



September 2023 Newsletter

Welcome to the Department of Surgery monthly newsletter! In this issue, I would like to touch a bit on inclusive excellence. In the last year, we have continued to recruit more faculty and staff. In addition, we are heading up the process of recruiting new residents and fellows into our training programs. This month, our Department of Surgery Faculty Inclusive Excellence committee held its first meeting. I would like to thank Dr. Gray for her impact in driving this committee. Resident involvement, led by Dr. Stevens has also been strong, with residents incorporating inclusive aspects into M&M cases, Cultural Competency Curriculum, and many other aspects of education.

As we embark on these processes, we have and will continue to be very intentional in our efforts to be very inclusive in an effort to create excellence. We strive for excellence not only in the care we give our patients but also in how we train our learners. Inclusive excellence has been shown to improve overall productivity, but more importantly, it leads to increased patient satisfaction and better outcomes. To better serve our very diverse community, we will continue to strive for a workforce that reflects the population we serve. The state of Louisiana and the city of New Orleans expect nothing less from us.

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



UMC Announces New Service Line Leadership

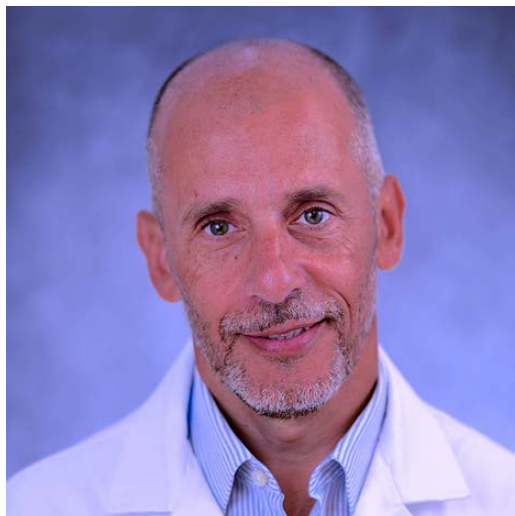
This month, University Medical Center announced the new service line leadership for the hospital. These leaders will help improve key patient metrics and lead strategic growth for the hospital. All service line directors and a majority of medical directors are LSU Faculty. We are proud to have four of our own faculty appointed to these positions:



Kelly Babineaux, MD, FACS
Musculoskeletal
Outpatient Medical Director



Jeffrey Carter, MD, FACS
Emergency Services/Trauma
Service Line Director

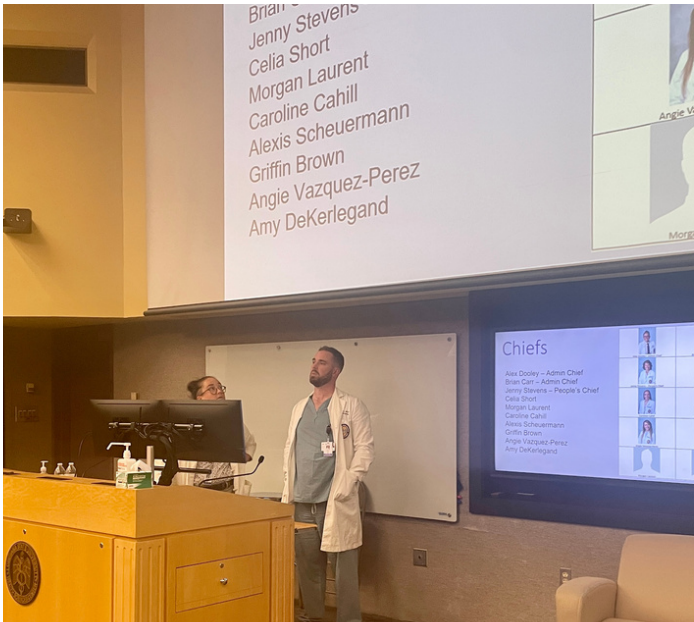


Carlos Galvani, MD, FACS, FASMBS
Surgical Specialties
Service Line Director



Valentine Nfonsam, MD, FACS, FASCRS
Cancer Services
Service Line Director

Education Updates



We are approaching interview season! From November through January, we have six dates scheduled for General Surgery Residency interviews. The program has decided to move forward with live, in-person interviews this year. For each date, there will be a meet-and-greet the Thursday evening before where faculty and residents are encouraged to meet the new applicants. Then, Friday will be a full day of interviews with the applicants.

We're so excited to meet these applicants and show them everything we have to offer here in New Orleans. Below are the interview dates for this cycle:

November 10

November 17

December 8

December 15

January 5

January 12



Alumni Spotlight



R. Scott Daugherty, MD, FACS, FASCRS

Colon and Rectal Surgeon

Baton Rouge General, Advanced Robotics of LA

Hometown: Lafayette, LA

Medical School: LSU New Orleans

Residency: General Surgery at LSU New Orleans

Fellowship: Colon and Rectal Surgery at LSU

Shreveport

I chose LSU because of the autonomy I saw during my medical school clerkship. I spent time at UMC (now UHC) in Lafayette and Earl K Long watching residents work tirelessly, but also noting their enjoyment and camaraderie.

I'm proud that LSU Surgery is continuing to train the surgical leaders of the future. LSU continues to match residents into very competitive fellowships at reputable institutions. I'm still involved with training the LSU residents- we have a chief resident that rotates with us at Baton Rouge General. The residents continue to impress me with their adaptability and ability to pick up new techniques- like robotic surgery. They come in ready to take on complex cases head on. I hope the department can continue training the surgical workforce for our home state.

Currently, I am preparing for the initial NAPRC (rectal cancer accreditation) site visit at Baton Rouge General in October. I also helped start a multidisciplinary Crohn's and Colitis clinic with gastroenterologist Dr. Casey Chapman. Casey and I recently took part in the Phase 3 ADMIRE CD trial, which evaluated the treatment of Crohn's anorectal fistula with expanded allogenic adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cell therapy. My current practice is with 5 other robotic surgeons, 4 of which are LSU Surgery alumni. Personally, my fellow LSU surgery alumni wife, Robyn Deranger Daugherty, started her own plastic surgery practice a year ago. We have four wonderful sons aged 8 and under. I enjoy coaching their football teams and attending their many other sporting events.

Faculty Spotlight



Michael W. Cook, MD, FACS, FASMBS

Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery

Division of General Surgery

Joined Faculty: 2018

Hometown: Memphis, TN

Medical School: Univ. of Tennessee College of Medicine

Residency: Ochsner Clinic Foundation of New Orleans

Fellowship: Bariatric Surgery at Emory University

I joined LSU Surgery on April 1, 2018 (it was both April Fool's Day and Easter Sunday, make of that what you will!). I was recruited to help start the bariatric surgery program at UMCNO, where I am currently the Medical Director. Rather than being instructed to follow a prescribed set of requirements, I was empowered by LSU Surgery to follow my dreams. As a result, we added a sleep medicine program, obesity medicine program, bariatric fellowship, achieved MBSAQIP Comprehensive Center of Excellence recognition, and continue to grow and thrive!

I would love to see that same process expanded: Empowering capable faculty to grow professionally and expand their practices into world renowned centers. We have an amazing amount of ingenuity in this department, with a little more organization and support, we will be the envy of the Gulf South, if not the nation!

I have been very active with both the state and national chapter of ASMBS (American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgeons). We just had the largest Louisiana state chapter meeting in its history last month with more than 100 attendees (3x last years turnout). I gave 2 talks at the meeting, one in the same session with Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser. The meeting was held concurrently with the newly formed Louisiana Obesity Society (LOS), a group which I helped to start and am a founding Board Member of. There are a lot of exciting things happening in access to care in Louisiana and it is rewarding to be a part of that process. I was recently asked by the Louisiana Department of Health to be part of a working group to find a way for Medicaid to cover Anti-Obesity Medications (AOMs). We are hopeful that very soon we will be able to get a handle on the obesity epidemic and start to see the needle swing the other direction. Nationally I just took over as chair of the Insurance Committee for ASMBS and we are embarking on several ambitious projects that will have lasting impact (will have to update you on those in a year or two!).

Prior to joining LSU, I was very averse to participation in research. However, after working with so many creative and supporting faculty, I have caught the research bug again. One of my favorite research projects is accepted for publication in Obesity Surgery: We showed for the first time that dividing the hepatic branch of the vagus nerve in patients suffering from obesity see improvement in their HDL/Cholesterol ratio, theoretically reducing their cardiovascular risk. We are now starting a randomized controlled trial to confirm those results and hopefully be able to determine if those effects extend to hypertension and diabetes as well.

Resident Spotlight



Jason Reagor, MD

PGY-3, Vascular Surgery Resident

Hometown: Los Alamos, NM

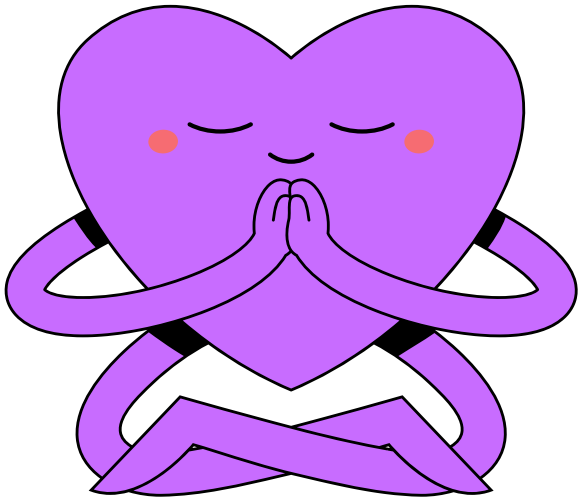
Medical School: University of New Mexico

I chose LSU Surgery for the unparalleled operative experience. I am proud of our program because we get the best operative training anywhere. I hope that LSU Surgery continues to promote operative autonomy.

I'm working on improving medical student education.



Wellness Corner



Mindfulness in Surgery

Explore how mindfulness can support well-being. When you experience stress, you can become caught up in it that to where you don't realize how the stress affects physical discomfort and connects to your emotional state. A body scan meditation can help release physical tension—even the tension you don't realize you're experiencing—and reconnect you with your body. Mentally scanning yourself allows you to bring awareness to each part of your body—to notice any aches, pains, tension, or discomfort—and to get to know the pain and learn from it so you can manage it.

Practice a body scan using the audio, provided by Dr. Carter Lebares, MD, FACS, Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of California, San Francisco, who has developed a tailored MBI for surgeons called Enhanced Stress Resilience Training (ESRT) through the UCSF Center for Mindfulness in Surgery.

[Read more >>](#)

Mark Your Calendars!

Please join us for a

Bon Voyage Brunch

honoring

John H. Stewart IV, MD, MBA, FACS



Thursday, September 14, 2023

9:30am - 11am

HDC 3rd Floor

Chancellor's Reception Room

Dr. Stewart has been appointed the new Chair of Surgery at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, GA. Come join us in wishing him well on this exciting new journey!

CLINICAL CONGRESS 2023

**BOSTON, MA
OCTOBER 22-25**

ACS AMERICAN COLLEGE
OF SURGEONS

RSVP at » tinyurl.com/rsvp-lsusurg

LSU Health
NEW ORLEANS

Department of Surgery

You are cordially invited to our

Alumni Reception

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Aloft Boston Seaport Hotel

Boston, MA

Room: Mann 2 and 3

5pm – 7pm

*Co-Hosted by the Departments of Surgery
Tulane University
University of Mississippi*

State of the Department



Thursday, November 9, 2023

7:30am - 8:30am

**Human Development Center
1st Floor Auditorium**

*411 S. Prieur Street
New Orleans, LA 70112*

All faculty, staff,
residents, and fellows
are required to attend

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