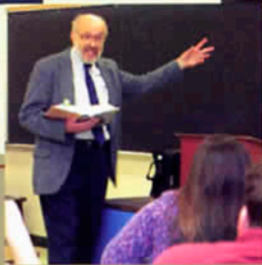
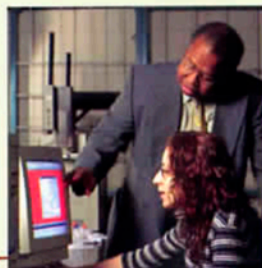


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Dr. Nicolas Bazan is a true renaissance man – researcher, teacher, mentor, administrator, fund-raiser, and entrepreneur. From his seat at the head of the Neuroscience Center of Excellence at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans, he is building a total program for Neuroscience research, training and the application of knowledge generated by research, which is well on the way to being the most advanced in the South. As the Founder-Director of the Center, Dr. Bazan oversees researchers, comprised of faculty members, post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students who are investigating various aspects of brain function, from stroke to sleep disorders, synaptic circuitry to pain mechanisms.

The research that Dr. Bazan himself has undertaken in his lab at LSUHSC has led to significant advances in our understanding of retinal degeneration and cell death in the brain, particularly in relation to stroke, neurodegenerative diseases (such as Alzheimer's disease) and head trauma. He has extensively studied inter-cell communication in the brain, tracking how and when changes happen as cells are stimulated. This research has provided information critical to realizing how the brain reacts to trauma, and possibly how to minimize the often catastrophic effects of brain injury or disease. In recent research, Dr. Bazan's team has identified novel signals that mediate post-trauma brain cell death. These experiments led to the discovery of the role the enzyme secretory phospholipase A2 plays in post-trauma brain processes, which in turn has provided a target for development of medical interventions to prevent large-scale brain cell death resulting from trauma. Ultimately, Dr. Bazan and his team of researchers hope to track the communication of synapses and genes that control long-term responses in the brain, and to intervene in such a way as to prevent or repair long-term malfunctions.



Dr. Bazan's contributions to the economy of Louisiana are staggering. The Neuroscience research teams are supported by more than \$33 million in external funding, and in his 20-year career at LSU, Dr. Bazan has brought more than \$70 million into the state in research funding alone. As a result of breakthroughs in research, Dr. Bazan has been awarded several patents. His research through an innovative drug discovery program, in collaboration with scientists at the Universidad de Alcalá in Spain, has yielded a series of novel pain medications, the technology for which is owned by the LSU Medical Center Foundation. Dr. Bazan is committed, moreover, to keeping development of this technology within Louisiana, and with \$4 million in seed money from a private investor, has founded St. Charles Pharmaceuticals, Inc., to license the technologies and perform clinical trials. In turn, this company has established an incubator laboratory in the Neuroscience Center, which has fostered true partnership between academia and the private sector.