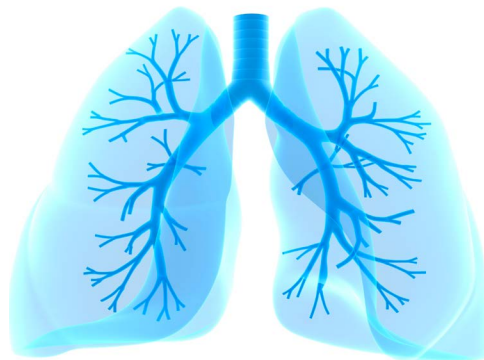


Inspire



Section News

Drs. Judd Shellito and Stephen Kantrow represented the American Thoracic Society during "Hill Day" in Washington, DC on March 19th, 2013. This event brings a large number of pulmonary physicians from across the country to meet with congress and show support for issues important to ATS members. Judd and Steve met with the Louisiana congressional delegation and staff to discuss support for NIH Funding, opposition to legislation exempting cigars from FDA regulation and support for a permanent fix to the Medicare sustainable growth rate formula.



Drs. Kantrow and Shellito in Washington



Dr. Ali in Antalya

Dr. Juzar Ali was the headlining guest speaker for the 16th Annual Turkish Thoracic society Congress Meeting in Belek, Antalya, Turkey that was held April 3-7th 2013. He presented two lectures titled "Interferon Gamma Releasing Assays: Overview" and "Contribution of LTBI treatment to TB Control." While in Turkey, he also held meetings with faculty of Ege University Chest Dept to discuss and review our Section's ongoing exchange collaboration through the Russell Klein Global Exchange Program(RKGE), the recent submittal of a joint LSU – Ege University NIH training Grant application and research partnership with Drs Moreno-Walton and Dr Paula Gregory as Co-PIs and also the possibility of future expansion of joint programs by the Pulmonary Departments of both the schools. This

year's fellow chosen by Pulmonary Faculty to travel to Ege University for the RKGE is Jonathon Richards and we will be hosting visiting faculty Dr. Alev Gurgin at the end of April. More on their travel experiences will be coming up in our next issue.

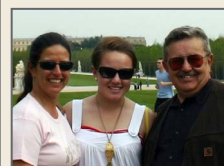
The newest recipient of the William J. Gandolini, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Mr. Greg Lee met Ms. Eileen Burke, who created the fund in honor of her uncle with matching funds provided by the Shell Oil Company Foundation. Mr. William J. Gandolini, Jr. died in 2006 as a result of Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) and in his honor, \$5,000 per year for up to 2 years is given to a select student to support clinical or basic science research within the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute ARDS Clinical Trials Network at LSU Health Sciences Center. Recipients are mentored by Dr. Ben deBoisblanc, PI and Co-PIs from the Section of Pulmonary and Critical Care. Mr. Greg Lee is a 3rd year MD/PhD candidate at LSUHSC-NO. His research aims to unravel the pathophysiology of RSV induced Acute Lung Injury and develop novel therapeutic strategies to prevent it. After he graduates, he plans to pursue a career in academic medicine and divide his time between practicing medicine, translational research and educational activities. We are really proud of Mr. Lee's success and are grateful to Ms. Burke and Shell Oil for the opportunity to mentor and encourage young scientists.



Dr. deBoisblanc, Mr. Lee and Ms. Burke

Where are they Now?

Sent by Dr. Janine Parker
Class of 1993



Dr. Parker with daughter Samatha and husband Mike

Wow! Hard to imagine that it's already been 20 years since I finished my fellowship! After leaving LSU I joined the Internal Medicine Group in New Orleans East and primarily did most of my work at Methodist Hospital. Katrina changed many lives and my family was among them. We washed up on the Northshore where I have been working since. I see most of my patients at Slidell Memorial where I run the Critical Care services. I also see patients at the Heart Hospital in Lacombe. Crazy busy doing Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine, Sleep, Med Exec and GulfSouth Quality Network! I just hired a nurse practitioner to hopefully relieve some of the clinic backlog and get me home earlier. BTW, do I really have to learn a new EHR every week?. My daughter, Samantha, and my husband, Mike are doing great (picture). Sam will graduate From Texas A&M this May magna cum laude. Hallelujah! She starts medical school at LSU in New Orleans in August, so keep an eye out for her. Mike, who finally retired from NOPD Reserve Division after 39 years, is making stained glass windows and hoping to go fishing soon. Miss you guys, Janine

We continue to develop exceptional opportunities for professional growth within the Fellowship program, including the Global Pulmonary Exchange Program in Turkey 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 (skantr@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/ Pulmonary Fellowship to 1901 Perdido Street, Suite 3205, New Orleans, LA 70112.

Thank you for your support!

Faculty Spotlight

Richard Tejedor, MD

Dr. Tejedor joined the Section in January of 2010. He brings extensive experience in clinical medicine and teaching. His work in the area of quality improvement has impacted national guidelines and he is currently working to enhance the quality improvement curriculum at LSUHSC. Dr. Tejedor has established a successful clinical practice for the treatment of severe asthma which includes the novel invasive treatment of Bronchial Thermoplasty. He has also helped to initiate a program

of endobronchial ultrasound at University Hospital. After 3 years of commuting daily from Mississippi, Dr. Tejedor finally decided to move to New Orleans and he recently bought a raised house in the bohemian Bywater neighborhood. Dr. Tejedor had previously lost his home and personal possessions with Hurricane Katrina. He shares his new home with his dogs Ezra and Luke.



For a Cause

On Sunday, April 7, 2013 in City Park's Peristyle a day-long benefit was held in memory of Chelsea Umbach Yates. Chelsea was an avid scuba diver who died of complications resulting from Pulmonary Hypertension (PH) after a long and inspiring battle with the disease. Chelsea's Radiant Smile Foundation was created by Chelsea's Mom Cindy Caldwell to honor Chelsea's wish that other patients be educated about the disease and supported in their fight.

Chelsea was one of Dr. Ben deBoisblanc's research patients and by participating in his trial, Chelsea was able to prolong her own life and contribute valuable information to LSUHSC's research. After undergoing a heart-lung transplant, Chelsea developed complications and died at age 26 on July 17, 2011. Sunday's benefit helped celebrate her short, but remarkable life and all the funds raised went towards the Chelsea's Radiant Smile Fund established in Chelsea's memory within the Section of Pulmonary/Critical Care.

The benefit featured a walk/run event through the park, silent auction for one-of-a-kind jewelry, stained glass, artwork and personal effects created by or for Chelsea, dive equipment, gift certificates and memorabilia items. Guests enjoyed homemade dishes and lots of deserts.

To learn more about Chelsea's story and PH, please, click [HERE](#). If you would like to contribute to Chelsea's Radiant Smile Foundation by making a charitable contribution, please, click [HERE](#) and select the fund from the drop down menu.



Research Corner

The LSUHSC Section of Pulmonary / Critical Care is an active participant in the American Lung Association's (ALA) Asthma Clinical Research Centers (ACRC). These centers were established through a joint effort of the local and national American Lung Associations to promote clinical research in adult and pediatric asthma. The ACRC network of 18 centers is the nation's largest not-for-profit network of clinical research centers dedicated to asthma treatment research, attracting some of the best asthma investigators worldwide. Since its inception in 1999, the network has completed seven trials leading to 30 published papers in peer-reviewed journals and an additional 35 papers in press or being prepared. The network has also secured approximately \$21 million in government funding and \$12 million in industry and foundation support, in addition to \$38 million in American Lung Association support. Completed trials to date include those demonstrating the safety of influenza vaccination in asthmatics, the ability to use once daily controller medications in mild asthma, and the lack of benefit to treating for acid reflux in asthma patients not experiencing reflux symptoms.

The LSUHSC ACRC research efforts are led by Dr. Kyle Happel, who is currently its Principal Investigator. Marie Sandi, FNP-BC, recently joined our team as a lead coordinator for the ALA asthma clinical trials.

Marie is a graduate of the LSU nurse practitioner program in 2009 and comes with a wealth of experience from her clinical practice within the LSU Hospital System. Marie has done an outstanding job of assuming the responsibilities of her position and has helped the center get ready for the 3 additional new studies that are in the initial stages. If you or anyone you know might be interested in participating in one of the ACRC studies, please contact Marie at 504-568-3450 or Dr. Happel at 504-568-3168. Additional information regarding actively recruiting trials can be found by clicking [HERE](#).



Marie Sandi with a Patient