I am truly honored to have been chosen as the Section Chief in the Section of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine/Allergy and Immunology at LSU School of Medicine. To follow successfully in the steps of my prior LSU Pulmonary Section Chiefs, with continued academic growth of the section, is my mission. My immediate plans are to recruit a research faculty member for our Ernest N. Morial Asthma Allergy and Respiratory Disease Endowed Chair, and also to facilitate our group’s transition to the new University Medical Center in 2015, currently under construction. The section remains exceptionally strong academically, in training of students, housestaff, and fellows, as well as in clinical care, and my goal is to foster continued excellence in all aspects of our mission.

Dr. Juzar Ali is “back” after serving as Chief Medical Officer and Interim CEO of the Interim LSU Hospital (ILH). He will be focusing on developing his clinical practice at St. Charles, increasing his clinical activity at ILH and serving as LSU Health Care Network’s Chief Medical Officer. He wasted no time easing into his new/old role and already managed to publish for the Pulmonary Disease Board Review Manual, expand services at ILH’s Chest clinic, apply for and receive a $50,000 private TB Grant, host a foreign guest speaker and get appointed to the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) as one of our two ex-officio physicians.

November was Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (PAH) awareness month. Paula Lauto, RN who has worked in our Section with PAH patients on research, education and awareness for many years was determined to honor PAH awareness in a big way. And she did it! Paula managed to have the Superdome lit in the PAH ‘periwinkle blue’ Nov 18-19. We are all grateful for Paula’s great work and dedication.

Dr. Lammi became the American Thoracic Society Pulmonary Circulation (PC) Assembly online journal club Co-editor. The PC Assembly is focused on advancing knowledge of pulmonary vascular biology, pathobiology, and clinical care of pulmonary vascular disease through basic science, clinical and translational research. The online journal club’s mission is to educate and create discussion about cutting edge research.

Fellowship News

Another Outstanding Match!

After receiving more than 200 applications and interviewing 22 applicants, we are happy to announce the Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellowship class of 2017:

Grady Creek, MD
Medical School: University of Kansas School of Medicine
Residency: Rush University Medical Center

Kevin Dischert, MD
Medical School: UTMB School of Medicine
Residency: UTMB School of Medicine

Justin Fowlkes, MD
Medical School: LSU School of Medicine – New Orleans
Residency: LSU Internal Medicine – Baton Rouge

Yasin Khan, MD
Medical School: Saba University School of Medicine
Residency: LSU School of Medicine - Shreveport

Coffee with Senator Vitter

Dr. Jonathan Richards, a third year fellow, and Dr. Stephen Kantrow, Associate Professor, visited Washington, DC in March as American Thoracic Society (ATS) Hill Day 2014 participants. They met with other ATS leaders and US congressmen as part of efforts to advocate for respiratory health. As ATS Hill representatives, Drs. Kantrow and Richards focused on issues such as increase in NIH lung disease research funding and tuberculosis funding, tobacco control and a permanent fix to the Medicare sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula.

Dr. Carol Mason
Section Chief

Dr. Juzar Ali

Dr. Lammi

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
Derrick Samuelson is a Postdoctoral Researcher. He received his BS from Montana State University and his Ph.D. in Microbiology from Washington State University. He is currently working in Dr. Shellito’s lab with Dr. David Welsh, focusing on vaccine trials against Pneumocystis pneumonia and the utilization of the gut microbiome as a novel adjuvant for immunization against pulmonary pathogens. Dr. Samuelson’s personal interests include hiking, scuba diving, and spending time with his wife and two dogs. He is very excited to be headed to New Orleans to enjoy the diverse food, music and culture.

Jennifer Graham joined the Section’s research group in January as a clinical research coordinator. She received her BS from LSU Baton Rouge and started her career working in the non-profit and education sectors. She enjoys cooking, traveling, spending time with friends, and enjoying all the fun things there are to do in New Orleans. She is excited to be working here and looks forward to meeting new people and learning new things.

Olivia Eusea joined us in August as a student worker in the Section’s clinical research group. She received a BA in Communication Disorders from LSU in May of 2013 and is now working for a Master in Communication Disorders here at LSUHSC to become a Speech-Language Pathologist. She hopes to one day work with children on the Autism spectrum. When Olivia gets a break from school, she enjoys movie nights, LSU game days, and spending time with her family, friends, and pets.

We continue to develop exceptional opportunities for professional growth within the Fellowship program, including the Global Pulmonary Exchange Program in Turkey and Vietnam, 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 (sleanr@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!