



December 2023 Newsletter

As we come to the end of this year, I would like all of us to take a moment to reflect on the progress we have made as a department, the areas we fell short, but more importantly the opportunities that we have to continue to advance the growth and wellbeing of the department. During this year, we expanded our clinical footprint by hiring more faculty and staff; we advanced our research portfolio that led to many more local and national presentations and awards. We made significant inroads in revamping our educational curriculum and saw a more robust participation of our residents and faculty. All these achievements could not have happened without our dedicated staff, residents, and faculty.

This year, the department has also been blessed with several “Surgery babies” born to staff, residents, and faculty. As we approach the holidays and spend time with our families and loved ones, we should always remember how blessed we are and continue to strive and double our efforts to lend a hand to those who are less fortunate. I know we do that everyday just by virtue of the community we serve.

Have a blessed holidays.

Valentine N. Nfonsam, MD, MS, FACS, FASCRS
Professor and Chair
Isidore Cohn Jr., MD Endowed Chair of Surgery
Department of Surgery
School of Medicine
LSU Health New Orleans





*Department of Surgery
Holiday Party 2023*



Dr. Nfonsam, Department of Surgery Chairman, hosted the Department of Surgery Holiday Party this past weekend. The night was filled with great food, live music, and holiday cheer!







let's
MINGLE &
JINGLE

The Departments of Surgery, Neurosurgery, and Anesthesia Staff joined together for a holiday potluck! We had a great time spreading some holiday cheer!



Congratulations!



Dr. Florina Corpodean

Recipient of the SSAT Resident's Research Award



**The Society for Surgery
of the Alimentary Tract**



TRIP TO BATON ROUGE

This week, Drs. Nfonsam and Stuke completed their quarterly visit to our Baton Rouge faculty. They visited Baton Rouge General Hospital, Pennington Biomedical Research Center, and Our Lady of the Lake.



Farewell — PARTY —

On Thursday, we said farewell to Col. Kurt Davis, MD, FACS as he embarks on a new journey in Virginia.

We're so grateful to have benefitted from his knowledge since 2016! Good luck on your new journey, Dr. Davis!



Faculty Spotlight



Ian Hodgdon, MD, FACS

Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery

Division of General Surgery

Joined Faculty: 2016

Hometown: Los Alamos

Medical School: LSU Health New Orleans

Residency: LSU Health New Orleans

I chose LSU Surgery because I saw that the residents had a lot of autonomy, and by their 3rd year they were able to operate independently. The residents and faculty were very nice to each other and went out of their way to include the students into the team.

I am proud to be apart of LSU Surgery because of the sense of community in the department. There is a lot of community between the faculty, and we have an excellent reputation of training surgical residents.

I am currently working on developing an absorbable stent to be placed inside hollow organs at the time of surgery to prevent anastomotic leaks.

In the future, I hope to see the department continue to take students with potential and turn them into excellent surgeons.

Resident Spotlight

Angelis Vazquez-Perez, MD



PGY-5, General Surgery Resident

Hometown: San Juan, Puerto Rico

Medical School: University of Puerto Rico

Medical School

Future Plans: Breast Surgical Oncology

Fellowship at MedStar Health-

Georgetown University/ Washington

Hospital Center

I chose LSU because of its unique surgical training and culture. The friendliness and hospitality of the program sparked my attention during my initial interview. I found the opportunity to learn from both the academic setting but also the community setting. The clinical rotations at New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Lafayette offer an incredible exposure to different patient populations and surgical techniques. Diversity and inclusion are an integral part of the program and continues to grow. I am thankful for the great mentorship and friendships I have acquired through the LSU family.

My hope is that LSU Surgery continues to support and train residents to become well-rounded, compassionate surgeons and leaders.

After I graduate this summer, I will pursue a Breast Surgical Oncology Fellowship at MedStar Health- Georgetown University/Washington Hospital Center. Being able to impact underrepresented and underserved patients is one of my inspirations. Therefore, I plan to return to Puerto Rico and provide care for the community.

Staff Spotlight



Angie LeBoeuf, BS
Student Clerkship Coordinator
Joined the Department of Surgery in 2022

I joined LSU Department of Surgery in August of 2022. I am still a baby!

I love working with the students. So many of them are so passionate about their medical education. It makes me happy to know that there will be so many wonderful physicians healing the population in the future.

I think my proudest moment is tricky to determine! I haven't been here long enough to be proud very often. It does make me proud to know that though I have only been here a short time, I have already discovered things that even the Administration was not aware of.

I am a retired paramedic, and I was a trauma junkie! I have also delivered more than 50 babies.

I strive every day to be as ridiculous as I can because I try to live my life full of joy and, also try to bring joy to others.

Wellness Corner



The Importance of Sleep

If you ask most working professionals how many hours of sleep they get each night, chances are most won't say the recommended 7-9 hours. Sleep plays a vital role in good mental and physical health. We cannot take care of others if we do not, first, take care of ourselves. Click [here](#) to read more about the importance of sleep.



— WE ARE —

HIRING

JOIN OUR FACULTY

- Chief, Colorectal Surgery
- Chief, Pediatric General Surgery
- Burn Surgery
- Colorectal Surgery
- Surgical Oncology (2)
- Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery
- Plastic Surgery
- Thoracic Surgery



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JOIN OUR STAFF

- Staff Scientist / Staff Scientist Sr
- Residency Coordinator
- Associate Business Manager
- Department Coordinator (2)



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