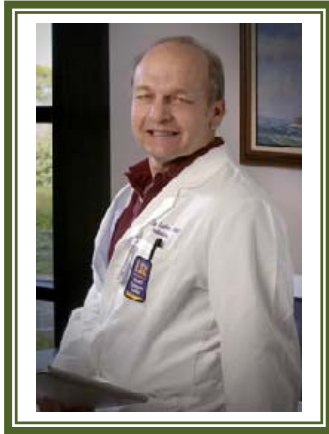




# Departmental News

Department of Pediatrics ~ LSUMC New Orleans

## FOND FAREWELL



Jim Cutler, PhD

**Jim E. Cutler, PhD** will retire on July 1, 2013. Dr. Cutler is recognized for both his dedication to teaching and for his more than 40 years of research on *Candida*-host interactions. This research led to the development of vaccines that enhance antibody-mediated resistance to the life-threatening disseminated candidiasis. As a teacher, he mentored eight postdoctoral students and eleven graduate students. Furthermore, he provided guidance and research experience to over 70 undergraduate students as well as several high school students. Prior to coming to LSUHSC, Dr. Cutler was a faculty member for almost 28 years at Montana State University. There he was the recipient of numerous NIH RO1 grants, he served on NIH study sections, he was on the editorial board of ASM journals, received teaching and research awards, was Lecturer for Division F of the ASM, and he was elected Fellow of the American Academy for Microbiology. More recently, he became an AAAS Fellow in recognition for his research accomplishments. Upon leaving Montana State, Dr. Cutler was awarded Emeritus status at that institution. Dr. Cutler was recruited to the Research Institute for Children and LSU in New Orleans in 2002. While here at LSUHSC and at the RIC, Dr. Cutler was instrumental in bringing together scientists from multiple institutions in New Orleans who have an interest in medical mycology research. He continued to develop his research of the identification of new *Candida* antigens that

elicit protective antibodies and he developed an effective experimental monoclonal antibody against *Candida*. His work will now be continued by his associate Hong Xin, MD, PhD who is applying the experimental findings achieved by Dr. Cutler to human immunology.

The research and clinical faculty of the Department of Pediatrics appreciates his efforts and will surely miss him. We give Dr. Jim Cutler our heartiest congratulations for his successful life as a researcher and offer our best wishes for his retirement.

## GRANTS

Congratulations to **Janet Rossi, MD** who was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) Phase III Neuroscience Research Pilot Project Program. Her project is titled "ISG15 A Potential Early Stimulator of Barrier Disruption Following Traumatic Brain Injury."

Congratulations to **Rachel Dawkins, MD** who has been awarded a 2013 CATCH Planning grant from the American Academy of Pediatrics for her project titled "Geaux Get Fit NOLA". Dr. Dawkins' application was one of 15 accepted out of 108 total applications.

## KUDOS KORNER

Kudos to **Julie Gallois, MD**, first-year Pediatrics Resident, who was elected Favorite Intern by the class of 2014. Each year, the Aesculapian Society asks medical students to select their favorite professors, residents and interns. Nominees and winners are chosen for their leadership, quality of instruction, approachability, and overall excellence in teaching. Several members of the department were nominated for awards:

**Bonnie Desselle, MD**  
**Robin English, MD**  
**Melissa Roy, MD**  
**Alfonso Vargas, MD**  
**Maria Velez, MD**

**Jason Turner, MD**  
**Brittany Andry, MD**  
**Leslie Kern, MD**  
**Sarah Syed, MD**  
**Sarah Black, MD**

**Paul Hyman, MD**, Division Head of Gastroenterology and Nutrition, is pleased to report that all five of his division's submissions to Digestive Disease Week 2013's scientific meeting were accepted as posters. This scientific output marks the maturation of the division of GI's clinical research. DDW is the most important GI meeting of the year, attended by 30,000 gastroenterologists and industry professionals. The division saves its best work for DDW, and abstract acceptance is usually around 50%. Dr. Hyman considers this year's rate phenomenal and says this is only the second time since his first DDW meeting in 1974 that his division has had 5 abstracts in the program. Congratulations to **Javier Monagas, MD**, **Charles Otu-Nyarko, MD**, **Audra Rouster, MD** and **Adam Noel, MD** who had two abstracts accepted.



In other news from the GI division, **Javier Monagas, MD** was awarded the Young Investigator's Award at SSPR for his abstract titled "Rumination Syndrome and Dental Erosions in Children".

Other SSPR presenters from the department included: **Dhiraj Singh**, **Janice Crespo**, **Audra Rouster**, **Matthew Fletcher**, **Chittal Raulji**, **Jessica Patrick**, **Christy Mumhrey**, **Amy Zeringue**, **Evan Atkins**, **Simone Lawson**, **Jimisha Patel**, and **Michelle Korah-Sedgwick**

Kudos to **Robin English, MD** who participated as faculty in the End-of-Life Care Elective offered this past spring to the L2 class. Course directors Dr. Zee Ali and Dr. Melissa McKay spoke highly of Dr. English and the other participating faculty who donated their time after hours to host small group meetings and share their professional insights with young students.

**Christian Lilje, MD** is proud to announce that a medical student working with him last summer was the winner of Medical Student Research Day at the National Student Research Forum in Galveston. **J. Cardinale, PhD** was the first prize winner for the Pediatric Research section.

Congratulations to third-year Pediatrics resident and 2013-2014's Chief Resident **Emily Harrison, MD** who was elected to the LSU Chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society.

## PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

**Alfonso Vargas, MD** traveled to Washington, D.C. back in April to take part in the Meeting of International Relations Council of the Pediatric Endocrine Society. He gave the council an update on the International Scholars' Program. Dr. Vargas was also recently invited to the Global Pediatric Education Consortium 5<sup>th</sup> Summit Meeting at the American Board of Pediatrics' headquarters in Chapel Hill, NC.

**Sarah Stender, MD**, along with Professor Rodney J. Hoxsey, MD of the LSU Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, published a chapter titled "A Hairy Situation" in an issue of *Adolescent Medicine: State of the Art Reviews* titled "Case Studies". Dr. Stender's chapter focused on an adolescent with hyperandrogenism and a steroid cell-producing tumor. The chapter was published in August 2012.

Condino-Neto A, Franco JL, Espinosa-Rosales FJ, **Leiva LE**, King A, Porras O, Oleastro M, Bezrodnik L, Grumach AS, Costa-Carvalho BT, **Sorensen RU**. Advancing the management of primary immunodeficiency diseases in Latin America: Latin American Society for Immunodeficiencies (LASID) Initiatives. *Allergol Immunopathol* 40:187-193, 2012.

Schwartz JR, Sarvaiya PJ, **Leiva LE**, **Velez MC**, Singleton TC, **Yu LC** and Vedeckis WV. A facile, branched DNA assay to quantitatively measure glucocorticoid receptor auto-regulation in T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. *Chin J Cancer* 31:381-391, 2012.

**Leiva LE**, **Monjure H** and **Sorensen RU**. Recurrent respiratory infections, specific antibody deficiencies and memory B cells. *J Clin Immunol* 33:57-61, 2013.

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Condino-Neto A, Costa Carvalho BT, Grumach A, King A, Bezrodnik L, Oleastro M, **Leiva L**, Porras Madrigal O, Espinosa-Rosales FJ, Franco JL, **Sorensen RU**. Guidelines for the use of human immunoglobulin therapy in patients with primary immunodeficiencies in Latin America. *Allergol Immunopathol* 2012 (In press).

**Fletcher, M.**, Hodgkiss, H., Zhang, S., Browning, R., Hadden, C., Hoffman, T., Winick, N. and McCavit, T. L. (2013). Prompt administration of antibiotics is associated with improved outcomes in febrile neutropenia in children with cancer. *Pediatr. Blood Cancer*. doi: 10.1002/pbc.24485

**Jeffrey W. Surcouf, Sheila W. Chauvin**, Jenelle Ferry, Tong Yang and **Brian Barkemeyer**. Enhancing residents' neonatal resuscitation competency through unannounced simulation-based training. *Med Educ Online*. 2013 Mar 21;18:1-7.

Paciorkowski AR, Traylor RN, Rosenfeld JA, Hoover JM, Harris CJ, Winter S, **Lacassie Y**, Bialer M, Lamb AN, Schultz RA, Berry-Kravis E, Porter BE, Falk M, Venkat A, Vanzo RJ, Cohen JS, Fatemi A, Dobyns WB, Shaffer LG, Ballif BC, Marsh ED. MEF2C Haploinsufficiency features consistent hyperkinesia, variable epilepsy, and has a role in dorsal and ventral neuronal developmental pathways. *Neurogenetics*. 2013 May;14(2):99-111.

Nguyen LS, Kim HG, Rosenfeld JA, Shen Y, Gusella JF, **Lacassie Y**, Layman LC, Shaffer LG, Gécz J. Contribution of copy number variants involving nonsense-mediated mRNA decay pathway genes to neuro-developmental disorders. *Hum Mol Genet*. 2013 May 1;22(9):1816-25.

**Song K**, Mize RR, Marrero L, **Corti M**, Kirk JM, **Pincus SH**. Antibody to ricin a chain hinders intracellular routing of toxin and protects cells even after toxin has been internalized. *PLoS One*. 2013 Apr 24;8(4):e62417. Print 2013.

Wilkinson RA, **Pincus SH**, **Song K**, Shepard JB, Weaver AJ Jr, Labib ME, Teintze M. Improved guanide compounds which bind the CXCR4 co-receptor and inhibit HIV-1 infection. *Bioorg Med Chem Lett*. 2013 Apr 1;23(7):2197-201. Epub 2013 Jan 30.

Zhao Z, Worthylake D, LeCour L Jr, **Maresh GA**, **Pincus SH**. Crystal structure and computational modeling of the fab fragment from a protective

anti-ricin monoclonal antibody. *PLoS One*. 2012;7(12):e52613.

**Chen C, Chang YC, Lan MS, Breslin M**. Leptin stimulates ovarian cancer cell growth and inhibits apoptosis by increasing cyclin D1 and Mcl-1 expression via the activation of the MEK/ERK1/2 and PI3K/Akt signaling pathways. *Int J Oncol*. 2013 Mar;42(3):1113-9.

**Hennigan CE**, Myers L, **Ferris MJ**. Environmental distribution and seasonal prevalence of *Mycobacterium ulcerans* in Southern Louisiana. *Appl Environ Microbiol*. 2013 Apr;79(8):2648-56.

Martin DH, **Zozaya M**, Lillis RA, Myers L, Nsuami MJ, **Ferris MJ**. Unique Vaginal Microbiota That Includes an Unknown Mycoplasma-Like Organism Is Associated With *Trichomonas vaginalis* Infection. *J Infect Dis*. 2013 Jun;207(12):1922-31.

## RESEARCH DAY 2013

The Children's Hospital Auditorium was a scene of lively scientific activity on Research Day, May 10. Moderators included **Natasha Haynes, MBA, CRA**, Assistant Vice President of Hospital Operations at Children's Hospital and **Emily Moran, MBA**, Director of Operations for the Research Institute. Chairman **Ricardo Sorensen** presented awards for the **Best Research Day Presentation** in four categories. The winning researchers were:

### **Anthony Kondracki**

Results from Louisiana 2006-2008 Birth Defects Surveillance System  
*Division of Public Health*  
**Best Presentation by a Student**

### **Shreepal Shah, MD**

Skin Advanced Glycation Endproducts (AGEs) are Increased at Onset in Children with Type 1 Diabetes (T1D)  
*Pediatrics Resident*  
**Best Presentation by a Resident**

### **Mahmoud Kallash, MD**

Low Birth Weight and Chronic Kidney Disease  
*Division of Nephrology*  
**Best Presentation by a Fellow or Postdoc**

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**Pinki Prasad, MD, MPH**

Psychological and Neurocognitive Outcomes in Survivors Diagnosed with Cancer as Adolescents and Young Adults: A Report from the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study

*Division of Hematology/Oncology*

**Best Presentation by Jr. Faculty or Research Professional (TIE)**

**Kejing Song, DVM, MS**

Effects of Memory CD4+ T Cell Subsets Depletion and Immunologic Consequences on SHIV-Infected Macaque Monkeys

*Division of Research*

**Best Presentation by Jr. Faculty or Research Professional (TIE)**

**Valarie McMurty**

The Relationship Between Clostridia and Necrotizing Enterocolitis

*Graduate Student, Division of Research*

**Best Oral Presentation**

Thank you to our 2013 judges:

Jim Hempe, PhD  
Paul Hyman, MD  
Lily Leiva, PhD  
Christian Lilje, MD  
Michael Marble, MD  
Lorna Seybolt, MD, MPH  
Joy Sturtevant, PhD  
Alfonso Vargus, MD

Thank you to all who participated and especially to Abbott and Mead Johnson Nutrition for providing refreshments for the event.

**GOOD-BYE TO GRADUATING FELLOWS...**

**Pavana Beerelli, MD**, Allergy/Immunology  
**Luke Wall, MD**, Allergy/Immunology  
**Charles Otu-Nyarko, MD**, GI/Nutrition  
**Jennifer Mullinax, MD**, Hematology/Oncology  
**Kristine Chimento, MD**, Neonatology  
**Amy Zeringue, MD**, Neonatology  
**Mahmoud Kallash, MD**, Nephrology  
**Jason Turner, MD**, Cardiology

**...HELLO TO NEW FELLOWS**

**Adrienne Netterville, MD**, Allergy/Immunology  
**Nisha Shah, MD**, Allergy/Immunology  
**Siddharth Patel, MD**, Cardiology  
**Nam Nguyen, MD**, GI/Nutrition  
**Zeromeh Gerber, MD**, Neonatology

**GRADUATING RESIDENTS**

Pediatrics

Chief Residents:

Nicole McMahon and  
Chelsey Sandlin

Michael Blancaneaux  
Catherine Durst  
Amy Eagan  
Emily Harrison  
Jacky Heredia  
Marcella Houser  
Leslie Kern  
Anupa Kudva  
Simone Lawson  
Eric Price  
Jessica Steinkampf  
Sarah Syed

Med/Peds

Chief Residents:

Katie Brown and  
Jonathan Heiman

Caroline Burton  
Faisal Musa  
Arif Shahzad

**NEW PEDIATRIC INTERNS**

**Leslie Carter**

LSU - Shreveport

**Jonna Clark**

Lake Erie College of  
Osteopathic Medicine

**Veronica Fabrizio**

Touro College of  
Osteopathic Medicine

**Justin Farge**

LSU - New Orleans

**Kyle Fulton**

University of Arkansas

**Amanda Garnett**

Florida State University

**Lauren Green**

Meharry Medical College

**Maya Hills**

Meharry Medical College

**Richard Kelt**

LSU - New Orleans

**Eilan Levkowitz**

Kansas City University

**Brooke Miner**

LSU – New Orleans

**Michelle Mullin**

LSU – New Orleans

**Pamela Musacchia**

LSU – New Orleans

**Ashley Stevens**

LSU – New Orleans

**Emily Villar**

LSU – Shreveport

**NEW MED/PEDS INTERNS**

**Teresa Backes**

University of  
Missouri - Columbia

**Sarah Beck**

University of  
Missouri – Kansas City

**Ellen Chang**

University of Illinois

**Phuong Dinh**

University of Virginia

**Kristin Lynch**

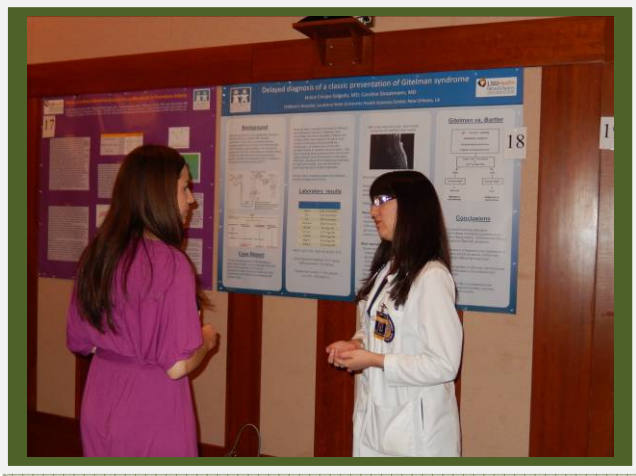
Edward Via Virginia  
College of Osteopathic  
Medicine

**Tom Tarro**

Ross University

*Hello/Good-Bye  
June 14, 2013 at 4:00pm  
Children's Hospital Auditorium*

# RESEARCH DAY 2013



Valarie McMurty and Janice Crespo-Salgado, MD



Victoria Akerstrom, BS and Tyrus Stewart, BS



Matthew Fletcher, MD



Lily Leiva, PhD and Heena Shah, MD



Charles Otu-Nyarko, MD and Alfonso Vargas, MD



Anthony Kondracki, Best Presentation by a Student



Shreepal Shah, MD, Best Presentation by a Resident



Valarie McMurty, Best Oral Presentation