Welcome to the first issue of Inspire, the quarterly newsletter of the LSUHSC Section of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep our faculty, former trainees, colleagues, and friends up to date with Section activities and staff. It will also give us a chance to stay in touch with those who have left the Section. So read on; there’s a lot happening. We’ll have more to tell in forthcoming newsletters. Let us know what you are doing as well, so we can add this to Inspire. We want to hear from you!

Judd Shellito, MD
Chief, LSUHSC Section of Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine

Congratulations to our 2012 graduates Emily Aventura, M.D., Arlene Hernandez, M.D. and Amer Raza, M.D.! We wish them lots of success in their future endeavors.

Many attended the graduation celebration on the evening of June 30th at Dr. Kantrow’s home. Here are some pictures of the event:

Where are they Now?

“Cheron, Warren, Bennett and I are doing well in Marietta, GA! We’ve been here two years and we couldn’t be more happy with the area. I’m one of 18 physicians at Georgia Lung Associates, a single-specialty practice based at three office locations and three hospitals in the Northwest Atlanta Metro Area. We’re a great group of young and aggressive physicians. Our size has afforded us opportunities to create “sub-specialty” experiences in pulmonary hypertension, interstitial lung disease, sleep medicine, and allergies & asthma. My professional interests include pulmonary hypertension, venous thromboembolic disease, ARDS/ALI, and palliative care process improvements in the ICU. When I’m not at work, I can usually be found running trails at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park - I’m training for the 37th Annual Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C. this fall. Drop me a line whenever you’re in town!”

Fellowship News

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Faculty Spotlight

Steve Nelson, MD

Age: 59
Family: wife, Julie; children, David, 25, Karen 20, Kevin, 17
Education: bachelor’s degree with honors in biology, State University of New York at Stony Brook; doctor of medicine, McGill University Faculty of Medicine

Dr. Nelson left the Section in September of 2007 to become Dean of the School of Medicine at LSUHSC. He now works full-time to support faculty, students and trainees throughout the Medical School. He is still a pulmonologist at heart though and performs consults whenever he gets a chance. He says, “Medicine is my first passion. Now I get to instill that passion into the next generation of physicians.”

Sent by Dr. Craig Patterson
Class of 2010

Steve Nelson, MD
Meet the New Fellows

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to these trainees who recently joined our Fellowship Program!

Brian Parker, M.D.  Dr. Parker completed medical school at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) – Shreveport and served as Chief Resident at Ochsner. He decided to specialize in pulmonary medicine because it is most intellectually stimulating, satisfying, and well suited to his biomedical engineering background and his ability to manage several aspects of a patient’s care simultaneously. In his spare time, he enjoys playing the trombone, attending performances and music festivals and watching football.

Abdul Khan, M.D.  Dr. Khan completed medical school at The University of South Alabama College of Medicine in Mobile, Alabama and his internal medicine residency at Ochsner, where he was Chief Resident. He believes that the field of pulmonary disease and critical care medicine demands persistence, dedication and a commitment to constantly strive to accomplish more than previously deemed possible, and that is why he joined our Fellowship. When not at work, Dr. Khan likes to play basketball and golf, watch football and travel.

Brianne Corcoran-Aiello, M.D.  Dr. Corcoran-Aiello completed medical school at Saba University School of Medicine in Netherlands Antilles and her internal medicine residency here at LSUHSC-NO. According to Dr. Aiello, the field of pulmonary and critical care medicine is both rewarding and challenging and she enjoys every aspect of her work, including inpatient and outpatient care, teaching and clinical research. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, baking, SCUBA diving and training for her first half marathon.

James Vermaelen III, M.D.  Dr. Vermaelen completed medical school at LSUHSC-NO and his internal medicine residency at Earl K. Long Medical Center. Dr. Vermaelen believes that teaching is inherent part of medicine and a unique opportunity to impact the lives of those around him. That is why during his residency he was nominated for the LSU Aesculapian Society’s Intern Excellence in Teaching Award. His interests include swimming, watching college athletics and vegetable and herb gardening.

Section News

• US News named the 2012 Top Doctors and we are proud to announce that 4 physicians from our section made the nation’s best list. Dr. Mason, Dr. Tejedor and Dr. DeBoisblanc are named among the best in New Orleans and Dr. Shellito is ranked in the top 1% of all pulmonologists in the country. Congratulations to all of them.

• Ms. Denise Boudreaux was one of the recipients of the 2011 LSU School of Medicine Alumni Excellence Awards. The annual awards are presented to recognize and honor individuals who excel at their work and without whom it would be a lesser place. Ms. Boudreaux is our Administrative Coordinator and she has been with the Pulmonary/CC section for almost 5 years with total of 33 years of services to the State of Louisiana.

• Congrats to Dr. Ben deBoisblanc for having been selected by the American College of Chest Physicians to replace Dr. Greg Schmidt from the University of Iowa as the incoming Course Director for the annual ACCP Critical Care Board Review Course. Dr. deBoisblanc’s term will extend through 2018. He says he hopes that “now I will be able to finally get the right answers to those renal questions.” This year the CCBR Course is being held in Phoenix, AZ.

• The Louisiana Outdoor Writer’s Association honored Dr. deBoisblanc with its 2011 “Fish of the Year” award for a new Louisiana state fly fishing record for cajun permit (aka sheepshead). When asked what his aspirations are in the wake of capturing the Holy Grail of Louisiana angling he replied, “I’m going to Disney World.”

Research Spotlight: LVC Pilot Grant

Dr. Michelle Kelly, who is Lowenstein Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the Section of Pulmonary and Critical Care, was recently awarded a grant from the Louisiana Vaccine Center Pilot Grant Fund to promote research commercialization. The project is called “Mini-Kexin Monoclonal Antibody Therapy as Treatment for Pneumocystis Pneumonia.” The goal of this research is to develop approaches to augment mucosal immunity against Pneumocystis in immunosuppressed individuals such as those with HIV infection. Findings from this grant will provide a foundation for future human trials and ultimately lead to developing a vaccine against Pneumocystis.

Dr. Michelle Kelly graduated from University of Illinois at Chicago with a BS in Biochemistry and received both her MS and PhD at LSUHSC in Microbiology, Immunology and Parasitology. She has been with the Section of Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine since 2008.

We continue to develop exceptional opportunities for professional growth within the Fellowship program, including the Global Pulmonary Exchange Program in Turkey (stay tuned for future sites!) and state-of-the-art educational, clinical and research resources. If you would like to contribute to the excellence of our training program, please donate to the Pulmonary Fellowship fund at the LSUHSC Foundation or contact Biliana Ivanova (bivano@lsuhsc.edu) or Dr. Stephen Kantrow (skantro@lsuhsc.edu) to find out how you can support specific initiatives. Click HERE to donate online or mail us a check made out to LSUHSC Foundation/ Pulm Fellowship to 1901 Perdido Street, Suite 3205, New Orleans, LA 70112. Thank you for your support!

We want to hear from you! Please, send us any news, updates or just say hi. Also, tell us what do you want to see in the future issues of Inspire. E-mail us at: PulmNews@lsuhsc.edu.