Chancellor’s Corner

We’re seeing a lot of new faces on campus these days.

This steady stream of newcomers began in May with the arrival of 129 new students in our six School of Allied Health Professions programs: Cardiopulmonary Science, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant, Clinical Laboratory Science and Communication Disorders. The future is bright for these students. Virtually 100% of them will have jobs waiting when they complete the programs.

In July, we will welcome the largest ever first-year class in the history of our medical school. The 125 members represent an increase of seven students. A total of 160 new residents and fellows arrived for orientation in June. This is also a larger group than in previous years.

As our country and state anticipate a severe physician shortage, we hope to continue to expand and strengthen the medical school to help ensure our community and state have well-prepared physicians to care for our families. The majority of students who attend medical school and train at an institution remain in the area to practice. It is highly likely that the physicians you entrust with your own and your family’s health, attended medical school or trained in Shreveport.

Fifteen new graduate students will arrive on campus for orientation July 29. They will participate in one of six graduate studies programs: Cellular Biology and Anatomy; Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Microbiology and Immunology; Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience, or Molecular and Cellular Physiology. As research scientists, they will join in the exciting search for innovations that could lead to medical breakthroughs and advances.

Along with the new students, we have more than a dozen new faculty members this academic year. They join a distinguished group who do an outstanding job preparing our students for health and science careers.

In all, our campus is home to three schools with more than 850 students, 600 residents and fellows, 600 faculty members and 1,600 staff. That is pretty amazing when you consider we started 45 years ago with one school, 32 students and 138 faculty.

Robert A. Barish, MD MBA, Chancellor

First Dually-Trained Emergency/Family Medicine Physician Graduates

The first dually-trained Emergency Medicine/Family Medicine (EM/FM) physician at LSU Health Shreveport was celebrated at a special graduation event in June. Dr. Nathan Martin will begin practice this month, part time in the LSUHSC Department of Family Medicine. He will also work part time as an emergency physician at a Marshall, TX hospital.

The combined EM/FM program began in 2009. One of only two in the country, it integrates two three-year residencies into the five years. Participants alternate emergency and family medicine rotations. Eight more physicians are training in the 5-year program that prepares graduates to be board certified in both Family Medicine and Emergency Medicine.

Dr. Martin, who is from the small town of Forest Hill, LA, was just completing medical school here in 2009 when the innovative residency became available. He is happy to be the program pioneer. Noting that the combined training is especially valuable to someone who wants to prepare to practice in a small community, he feels it has also prepared him well for any setting.

Robert A. Barish, MD MBA, Chancellor
Outstanding Faculty

Jay Marion, MD, Associate Professor at Feist-Weiller Cancer Center, and Ken McMartin, PhD, Professor of Pharmacology & Toxicology, received the Allen A. Copping Excellence in Teaching Award for Clinical Faculty and Basic Science Faculty, respectively, at graduation. The Copping Awards are named in honor of Allen Copping, the former LSU System President and longtime Chancellor. Dr. Copping established the award to recognize faculty who are excellent teachers, have demonstrated a lifelong quest for discovery and inspire their students. Nominations come from both students and faculty colleagues.
Medical Student Research Journal Takes Off

An international research journal published by Shreveport medical students is creating buzz.

Launched online May 25, the inaugural edition of the American Medical Student Research Journal (AMSRJ), has garnered over 9,000 views so far. It features a foreword from Dr. Jeffrey Drazen, the New England Journal of Medicine Editor-in-Chief.

“All of our 17 original articles are getting substantial views,” noted fourth year medical student David Ballard, who serves as deputy editor. Rib fracture repair, art & medicine and graduate medical education funding are among the topics covered in the first edition.

Ballard said editorial staff are busy preparing for the next issue, set for November. They are seeing more editorial board applications and more submissions as a response to the first issue. The student journal is one of only a couple of its kind in the country. It was created by medical students to give future physician-scientists an opportunity to develop the critical thinking skills needed to succeed in academia and clinical practice.

Visit amsrj.org to read the journal.
Recognition and Presentations

Awards & Honors

Shyamal Bic, MD PhD FAHA, Research Fellow, Department of Neurosurgery: Vesalius Award for Outstanding Research, American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. 1st Place Electronic Poster in the History Category for the Submission Entitled “Dr. Gilbon Marc Lannelongue (1849-1911) and Strips for Craniosynostosis in Children.” AANS Meeting

Neville R. Dassahob, MD, Professor of Medicine, Section of Nephrology: Recognized as the 2014 Physician of the Year; Overton Brooks VA Medical Center in Shreveport

David Duggal, MLS AHIP, Professor of Medical Library Science: Professional Recognition Award for Technological Innovation from the Hospital Libraries Section of the Medical Library Association

Roger Kim, MD, FACS FICS, Associate Professor and Divisional Chief: Achieved Distinguished Fellow Status, Society for Vascular Surgery

Appointments & Elections

Nicholas E. Martinez, MS, Graduate Student, and the Pancreas: Radiologic Characteristics and Surgical Outcomes,” Microbiology and Immunology: "Th17 Biased Transgenic Mice Show

Roger Kim, MD, FACS, Edward & Freda Green Professor in Surgical Oncology, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery: Elected to Membership Committee, Association for Academic Surgery; Elected to Multi-Institutional Educational Research, Association for Surgical Education

Anil Nanda, MD, MPH, Chair of Neurosurgery: Elected to American Association of Neurological Surgeons Board

Rie Shary, Medical Student: Elected Region 3 Chair for American Medical Association Student Section

Tae-Woo Tan, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery: Invited Reviewer, Journal of Vascular Surgery

International Talks

Roger Kim, MD, JW Skewes, MD, Resident, Department of Radiology: J. Thomas, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Pathology; Qunen Chu, MD, Maureen Haildendom, MD, Professor, Department of Radiology; Horacio Ruben D’Agostino, MD, Professor & Chairman, Department of Radiology; Guillermo Pablo Sastorga, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Radiology: et al; “Solid Pseudopodillary Tumors of the Pancreas: Radiologic Characteristics and Surgical Outcomes,” International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association 2014 World Congress, Singapore

Nicholas E. Martinez, MS, Graduate Student, and the Pancreas: Radiologic Characteristics and Surgical Outcomes,” Microbiology and Immunology: "Th17 Biased Transgenic Mice Show

Posters

Kenneth Drua, MD, Sleep Medicine Fellow, David McCarthy, MD, Assistant Professor, Division of Sleep Medicine, Sreedhar Muni, MD, Assistant Professor, Division of Sleep Medicine, Eduardo C. Gonzales-Toledo, MD, PhD, Professor of Radiology, and Andrew L. Chossen, Jr., MD, Emeritus: "When Sleepiness Changes: A Case of Kline-Levin Syndrome Evolving into Persistent Hypersomnia," Associated Professional Sleep Societies (APSS) Annual Meeting 2014

Patrick L. Keating, MD, Ophthalmology Resident, and A. Scott Kavouman, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology: "Switching Anti-VEGF Drug Therapy in Treatment of Choroidal

Roger Kim, MD, Qunen Chu, MD, Timothy Gilbert, EdD, Director of GTE Faculty Development, et al: “The Impact of Surgical Resident Learning Styles Preferences on ASISTE Scores,” Association for Surgical Education 2014 Annual Meeting, Chicago

Beatrice K. Lauemie, MSN RN ACNP-BC, Instructor, Department of Surgery: "Dolorium in the Trauma Patient," Warren Metzel, MD, Trauma: Emergency Medicine Symposium, Bronx, NY

Blake LeBlanc, MD, Otalaryngology/HNS Resident, Runhui Shi, PhD, Assistant Professor, Otaryngology/HNS, Glenn Mills, MD, Professor and Director, Fet-Weiller Cancer Center: Charrie-Ann Nathan, MD, Professor and Chairman, Department of Otaryngology/HNS: "Improvements in Survival and Disparities for Advanced Stage Cancer Treated at an Equal-Acess Equitable Health System," International Federation of Head & Neck Oncological Societies (IFNOS) 5th World Congress and American Head & Neck Society Combined Meeting, New York, NY

Vikas Mehta, MD, Trisho Thompson, MD, Otalaryngology/HNS Resident, Jerry McCarty, PhD, Professor and Director of Cancer Prevention and Control, Fet-Weiller Cancer Center: Co-Authors, "Racial and Socioeconomic Factors Impact Survival of Otaryngology/HNS Patients Within the National Cancer Database," IFNOS & AANS Meeting

Charr-O-Ann Nathan, MD, Xiaohou Mo, MD, Clinical Associate, Department of Otaryngology/HNS, Nadine Kaskas, Medical Student, Shubnum Chaudhery, MD, Assistant Professor of Pathology; Runhui Shi, PhD, Toru Moroe, BS, Laboratory Manager, Department of Otaryngology/HNS, Timothy Linn, MD, Associate Professor, Vikas Mehta, MD, "Accuracy and Inter-Observable Agreement of the Novel Probe-Based Confocal Laser Endomicroscopy for the Detection of Head and Neck Neoplasia," IFNOS & AANS Meeting

Sailesh Omura, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, and Huo Tsunoda, MD PhD, "Phase-Specific Cardio Biomarkers and Blood Surrogate Markers for a Mouse Model of Myocarditis Induced by Cardiovirus," American Society for Virology Annual Meeting, Fort Collins, CO

Runhui Shi, PhD, Matthew Clavenna, MD, Associate Professor, Division of Sleep Medicine, and Runhua Shi, PhD, Tara Moore, BS, Laboratory Manager, Department of Otaryngology/HNS, Timothy Linn, MD, Associate Professor, Vikas Mehta, MD, "Accuracy and Inter-Observable Agreement of the Novel Probe-Based Confocal Laser Endomicroscopy for the Detection of Head and Neck Neoplasia," IFNOS & AANS Meeting

In Memoriam

Ulysses Haywood (Hank) Stoer, MD, one of 138 original volunteer faculty members for the School of Medicine, died May 9 at Grace Home in Shreveport. Dr. Stoer completed his pathology residency at Shreveport Charity Hospital after it was interrupted by service in the Army Medical Corps. Dr. Stoer was Director of Pathology at Schumpert Hospital until his retirement in 1985. He was 94.

Neovascularization and Macular Edema: “Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL

David McCarthy, MD, Paul Young Kim, PhD, Neurology Fellow, Clifton Frilot, PhD MBA, Associate Professor, School of Allied Health Professions, and Andrew Marino, PhD JD, Professor of Neurology, et al: "The EEG during Sleep is a Window to the Mind: Relevance of Sleep EEG to Anxiety Subjects with Mental Health Symptoms," and "The EEG Fingerprint of REM Sleep: Analysis of Brain Recurrence (AR) Identifies REM Using a Single EEG Lead," SLEEP 2014

Sivaraman Siwamossy, MBBS, Sleep Medicine Fellow, Cesar Liendo, MD, Assistant Professor, Division of Sleep Medicine, David McCarthy, MD, and Andrew Marino, PhD JD: "Willingness to Use Positive Airway Pressure Following Ambulatory Titration is not Correlated to Long Term Objective Compliance," SLEEP 2014

Deidre Woodson, MLS MA MT (ASCP), Assistant Professor of Medical Library Science: Donna F. Timm, MLS, Associate Professor of Medical Library Science; and Dee Jones, MLS AHIP, Associate Professor (retired) of Medical Library Science: “Literature Analysis as Medical Education: Librarians Facilitate Book Discussion Electives," Medical Library Association Annual Meeting & Exhibition

Margaret Young, MD, Ophthalmology Resident, Marilyn P. Langford, PhD, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, Thomas B. Redens, Clinical Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, and Shubnum Chaudhery, MD: "Gammal-Glutamy Transpeptidase in Human Diabetic and Non-Diabetic Cataract," ARVO Annual Meeting

Matthew Woolard, PhD, Assistant Professor of Microbiology & Immunology: "Fusobacteria Tubercolus LVS Induction of Prostaglandin Biosynthesis by Infected Macrophages Requires Specific Host Phospholipases and Lipid Phosphatases," Infection and Immunity

Montie’ Dobbins, MLS, Assistant Professor of Medical Library Science: "Pathway Privacy from the Access Services Perspective," Medical Library Association Annual Meeting & Exhibition, Chicago, IL

Neville R. Dassahob, MD, Sarah Khan, MHN, Nephrology Fellow, and Aloy Kollman, MD, Nephrology Fellow: “Head-To-Head Comparison of Safety Profiles of Various Intravenous Agents in CKD Patients,” National Kidney Foundation Annual Scientific Meeting, Las Vegas, NV

Semmi Dykes, graduate student, Department of Microbiology and Immunology: “Th17 Biased Transgenic Mice Show Exacerbation of an Autimmune Model for MS,” International Workshop, Japanese Society of Neurology Annual Meeting, Fukuoka, Japan

Newsworthy & Noteworthy

Allied Health Faculty Member Receives Statewide Award

Clinical Laboratory Science Assistant Professor Stephanie Blackburn, MHS, was named the Louisiana Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (LSCLS) Educator of the Year at their annual conference. She currently serves as LSCLS president.

Medical Student Honored by American Medical Association Foundation

The American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation has named LSU Health Shreveport medical student Nadine Kasas as a recipient of its 2014 Leadership Award. A fourth-year medical student, Nadine was among a select group of medical and dental students honored at the AMA’s annual meeting for exemplifying the traits of commitment to service, community involvement, altruism, leadership and dedication to patient care.
A Summer of Learning

Annie Thai spends her days downloading and sorting data and looking at MRI scans as part of groundbreaking Parkinson’s disease (PD) research. She isn’t a faculty member or even a graduate student but a teenager enrolled in the Jumpstart Summer Enrichment Program through the Office of Multicultural Affairs. The program is one of several offered to give local students a unique view of an academic medical center. They gain valuable research experience, as well as a stellar resume builder.

Annie’s mentor is Associate Professor of Neurology Elizabeth Disbrow, PhD. They are looking at the processing speed of the brain as it relates to PD. Dr. Disbrow uses a car analogy to describe the research: “If you push down the gas pedal all the way, how fast will it go? The car slows down as we age, but we have found that it slows down more in PD.” Annie is working on an experiment to investigate the mechanism of this problem in PD.

Dr. Disbrow says we need to grow more scientists through programs like Jumpstart. “What I hope is that these high school students will get excited about science and want to pursue it,” said Dr. Disbrow. “There are so many interesting jobs out there.”

Annie says studying the brain during her eight weeks of intensive research at the health sciences center is simply amazing. “I’m learning so many things I wouldn’t have if it weren’t for Jumpstart,” she concluded.

Research Wrap

Three LSU Health Shreveport faculty members have recently received new grants totaling nearly $850,000 from the National Institutes of Health. The grants will fund research on epilepsy, preeclampsia and drug-eluting stents for cardiac disease.

Epilepsy
Assistant Professor of Cellular Biology and Anatomy Ed Glasscock, PhD, began studying epilepsy as a graduate student at UC-Berkeley 15 years ago. He became especially interested in finding out why people with epilepsy are 24 times more likely to have a sudden, unexplained death. The condition is known as Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy or SUDEP. Over the years, his desire to find a way to prevent this tragic occurrence has been strengthened by talking to people who have lost loved ones to it. “Those interactions remind me of the real-life human tragedy caused by SUDEP and it motivates me to keep working toward a therapy,” he explained.

The next phase of his work is to understand the underlying genetic factors that predispose an individual to epilepsy and sudden unexpected death. His work will be aided by a recent grant award from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, which will provide nearly $400,000 over two years for the studies.

One suspected mechanism in SUDEP is that seizures somehow disrupt normal brain-heart interactions causing lethal cardiac arrhythmias. It is thought that this could be the result of gene mutations.

“In this study, we decided to see whether two genetic wrongs could make a right,” Dr. Glasscock said. His lab will try to determine if inheriting a mutation in one type of gene protects against seizures and sudden death caused by a mutation in another type. “Sometimes gene mutations can actually be beneficial and mask the harmful effects of another mutation,” he explained.

For Dr. Glasscock and his colleagues the ultimate goal is to improve the ability to predict, prevent and treat epilepsy, which affects about 1 in 26 Americans.

Preeclampsia
Dr. Yuping Wang, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, has received a grant award of $396,000 from The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to study the role of a substance called chymase in the pregnancy disorder preeclampsia. Preeclampsia is a serious condition that affects about 5-7 percent of pregnant women, causing the blood vessels in the body to constrict. Reduced blood flow can damage organs, causing severe or life threatening problems for mother and baby.

Chymase is present in cells. When it is activated, it generates agents that narrow blood vessels. This contributes significantly to increased blood pressure. Dr. Wang was the first to identify chymase activation in women with preeclampsia, but why it is activated is not known.

Dr. Lynn Groome, Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology; Dr. Steve Alexander, Professor of Physiology; and Dr. Kevin Pruitt, Assistant Professor of Physiology, are collaborators for the study. The team expects that results obtained from this research could ultimately lead to development of new medications to manage preeclampsia and cardiovascular diseases in general.

Drug-Eluting Stent
A $67,500 Small Business Technology Transfer award will help Professor Tammy Dugas, PhD, move her innovative coating for coronary stents and balloons one step closer to completion. For more than five years, Dr. Dugas has been involved in research focusing on the use of polyphenols (groups of chemicals found in red wine) as coatings for the devices used to correct blocked and narrowed blood vessels in the heart. The goal is to develop a stent coating that releases these drugs, which have been found to produce healthful chemicals that could inhibit re-narrowing of blood vessels or formation of blood clots. These are common complications for patients after placement of stents for heart disease.

To aid in development of the polyphenol-coated balloons and stents, she and a cofounder have created ReQuisite Biomedical, LLC. The company has developed a prototype of the polyphenol coated stent.

This NIH award will be used for initial testing of the prototype in animals to pave the way for FDA approvals allowing testing in humans.

Get the Latest from the School of Allied Health

You can now download a free app to keep up with the latest news and information from the School of Allied Health. Prospective students can find dates for information sessions, directions and contact information. Current students can connect directly to class information from Moodle. To find it, type in “lsuhsc” from your phone’s app store or scan the QR code.

Trauma Studies Seek Best Ways to Treat Soldiers, Civilians

Orthopedic trauma specialists at the School of Medicine are participating in a major study to help determine the best treatments for soldiers who suffer injuries on the battlefield. LSU was selected as one of two centers in Louisiana and 18 in the US for the Major Extremity Trauma Research Consortium (METRC). The consortium is conducting several nationwide clinical studies with funding by the Department of Defense with the hope of establishing treatment guidelines for optimal care and outcomes.

This is a unified pooling of military and civilian data from some of the largest and busiest trauma centers in the country. “As a participant in coordinated METRC studies we are enrolling patients at LSUHSC/University Hospital that will become part of one of the most powerful evidence based initiatives in orthopedic trauma, the results of which will enhance the function and quality of life for both injured military personnel and civilians,” said Associate Professor of Orthopedics Todd Jaehlton, who is one of the investigators. Professor and Vice Chairman of Orthopedics Massimo “Max” Morandi, an expert in acute trauma as well as reconstruction and bone and joint infection, is the principal investigator. He led the effort to get the health sciences center into the METRC studies.

Locally, patients are currently being enrolled in one study analyzing and collecting data about the correlation of deep wound infections with presence of bacteria around a surgery site at the time it is closed. The second study is a randomized trial of oral vs. intravenous antibiotics in the treatment of acute infection after orthopedic surgery.
Ear Specialists Answer the Call to Help Ailing Chimp

In medicine you never know what you might encounter, but most physicians don’t expect to be called on to doctor a 150 pound chimpanzee. That’s what happened recently to Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology Dr. Maura Cosetti and her team from the Department of Otolaryngology/HNS.

Dr. Cosetti, along with ENT residents Dr. Chris Lee and Dr. Paige Bundrick made a house call to Chimp Haven, a sanctuary for retired chimpanzees in south Caddo Parish. They had been asked for a consult on a 26-year-old deaf chimp named Sheena, whose chronic ear infection was causing great distress for the animal.

When the call for help came from the veterinarians at Chimp Haven, Dr. Cosetti was intrigued. “I then immediately went to research the anatomy of chimpanzee ears,” she said. The research revealed that a chimp’s ear is very similar to an adult human ear. When the doctors took a closer look, they saw that Sheena was having a complication from an earlier procedure and had poked a hole in the ear canal. Inside, they retrieved several pieces of straw that Sheena had apparently been using to relieve the itch associated with the infection. They performed a one-hour procedure to close the hole.

Though she looked right at home at Sheena’s bedside, it was Dr. Cosetti’s first time examining and performing surgery on a chimpanzee or any other animal.

“During the procedure I was constantly trying to brainstorm how we could best adapt what we do for adults to Sheena’s situation. It was easy to forget that we were at Chimp Haven! The facilities were quite adequate and similar to an ambulatory surgery center!”

The LSU doctors will continue to monitor Sheena’s recovery and wouldn’t hesitate to make another house call if she needs a follow-up, Dr. Cosetti said.

Gold Medal Givers

Associate Professors and Pediatric Cardiologists Ernest Kiel and Robert Jackson have given more than 10,000 toys to their young patients over the past ten years and their actions were recognized recently. KTAL-TV named the two “Gold Medal Givers.” The physicians pay for the toys from their own pockets. They said the small gesture makes a big difference for the kids, who may be a little apprehensive about a doctor’s visit. In the outpatient clinic at University Health, the doctors primarily see children with heart problems like murmurs, birth defects and chest pain. Some have had multiple surgeries.

Giving them toys helps make the fears go away and the patients leave with a smile — as do the doctors, who thoroughly enjoy handing out the small treasures. “Dr. Kiel and Dr. Jackson are very compassionate, caring physicians,” said their nurse, Debbie Bell. “They love kids and they do everything they can to take care of them.”

Coming Soon! Summer/Fall 2014

July 23 – Office of Multicultural Affairs Poster Session, 2-4 pm, BRI Atrium
August 9 – School of Allied Health Professions (SAHP) Graduation, 10 am, Shreveport Convention Center
August 23 – SAHP Alumni Golf Scramble, 8 am, Crookwood Hollow, Greenwood
September 20 – Trauma Symposium, 8 am, LSU Health Auditorium
September 27 – Life Savers Gala, 7 pm, Sam’s Town Ballroom

New Leaders and Faculty

Oleg Y. Chernyshev, PhD, Assistant Professor, Neurology
Stephanie S. Currie, MS, Clinical Instructor, Communication Disorders
Emily R. Neeley, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
Bich-Tran Pham, MD, Clinical Instructor, Anesthesiology
David D. Spaulding, PhD, Clinical Assistant Professor, Radiology