A New Mission

Church Will Enable Medical School Expansion

The former Parkview Baptist Church on the edge of the health sciences center campus will provide an answered prayer for efforts to grow the School of Medicine and help decrease the physician shortage in the state. Campus leadership in November presented a plan to the Louisiana Board of Regents to use the church sanctuary for two 150-seat classroom spaces needed to increase the medical school’s enrollment by 25% within the next ten years.

In 2011, the LSU Health Sciences Foundation purchased the church in hopes of converting it to a conference center for the health sciences center. The sanctuary was maintained as promised to the church at the time of the purchase.

Meanwhile campus leadership took the first step to grow the school, accepting 125 students to begin their first year in July. It was the largest class in school history, and also the largest enrollment possible with current space limitations. New, larger lecture space would be necessary to reach the goal of 150 students per class.

This was the opportunity campus officials presented to the Board of Regents, as they considered proposals for the $40 million WISE (Workforce and Innovation for a Stronger Economy) Fund. Its purpose is to foster higher education programs that will help alleviate workforce shortage areas in the state.

"With space limitations being the most critical constraint to expanding the medical school class size, renovations to existing facilities would alleviate restrictions, permitting the acceptance of additional qualified medical school candidates," said Chancellor Robert Barish. "A significant number of these future MDs would, in turn, help decrease the physician shortage in Louisiana."

In Louisiana, 2,890 primary care physicians will be needed in the next five years to meet increased demand and replace retiring physicians, according to the Louisiana Workforce Commission. Statistics show that 54% of Louisiana public medical school graduates stay in Louisiana to train and two-thirds of those remain in the region to practice—making this project a perfect fit for the WISE program.

The Board of Regents agreed, granting $1.02 million in WISE funds. Legal agreements between LSU and the Foundation will allow the funds to renovate the church sanctuary. The Foundation will contribute $400,000.

Design and construction will take about 18 months, making it possible to begin the expansion in 2016 toward the ultimate goal of 600 total students. Filling the larger classes should not be a problem. In 2014, more than 1,000 applications were received for the 125 student positions.

2014 was a year for the record books. Incredibly, we faced our two major reaccreditation surveys in the same year. That is something that we are told can happen only once in every 40 years!

The good news is that we received the maximum accreditation from both—a full 8 years from the the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) and a full ten years from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSOC).

Accreditation for institutions is like final exams—you can’t really cram for the test. The standards are set by a peer review board whose members include leadership from other institutions. Meeting the standards is an ongoing process. Re-accreditation, or reaffirmation as it is referred to by SACSOC, is a validation that we are achieving our mission and providing quality educational programs for our students by the things we are doing every day.

We received the LCME accreditation news regarding our medical school programming in October. The announcement by SACSCOC came just last month at the annual meeting of the group. We were in a large conference center with hundreds of higher education leaders. Even though we had learned unofficially the night before that we would be reaffirmed, it was still a thrill to hear our name called.

Another piece of good news came last month as well when we learned that the Louisiana Board of Regents unanimously approved the Center of Research Excellence designation for the Feist-Weiller Cancer Center, with full approval through December 2019.

I could not be more proud of this institution and all of the faculty and staff who help us maintain the high standards required for accreditation and recognition.

Thank you for your continued support of our efforts.

Robert A. Barish, MD MBA
Chancellor
doctors realized that the preserved bone had a high risk of causing an infection in Jordan’s brain, so it was not suitable.

While doctors would prefer to use the native bone, advances in materials and processes have made it possible to make a custom implant perfectly suited for each patient. The process starts with a CT scan of the patient’s head. That scan is used to print a three-dimensional piece—layer upon layer—that is an exact fit. The new section is made of a polymer which is similar to bone.

Jordan had the replacement surgery in May of 2015. While she still has some vision problems from the accident, she is back in school as a freshman at Airline High School. She is very proud of the progress she has made, as is her doctor, who was overwhelmed with joy the first time Jordan walked back into her office. Among other things, Jordan has managed to learn to read Braille, which is quite an accomplishment.

“She’s just an amazing girl who has had a remarkable outcome,” says Dr. Notarianni.

Amazing is a term that could also apply to the 3D printing technology that helped Jordan. Some say it may revolutionize health care, providing custom medical devices and implants, and perhaps ultimately limbs, organs and tissue. Injured soldiers, accident victims, and cancer patients could all benefit.

Meet the Faculty

The eight physician faculty members of the Department of Neurosurgery specialize in treating a wide variety of neurological disorders with expertise in pediatrics, vascular surgery, skull base surgery, spinal surgery, neuro-oncology, movement disorders and research. As University Neurosurgeon, the department members staff the only Gamma Knife Surgery Center in north Louisiana, located at University Health, and boasts the only fellowship trained Pediatric Neurosurgeons in the ArkLaTex. Their Basic Science Research Lab is funded by the National Institutes of Health.

With a team of certified physician assistants, nurses and clinic staff, the physicians provide care at both University Health and Willis-Knighton Health System in Shreveport. The practice recently opened a new consolidated 10,000 square foot clinic at Willis-Knighton Pierremont’s Medical Arts Building.

FACULTY MEMBERS AND THEIR SPECIALTIES ARE:

Anil Nanda, MD MPH FACS, Professor and Chairman, general and spinal neurosurgery, as well as skull base tumors, malformations, aneurysms, and Gamma Knife radiosurgery

Donald R. Smith, MD, Clinical Professor, general neurosurgery with a special interest in spinal surgery and spinal instrumentation

Bharat Guthikonda, MD, Associate Professor, endoscopic and open skull base surgery, vascular neurosurgery and general neurosurgery

Anthony Sin, MD, Assistant Professor, minimally invasive spinal instrumentations and complex spinal disorders, including deformity corrections and spinal tumors

Christina Notarianni, MD, Assistant Professor, hydrocephalus, craniofacial disorders, congenital malformations, pediatric head trauma and tumors

Hugo Cuellar-Saenz, MD, Assistant Professor, interventional neuroradiology including the endovascular treatment of vascular disorders of the brain and spine such as stroke, arteriovenous malformations and aneurysms, as well as pain management

Jessica Wilden, MD, Assistant Professor, Director of Stereotactic & Functional Neurosurgery, deep brain stimulation for the treatment of movement disorders, including Parkinson’s disease, dystonia, and essential tremor, as well as in the surgical treatment of epilepsy, pain, and spasticity

Symeon Missios, MD, Assistant Professor, neurosurgical oncology

Guohong Li, MD PhD, Associate Professor of Neurosurgery & Physiology, vascular biology and inflammation research
Budding Brain Surgeon

Middle Schooler Gets Glimpse of Medical School

Nathan Sullivan had never met a brain surgeon, but he saw one on TV. That’s when the 11-year-old sixth grader at Vivian Middle Magnet decided it looked like a pretty cool profession.

“I watch Grey’s Anatomy,” he explained, “and that’s how I decided to be a brain surgeon.”

Last month, the mini-McDreamy got a real-life look at the profession when he visited the Department of Neurosurgery at the School of Medicine. He got to meet several brain surgeons, including Department Chairman Dr. Anil Nanda, Pediatric Neurosurgeon Dr. Christina Notarianni and Neuro-Oncologist Dr. Symeon Missios.

Dr. Nanda said he enjoyed spending time with the honor roll student and hopes the visit will encourage him toward a career in neurosurgery. “It is our duty to ignite that spark in the next generation,” Dr. Nanda said.

Nathan liked seeing the Gamma Knife and hearing how it could be used to operate on brain tumors without a scalpel. He also got to see and hold a real preserved brain in the medical school’s anatomy lab.

Nathan’s visit to the School of Medicine was set up after Dean John Marymont saw an interview on KTBS-TV’s annual 4-H show. During the interview, the avid 4-Her told reporter Erin Buchanan that his goal is to become a brain surgeon.

Dr. Nanda told Nathan to work hard and get good grades to realize his dream. He gave the budding brain surgeon a copy of Dr. Ben Carson’s biography, Gifted Hands, which Nathan plans to read this summer. He will write a book report for Dr. Nanda, he promised.

Assured by Nathan that he is a good student and likes to study, Dr. Nanda told the boy: “Good job. We’ll see you in ten years for medical school.”
With six sessions and 150 graduates to its name, Mini Med School’s presence in the Shreveport community is no longer mini. A new session will soon draw more people to the medical school to get a taste of what students experience.

The new session, kicking off January 13, will feature all new topics from faculty. More spots will be open than in the past to allow new people to join and Mini Med alums to return. Doctors will deliver lectures in an easy to understand way, encouraging participation.

Cost for the program is $40, including a white lab coat, or $20 for past students. To register, visit the Health Sciences Foundation’s website at www.lsuhsfoundation.org.

### Milestone for Joint Program with Louisiana Tech

In December, medical student Jeffery Weisman became the first to successfully complete a PhD in bioengineering at Louisiana Tech through a joint MD/PhD program offered by Tech and the School of Medicine. Dr. Weisman, originally from Chicago, is now completing clinical rotations as a third year medical student. He expects to receive his MD in May of 2016.

With a law degree also to his name, he will have no shortage of opportunities after graduation. Dr. Weisman plans to pursue a career in academic medicine, with a focus on patient care and developing new technologies.

LSU Health Shreveport also offers a joint MD/PhD program through the School of Graduate Studies. Dr. Scott Pruett became the second to complete it last year.

**What’s in a Doctor’s Pockets?**

Whether it’s a short white coat for medical students or a long one for MDs, a white coat is a symbol of professionalism and healing. The coats also serve the more practical purpose of holding medical tools and must-haves for the doctor.

Sanjay Juneja, MD, a second-year internal medicine resident and medical school alum, shows what he stashes in his white coat pockets.

**THE PERSONAL POCKET:**

- Mini Bottle of Hand Sanitizer
- Packet of Tylenol
- Chapstick
- Mini Alloids
- Personal Black Book of Formulas & Facts
- Phone and pager numbers of other physicians
- Black Ink Pen
- Penlight Check pupil response
- Highlighter
- EKG Caliper Measures the interval between the lines on an electrocardiogram
- 24G Needle IV access
- Reflex Hammer
- 28G Needle Sensory examination
- Ophthalmoscope Eyes examination
- LSU Antibilgram Determines the sensitivity of microorganism to a range of antibiotics
- Sanjay Juneja, MD, a second-year internal medicine resident and medical school alum, shows what he stashes in his white coat pockets.
FACULTY MEMBER AMONG FIRST TO BE CERTIFIED IN BRAIN INJURY MEDICINE
Alireeze Minagar, MD, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurology, has been certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in Brain Injury Medicine (BIM). BIM was approved as a new subspecialty in 2011, with the first board exams held this past October. Dr. Minagar is among the first 321 physicians in the nation to be certified in the field, which will focus on the prevention, evaluation, treatment, and rehabilitation of individuals with brain injury from falls, motor vehicle accidents, sports trauma, and military combat-related events.

Every year, a significant number of patients with brain injury are admitted and managed at University Health Shreveport, the primary teaching hospital of LSU Health Shreveport. Dr. Minagar and his team of neurologists work with other members of the patient’s medical, critical care, and neurosurgical teams to treat these patients and improve their neurological and cognitive outcomes. Dr. Minagar along with other members of neurology department are working to establish a Traumatic Injury service in Shreveport.

NEW STUDY SHOWS LARYNGEAL CANCER SURVIVAL RATES HIGHER AT LSU HEALTH SHREVEPORT
Patients with advanced-stage laryngeal cancer treated by LSU Health Shreveport doctors versus elsewhere have a higher survival rate five years later. A study detailing these findings was published online November 27 in JAMA Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery.

Blake Joseph LeBlanc, MD, a fifth-year Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery resident, was first author on the paper, with co-authors Renuhna SNG, PhD, Associate Professor at Feist-Weiller Cancer Center; Vikas Mehta, MD, Assistant Professor Department of Otolaryngology/Head&Neck Surgery; Glenn Mills, MD, Professor and Director, Feist-Weiller Cancer Center and Federico Ampil, MD, Professor at Feist-Weiller Cancer Center. Chee-Art Ann Northis, MD, Professor and chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology/Head&Neck Surgery, served as the senior and corresponding author.

Focusing on 165 patients diagnosed with advanced stage laryngeal carcinoma between 1998 and 2007, the authors compared survival outcomes after the initial surgery. Data for the LSU Health patients and national data came from the National Cancer Database.

The five-year survival rate for LSU Health patients with stage IV disease was 55.54%, compared with 31.6% nationwide. This higher survival rate is in light of external factors that can be barriers to good outcomes; more LSU Health Shreveport patients were uninsured (23.73% vs. 5.05% nationally) and more patients traveled farther for care (60.74% traveling 50 miles or more vs. 15.87% nationally).

When analyzing the reason for the higher survival rates here, the authors concluded that performing a laryngectomy upfront for advanced stage laryngeal cancer could explain the significant difference.

DR. KLEIN TAPPED TO VETERAN AFFAIRS PANEL
Ronald Klein, PhD, Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology, and Neuroscience, was named chairperson of the Neurobiology-E (NURE) national study section of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The panel reviews grants on Parkinson’s disease and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

NEUROSURGERY RESIDENT WINS AWARD
Christopher Storey, MD, a fourth-year resident in the Department of Neurosurgery, received the “Top Poster” award from the Congress of Neurological Surgeons in Boston, Mass.

VASCULAR SURGERY CHIEF APPOINTED TO EDITORIAL BOARD
Wayne Zhang, MD FACS, Assistant Professor of Surgery was appointed to the editorial board of the Global Vascular Digest.

RECENT HONORS FOR DR. TAN
Tze-Woei Tan, MD FACS, Assistant Professor of Surgery, received a two-year CARE Education Grant of $20,000 toward his efforts on Surgery Boot Camp for 4th-year medical students. He also was recently inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

SURGEON ELECTED TO CANCER ORGANIZATION
Guyen D. Chu, MD FACS, Charles Knight Professor in Surgery, has been elected to the Commission on Cancer.

RADIOLOGIST HONORED
During the recent Annual Congress of Iberolatinoamericana Society of Diagnostic and Therapeutic Neuroradiology (SILAN) in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Eduardo Gonzalez Toledo, MD PhD, Professor of Radiology, was presented the prestigious Career Tribute and Merit Award.

SILAN is a nonprofit professional scientific organization formed by neuroradiologists, neuroradiologists and neurosurgeons interested in diagnostic and therapeutic imaging.

RECENT APPOINTMENTS FOR DR. TERRY DAVIS
Terry Davis, PhD, Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics, now serves on the Institute of Medicine’s Committee on the State of the Science in Ovarian Cancer Research. She is also a member of its Roundtable on Health Literacy and is co-chair of the planning committee of the International Academy Health Communication. Locally, Dr. Davis serves as secretary of the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of North Louisiana.

TOP 40 UNDER 40
Christina Notarianni, MD, Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery, was one of the 40 nominees under 40 from the Young Professionals Initiative of Shreveport-Bossier City. Ellie O’Brien Hudnall, MD, a School of Medicine alumna, was also a nominee.

PT HEAD UP FOR TOP POSITION
Sharon Dunn, PT PhD, Program Director of Physical Therapy and Associate Professor at the School of Allied Health Professions, is a nominee for President of the American Physical Therapy Association. The election will take place during the association’s annual meeting in June.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR RECOGNIZED
Mimi Hedgcock, Executive Director of Governmental Affairs, was a finalist for the ATHENA Award through the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce. Honorees are selected based on their career, service to the community and mentorship of other women.

DR. HERRERA SECURES RESEARCH GRANT
The Amyloidosis Foundation has awarded Guillermo Herrera, MD, Professor & Chair of Pathology, a $100,000 grant to study the disease. Amyloidosis is an abnormal protein that is typically produced in bone marrow. Amyloidosis is a rare disease that occurs when amyloid proteins accumulate in the body’s organs and tissues, potentially causing organ failure. Dr. Herrera is studying the role of the kidney and the eventual kidney failure common in the disease.

PHARMACOLOGY, TOXICOLGY & NEUROSCIENCE STUDENTS HONORED
Students from the Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience received recognition at the South Central Chapter of the Society of Toxicology meeting held in Oxford, MS October 24.

Kasey Jackson, mentored by Dr. Ronald Klein, placed 2nd for a graduate student poster. Mentored by Dr. Kenneth McMartin, Royce Nichols won 1st place for an undergraduate student poster. Anu Sreedharan received 1st place among all graduate students for her platform presentation. She is mentored by Dr. Yunfeng Zhao.

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DR. MINAGAR PUBLISHES NEW BOOK ON "HUMAN CEREBELLUM"
Human cerebellum is one of the most sophisticated and the least researched areas of the human central nervous system. Dr. Alireeze Minagar, Professor & Chair of Neurology, has collaborated to release a new textbook titled “Cerebellar Diseases,” published by Elsevier, Inc. This textbook is an international effort among experts and contains chapters on the role of cerebellum in human cognition, sleep, and psychiatric disorders. Eduardo Gonzalez-Toledo, MD PhD, Professor of Radiology, Jeanie Mc Kee, DHEd, Instructor of Neurology, Dr. Minagar; and Amir Hadi Moghzi MD, Internal Medicine Resident, are contributors to the book.
Professor of Pediatrics, Sushil Jain’s research interest was sickle cell anemia until a happenchance analysis of his own blood in the 1980’s changed the course of his career and life as a whole. When using his blood as a control in a study, Dr. Jain discovered he had Type 2 Diabetes. He switched gears and began to study the effect of a specific amino acid in insulin signaling in diabetes. His lab’s work has garnered national attention.

Now, the National Institutes of Health’s National Center for Complementary & Alternative Medicine has awarded Dr. Jain a two year, $652,500 grant to continue this research.

Preliminarily, he has found that Vitamin D, the “sunshine” vitamin, and l-cysteine, an amino acid, are deficient in obese people, who are at increased risk of diabetes. African Americans are at higher risk of diabetes and Vitamin D deficiency as well. If the deficiency is making these groups insulin-resistant, then supplementing Vitamin D and l-cysteine could become the recommendation for treatment.

“The cost of taking care of diabetes is $250 billion, and it’s only going up,” Dr. Jain commented. “We need to concentrate also on prevention—stepping smoking, making better food choices and being more active outdoors.”

He is proof that although difficult, it is possible to make lifestyle changes. Counting broccoli, tomatoes, spinach and mushrooms at the top of his list of “superfoods,” Dr. Jain maintains a plant-based diet and makes sure to play tennis outside at least once a week.

Dr. Jain is currently the Chair of the American Society of Nutrition (Vitamins/Minerals) and also is appointed to the Malcolm Feist Endowed Chair in Diabetes at the School of Medicine.

“Finding Clues in Predisposition”

As Associate Professor Neslihan Gungor, MD, was starting a pediatric endocrinology fellowship at UAMS Arkansas Children’s Hospital, an unfortunate trend in diabetes was sweeping the nation. Instead of only seeing kids with Type 1 Diabetes, an unpreventable condition where the body totally lacks insulin, endocrinologists were beginning to diagnose Type 2 Diabetes in teens and adolescents. With this type, the body either has a disproportionately low insulin or can’t use insulin effectively (insulin resistance). It can be prevented or delayed with a healthy lifestyle.

“There have been remarkable technological advances in the treatment of diabetes in kids and adults alike,” said Dr. Gungor. “My passion, however, lies in the prevention of Type 2 Diabetes. To help in that endeavor, Dr. Gungor is now part of a three-year grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of Louisiana called the Healthy Green and Into the Outdoors project. Dr. Gungor is developing a Children’s Healthy Weight and Activity Clinic as part of the grant’s larger goal of helping community members adopt healthier lifestyles.

Diana Schimberg, RN, has joined the effort and spearheads healthy breakfast workshops to teach kids how to assemble their own nutritious breakfast and fruit-infused water. The kids also learn how to read food labels.

“The single biggest thing many of these kids can do to improve their health is to swap out sugary beverages with water,” said Diana. Dr. Gungor also stresses the importance of cooking at home and setting a good example for kids.

“Simple, fresh ingredients are all you need to make a nutritious meal,” said Dr. Gungor, concluding: “We have to take responsibility for our actions and what we are teaching the next generation in the way of habits. I hope the education we can provide through this grant will go a long way.”

“Teaching Kids Healthy Habits”

Stop the Spread of Type 2 Diabetes

“We know we have an epidemic of diabetes. In 30 years, 1 out of 4 of us will be diabetic. We know how to take care of it but we’re not. Good habits start at home.”

—Dr. Jain

Dr. Sushil Jain (left) and Dr. Neslihan Gungor are both dedicated to preventing diabetes. They hope to collaborate on pre-diabetes research in the future.
CLASS OF 1984

Lori Barr and her husband, Steve, live in Austin, TX where Lori works with Austin Radiological Association. Lori’s latest book is ‘Think & Grow Well,’ a 46 bestseller in Preventative Medicine in the U.S. and Canada.

Gary Booker and his wife, Ruth, live in Shreveport. He has been in private practice conducting clinical drug trials for 17 years and also works part-time at LSU Health Shreveport as Director of Emergency Psychiatry.

J.R. Carter is married to Jan Bailey Carter and together, they have raised two children. He has been a practicing OB/GYN in Bossier City since 1988.

Larry Easterling and his wife, Debbie, live in Fort Worth, where he practices at Cook Children’s Medical Center as a pediatric critical care specialist.

Robert Edwards is married to Lisa, and has two children and two step-children. Currently, he is a radiologist with Brown-Foxe Radiology in Bossier City.

Phil Fabacher retired from his position as associate professor of clinical OB/GYN at LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans in June.

Melanie Frederick served active duty in the Air Force for four years, before hospital practice. She now performs interventional procedures at St. Francis Medical Center, where he performs Pulmonary and Critical Care.

Phyllis Hendry has two children. She is the Assistant Professor and Fellowship Program Director for the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Florida College of Medicine.

Tony Nelson currently serves as medical director for the Calvert Medical Imaging/Center in Prince Frederic, MD.

Tommy Rogue lives in Sherman, TX with her husband, Vic Pantoja. She practices medical oncology.

Dana Smith is the program director in general surgery at Greenville Health System in Piedmont, SC. Husband’s name is Rebecca, they have four sons and one grandson.

Gudrun Walker and her husband, Mike (’81 Radiology), have two daughters. She retired in 2010 after serving as the Director of Breast Imaging at LSUHSC and then of Scurpmount.

Gene Maysaux and his wife, Patty, have two children. He has been employed 17 years in the Georgetown Hospital System in Maryland.

Wendy Moses has been in a clinical practice in Shreveport since residency. She and her husband, Randy, have two children and two grandchildren.

Colby Rivers has been in practice in Ocala for 14 years. He and his wife, Kelley, have two children.

Paul Stringfellow and his wife, Kim, have two children. They have been in family practice in Conroe for 17 years. During that time, he served as president of the Academy of Family Physcians and was Chief of Staff.

Tim Thaller and his wife, Nicole, have two children. He is a urologist in St. Sabina, GA.

CLASS OF 2004

Jenni Barr-Covarr-Post's clinical practice is in pediatric and adolescent gynecology at Texas Children’s Hospital. She is also the OB-Gyn on the Critical Care Director at the University of Texas Medical Branch.

Neri and her husband, Josh, have one daughter.

Mindy Williams Bowie is married to Chad Bowie (’06) recently moved to Baton Rouge and have two children. Mindy is a Louisiana Breast Specialists and practices in Breast Surgical Oncology.

Charice Cuthbert and his wife, Kelly, live in Lafayette and have two children. He is practicing as a retinologist specialist with Acadian Retina Consultants.

John Haynes is practicing in Shreveport at Willis- Knighton South. He is a fellowship-trained, extraspecialized ophthalmologist with expertise in corneal and refractive surgery.

Scott Gauthreaux and his wife, Kelley, live in Lafayette and have two children. She is a family practice resident with Acadian Retina Consultants.

John and wife, Elizabeth, are the parents of twins. He opened his own practice, Eye Care Specialists of Louisiana and serves as a board member of the Shreveport Medical Society.

Andre Guidry and her husband, Scott, have two children. Andre is a partner in a four-doctor Family Practice Clinic in Houma, where she practices clinic and hospital practice.

Sarah Hamaul and husband Thomas have three children. Sarah works as a family physician focusing on addiction and pain management with Willis-Knighton.

Kermit Hale is an staff at Keiser Medical Center in Mt. Horeau. Kermit will be a Pediatric Flight Commander. He has been married for six years and has a newborn.

CLASS OF 1994

Ralph Abraham was recently elected Congressman to U.S. House representing the 5th Congressional District of Louisiana. He is an aviation medical examiner and practices general family medicine in Mandeville. He and his wife, Dianne, have three children and eight grandchildren.

Charity and Anna (Townson) Boudreaux are married and have two children. Charity is the partner at Regional Internal Medicine Association, and Anna, a partner at Preferred Pediatrics, practice at The Acadiana Clinic in Thibodaux.

Chuck Burrell and his wife, Miranda, have two children. Currently he serves as lead medical director of Acadiana Companies (Acadian Ambulance).

Quynh Dang is married to Thach Chou and has two girls and a son. She is a pediatrician at Bossier Pediatrics Partners in Bossier City.

Dane Smith is the program director in general surgery at Greenville Health System in Piedmont, SC. Husband’s name is Rebecca, they have four sons and one grandson.

John Felty and his wife, Jessica, live in Shreveport and have three children. He works in the emergency room at Willis-Knighton South and part-time in the emergency room at University Health Shreveport.

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Physical Therapy Director Will Represent National Group in DC

Bobby Pugh, a partner in the law firm Pugh, Pugh and Pugh, is the new president of the LSU Health Sciences Foundation Board of Directors. Mark Garrett will be the new vice chairman. Both begin their terms this month, joining Rand Falbaum, treasurer, and Bob Hammond, secretary.

Pugh specializes in medical malpractice, corporate law and estate planning and probate. He and his wife, Maura, live in Shreveport. Garrett is a former audit partner with KPMG LLP and lives in Shreveport with his wife, Patty.

Falbaum is President of Gordon, Inc., and owner, manager, and mentor to over 50 businesses. He resides in Elm Grove, LA with his wife, Susan. Ham is a partner in Haman Mechanical. He lives in Shreveport with his wife, Celeste.

Dr. Sharon Dunn, School of Allied Health Professions, Director of Physical Therapy for the American Physical Therapy Association she will represent more than 88,000 physical therapists like herself, who are hoping legislators will finally repeal a provision from the 1997 Balanced Budget Act (BBA) that limited Medicare coverage of rehabilitation therapy.

Even though it was part of the act to balance the budget, the caps have never actually been implemented. Congress has repeatedly forestalled them by passing moratoriums and on exceptions process that allows a therapist to circumvent the limit by citing medical need.

“Since 1997, we’ve just been kicking the can down the road,” Dr. Dunn noted. The APTA believes 2015 presents the best opportunity to permanently repeal the therapy caps. That’s because Congress will likely be taking up a bill to address another provision in the 1997 BBA, cutting fees paid to physicians under the Medicare program. The two solutions could be tied together.

There are several problems with the therapy caps, Dr. Dunn said. For one thing, the limitation does not consider a patient’s condition or the fact he or she may have multiple conditions requiring therapy. A patient who has had a stroke might need both physical therapy and speech and language therapy, while another rehabilitating from a knee replacement surgery and uses up the therapy cap could later have a stroke. In addition, the cap hurts Medicare patients by limiting their choice of providers and forcing them to either bear the full cost for their therapy once they exceed the cap or give it up altogether.

The across-the-board limitations were seen as a cost-saving measure, but it has been shown that getting people mobile and physically active earlier after an injury can actually save money in the long run.

Dr. Dunn who is Chair of the Rehabilitation Sciences Department, joined the faculty of the School of Allied Health Professions in 1990 and became vice president of the national organization in 2012.

COMING SOON

January 13 Mini Med First Class
5 pm | Medical School, Room 3-322

January 30 LSU Board of Supervisors Meeting
Zadeck Conference Center

February 7 Neuropadate
Medical School Auditorium

March 7 White Coat Ceremony
2 pm | Riverview Theatre

March 17 Geaux Bald Shaving Day
BRI Atrium

March 20 Match Day
11 am | BRI Atrium

March 24 Ultrasound in Anesthesiology & Pain Management Conference
Medical School, Room 4-326

NEW FACULTY & LEADERSHIP

Kathryn F. Chreene, PA, Instructor, Neurosurgery
Ana Maria Dragoi, PhD, Assistant Professor, FW Cancer Center
Cynthia L. Freelon, Instructor, Cardiopulmonary Science
Jennifer B Garrett, MS, Instructor, Emergency Medicine
Caitlin A. Hodges, PA, Instructor, Neurosurgery
Rong Jin, MD, Assistant Professor-Research, Neurosurgery
Julie E. Kajor, PA, Instructor, Urology
Xiaohong Lu, PhD, Assistant Professor, Pharmacology & Toxicology
Meher Sindhuoara Sangabathula, MD, Instructor, Medicine
Christopher D. Schmutz, PhD, Assistant Professor, Pharmacology & Toxicology
Dametria A Sinegal-Daniel, MD, Assistant Professor, Family Medicine
Katherine A. Stammen, MD, Instructor, Anesthesiology
Xuiping Yu, PhD, Assistant Professor, Biochemistry

GRADUATING ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

LEFT: Tiffany C. Harris, a Clinical Laboratory Science graduate, celebrated with family after the School of Allied Health Professions’ December Diploma Ceremony. TOP RIGHT: Katelyn Victoria Cook showed off her diploma with fellow Occupational Therapy graduate Dominique Gabryelle Mitchell. BOTTOM RIGHT: Katherine Benton Brame and Akane Daniels processed out of the ceremony held in the LSU Health Shreveport auditorium. Both received a Master’s Degree in Physician Assistant.