

Inside

LSU HEALTH SHREVEPORT

School of Medicine
School of Graduate Studies
School of Allied Health Professions
LSU Health Sciences Foundation

SUMMER 2017



A NEW VOICE

Laryngologist
Boosts Specialized
Care in Region



Inside LSU Health Shreveport is published three times a year by the Department of Communications and LSU Health Sciences Foundation on behalf of the School of Medicine, School of Graduate Studies, School of Allied Health and LSU Health Sciences Foundation.

SUMMER 2017

CHANCELLOR & DEAN, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
G.E. Ghali, DDS MD FACS FRCS(Ed)

DEAN, SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS
Joseph McCulloch, PhD

DEAN, SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
Sandra Roerig, PhD



Life at LSU Health Sciences Center-Shreveport remains invigorating as each day brings new opportunities, exciting news of student and faculty accomplishments, and, yes, the continued challenge of earning the income required for our health sciences center to prosper. I am committed to educating interested parties on the action required to ensure that LSUHSC-Shreveport remains an indispensable component of our region's economy and healthcare delivery.

First, the health sciences center must seize every opportunity to increase our clinical services in order to strengthen our bottom line. Currently, we earn over 50 percent of the income required to cover the cost of our three professional schools. With the status of our state's budget, we remain steadfast in seeking ways to secure funds outside the state of Louisiana. That being said, we will always work to secure every possible dollar from the state as we are a proven provider of cutting edge healthcare, outstanding medical education and innovative research.

Secondly, we must grow our research enterprise. We are making significant strides in that regard. Since July 1, 2016, we have been awarded over \$10 million in new research grants, strengthened our research infrastructure and have seen significant acceleration in technology initiatives.

And last but not least, we need more philanthropic support. While it is heartwarming to hear business leaders and patients state the importance of our health sciences center, we need that talk to translate to stronger individual and corporate support. Our LSU Health Sciences Foundation (www.lsuhsfoundation.org) stands ready to facilitate gifts to fund our priority needs, as well as gifts in support of specific areas of interest. "Thank you" to those who supported our annual fundraiser, An Evening for Healers, on May 4. A special thanks to Susan Moffitt who chaired the event and did a spectacular job.

We are, indeed, fortunate to have an academic health sciences center in a community the size of Shreveport-Bossier. I am counting on each of you to give your best effort and gifts as we work together to protect and support LSUHSC-Shreveport, a true community treasure.

Sincerely,

G.E. Ghali, DDS MD FACS FRCS(Ed)
Chancellor & Dean

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Melyssa Braga before treatment and following her surgery with her team of caregivers and her parents, Caroline and Manasses Braga

Oral & Maxillofacial surgeons offer life-changing care for patients in need from across the globe



WORLD OF GOOD



A girl from Brazil and two brothers from Gaza traveled across the world to receive life-saving surgeries in Shreveport. Doctors with LSU Health's Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, along with other medical professionals in the area, answered the call to provide the highly specialized care unavailable to these children in their home countries. Physicians involved in the children's care donated their services, and Willis-Knighton Health System provided housing and covered all medical expenses.

MELYSSA BRAGA

Dr. Celso Palmieri, Associate Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, was reading a news site from his native country of Brazil when he came across a young family's plea to find treatment options for their daughter. He sent the picture of 3-year-old Melyssa Braga to Chancellor Dr. G.E. Ghali asking if their department could help, and in less than a month, the girl was ready for surgery to remove a rare myxoma tumor.

"This is typically a benign tumor, non-cancerous, but it's very locally aggressive," Dr. Ghali explained. "This tumor had pretty much eaten away her entire jaw from one side to the other and had displaced her tongue."

Unable to eat very well, Melyssa was rapidly becoming malnourished and would have soon needed a feeding tube. She also struggled to breathe, with the displaced tongue blocking the airway.

"When we were able to remove this tumor, the tumor weighed over five pounds on a child that probably doesn't weigh more than 25 pounds herself, total weight," Dr. Ghali said.

"I am grateful for everything the doctors here have been able to do for my daughter and in only a short month," said Melyssa's father, Manasses Braga.

FARID & QOSSAY SALLOUT

Brothers Farid, 6, and Qossay Sallout, 8, were born with nearly identical craniofacial disorders — orbital hypertelorism, or wide-spaced eyes, rare clefting conditions with nasal structural issues, and a posterior cranial defect with a portion of the skull missing — and little hope for treatment. "They tried sending them to a doctor there, and they said there was no surgery or anything they could do for them," the boys' grandmother, Hajjar Abusilmi, said on the lack of care available in Gaza.

The Palestine Children's Relief Fund stepped in to help. This nonprofit humanitarian organization committed to aiding children in the Middle East funded travel to the United States for the brothers with their grandmother as their accompanying guardian. Farid's procedures were in 2016, with his brother's surgeries a year later.

"Both boys had this butterfly-shaped open spot in their skulls where there was no bone, only brain underneath," Dr. Jason Dashow, a cleft and craniofacial surgery fellow, explained the life-threatening skull deformity after Qossay's surgery in May. "Being an active little boy, if anything were to hit that, it basically would just have to go through skin and then it's in the brain. Where the rest of us have a casing, he didn't have that in a large area. Now there is bone placed across that area that will grow in, just like his brother. When they're playing games and they get bumped in the back of the head, like any kid does, they're now protected."

While the family believed the deformities could have been the result of the mother being exposed to tear gas, a geneticist who examined Farid said it is more likely a genetic mutation carried through the family chromosomes.

"I want to thank God and all the doctors that helped with these surgeries and the supporting staff that helped with their care," Hajjar said. And that care may have had another life-changing effect on Qossay, who says he wants to be a doctor when he grows up.

Brothers Farid (top two photos) and Qossay Sallout, photographed with members of their medical teams and grandmother Hajjar Abusilmi, received surgeries addressing severe craniofacial anomalies.





PhD candidate Alexandra Finney, Professor of Pathology, Physiology, Cellular Biology & Anatomy Wayne Orr, PhD, and Associate Professor of Microbiology & Immunology Matthew Woolard, PhD

Researchers Bring in \$2.98 Million in Grants to Study ATHEROSCLEROSIS

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the world, with more than 85 million Americans living with some form of the disease or the after-effects of stroke. Atherosclerosis, plaque buildup in the artery walls, is the most common cause of heart attacks, strokes and peripheral artery disease, accounting for 80 percent of all cardiovascular disease-related deaths. Four grants totaling nearly \$3 million dollars will allow LSU Health researchers to further explore different aspects of the disease.

Collectively, the research of Dr. Wayne Orr, Dr. Matthew Woolard and Alexandra Finney examines the main cell types that are involved in atherosclerosis. "Atherosclerosis is caused by the ratio of good and bad cholesterol, but as is with most diseases, it's almost always more complex than that," said Dr. Woolard. "The truth is atherosclerosis is an inflammatory disease – it's our immune system gone awry."

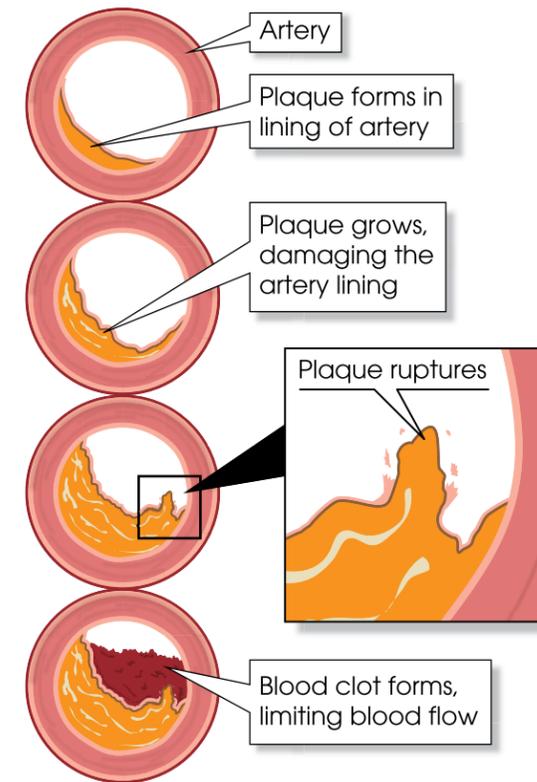
Understanding more about the cells that line blood vessels could be key in discovering new therapies for heart disease. With a four-year grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the NIH for \$1.45 million, Dr. Orr's research examines how these endothelial cells become activated to express pro-inflammatory proteins during plaque formation. Normally, endothelial lining works to maintain healthy vessels, but cholesterol buildup causes the lining to stimulate macrophages, white blood cells that specialize in clearing unwanted material from tissue. However, modification of the cholesterol causes the macrophages to accumulate too much, giving them a foamy appearance. Progressive accumulation of cholesterol and these "foam cells" contributes to the growth of the plaque, which can eventually impede blood flow or cause a blood clot to form in the artery.

"Our work focuses on endothelial cell interactions with the extracellular matrix, the proteins that make up the scaffolding of the blood vessel. We have found that during atherosclerosis, endothelial cells deposit certain matrix proteins associated with tissue remodeling and wound healing, which subsequently causes the endothelial cells to be hyper-responsive to a variety of pro-inflammatory stimuli," Orr explained. "With this grant, we will characterize how endothelial cells interact with these wound-associated matrix proteins, assess how this matrix promotes endothelial pro-inflammatory responses, and test whether blocking the interaction between the endothelial cells and this wound-associated matrix reduces the formation of atherosclerotic plaques."

With his four-year grant for \$1.45 million from NHLBI, Dr. Woolard is taking a closer look at macrophages. "Normally, what macrophages are supposed to do is get rid of that bad cholesterol for us, but for reasons we don't understand, the macrophage decides instead of just getting rid of the bad cholesterol, it needs to treat the bad cholesterol like a pathogen."

When too much cholesterol is present, the macrophages must find a way to store it by creating internal storage structures called lipid droplets. An enzyme, lipin-1, is supposed to help with proper storage, but instead it tells the macrophage to become inflammatory. "We hope that by understanding how macrophages become inflammatory in response to cholesterol, we can use that knowledge to identify therapeutic targets to reduce the number of heart attacks and strokes," Dr. Woolard said.

Dr. Woolard also received a \$38,000 grant from Pennington Botanical Dietary Supplements Research Center. Heart disease risk factors such as hypertension, elevated cholesterol,



obesity and diabetes are collectively known as "metabolic syndrome," which makes the hardening of the arteries in atherosclerosis more severe. "Compounds derived from plants provide a treasure trove of potential therapeutics. Work by the Pennington Institute has identified botanical extracts that reduce aspects of metabolic syndrome," said Woolard, whose research will determine if those extracts also reduce atherosclerosis.

Alexandra, a PhD candidate who works in Dr. Orr's lab, is studying the more advanced stages of atherosclerotic plaque formation through a two-year pre-doctoral fellowship for \$51,900 from the American Heart Association. Her work proposes that a novel protein, EphA2, is an important contributing factor to the disease. "As the plaque within your arteries begins to develop and enlarge with fats and macrophages, another cell type called a smooth muscle cell will also accumulate in the plaque. In addition to dividing and contributing to plaque size, smooth muscle cells also deposit a lot of fibrous tissue which changes the composition of the plaque," she said. "What we have found is that the EphA2 receptor is highly expressed in these smooth muscle cells within the plaque, and this expression is what leads cells to divide more as well as put down more of this fibrous tissue." Her project examines why EphA2, an oncogene found in many types of cancers, becomes expressed in this cell and how it contributes to atherosclerosis – knowledge that could lead to new drug developments targeting EphA2.

"Despite widely available treatments to combat plaque build-up, not all individuals respond favorably," Alexandra said on the need for alternate intervention. "For example, many people are unaffected by statin therapy and have no alternative means for treatment. People who receive a stent to open their vessels are often at risk for the vessel to thicken and become blocked again."

The three researchers recently collaborated with other faculty members from the Center for Cardiovascular Diseases and Sciences on a groundbreaking study that was published in *Circulation*, the top journal for cardiovascular disease and research published by the American Heart Association. The study, focusing on Alexandra's protein of interest, found that when EphA2 was removed plaques were smaller and they had less of the smooth muscle cells present in advanced atherosclerosis. Others from LSU Health Shreveport who contributed to the project included Dr. Steven Funk, Jonette Green, Dr. Arif Yuradagul Jr., Dr. Mohammad Atif Rana, Dr. Rebecca Pistorius, Miriam Henry, Dr. Andrew Yurochko, Dr. Christopher Pattillo, Dr. James Traylor and Dr. Christopher Kevil.

Researcher Studies Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy with \$2.85 Million in Grants

Edward Glasscock, Assistant Professor of Cellular Biology & Anatomy, recently received two grants from NIH's National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke to study complications in epilepsy that lead to sudden unexpected death in epilepsy (SUDEP).

Epilepsy is one of the most common neurological disorders in the United States, and SUDEP strikes about 1 in 1,000 epilepsy patients every year — or 2,750 deaths, about 30 percent more than die from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). It is the leading cause of epilepsy-related mortality.

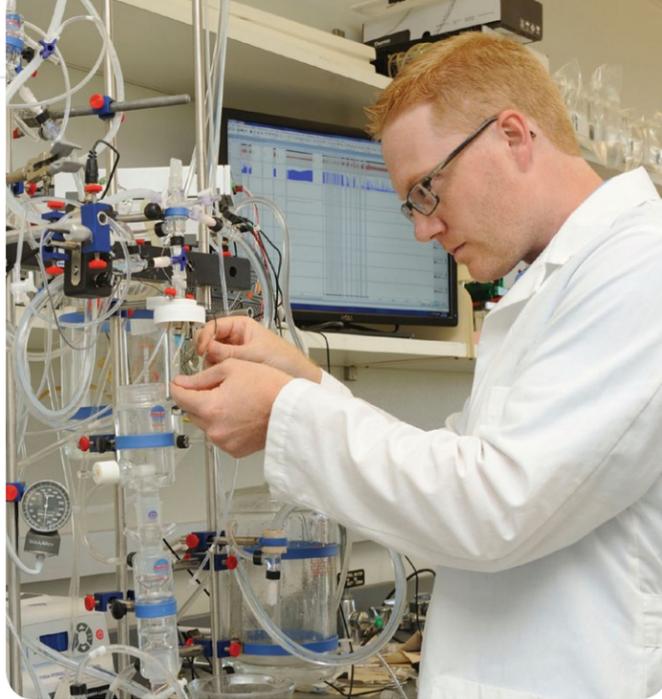
"SUDEP is defined as the death of a patient with epilepsy who is otherwise healthy, where post-mortem examination reveals no obvious cause of death," said Dr. Glasscock, adding because these deaths are typically unwitnessed and occur in bed at night, the reasons surrounding them are somewhat mysterious.

Dr. Glasscock's five-year project, with \$1,585,940 in funding, started in April focusing on respiratory mechanisms in epilepsy. His second grant, with \$1,268,752 in total funding, is for four years beginning in July and focuses on neurocardiac mechanisms.

His lab will explore the primary event that leads to SUDEP in an attempt to discover if it is primarily a cardiac or respiratory event or a combination of the two.

"In our study we're trying to better understand the sequence of events following a seizure that leads to cardiorespiratory dysfunction," he said. "We're also interested in trying to identify potential brain stem regions that could be contributing to this impairment of cardiorespiratory activity."

Dr. Glasscock's lab uses cutting-edge recording equipment to monitor what happens to the study model during or following



"We're one of the only labs in the country that is currently equipped to do these sorts of experiments."

a seizure. "One of the innovative aspects of this study is that the *In Vivo* Electrophysiology Recording Techniques we're using are only being performed in a handful of places in the country — we're one of the only labs in the country that is currently equipped to do these sorts of experiments," he said. "What makes it unique is that we're able to record so many physiological parameters at the same time — we're able to record brain activity, heart activity, breathing, and muscle activity all at the same time."

The study looks to identify areas of intervention for patients and whether they need to be monitored for respiratory or cardiac dysfunction. "Right now we currently don't know which of those two is more important, so if we could identify that, maybe we could at least narrow down the types of prevention or treatment options we should be pursuing."

\$1.65 Million Grant from NIH Allows Closer Study of HPV

Human papillomaviruses (HPV) induce more than 5 percent of all human cancers, which include all cervical and a subset of oral cancers. Curiously, only a small subset of known HPV types induces tumor formation and it is unclear why due to a lack of models to study the low-risk HPVs. In addition, immediate early events of the HPV life cycle and their deregulation in cancers are incompletely understood.

With a five-year grant for \$1,658,440 from NIH's National Cancer Institute, Dr. Martin Sapp will take a closer look at those early events in HPV. With a newly developed cell culture model system, Dr. Sapp, Mingyu Ding Memorial Professor of Microbiology, will be able to study the immediate early events of low- and high-risk HPV side by side. For the first time, this will help to identify the manipulations of the host cell by the virus that lead to cancer development.

Ultimately, these studies will aid in the identification of new drug targets and treatment options. The project began in June and will continue through May 2022.



Grant Funds Research for Prostate Cancer

With a two-year grant for \$145,000 from NIH's National Cancer Institute, Dr. Xiuping Yu will study neuroendocrine prostate cancer (PCa), which is also called prostate small cell carcinoma.



Although primary prostate small cell carcinoma is rare, neuroendocrine differentiation in PCa is common after failure of androgen deprivation therapy, occurring in 40-100 percent of advanced stage PCa. With the use of new anti-androgens and drugs that block androgen synthesis in prostates, the "therapy-induced" progression to neuroendocrine PCa is seen in 25-30 percent of the patients.

Currently, there is no effective treatment for PCa with prominent neuroendocrine differentiation. Understanding the mechanisms that drive neuroendocrine differentiation of PCa will help identify potential therapeutic targets for the treatment of "therapy-induced" neuroendocrine PCa.

In this study, Dr. Yu, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, will examine the roles of EZH2 in neuroendocrine differentiation of PCa. The project will also test if blocking EZH2 offers a treatment option for neuroendocrine PCa. The information obtained from this research will provide guidance in determining whether targeting Polycomb proteins is a feasible approach for the treatment of neuroendocrine PCa.

Project Studies Alcoholism

Dr. Hugh Nam, Assistant Professor of Pharmacology, Toxicology & Neuroscience, received a one-year grant for \$50,000 to study signaling receptors involved in alcoholism.



Adenosine signaling in the brain has been implicated in the pathophysiology of psychiatric disorders including alcoholism. Adenosine 2A receptor (A2AR) is exclusively expressed in the midbrain, which plays an essential role in drug reward and goal-oriented behaviors. Funded by the Biomedical Research Foundation of Northwest Louisiana and The Biomedical Research Foundation Seed Funding Program, Dr. Nam's project will study the molecular mechanism of A2AR related to alcohol tolerance and goal-oriented alcohol seeking behavior using state-of-the-art molecular techniques.

The results of the study will demonstrate the causal relationship between alcohol preference and alcoholism, which may be used to develop new pharmacological targets to treat and/or prevent alcoholism. Moreover, since caffeine is one of the well-known A2AR inhibitors, the outcome of the mechanism study will help to understand the role of caffeine in alcoholism development.

Study Looks at Epstein-Barr

Dr. Martin Muggerridge, Associate Professor of Microbiology & Immunology, recently began a new project on Epstein-Barr virus (EBV), which causes infectious mononucleosis and is associated with several kinds of cancer. The research started as a pilot project of the NIH-funded Center for Molecular and Tumor Virology at LSU Health Shreveport, led by Dr. Dennis O'Callaghan, and will now be independently funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, with a two-year award totaling \$145,000.



EBV is a herpesvirus and is related to herpes simplex virus (HSV), which causes cold sores and genital herpes, and to human cytomegalovirus (HCMV), which can cause blindness and severe birth defects. The research focuses on the complex mechanism that the virus uses to enter cells to begin an infection, particularly the way in which two virus proteins cooperate to fuse the virus and cell together. The goal is to gain sufficient knowledge about this process so that it can be used as a target for the development of antiviral drugs for treating or preventing infections. Different herpesviruses cause different diseases, but they share some fundamental properties. With that in mind, Dr. Muggerridge is hopeful that his research will lay the groundwork for the development of drugs not only for EBV infections but also for the severe diseases caused by HCMV.

Hypertension Focus of Study

Hypertension is an increasing health concern in the United States, and African Americans are at a higher risk for hypertension, develop hypertension at an accelerated rate, and are more likely to have uncontrolled hypertension in spite of treatment. The molecular mechanisms that are responsible for these differences in hypertension pathogenesis among ethnic groups remain unclear.



A two-year project led by Assistant Professor of Cellular Biology & Anatomy Dr. David Krzywanski will examine if ethnic variation in mitochondrial function and increased reactive oxygen species (ROS) production contribute to hypertension by inhibiting vascular relaxation and promoting blood vessel remodeling. The research, funded for \$50,000 by the Louisiana Clinical and Translational Science Center and the health sciences center, will determine if circulating blood cells can be used to assess ethnic differences in mitochondrial function and ROS production in patient populations and if a pro-oxidative mitochondrial phenotype is associated with hypertension. Data will provide the first assessment of how ethnic variation in mitochondrial function may affect mitochondrial redox phenotype in clinically relevant populations and will provide important insight into the mechanisms that underlie ethnic differences in hypertension susceptibility.

ENDOWMENTS HONOR GREAT LEGACIES

In December 2016 the Medical Center Clinics, Inc. donated \$1.2 million to establish a permanent endowment to bolster graduate medical education at LSU Health Shreveport's School of Medicine. It is the largest gift received by LSU Health Shreveport in support of residency training and will provide vital funding for the 29 resident and fellowship training programs now and into the future.

In addition to the \$1.2 million endowment, the group has fully funded six endowed professorships and has committed to fund three additional professorships all in support of the departmental residency programs represented by the original members. "This endowment will be a lasting legacy to the physicians who formed the group," said Chancellor Dr. G.E. Ghali.

The Medical Center Clinics was formed in 1968 by a group of 11 leading local physicians, all members of the visiting staff of Confederate Memorial Medical Center, later known as LSU Medical Center. The founders were: Samuel D. Cummins, MD (Pathology), Edwin E. Dilworth, MD (OB/GYN), Edgar Hull, MD (Internal Medicine), Dudley R. Isom, DDS (Oral Surgery), Charles D. Knight, Sr., MD (Surgery), Erich K. Lang, MD (Radiology), Thomas A. Norris, II, MD (Orthopaedics), Bert E. Trichel, MD (Urology), Herbert D. Tucker, MD (Cardiology), Clarence H. Webb, MD (Pediatrics), J. Woodfin Wilson, MD (Internal Medicine), Mr. Harry R. Nelson (General Council) and Mr. Daniel L. Butler (CPA).

"It has been our honor and pleasure to help carry on the work of our founding members. Our goal has always been to help the LSU Medical School provide the best educational experience for its residents. After supporting individual programs over the years, our board chose to make a gift that would provide a permanent funding source to benefit the school's entire resident education program. We are excited to see the many new opportunities this gift will afford our residents," said Dr. Jerard R. Martin, President of the Medical Center Clinics.

Its sole purpose was to receive and donate funds to support resident training programs at LSU School of Medicine.

These endowments continue to be critical resources to some of our most excellent faculty, residents and students. The funds are lasting tributes to the commitment of Medical Center Clinics to LSU Health Shreveport and to the legacy of these great physician leaders.

Several of the founding members served on the "Study Committee for the Development of a Medical School in Shreveport" and were integral to bringing medical education to North Louisiana. Since its creation, the Medical Center Clinics has provided grants to various residency programs at LSU Health Shreveport.

The current members of the Medical Center Clinics Board are Dr. James Batte (Oral Surgery), Dr. W. Douglas King (OB/GYN), Dr. Gordon M. Mead (Orthopaedics), Dr. Jerard R. Martin (Pathology), Dr. F. Dean Griffen (Surgery), Dr. Stanley J. Smith (Urology), and Dr. Paul S. Wilson (Internal Medicine).

Dr. W.R. Mathews instructing residents and receiving the Mathews lectureship plaque from Dr. Paul Abramson

Medical Center Clinics Endowed Professorships

J. WOODFIN WILSON, MD Professorship in Internal Medicine continues to support one of the largest Continuing Medical Education Events at LSU Health Shreveport, The Intensive Review of Internal Medicine.

B.E. TRICHEL, MD Professorship provides for continuing education and review opportunities, visiting lectures, and resource materials in the Department of Urology.

CHARLES D. KNIGHT, MD Professorship in General Surgery enhances quality, hypothesis-driven research resulting in valuable research opportunities and publications.

W.R. MATHEWS, MD Professorship in Pathology supports visiting lectures, research and educational opportunities and is a critical funding source for the annual W.R. Mathews Lectureship.

E. EARLE DILWORTH, MD Professorship in Obstetrics and Gynecology encourages outstanding performance by OB/GYN faculty and residents.

THOMAS NORRIS, MD Professorship strengthens resident education in the Department of Orthopaedics.

COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT:
J. Woodfin Wilson, B.E. Trichel, Charles D. Knight,
W.R. Mathews, E. Earle Dilworth, Thomas Norris

HEALERS



Faculty, residents and students were honored May 4 for their lifesaving and life-changing care of two patients — Ray Snow, who was brought back from the brink of death following a head-on collision, and Christian Starks, a newborn given a fighting chance at life after his emergency delivery. Drs. Jennifer Woerner, Rose Brouillette, Navdeep Samra and John Owings headed a list of 60 heroes and healers from LSU Health, University Health, Willis-Knighton, and the Shreveport Police and Fire Departments who were honored for their roles in saving their lives. Retired dean Dr. Ike Muslow and community leader Donald Zadeck received a standing ovation as they accepted their honors as the 2017 Community Heroes. Susan Moffitt served as chair of the event, which was emceed by Shreveport Chief Administrative Officer Brian Crawford. It was the seventh year for An Evening for Healers, with more than \$1.5 million cumulatively raised for LSU Health Shreveport from the events. The LSU Health Sciences Foundation sponsors the event, made possible by donors. Watch the dramatic video stories at youtube.com/lshscshreveport under the “Evening for Healers” playlist.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Willis-Knighton Health System

Lindsay & John Atkins

CHRISTUS Health
Shreveport-Bossier

Dr. Horacio & Linda D'Agostino,
LSURAD

Dr. Destin R. Black &
Dr. Jason Lustig

Morris & Dickson Co., LLC
MST Consulting

Rehab Services of Louisiana
Riverbend Rehabilitation

The Yokem Family & Yokem Toyota

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Zadeck

Judy & Chris Kinsey

The Moffitt Family, Moffitt
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Dr. Ike Muslow, Chancellor & Dean Dr. G.E. Ghali and Mr. Donald Zadeck



Michael Henson and Susan Moffitt



Dr. John Owings, Ray Snow and Dr. Navdeep Samra



Chris Starks, Ashanti Burks, Christian Starks and Dr. Jennifer Woerner



Dr. Suzanne Tinsley, Charles Richard Parks and Dr. Joseph McCulloch



Dr. Ike Muslow and Dr. Steven Conrad

DR. STEVEN CONRAD NAMED TO MUSLOW CHAIR

Dr. Steven Conrad was named the first holder of the Ike Muslow Endowed Chair in Healthcare Informatics in February.

The \$1 million chair in honor of retired Dean Dr. Ike Muslow was created through private donations of \$600,000 matched by \$400,000 by the Louisiana Board of Regents.

“An Endowed Chair in the name of Dr. Muslow honors a person whose fingerprints are intertwined throughout every aspect of our campus and have left their mark on alumni all across our nation. His skills as an administrator and a teacher may never be rivaled,” said LSU Health Shreveport Chancellor and Dean Dr. G.E. Ghali.

Dr. Muslow served as Dean of the School of Medicine from 1975 to 1981, from 1990 to 1992, and again from 1996 until his retirement in 2000. Among his significant achievements was the construction of the burn and trauma unit that evolved into today’s Level 1 Trauma Center, as well as the establishment of the LSU Health Sciences Foundation.

Dr. Ghali added that there was no one more fitting for the chair holder than Dr. Conrad. “Without question, Dr. Conrad emulates the work ethic, love of research, and excellence in teaching for which Dr. Muslow is so well known.”

With more than 30 years of service as a member of the LSU Health Shreveport faculty, Dr. Conrad currently serves as a Professor of Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, Neurosurgery and Anesthesiology. Healthcare informatics uses information technology to optimize the delivery of healthcare to patients and provides the basis by which physician’s access and use information in healthcare. The chair aims to integrate a number of state and local resources in a coordinated initiative to improve clinical education, expand clinical research, and deliver quality healthcare.

PARKS ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP SUPPORTS NEUROLOGICAL REHAB

LSU Health Shreveport received a \$100,000 gift from Charles Richard Parks of Minden to create an endowed professorship within its physical therapy program in the School of Allied Health Professions. The Charles Richard Parks Endowed Professorship in Neurological Rehabilitation enhances the program’s patient care, education and research efforts.

Neurological Rehabilitation is a physical therapy specialty that focuses on improving the quality of life of a patient who has sustained a brain injury such as a stroke or traumatic accident or other nervous system insult. Mr. Parks, who experienced a stroke several years ago, is a patient at LSU Health Shreveport’s Allied Health Rehabilitation Clinic. He was so impressed with the clinic staff’s commitment to helping patients recover that he wanted to support their work.

“I witness every day the hard work and dedication of our faculty and patients. Mr. Parks can certainly be counted among those dedicated individuals. We are grateful that he has chosen to support our work in this way,” said Dr. Joseph McCulloch, Dean of the School of Allied Health Professions.

Dr. Suzanne Tinsley, Associate Professor of Physical Therapy, was

selected as the first holder of the Parks Endowed Professorship. “Dr. Tinsley leads our efforts in the Neurological Rehabilitation program, and this is a testament to her skill as a healthcare provider, teacher and researcher,” McCulloch said.

Dr. Tinsley received her Master’s in Physical Therapy from Texas Woman’s University in 1986 and her PhD in Neuropharmacology from LSU Health Sciences Center-Shreveport in 1999. She is a Board Certified Clinical Specialist in Neurologic Physical Therapy. Dr. Tinsley will use the Parks Endowed Professorship to advance treatment of neurologically impaired patients, enhance the education of physical therapy neuro residents, and support clinical research efforts through the purchase of assistive technology and state-of-the-art equipment.

“I made this gift out of gratitude for the care and support I’ve received from LSU Health’s Allied Health rehab clinic. The clinic is a special place with special people,” said Mr. Parks. “Through the years, the physical therapists, especially Dr. Suzanne Tinsley, have never given up on me. My hope is that this professorship will support their important work for many years to come and ultimately help other people like me.”



Atlanta. San Francisco. Nashville. New York. Baltimore. Houston. Shreveport joined the ranks of those major cities as a home to a voice center when laryngologist Dr. Paul Weinberger joined the LSU Health Shreveport faculty in July. The Center for Voice, Airway and Swallowing offers comprehensive care for patients with laryngologic disorders such as hoarseness, trouble swallowing, and tracheal stenosis.

With laryngology being a relatively small subspecialty — with an approximate 250 laryngologists in the nation and only about half of those performing major airway reconstructions while many focus solely on professional voice — this highly specialized care is usually only available in major cities. “Dallas doesn’t even have a voice center — patients would have to bypass Dallas and go to Houston,” said Dr. Weinberger, the only subspecialty fellowship trained laryngologist in the region serving patients in North Louisiana, Arkansas, and into Texas. “This area needed a voice center. It was just very serendipitous that as a physician-scientist, I was looking to move to an institution like LSU Health, and Dr. Cherie-Ann Nathan was looking to bring a laryngologist here. She has a strong interest in supporting research, so it was just a perfect match.”

Another serendipitous moment for Dr. Weinberger was discovering the faculty and staff waiting for him at the health sciences center. “As I started exploring what was already in place and what was needed to establish a successful voice center, it was awesome to find that exactly the people I would look to recruit were already here,” Dr. Weinberger said of the voice center team, “We have some amazing people who have all come together to create this incredibly special synergy. The chances of just by happenstance having people this specialized and with complementary skills and interests ... it boggles the mind. It was supposed to happen.”

The Center for Voice, Airway and Swallowing team includes Dr. Satish Kalanjeri, Dr. Cherie-Ann Nathan, Melanie Brown, Dr. Paul Weinberger, Dr. Moheb Bektor, Polly Kaufman and others.

FOLLOWING THE SOUND OF THEIR VOICES

LARYNGOLOGIST PAUL WEINBERGER & TEAM OFFER MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO PATIENT CARE



Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery resident Dr. Andrew Tritter and laryngologist Dr. Paul Weinberger examine a patient during a recent appointment.

“The idea of doing any kind of airway procedure outside of the OR was completely unthinkable until about four years ago.”

That team makes up the multi-disciplinary approach of the center, including the expertise of speech-language pathologists, gastroenterologists, neurologists, pulmonologists, gastrointestinal surgeons, anesthesiologists and CRNAs, and respiratory therapists all coming together to provide state-of-the-art patient care.

Dr. Weinberger says it’s teamwork that is vital to the success of the voice center, adding that it’s the collective expertise of his colleagues that make this highly specialized care possible. “I can’t do what I do without this team.”

And what that team does so well is offer life-changing treatment for patients — and not just those in the surrounding areas, but from states like Vermont, Florida and Georgia. “For patients in Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana or Mississippi, this is a very convenient place for them to come. For others, they’re coming here for the uniqueness of this particular environment. And it really is very unique,” said Dr. Weinberger.

Part of that uniqueness is the type of procedures performed at the voice center, including “suspension

tracheoplasty” to deal with tracheal stenosis, which is a narrowing of the windpipe that can occur after prolonged use of a breathing tube and certain procedures.

Brandon Young is breathing easier thanks to the procedure. The 32-year-old was left fighting for his life following a car accident with his band back in 2006. The accident left him with a severe brain injury and he was in a medically induced coma for six weeks. Brandon was dependent on a tracheostomy tube and once it was removed, he continued to experience tracheal stenosis, with his airway only 50 percent open.

“He opened my throat up to 90 percent – it was at 50 percent. Now I can talk so much better, I can breathe so much better,” said Brandon, who now works as a Voice for Injury Prevention at ThinkFirst of the Ark-La-Tex, sharing his story at high schools, colleges and more. “Dr. Weinberger really helped me so much with that.”

“While it is still early in the development of the technique, it appears the procedure is safer than open reconstruction and patients require far shorter hospital stays — one to two days of regular hospital admission, versus five to seven

days with most of those in the ICU,” said Dr. Weinberger. His inspiration for the procedure came from examining the structure of a circus tent while at Disney World. Instead of compressive architecture, which is similar to the traditional reconstructive surgeries that include putting in a foundation with supports and cartilage struts, he thought about applying a suspension, or tensile, architecture structure in an airway procedure.

“All of the tension in the structure is actually directed up and out, and not down and in,” he said. “I thought ‘Wouldn’t that be great for an open cavity like the airway, if you could have all the tension being up and out, helping to pull everything open rather than letting it collapse and settle in?’”

Another treatment developed by Dr. Weinberger, in-office bronchoscopy with tracheal steroid injection, is helping some tracheal stenosis patients avoid open airway surgery under general anesthesia. For patients like 72-year-old Gail Chevalier, this procedure that takes up to 30 minutes without sedation has helped her breathe easier. “For six years doctors tried to figure out why I couldn’t breathe. I was treated for COPD, asthma, everything,” Gail said, adding she couldn’t walk more than a half a block without being short of breath.

“The idea of doing any kind of airway procedure outside of the OR was completely unthinkable until about four years ago. Now it is routine at the few voice centers scattered around the country,” said Dr. Weinberger.

The KTP laser is another cutting-edge treatment used by Dr. Weinberger and his team for laryngeal disorders, including recurrent respiratory papillomatosis (RRP) and leukoplakia, a condition in which thick, white patches form on the tongue and the lining of the mouth.

Rick Haxton, of Tyler, Texas, suffers from RRP, a very rare disease caused by the human papillomavirus that causes uncontrolled tissue growth in the airway that can lead to hoarseness, a blocked airway and cancer. The condition can require surgery as often as 12 times a year, and before the voice center opened in Shreveport, Rick was traveling to Dallas for surgeries three times a year. At age 64, he’s had 78 surgeries to treat his condition. Due to the number of procedures and the RRP, Rick was forced to retire from his job as an assistant in an ophthalmology clinic because he was unable to speak to the patients.

“Some of these patients need surgery once a month. When it’s at that level, and you’re having to be put to sleep under general anesthesia every month, basically your life consists of either having surgery, you’ve just had surgery and you’re recovering, or you’re planning your next surgery. Maybe you have a week that you’re not worrying about surgery — and that’s not life,” Dr. Weinberger said of patients like Rick.

Before the voice center opened, Rick’s options were limited. “With the laser procedure, Dr. Weinberger has

“I can’t do what I do without this team.”

Along with Dr. Paul Weinberger, the Center for Voice, Airway and Swallowing team includes:

- Dr. Cherie-Ann Nathan, Professor and Chairman of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery
- Dr. Charles Fox, Professor and Chairman of Anesthesiology, and nurse anesthetist Roxanna Smith
- Gastroenterologists Dr. Moheb Boktor and Dr. Paul Jordan, both with interests in swallowing and dysphagia and advanced endoscopic esophageal procedures
- Radiologist Dr. Alberto Carbo, with expertise in upper esophageal sphincter functional imaging and modified barium swallows
- Speech-language pathologist Melanie Brown, with expertise in voice therapy
- Speech-language pathologist Stacie Odom
- Surgical oncology surgeons Dr. Roger Kim and Dr. Quyen Chu, both with an interest in esophageal and thoracic surgery
- Trauma and critical care surgeon Dr. Jay Dujon helps manage any severely ill critical care patients
- Physician assistant Polly Kaufman and nurse practitioner Nancy Pittman, both with an interest in airway and dysphagia patients, serve as a central contact point for patient care coordination
- Interventional pulmonologists Dr. Satish Kalanjeri and Dr. Robert Holladay
- Administrative office staff Amy Ray, Amy Saucier and Tremendous Carroll, as well as clinic staff, also play a vital role in keeping the voice center operating smoothly and in coordinating patient referrals

kept it so clear, I haven’t had to have surgery in a year. That’s a blessing right there,” Rick said. “It cuts down the surgery time immensely. He’s a blessing for this area, for people with my problem. I’ll never go anywhere else as long as he’s here.”

“To be able to just come into the office, no pre-op, no blood work, none of the stuff you have to have when you’re being put to sleep, and you have a 30-minute procedure with some topical anesthesia and then you can drive yourself home. That’s been transformative for those patients to all the sudden have access to that type of treatment,” Dr. Weinberger said. “Before the voice center, that wasn’t available to them probably within 400 miles.” But for some patients, traveling many miles to Shreveport

Dr. Paul Weinberger with patient Ben Hunsicker, a local musician



“There are not a lot places left in the country where they do what’s best for the patient ... at least here in Shreveport at LSU, medicine is like it should be.”

— often bypassing larger cities — is necessary for the specialized treatment they can receive from Dr. Weinberger and his team.

“Using a team approach, Dr. Weinberger is committed to providing the best possible care for people with voice, swallowing and airway disorders,” said Dr. Cherie-Ann Nathan, Chairman of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery, adding that in a short time the team has built a busy voice and swallowing center. “I am proud to say we are getting referrals from all across the country.”

Firefighter Jeffrey Hines of Jacksonville, Florida, had a heart attack after returning to his station following a call. He was intubated and rushed to the hospital, where the medical team worked for more than an hour to stabilize him.

“I was in a coma for about 14 days, and the EEG didn’t look right,” Jeffrey said. “They thought I was going to be a vegetable, and the suggestion was made to my daughters

that they should consider taking me off life support.” But Jeffrey fought his way back from the edge of death, only to face another battle — a month after his heart attack, he started experiencing what doctors first thought were lung problems. It turned out Jeffrey’s windpipe sustained damage during intubation, and his airway began to close off. By August, Jeffrey had a tracheostomy tube inserted in his neck and the scar tissue completely closed off his airway, leaving him unable to speak.

The stenosis was one centimeter from Jeffrey’s vocal cords, which made any possible resection an even more complicated procedure. Jeffrey was unable to speak for more than a year — until his ENT, Dr. Iman Nasseri, referred him to Dr. Weinberger and the voice center team in Louisiana.

“I didn’t really know how serious of a problem I had until I met with Dr. Nasseri,” Jeffrey said. “I realized I could be stuck with this trach for the rest of my life. And that’s

when it really hit home — that this could be my future, that I may never speak again.”

Jeffrey was flown in from Tampa for extensive open airway surgery, an extended cricotracheal resection with modified suspension tracheoplasty. The nearly 10-hour procedure did more than give Jeffrey his voice back — it gave him a new lease on life.

“I’m so thankful for Dr. Weinberger and what he did for me. I got a chance to Facetime with him at Dr. Nasseri’s office during my last visit. He was happy to see me and I was happy to see him. Dr. Weinberger said, ‘You really made my week.’ And I told him, ‘I’m way ahead of you — you made my life.’”

Following the procedure, Jeffrey was able to return to work as a fire inspector. “Even now, to speak about it really breaks me up,” he said, adding that none of this would have been possible without the care he received at the voice center. “I never would have gone back to work and my life would have forever been different, but because Dr. Weinberger has that ability, he changed my life.”

For Rachel Phillips, traveling to Shreveport from Burlington, Vermont, meant finding a glimmer of hope for her condition after several institutions — including Johns Hopkins, Harvard’s teaching hospital Massachusetts General, and New York Eye and Ear Infirmary — were unable to treat her life-threatening airway collapse. The former professional ballerina, who once performed in London’s Royal Ballet and the Kirov Ballet of St. Petersburg, Russia, was diagnosed with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (EDS), a connective tissue disorder that affects the collagen in the body. EDS led to severe tracheobronchomalasia, a condition that causes trachea and bronchial airways to collapse. Several types of intervention were tried on Rachel with no success, including rejected stents, a very complicated tracheal bronchoplasty and a tracheostomy that led to an A-frame stenosis that worsened her collapses.

“All these places all over the world said, ‘There’s nothing else we can do for you,’” Rachel said. One facility recommended a resection, but others in the field warned against it, fearing her genetic condition would cause the

airway to pull apart after the procedure, proving fatal.

“All treatments had failed and she was running out of hope. I was granted emergency physician privileges by the Vermont legislature and flown there to evaluate her,” said Dr. Weinberger, who recommended a novel treatment plan that had never been attempted before — using Botox to paralyze the back muscle wall of her trachea and bronchi tubes leading into the lungs to prevent them from spasming and cutting off her airway. “None of the other institutions felt they were able to attempt this, so she came across the country to see us. She had to drive because she is so medically fragile she cannot fly. Her trip required coordination of way-points along the route where oxygen cylinders and supplies were dropped off.”

After the procedure, which also included laser treatment of her stenosis, Rachel was able to go out to dinner for a few hours without taking her oxygen tanks — something she hadn’t done in years. “My first memory of waking up in recovery ... it was like going from breathing through a straw to breathing through a much larger pipe.”

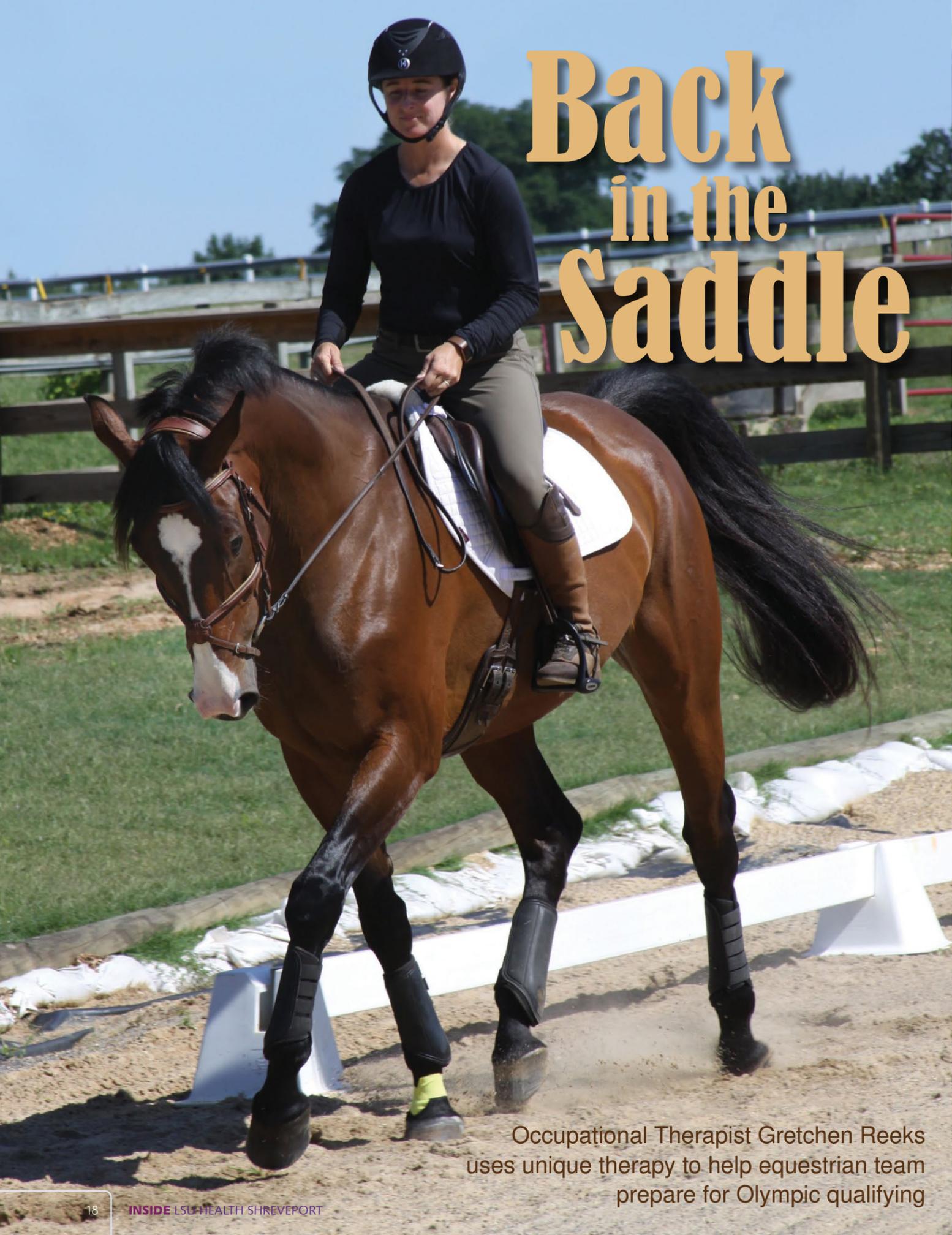
With her EDS, Rachel knew there was a chance the treatment would have no effect. “If I could be five percent better from one procedure and three percent better from another, that’s eight percent improvement, and I had just been declining for the last five years, so little improvements stack up,” she said. “I had realistic expectations, and the biggest thing Dr. Paul Weinberger and Dr. Satish Kalanjeri gave me was hope.”

Whether patients come to LSU Health from near or far for voice, airway or swallowing issues, they find one common thread in the care they receive from the doctors and staff at the center — they do what’s best for the patient, and Dr. Weinberger says that sets the health sciences center apart.

“There are not a lot places left in the country where they do what’s best for the patient,” he said. “That is true here, and it shows. And that gives me chills just to think about how special that is. It’s vanishing, and I hope it doesn’t disappear from here. There are so many pressures that, over time, have eroded what medicine is supposed to be like. Here, at least here in Shreveport at LSU, medicine is like it should be.”

Dr. Paul Weinberger received his medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia (now Augusta University), where he also completed his Otolaryngology Residency training. He has completed subspecialty fellowships in Clinical Research at Yale University, Laryngology at Medical College of Georgia, and Complex Airway Reconstruction at University College of London and the Royal National Throat Nose and Ear Hospital. He has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Fanconi Award from the American Head and Neck Society, Young Clinical Research Faculty of the Year Award, and was a finalist for a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar Award from the U.S. Department of State. He was recognized by the American Medical Association with a National Leadership Award in 2007. In addition to his clinical expertise, Dr. Weinberger manages an extramurally funded research laboratory. His research program is focused on developing novel therapies for anaplastic thyroid cancer, a disease for which there are no effective treatment options. He also has investigations focused on novel nanotechnology biomaterials applied to the area of regenerative medicine and airway reconstruction. On the national level, Dr. Weinberger serves as a member of the Science Education Committee of the American Association for Cancer Research and is a champion for promoting science and cancer research career options to disadvantaged high school and undergraduate students.

Back in the Saddle



Occupational Therapist Gretchen Reeks uses unique therapy to help equestrian team prepare for Olympic qualifying



OPPOSITE PAGE: Trainer Sydney Elliott exercises Cisco at Holly Hill Farm in Benton. ABOVE: Gretchen Reeks, MA LOTR C/NDT CKTP, and Sydney always tape Cisco's leg as a team to ensure the leg is clean, the adhesive sticks properly and to keep the horse stable during the application. Gretchen also treats Sydney with Kinesio Tape.

Occupational therapist Gretchen Reeks doesn't horse around when it comes to serving on a team impacting patient care — even when that patient is a horse.

Gretchen, an Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy, is using the Kinesio Taping Method to treat Olympic hopeful Cisco and trainer Sydney Elliott. The horse qualified for the Olympics long list at the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event before he sustained an injury, a right front superficial digital flexor tendon core lesion, in September 2016.

Kinesio Taping is just one aspect of the care — overseen by veterinarian Dr. Nelson Lewis at Red River Equine Hospital, owner Carol Stephens and professional equestrian Sydney — that has Cisco on the mend and back on track for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. This rehabilitative technique is designed to provide stability and support to muscles and joints without restricting range of motion. The cotton fabric facilitates the body's natural healing process and also provides soft tissue manipulation to prolong manual therapy benefits.

"On a human, it can work on the epidermis, dermis and fascia, depending on the strength and elasticity you put on the tape itself," said Reeks, explaining the treatment works the same on horses with one big difference — how the patient communicates what's working. "Humans can explain to us what hurts and where, and while horses can't use words, what they can do is use there non-verbals to tell us what they like and don't like. We're fortunate enough that the trainer has a very close relationship with this horse. Cisco tells Sydney when the tape is working and what he likes and doesn't like."

The bright-colored tape is a familiar sight on many types of athletes, including volleyball teams and tennis players, and while the practice of using it on equine and other animals is growing, it's more common in Europe than in the United States. Gretchen, who became a Certified Kinesio Taping Practitioner (CKTP) in May, works closely with others in the field through the Kinesio Taping Association International (KTAI) and consults with Fédération Equestre Internationale veterinarian Dr. Juan Garcia de Brigard, who is a certified Kinesio Taping instructor based out of Columbia. Gretchen,

who is also a rider at Holly Hill Farms, is providing her care as a community service.

While mostly veterinarians and equine bodyworkers are taping horses, Dorothy Cole with KTAI Communications said a few physical therapists are using the method on animals, adding that Gretchen is the first occupational therapist in the United States working with equine. While there are approximately 2,000 active CKTPs in the U.S., there are only five members in the equine organization.

After the initial injury, Gretchen's focus was trying to control the edema, cutting the tape into "finger" strips that wrapped around the injured leg with no tension. Once the swelling was under control after 90 days of stall rest, Dr. Lewis cleared Cisco to begin a walk-trot program of exercise. After gradually building up to 60 minutes of walking, Cisco was recently upgraded to trot.

Sydney says the taping is making a difference for Cisco. "He loves it so much. It gives the tendon so much support. We put hours and hours of work on these horses every week. I think just the support of it daily has helped maintain the strength to be able to work for hours each day during the weeks and months leading up to his big competitions."

Cisco isn't the only one benefitting from Kinesio Tape — Sydney also uses it. "We are very hard on our bodies, just like the horses are, and I could not see a downside to trying it," she said. "I had an injury to my elbow, and my left arm was going numb. Gretchen taped me for several weeks, and I've got full feeling back in my arm and the tendon is healed."

Gretchen carries the practice into her teaching at the School of Allied Health Professions, having students practice using the tape on patients in their clinical studies.

"Kinesio Taping really works, and it does help the horse," Gretchen said, adding that Cisco's owner and veterinarian are supportive of her work with him. "It takes open mindedness to try something new ... and a team approach to make any sort of treatment work, whether it's on a human or a horse."

Class Notes

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE CLASS OF 1977

Michael Albritton is a radiation oncologist at Ferrell Duncan Clinic in Springfield, Missouri. He and wife, Sybil, have been married for 36 years and have two sons: Andrew, who received his PhD in English Linguistics from the University of Nottingham and teaches at Missouri State; and Charles, who is a second-year resident in OB/GYN at LSU Health Shreveport.

Lane Cook lives in Knoxville, Tennessee where he practices psychiatry. In addition to his regular outpatient practice, he specializes in addiction psychiatry with a large residential facility. Three years ago he incorporated Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation into the practice for treatment-resistant depression. He and his wife, Judy, have been married 30 years.

Ron Cowley completed his residency and two-year fellowship in Neuroradiology at Wake Forest 1977-1981. He was Chief of Neuroradiology at Greenville Health Systems from 1981 to 2014 and is now semi-retired. He serves as a consultant in Otolaryngology and Institute of Translational Oncology. He won the Cornelius Dyke Award from the American Society of Neuroradiology in 1981. He and his wife, Linda, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have

one son and one grandson, who is 9 years old. Ron is a Master Gardener in the Master Naturalist program at North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville. In addition to gardening, he enjoys golfing, fly fishing, hunting and photography.

Russell Romero practiced plastic surgery in Lafayette for 29 years. He founded a surgical clinic in Atoyac, Mexico to which he traveled yearly for 20 years repairing cleft lips and palates and any other surgical necessities. He received the highest award from Rotary International "Service Above Self." He and Carolyn have been married for 48 years and have two sons. Their oldest son, Jason J. Romero, MD, an LSU Health Shreveport Medical School graduate, is a dermatologist in Shreveport and is married with four children. Their other son, Jordan T. Romero, MD, is an LSU Health New Orleans Medical School graduate and a psychiatrist in Norfolk, Virginia.

Ramon Rosenkrans retired in January 2016 after more than 20 years of general surgery and general practice in Batesville, Mississippi. His wife of 25 years, Jane, died in March 2013, and he remarried in October 2014 to Regina. He and Regina moved to Madison County, near Jackson, Mississippi, after retirement, and they travel often. Last summer Ramon went to Japan for the Lions Club International Convention - he came back to the

United States by way of Hong Kong, Dubai and London. He has three children and all are doing well. His son is a commercial airline pilot with SkyWest and flies out of Phoenix. Another son works in computer graphics at a public relations firm in New York. His daughter is an Occupational Therapy Assistant in Seabrook, Texas. He has a 13-year-old grandson.

Robert Salley is currently the Executive Director in Cardiovascular Services with KentuckyOne Health Services and has been Chief of Cardiac Surgery at St. Joseph Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky since 1996. Prior to that, he was Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery at University of Kentucky School of Medicine from 1989 to 1996 and Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery at University of South Alabama from 1984 to 1988. He lives with his wife, Kristie, in Lexington, Kentucky.

Z. Galen Sanders is in an independent, private practice in general pediatrics in Bossier City, where he has practiced since 1980. He and his wife, Kathy, have two beautiful daughters, Merideth and Ellen.

Dan Willett is a retired diagnostic and interventional radiologist. He and his wife, Wanda, live in Opelousas. Their son, Addison Brooks Willett, MD, JD, MBA, graduated from LSU Health Shreveport in 2015 and now has two daughters, 3-year-old Kate and 5-month-old Adrienne.

CLASS OF 1997

F. Thomas Siskron served four years in Utah as a general medical officer in the U.S. Air Force following medical school. He completed his Urology residency at LSU Health Shreveport in 2006 and has been in private practice with Willis-Knighton Health System. He has two teenage sons.

CLASS OF 1980

Emily Fontenot Marcinkowski completed her general surgery residency at the University of North

Carolina in Chapel Hill, followed by a complex surgical oncology fellowship at the City of Hope National Cancer Center. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. She lives with her husband, Tim, in Nicholasville, Kentucky.

CLASS OF 2007

Patrick Bonneval is an emergency medicine physician at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Gonzales, Louisiana. He and his wife, Amy, live in Baton Rouge and have four daughters.

SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS CLASS OF 1997 PHYSICAL THERAPY

Jason Merritt worked in the Acute Physical Therapy Department at Doctors' Hospital of Shreveport as a staff therapist and director for nearly 10 years. He then went on to work as a staff physical therapist at Promise Hospital of Shreveport, where he served for five years. He returned to his passion, helping patients in an acute care environment, with his current position in the Acute Physical Therapy Department at Willis-Knighton Pierremont. Jason and his wife, Karen, have three sons, Marshall, William and Charles. Marshall, who will be a senior at Caddo Magnet High School this fall, has an affinity for drama and acting. Will, who will be a freshman at Northwood High School, loves playing basketball and is playing travel basketball this summer. Charles will be in eighth grade at Donnie Bickham Middle School, and he enjoys robotics and sports, including baseball and basketball.

CLASS OF 2007 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Crystal Gutierrez Russo has practiced in private and hospital-based pain management practices in multiple places including Shreveport, Lafayette and Charleston, South Carolina while husband Kyle completed his residency training. She is currently employed at a pain management practice at one of

the main hospitals in Bismarck, North Dakota. They have a 3-year-old daughter and a baby boy on the way.

Linzie Hebert spent the first eight years following graduation practicing in family medicine at The Family Doctors in Shreveport. After moving back to her hometown of Ruston in 2011, she worked in rural health before accepting her dream job working with a busy dermatology practice at the Green Clinic, where she works with dermatologist Josh Mandrell, MD. Linzie also gets to work with her study partner from the Physician Assistant Program Tiffany Armond Guthrie, who also joined the practice. Linzie and husband, Jeremy, have four children, and the couple leads a triathlon club and are active in their church, The Bridge.

Ashley Trahan Romero lives in Maurice with her husband, Teddy, and their 3-year-old daughter, Addison. Ashley has worked in OB/GYN since graduation and is currently employed by Dr. Francis Cardinale at Acadiana Women's Health Group in Lafayette.

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES CLASS OF 1986 BIOCHEMISTRY

Cynthia Peterson served as a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Professor Howard Schachman at the University of California, Berkeley from 1986 to 1991. She began as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Cellular and Molecular Biology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 1992. Dr. Peterson remained on the faculty at UT for 22 years, being promoted through the ranks and ultimately serving as the Head of the Department from 2008 to 2012 and as Associate Dean of Academic Personnel for the College of Arts and Sciences from 2012 to 2014. In 2014, Cynthia was named Dean of the College of Science and the Richard V. Edwards, Jr. Professor of Biological Sciences at Louisiana State University. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Her research interests are in protein biochemistry and biophysics, with research projects focused on the role of protease inhibitors in hemostasis and inflammation. Cynthia enjoys spending time with husband Edward and their grown children, reading, sports and Louisiana cuisine!

CLASS OF 2002 BIOCHEMISTRY

Joseph Austin works at the Georgia Bureau of Investigation-Division of Forensic Sciences (GBI-DOFS) as a forensic toxicologist. He is certified by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology and has been promoted to the level of Master Crime Lab Scientist 3. From 2009-2016, he served as the GBI-DOFS R&D coordinator. In addition to working as a toxicologist, he has also worked as a part-time instructor teaching Introductory Biology lecture and lab courses at Georgia State University-Perimeter College since 2003. In his spare time he enjoys bicycling and in 2015 completed The Clarksville Sunrise Century Ride in Clarksville, Tennessee. He enjoys watching motorsports (Formula 1 and MotoGP) and recently took up sourdough baking as a hobby.

CLASS OF 2002 PHYSIOLOGY

Erin Pias Hines is a board certified toxicologist and biologist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Erin's work supports the Agency's mission to keep air and water clean under the Clean Air Act. Erin did postdoctoral fellowships at UNC Chapel Hill in Dermatology and at the EPA's Reproductive Toxicology Division and has authored 50 peer reviewed publications. Erin's area of expertise is children's health or reproductive and developmental toxicology. She collaborates across multiple agencies nationally and internationally including work as an expert panelist for the JECFA Committee. Erin has expertise in human milk and the environmental chemicals present therein at background levels. Erin has worked extensively in the laboratory with the Teflon family of chemicals, studying how early life exposure makes animals overweight in adulthood and used that knowledge in support of a recent EPA Hazard Advisory Document for recommended safe levels of these compounds in drinking water. Erin has traveled to Peru with the Society of Toxicology as a ToxScholar, has served in society leadership roles, and does volunteer outreach in the community. Erin has won numerous awards from the EPA including bronze medals for policy support and Science and Technological Achievement Awards for expert publications. Erin spends her free time with her husband, Dr. Ian Hines (LSU Health, Physiology 2002), and their children.

IN MEMORIAM

DR. ROBERT CHARLES CLAWSON, a longtime faculty member, passed away March 15 after complications following a stroke. He shared 41 of his 87 years mentoring students as a Professor of Anatomy. His passion for teaching garnered him many honors, including the Allen Copping Award for Teaching Excellence. Upon his retirement in 2008, Dr. Clawson was named Professor Emeritus Gratis. The family requests any memorials be made to the Endowment for Anatomy Education at the LSU Health Shreveport Foundation. Go to www.lsuhsfoundation.org and select the GIVE NOW tab at the top right of the home page, then select Endowment for Anatomy Education as the designation.

WILLIAM MEREDITH JOHNSON GOFF, who served as Personnel Director at the health sciences center, passed away January 24 at age 83.

DR. JOHN C. HARDIN, JR. passed away on May 11 at age 92, after a lengthy illness. He taught at the School of Medicine while maintaining a successful private practice in maxillofacial, oral and plastic surgery from 1956-1993. After retiring from private practice, Dr. Hardin fully devoted his time to teaching students until his retirement at age 86.

DONNIE JUNEAU passed away on February 15 at the age of 70. In addition to owning B&J Flooring, he was a home builder and real estate developer. Along with his partners, he developed the Twelve Oaks neighborhood. Mr. Juneau received a liver transplant at the health sciences center in 2002, and because of his gratitude for this lifesaving surgery, he and his wife created the Donnie & Gail Juneau Endowed Chair in Transplantation at LSU Health Shreveport. The Juneau family is thankful to the donor, surgeons, and God for giving them another 15 years of life with him.

DR. EUGENE "GENE" CHARLES ST. MARTIN passed away April 13 at age 97. He was a founding member of the LSU Health Shreveport School of Medicine, the LSU Health Sciences Foundation, the Louisiana State Urological Society and the Ark-La-Tex Urological Society. He served as a Clinical Professor of Urology and was an active participant in the LSU community.

DR. THURSTON EUZEMA WILKES II passed away January 13 at age 75 in Oxford, Mississippi. He received his urology training at the health sciences center, where he served as chief resident.

DR. CHARLES DONALD WOOD died February 10 at age 92. He was recruited to join LSU Health in 1968. During his 25-year tenure, he served as Professor of Pharmacology and Associate Dean before retiring in 1993.

2017 FALL ALUMNI REUNION

Friday, October 6 & Saturday, October 7

HONORING THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE CLASSES OF 1987, 1997 & 2007

Invitations to alumni of those classes will be mailed out this summer. Alumni can update their contact information at www.lsuhsfoundation.org/alumniupdate.

For more information, please contact Bridget Verret at 318.675.6065 or bverret@lsuhsfoundation.org.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY



Youmna Moufarrej, Anna Lepkowski, Amber McKenna and Katie Moreaux founded the Science Matters student group.

GROUP ORGANIZES MARCH FOR SCIENCE

Students with the Science Matters group at LSU Health organized the March for Science-Shreveport on Earth Day, April 22. With nearly 300 participants, the downtown march was one of five in the state with more than 500 marches held around the world. The mission of the national event was to champion “robustly funded and publicly communicated science as a pillar of human freedom and prosperity.”

PEDIATRIC CHRONIC VENTILATOR CARE OFFERED

LSU Health Shreveport launched a new Pediatric Chronic Ventilator Clinic in April, providing complex care to children with conditions that require chronic mechanical ventilation. The program is the first of its type in the region.

“Access to care in our region will improve the quality of life for many children and their families,” said Dr. L. Keith Scott, Professor of Pediatrics, Surgery and Medicine. He noted that prior to the clinic’s opening in Shreveport, parents often had to drive 300 miles or more to receive this level of

HERNIA REPAIR DEVICE NOMINATED FOR AWARD

A new device to repair hernias, developed at LSU Health Shreveport, was nominated for a NASA Tech Briefs design award.

Working with different types of hernia mesh on a daily basis, LSU Health Shreveport chief surgery resident Dr. Alireza Hamidian began to notice some common problems with current mesh designs, which made him explore ways to improve the design and make the application easier. He came up with the Mesh Sprayer Device.



Dr. F. Dean Griffen and Dr. Alireza Hamidian

Along with acting Surgery Chairman Dr. F. Dean Griffen and former surgery resident Dr. David Ballard, Dr. Hamidian developed the liquefied mesh delivery system that affixes liquefied sterile mesh into the abdominal wall. Applied by a spray canister that can be fitted over a laparoscopic/robotic camera and other instruments, the layered liquid changes into a solid or semi-solid form that serves as a reinforcement for the abdominal wall to prevent the risk of future hernia formation at the site.

The design competed in the Create the Future Design Contest, which was created in 2002 by the publishers of NASA Tech Briefs magazine to help stimulate engineering innovation. In 2016, a chest tube designed by Drs. Hamidian and Ballard along with Radiology Chairman Dr. Horacio D’Agostino was named one of the top 100 designs out of more than 22,000 submissions.

The patent for the device is pending through LSUHSC-S-2017-003.

specialized care, with the nearest locations in Little Rock, Dallas, Houston and New Orleans.

Focusing on initiating ventilator management as well as weaning off chronic ventilator therapy, the Pediatric Chronic Ventilator Clinic is offered on the last Wednesday of each month at University Health’s Ambulatory Care Center. Services include nursing education, as well as dietary, respiratory and social therapy. To find out if a child is a candidate for the program, call (318) 675-6094.



The Schools of Medicine and Allied Health Professions participated in the Speaker’s Health Fair during LSU Day at the Capitol.

LSU DAY AT THE CAPITOL

LSU once again hosted the Speaker’s Health Fair in Baton Rouge, with faculty and students representing Shreveport’s Schools of Medicine and Allied Health Professions. As part of LSU Day at the Capitol activities on April 18, the event provided an opportunity to promote the strengths of the Shreveport campus while meeting legislators and their staff members. The Louisiana Legislature issued resolutions honoring LSU Health Shreveport faculty. Several representatives sponsored House Resolution No. 33 honoring Chancellor and Dean Dr. G.E. Ghali for his leadership and his contributions to medicine, the community, state and world. State Rep. Larry Bagley sponsored House Resolution No. 35 recognizing Dr. Dennis O’Callaghan, Chairman of Microbiology & Immunology, for his many accomplishments. State Rep. Jack McFarland sponsored House Resolution No. 31 in recognition of Dr. D. Neil Granger, Chairman of Molecular & Cellular Physiology, and his contributions to LSU Health. The day wrapped up with an informational session held in the Rotunda, allowing all those in the capital to learn more about each LSU campus.



Dr. G.E. Ghali speaks to Louisiana delegates in Washington, D.C.

LSU ON THE HILL

LSU on the Hill was held on March 21 in Washington, D.C. and represented a system-wide effort to engage and inform elected delegates. A breakfast with the Louisiana delegation was well attended with each delegate receiving a Congressional Resource Guide providing facts about each campus. In addition to prescheduled meetings with research and education leaders and staff members, each campus was encouraged to schedule meetings to enhance federal funding. LSU Health Shreveport leadership met with President Donald Trump and a section chief at the National Institutes of Health.

MINI MED TO BE HELD IN AUGUST

LSU Health Shreveport will open its doors to the community at Mini Med School, with sessions kicking off on August 1. During this four-week program, held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through August 22, faculty members will discuss interesting health topics and offer participants hands-on activities and demonstrations that doctors and other healthcare professionals receive during their training. Cost is \$40 for first-time participants, which includes a white lab coat and all four sessions. The fee for returning Mini Med alums is \$20. Register online at www.lsuhealthminimed.com.



With more than 80 participants, the Spring Mini Med class was the largest since the program was founded in 2012.

FACULTY ELECTIONS & HONORS



R. Shane Barton, MD, Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, was named Chairman of Orthopaedic Surgery in March.



Joseph A. Bocchini, Jr., MD, Professor and Chairman of Pediatrics, was named Louisiana's 2017 CDC Childhood Immunization Champion by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the CDC Foundation.



Quyen Chu, MD MBA FACS, the Charles Knight Professor in Surgery and Chief of Surgical Oncology, received the inaugural Humanitarian Award at the Americas Hepato-Pancreato Biliary Association Annual Meeting.



Glenn Mills, MD FACP, Director of Feist-Weiller Cancer Center, was named Interim Chairman of the Department of Medicine in March.



Navdeep Samra, MD FICS, Associate Professor of Surgery with tenure, was appointed as Assistant Program Director of Surgery in December.

Orr named to NIH Study Section

Wayne Orr, PhD, Professor of Pathology, Physiology, Cellular Biology & Anatomy, was selected to serve on National Institutes of Health's Vascular Cell and Molecular Biology Study Section. His six-year appointment begins July 1. Study sections review NIH grant applications, make recommendations to the appropriate national advisory councils and survey the status of research in their respective fields. Members are selected on the basis of their demonstrated competence and achievement in their scientific discipline as evidenced by the quality of research accomplishments, scientific publications and other achievements and honors. The VCMB Study Section reviews applications involving the cell and molecular biology of blood vessels ranging from major arteries to the microcirculation. Studies using cellular, biochemical, biophysical, immunological, genetic, pharmacological, and molecular biological approaches to define vascular homeostasis and dysfunction in experimental models are reviewed. A principal focus is on the biology of the endothelium, vascular smooth muscle cell, as well as adventitial cells and pericytes.



Drs. R. Ellen Friday and Sarwat Umer receive the Copping Awards from Dr. Jane Eggerstedt

Friday, Umer receive honors

The 2017 Allen A. Copping Excellence in Teaching Awards, the most prestigious honor given by LSU Health Shreveport, were presented during graduation May 27. **Dr. R. Ellen Friday**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, was the basic sciences award winner, and **Dr. Sarwat Umer**, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine & Pediatrics, received the clinical award. Recipients are chosen by their leaders, colleagues and students.



CAMPUS & COMMUNITY

- 1 Chancellor Dr. G.E. Ghali congratulates a graduate during commencement on May 27, when 175 students received their degrees.
- 2 Medical student Aryeneesh Kaermez Dotiwala receives her coat from Dr. Adrian Abreo at March 25's White Coat Ceremony.
- 3 Medical student Lane Fontenot has his head shaved at the Geaux Bald event March 10 after raising money for childhood cancer research.
- 4 Student Smita Maruvada looks at jewelry from Pakistan with Drs. Karina Sulaiman and Sarwat Umer during the Diversity Matters Celebration on April 20.
- 5 Shreve Island Elementary students Kira Thompson and Christopher Hawkins participate in activities at Sci-Port's Science Academy, a seven-week program focusing on math and science sponsored by LSU Health Shreveport's Multicultural Affairs.
- 6 The Delta Kappa Boulé of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity donated Barnes & Noble gift cards for children receiving care in the pediatric clinic.
- 7 Bevin Hicks with Lola Magazine and Weston McElwee with Tejas restaurant present a check to LSU Health's Lisa Babin and Foundation President Kevin Flood for more than \$2,000 raised at the Dinner for the Docs event March 6.

NEW FACULTY

- | | |
|--|--|
| Joseph Angelo, PA
Instructor-Clinical, Orthopaedics | Evangelyn Okereke, MD
Assistant Professor-Clinical, Anesthesiology |
| Kara Babaian, MD
Assistant Professor-Clinical, Urology | Shane Rinehart, MD
Assistant Professor-Clinical, Surgery |
| Kristin Butler, MLS (ASCP)^{CM}
Instructor-Clinical, AH Medical Technology | Sheryl Sabillo, MD
Assistant Professor-Clinical, Medicine Gen Internal |
| Nancy K. Bushnell-Harper, MA, LPC
Clinical Instructor, Pediatrics | John Saus, MD
Assistant Professor-Clinical, Anesthesiology |
| Rebecca Chiffer, MD
Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology | Martin F. Schreeder, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor, Emergency Medicine |
| Elyse Cornett, PhD
Assistant Professor, Anesthesiology | Adam Sciuk, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor, Radiology |
| Anna M. Craig, MD
Clinical Instructor, Pediatrics | Thomas M. Wertin, MD
Associate Professor-Clinical, Surgery |
| Gopi Kolluru, PhD
Assistant Professor-Research, Pathology | Allison Williamson, MA, RRT, RPFT
Instructor-Clinical, Cardiopulmonary Science |





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Chairmen

ANGELA CORNELIUS, MD & JULIE ZADECK

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