neuroscience Center has proven its value as a resource for the state and the country.

The only interdisciplinary program incorporating behavioral, clinical and basic neurosciences in the state, this center has made breakthrough research discoveries that will have a profound impact.

Among its accomplishments are the discovery of the possible cause of chronic epileptic seizures, the identification of the mechanism responsible for producing the inflammatory protein, COX-2, which is known to precede cell damage in Parkinson's disease and stroke, as well as how to switch it off.

In addition to its contribution to the body of scientific knowledge and to the prevention or improved treatment of devastating diseases

such as stroke, Alzheimer's and blinding-eye diseases, the LSU Neuroscience Center is also producing a significant economic impact — through the generation of jobs as well as a spinoff biotech company, St. Charles Pharmaceuticals, headquartered in downtown New Orleans.

Its research partnerships span the globe; its academic affiliations span the country and its public outreach activities, such as the Alzheimer's Daycare Center, span the state.

We should all feel fortunate to have such an enormously positive resource in our midst and applaud not only its impressive achievements but also the dedication of the faculty and other members of the LSU Neuroscience Center of Excellence who make them possible.

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