

Inside

LSU HEALTH SHREVEPORT

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

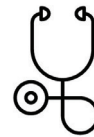
SPRING 2019



RESEARCH WRAP



OCHSNER LSU HEALTH SHREVEPORT: FIRST 100 DAYS



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE & SERVICE AWARDS

ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT

Long-time supporter of LSU Health Shreveport, John Loggins, pictured below with Dr. Dennis Wissing, Interim Dean of the School of Allied Health Professions, was the winner of the 5-night Golf Getaway and Pittormie Castle Experience in Scotland raffle prize at the Alumni Golf Tournament on Oct. 6, 2018. All proceeds from the Tournament will be used to provide scholarships to LSU Health Shreveport for deserving students.

— School of —
Allied Health Professions

LSU Health SHREVEPORT

— School of —
Allied Health Professions

LSU Health SHREVEPORT

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Allied Health Professions

Pittormie Castle SCOTLAND

5 NIGHT Golf Getaway

Pittormie Castle is every golfer's dream in St. Andrews. The magnificent baronial castle of Pittormie is Scotland's most exclusive private estate. The estate's private rooms and multiple residences offer an intimate and unique "home away from home" experience. The main castle boasts numerous private lounges, dining options and amenities, including an indoor pool, spa, gym, tennis court and golf practice areas.

Includes:

- 1
- 1
- 2

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 Professions and LSU Health Sciences Foundation.

SPRING 2019

DEAN, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
David F. Lewis, MD, MBA

INTERIM DEAN, SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS
Dennis Wissing, PhD

DEAN, SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
Christopher Kevil, PhD



Since our first graduating class of medical students in 1973, our health sciences center has seen many changes and achieved many successes. It is exciting to see our progress and growth each year. A recent major accomplishment over a year in the making took place on October 1, 2018, when our partnership with Ochsner Health Systems to form the Ochsner LSU Health System of North Louisiana went into effect. The leadership teams in Shreveport and Monroe have been working diligently to ensure a smooth and supportive transition. I am pleased to report that many improvements have been made in the first few months of the partnership. I am looking forward to seeing more plans come together that will better the patient experience, enhance the training of our students, residents, and fellows, and further expand our research endeavors.

In the fall, we welcomed the Class of 2022 and our largest class of medical students to date. Numerous renovation projects around campus were completed in 2018 in order to accommodate more students, but our work is not yet finished. In order to continue growing student enrollment, we must continue to expand our campus. A current goal we have for our health sciences center is to construct a new building that would be known as the Center for Medical Education and Wellness. This new facility would support our planned future growth, provide more space for hands-on learning opportunities, and accommodate additional educational resources for students. The enhanced technology and learning environment delivered by a new facility is essential for LSU Health Shreveport to continue the standard of excellence in teaching and training that we have worked so hard to establish.

We have a lot to look forward to this spring with the highly anticipated Match Day for our graduating medical students, the White Coat Ceremony for our second-year medical students, and our ninth annual *An Evening for Healers* fundraising event.

Thank you for your continued dedication and investment in the future of our institution. It is with the help of everyone who supports our health sciences center that we are able to continue to grow and prosper.

Sincerely,

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

content

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COURTESY PHOTOS

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Office of Diversity Affairs
Clays for Camp Tiger
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LSUHS Medical Alumni
Department of Neurosurgery
Amber McKenna
Orr Lab
Dr. Sami Bahna
Dr. Kenneth McMartin
Dr. Jason Bodily
Dr. John Todd
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New \$1.8 Million R01 Grant Will Support Research to Study Sigmar1 Protein and its Function in Regulating Lipid Metabolism

Dr. Shenuarin Bhuiyan, Assistant Professor of Pathology & Translational Pathobiology, and Cellular & Molecular Physiology, has received a R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Bhuiyan's new \$1,825,000 5-year grant will fund his research project, "Sigmar1 in lipid metabolism." Obesity, diabetes and heart diseases are characterized by metabolic dysfunction and affect one-third of adults in the United States. Dr. Bhuiyan's proposal will investigate a novel function of protein named Sigma-1 receptor (Sigmar1) in regulating lipid metabolism in baseline and in response to diet-induced obesity. The goal of this application is to discover a novel lipid metabolism pathway regulated by Sigmar1 and identify a therapeutic target to prevent lipid abnormalities in obesity, which is expected to help reverse the impact of obesity on cardiovascular disease risk. Obesity is associated with ectopic deposition of lipid (steatosis) in different organs including the pancreas, kidneys, blood vessels, liver, skeletal muscle, and heart. The accumulation of excessive toxic lipid species alters cellular signaling, promotes mitochondrial dysfunction, and increases cellular death in these organs.



Dr. Md. Shenuarin Bhuiyan

"We became interested in uncovering the molecular function of Sigmar1 proteins in metabolism as it was reported to be associated with lipid-containing micro-domains suggesting a potential role in the pathophysiology of metabolic diseases. We found that Sigmar1 is abundantly expressed in the heart, where fatty acid oxidation serves as the primary source of energy, approximately 70%," said Dr. Bhuiyan. "Our preliminary data central to this proposal identifies tissue-intrinsic function of Sigmar1 as an essential regulator of lipid metabolism under the normal physiological condition and in response to diet induced obesity stress."

To explain the molecular function of Sigmar1 under physiological and pathophysiological conditions, Dr. Bhuiyan's laboratory recently generated a cardiac-specific Sigmar1 transgenic mouse for overexpression, and cardiac-specific Sigmar1 conditional knockout mouse models. The central hypothesis of the research project proposal is that Sigmar1-dependent activation of lipid metabolism is protective against metabolic stress-induced cardiac dysfunction and pathological remodeling.

Dr. Bhuiyan's research will aim to test this hypothesis by pursuing three specific aims:

- Aim 1 will determine a novel function for Sigmar1 in regulating lipid metabolism.
- Aim 2 will determine the role of Sigmar1 in metabolic stress in mouse model of diet-induced obesity.
- Aim 3 will determine the molecular mechanism of Sigmar1's function in lipid metabolism through mitochondrial fatty acid uptake and oxidation.

Dr. Bhuiyan's lab will use integrated molecular, genetic, and functional approaches in conjunction with genetically modified mice to determine the direct involvement, and define the molecular mechanisms of Sigmar1's role in lipid metabolism. This proposed project will identify a novel therapeutic target to regulate mitochondrial fatty acid oxidation and discover a novel molecular mechanism of cellular protection in diet-induced obesity.

HRSA Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Title III: Early Intervention Services Project Receives Additional Funding



Dr. John A. Vanchiere

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has funded an additional nine months of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Title III: Early Intervention Services grant project at LSU Health Shreveport, is led by John A. Vanchiere, MD, Chief of the Section of Pediatric Infectious Diseases. The 2018-2019 total award is \$605,491. Since Dr. Vanchiere became the Project Director of the Ryan White Title III: Early Intervention Services grant on July 1, 2013, the HRSA has awarded \$3,631,514 to the project. The Early Intervention Services aspect of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program is focused on primary care services and provides grant funding to local community based organizations to support outpatient ambulatory health services to people living with HIV. Dr. Vanchiere was one of 351 award recipients in 2018.

\$438,000 R15 Grant Funds Parkinson's Disease Research



Dr. Stephen Witt

A new \$438,000 R15 Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) grant from the National Institutes of Health is making it possible for a researcher at LSU Health Shreveport to study Parkinson's disease, a neurodegenerative movement disorder that affects approximately 7 million to 10 million people around the world.

Stephan N. Witt, PhD, Professor and Chairman of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, was recently awarded federal funding from the General Medical Sciences Institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for his three-year project investigating how the Parkinson's disease-associated protein alpha-synuclein disrupts the orchestrated transport of proteins to and from the cell surface. This is Dr. Witt's third NIH grant to study Parkinson's disease.

"There are still many questions to be answered about the alpha-synuclein protein and how it functions," said Dr. Witt. "It is an important focus of Parkinson's disease research because this protein is found in Lewy bodies. Lewy bodies are clusters of proteins found in brain cells that could hold important information about what causes Parkinson's. The cause of this disease is currently not known, which is why research is so important."

The NIH's General Medical Sciences and Neurological Disorders and Stroke Institutes have funded Dr. Witt for 19 years. He has also received grants from the American Cancer Society and the American Parkinson's Disease Association. In addition to his research, Dr. Witt serves on the editorial boards of *Cell Stress & Chaperones*, *Journal of Biological Chemistry* and *PLOS ONE*.

The goals of a NIH R15 grant are to support meritorious research, expose students, especially undergraduate students, to research and strengthen the research environment of an institution.

New R15 Grant Project Investigates the Role of Diglycolic Acid in Kidney and Nervous System Damage

Kenneth E. McMartin, PhD, is the Principle Investigator of a new R15 grant from the NIH's National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. His project, "Neurotoxicity and nephrotoxicity of diglycolic acid: a model of calcium chelation-induced mitochondrial dysfunction," began in August of 2018 and is funded for three years. Diethylene glycol (DEG) is a commonly used chemical found in consumer products such as brake fluid and chafing fuels in the United States. DEG is also a good and cheap solvent that has mistakenly been used to prepare liquid medications throughout the developing world, and thus has produced highly-fatal poisoning epidemics in which it has produced a failure of the kidneys and damage to peripheral nerves leading to paralysis. Despite widespread knowledge of its epidemic toxicity, the mechanisms for the toxicity of DEG, and especially the link between the nephrotoxicity and the neurotoxicity, are not well understood.



Dr. Kenneth McMartin

"We have recently demonstrated that a DEG metabolite known as diglycolic acid (DGA), rather than DEG itself, is responsible for the kidney injury and that it does this by damaging mitochondria. However, there is hardly anything known about how DEG produces the nervous system damage, so we propose studies to develop a model for the nervous system damage," said Dr. McMartin.

Dr. McMartin's lab will use this model and cell cultures to investigate whether DGA produces the kidney and nervous system damage by chelating calcium, which then leads to the loss of mitochondrial function. These studies will determine how DGA affects intracellular calcium homeostasis, whether its chelation property alters neuronal and kidney cell viability, and what the characteristics are of the DGA-associated neuropathy. These studies will provide the necessary mechanistic results to design and evaluate effective therapies for these severe poisonings. Furthermore, these studies will significantly impact kidney and nervous system health by producing a model for studying how renal agents may induce neuropathies.

Orr Lab Receives Record Third Concurrent R01 Grant to Study EphA2 in Regulation of Atherosclerotic Plaque-Associated Inflammation



Dr. A. Wayne Orr

Cardiovascular disease is the most common cause of death worldwide, and a majority of cardiovascular disease-related deaths are due to the formation of atherosclerotic plaques. Atherosclerotic plaques form due to the accumulation of lipids within the artery wall and the recruitment of inflammatory cells to clear these lipids. However, this clearance becomes inefficient over time resulting in chronic inflammation and the formation of lipid and dead inflammatory cell-rich atherosclerotic plaques.

While atherosclerotic plaques can grow to limit blood flow to target tissue, resulting in exertion-associated pain in the chest and legs, the most common cause of clinical events is plaque rupture. When a plaque ruptures, the blood that contacts the ruptured plaque rapidly forms a clot to halt blood flow to target tissues, resulting in a heart attack or stroke. Smooth muscle cells in the artery wall act to prevent plaque rupture by forming a protective cap over the plaque core to provide mechanical stability. However, continued inflammation can weaken this protective cap by degrading cap proteins and inducing smooth muscle cell death. The laboratory of Dr. Wayne Orr has a long-standing interest in understanding this response. He currently has two large grants from the National Institutes of Health focused on novel mechanisms to reduce atherosclerotic plaque-associated inflammation.

Recently, the Orr lab has identified the protein EphA2 as a novel target in regulating this response. While EphA2 has known roles in tissue remodeling and cancer, the Orr lab provided the first data showing that EphA2 is expressed in atherosclerotic plaques where it regulates multiple aspects of plaque development. Inhibiting EphA2 expression reduces plaque-associated inflammation, but also reduces smooth muscle incorporation into the plaque.

Dr. Orr's lab recently received another R01 grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the NIH to study how EphA2 expression is regulated within the plaque, how EphA2 signaling contributes to the production of the protective cap, and whether blunting EphA2-EphrinA1 interactions could provide a dual protective role by reducing plaque inflammation while promoting the formation of the protective cap.

AHA Fellowships Awarded to CCDS Trainees

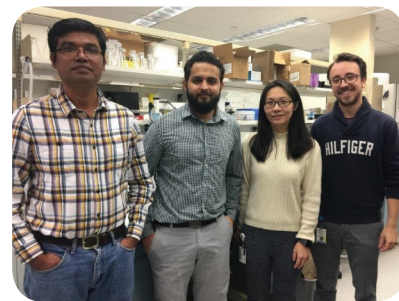
Four trainees in the Center for Cardiovascular Diseases and Sciences (CCDS) have received American Heart Association Fellowships to fund their Predoctoral and Postdoctoral training. Dr. Shafiu Alam, a Postdoctoral Fellow in Dr. Shenuarin Bhuiyan's laboratory, received a fellowship to fund his work on cardiac proteotoxicity, a buildup of proteins in the heart that can result in heart failure. Zaki Al-Yafeai, a graduate student in Dr. Wayne Orr's laboratory, received a Predoctoral Fellowship to fund his work on atherosclerotic plaque development, the most common cause of heart attacks and strokes. Two members of Dr. Kevin Lin's laboratory received fellowships, with Dr. Yin Chieh (Celeste) Wu receiving a Postdoctoral Fellowship and Alexandre Do Couto e Silva receiving a Predoctoral Fellowship to fund their work on mechanisms to reduce brain injury following stroke.

Celeste Yin-Chieh Wu, PhD, Postdoctoral Associate, was awarded an American Heart Association Postdoctoral Fellowship award of \$110,456 for her two-year project, "Neuropeptide Y-Mediated Neuroprotection."

Alexandre Do Couto e Silva, Graduate Student, was awarded an American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship award of \$53,688 for his two-year project, "Consequences of Palmitic Acid Methyl Ester in Cerebral Ischemia."

Zaki Al-Yafeai, Graduate Student, was awarded an American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship award of \$53,688 for his two-year project, "Integrin Affinity Modulation in Endothelial Activation and Atherosclerosis."

Shafiu Alam, PhD, Postdoctoral Associate, was awarded an American Heart Association Postdoctoral Fellowship award of \$106,532 for his two-year project, "Sigmar1 autophagic function in protecting cardiac proteotoxicity."



Pictured left to right: Shafiu Alam, Zaki Al-Yafeai, Yin Chieh (Celeste) Wu, and Alexandre Do Couto e Silva

Center for Molecular and Tumor Virology Hosts Annual Symposium

The Center for Molecular and Tumor Virology (CMTV) held its annual Symposium on Dec. 5. Boyd Professor Emeritus Dr. Dennis J. O'Callaghan and Dr. John Sixbey founded the National Institutes of Health-funded CMTV, which has been awarded nearly \$23 million since its establishment in 2002. The CMTV was established to bolster biomedical research by providing mentorship to junior faculty, researchers and graduate students, and to increase research infrastructure. It brought together faculty from several universities in North Louisiana, including LSU Health Shreveport, LSU Shreveport and University of Louisiana at Monroe, utilizing unique expertise from each institution to foster research collaborations and grow the research enterprises of these schools. Oversight is provided by an External Advisory Council comprised of national leaders in their respective fields, many of whom are members of the National Academy of Sciences. The CMTV has successfully trained and graduated 15 junior faculty, 50 postdoctoral researchers and 66 graduate students who went on to further their careers as independent researchers at LSU Health Shreveport, or at other renowned institutions such as Princeton University, the University of North Carolina, Northwestern University, the National Institutes of Health, the United States Department of Agriculture, the Centers for Disease Control, and the Food and Drug Administration, to name a few.

This year's Symposium featured six outside speakers, who in total direct tens of million dollars in research funding and are leaders of international stature in their field. Two of the speakers, Dr. Cary Moody and Dr. Gary Chan, graduated from LSU Health Shreveport and went on to establish their independent research programs at the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of North Carolina and the State University of New York Upstate Medical Center, respectively. The speakers discussed pathogens such as Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Influenza, Zika Virus, Respiratory Syncytial Virus, Human Cytomegalovirus, and Human Papilloma Virus, all of which are important human pathogens that not only cause high morbidity and mortality in the effected human population, but also congenital disease and cancers. For example, Symposium attendees learned that obesity negatively affects flu vaccination efforts and worsens flu disease outcomes, and that Severe Fever with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome Virus, which is associated with up to 30 percent mortality in Eastern Asia, may be a newly emerging pathogen in the United States that will require extreme vigilance from scientists, researchers, epidemiologists and the medical community.

Drs. Cheng-Ming Chiang with the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School and Dr. Charles Wood, Director of the Nebraska Center for Virology at the University of Nebraska, were present as members of the External Advisory Council. Over the years, they have helped the CMTV develop a nationally and internationally recognized center. Dr. Gus Kousoulas, LSU Associate Vice President for Research and Economic Development, and Drs. Joel Baines and Rhonda Cardin, Dean and Associate Dean for Research and Advanced Studies, LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, respectively, traveled from Baton Rouge to participate as guests.



Pictured left to right: Dr. Rebecca Dutch, Professor and Chair, Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry, Associate Dean for Biomedical Education, University of Kentucky College of Medicine; Dr. Jeremy Luban, David J. Freeland Chair in AIDS Research, University of Massachusetts Medical School; Dr. Stacey Schultz-Cherry, Professor, Department of Infectious Diseases, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Deputy Director, WHO Collaborating Center for Studies on the Ecology of Influenza; Dr. Gary Chan, Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, SUNY Upstate Medical University; Dr. Joel Baines, Dean of LSU School of Veterinary Medicine; Dr. Cary Moody, Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of North Carolina; Dr. Jae Jung, Distinguished Professor and Chair, Molecular Microbiology and Immunology, Fletcher Jones Foundation Chair in Molecular Microbiology and Immunology, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California; Dr. Cheng-

Ming Chiang, Professor, Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, Departments of Pharmacology and Biochemistry, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center; Dr. Charles Wood, Lewis/3M University Professor, Director, Nebraska Center for Virology, University of Nebraska; Dr. Rhonda Cardin, Associate Dean for Research and Advanced Studies LSU School of Veterinary Medicine; and Dr. Gus Kousoulas, LSU Associate Vice President for Research and Economic Development.

LSU Health Shreveport Serves as Host Institution for Two Fulbright-Nehru Scholars

LSU Health Shreveport recently had the privilege to host two Fulbright-Nehru scholars. Dr. Suvro Chatterjee and Siddhant Bhoir were two of 148 Indian Fulbright-Nehru and other Fulbright scholars selected by the United States-India Educational Foundation to study, research, teach and take part in professional development in the United States.

Created in 1946 by U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright, the Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Government. The Program currently operates in more than 160 countries and awards approximately 8,000 grants annually. India has one of the largest Fulbright Programs worldwide. The United States–India Educational Foundation (USIEF) administers the Fulbright-Nehru and other Fulbright fellowships for Indian and American students, scholars and professionals across almost every academic discipline.



Dr. Suvro Chatterjee
Recipient of 2018-2019 Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Fellowship

Dr. Suvro Chatterjee is an Associate Professor in the Centre for BioTechnology at Anna University in Chennai, India. The goal of Dr. Chatterjee's lab is to understand the fundamental aspects of nitric oxide-angiogenesis crosstalk followed by application with therapeutic angiogenesis. Dr. Chatterjee was granted a Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Fellowship (FNAPEF) grant, which allowed him to spend five months at LSU Health Shreveport. He worked with Dr. Chris Kevil, Professor of Pathology, Molecular & Cellular Physiology, and Cellular Biology & Anatomy, and Dr. Yufeng Dong Assistant of Orthopaedic Surgery, on his project, "Coupling of Hydrogen Sulfide and Nitric Oxide Signaling in Endothelium in Simulated Microgravity: A Bioengineering Approach to the Management of Wounds." The project explored the modulation of vascular functions in low gravity conditions and investigated the hydrogen sulfide signaling in space milieu. The acquired knowledge is expected to be used for developing a better strategy for wound repair in humans.

Siddhant Bhoir, Graduate Student, and Research and Teaching Assistant, of Biological Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IITGn) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India, received a Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Research Fellowship (FNDR) grant. Siddhant came to LSU Health Shreveport in August of 2018 and will be working alongside Dr. Arrigo De Benedetti until May of 2019 on his project, "Exploring the Effect of Human TLK1-Nek1 Axis on the Repair Fidelity of Non-Homologous End Joining (NHEJ) Pathway." Initial work suggested that targeting the TLK1/Nek1 axis in DNA Damage Response with specific novel inhibitors could be a novel therapy for prostate cancer in combination with androgen deprivation therapy. Bhoir's research is looking closely at the importance of the TLK1/Nek1 axis on the repair fidelity of double-strand break (DSB) ends in DNA repair via non-homologous end joining (NHEJ). The research findings could provide significant insights on the NHEJ repair pathway to help devise new therapeutic strategies against cancer. About 600,920 Americans and 556,400 Indians die of cancer every year, and the increasing resistance to anti-cancer drugs is deeply concerning. The hope at the completion of this innovative and collaborative project is to be able to help develop better treatments for cancer with fewer side effects and enhanced survival rates, and become one-step closer to the ultimate goal of seeing no life cut short by cancer.



Siddhant Bhoir
Recipient of 2018-2019 Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Research Fellowship

Siddhant acknowledges and appreciates the following entities and people who have been phenomenally supportive: the Government of India, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs - United States Department of State, the Indo-U.S. Fulbright commission, IIT Gandhinagar, and academic supervisors, Dr. Sivapriya Kirubakaran in India, and Dr. Arrigo De Benedetti at LSU Health Shreveport.

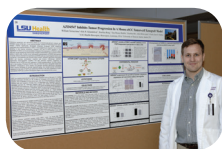
Medical Student Research Program Poster Session

Thirty-four School of Medicine students presented posters on clinical or basic science research they conducted over the summer at the Medical Student Research Program (MSRP) poster session. Faculty members served as judges of the students' poster presentations and awarded prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. The Medical Student Research Program has been offered to students since the 2007-2008 academic year and has provided medical students with the opportunity to gain additional experience in research for more than ten years.

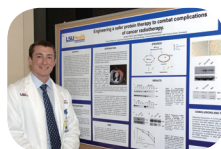
2018 Program Participants & Mentors:

Hannah Barkley, MSII
Dr. Elizabeth Disbrow &
Dr. Christina Ledbetter
Cole Bergeron, MSII
Dr. Xiaohong Lu
Breannah Bloomer, MSIV
Dr. Donard Dwyer
Theresa Boston, MSII
Dr. John Vanchiere
Sarah Brantley, MSII
Dr. John Vanchiere
Alexandra Britten, MSII
Dr. Kathryn Hamilton
Jimmy Brown, MSII
Dr. Giovanni Solitro
Ben Brown, MSIV
Dr. Donard Dwyer
Jeremy Brunet, MSII
Dr. Kenneth McMartin
Drayton Daily, MSII
Dr. Giovanni Solitro
Lance Dautel, MSII
Dr. Hai Sun
Charles deBoisblanc, MSII
Dr. Nancy Leidenheimer
Audrey Demand, MSII
Dr. Nicholas Goeders
Manon Doucet, MSII
Dr. Ellen Friday &
Dr. Terry Davis
Bryce Dugas, MSII
Dr. Nicholas Goeders
James Ferrer, MSII
Dr. Gulshan Sunavala-Dossabhoj
Rachel Foret, MSII
Dr. Jay Marion &
Dr. Runhua Shi

Tyler Houston, MSII
Dr. Giovanni Solitro
Sarah Kaufman, MSII
Dr. Hugh Nam
Zachery Lee, MSII
Dr. Elizabeth Disbrow
Ryan Mackay, MSII
Dr. Lynn Harrison
Eleni Mijalis, MSII
Dr. Cherie-Ann Nathan
Faith Pena, MSII
Dr. Cherie-Ann Nathan
Laura Perilloux, MSII
Dr. Marlyn Langford
Haley Pilet, MSII
Dr. Yufeng Dong
James Robinson, MSII
Dr. Patrick Massey
Kristie Searcy, MSIV
Dr. Moheb Boktor &
Dr. J. Steven Alexander
Yahor Sukharutski, MSII
Dr. Stephen Witt
Stephanie Terhoeve, MSII
Dr. Cherie-Ann Nathan
William Terracciano, MSII
Dr. Cherie-Ann Nathan
Taylor Thompson, MSII
Dr. Cherie-Ann Nathan
Christopher VanDreumel, MSII
Dr. Robert Walter
Emily Waddick, MSII
Dr. Cherie-Ann Nathan
Kaitlyn Walker, MSII
Dr. Jay Marion &
Dr. Runhua Shi



1st Place:
William Terracciano, MSII



2nd Place:
James Ferrer, MSII



3rd Place:
Manon Doucet, MSII

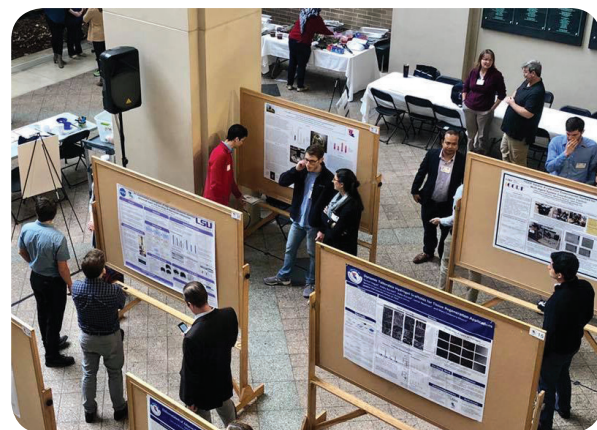
LaSPACE Fall Council Meeting Held at LSUHS



The 2018 LaSPACE Fall Council Meeting was held at LSU Health Shreveport on Nov. 9 and 10. Informational talks, and a poster session featuring undergraduate and graduate students funded by LaSPACE and LA NASA EPSCoR, took place at the meeting. Charles L. Limoli, PhD, Professor of Radiation Oncology at the University of California – Irvine School of Medicine, was the Keynote Speaker. His talk was titled "Understanding the Causes and Consequences of 'Space Brain.'"

The Louisiana Space Grant Consortium (LaSPACE) is a member of a nationwide organization that partners NASA with colleges, universities and other space-related institutions to promote scientific research, workforce development, and public outreach to develop and strengthen long-term research capabilities that will make significant contributions to the research and technology Mission Directorates of NASA.

Lynn Harrison, PhD, Professor of Molecular & Cellular Physiology, is the LaSPACE Institutional Coordinator at LSU Health Shreveport.



JOINING FORCES TO IMPROVE HEALTHCARE IN NORTH LOUISIANA

In the last issue of *Inside LSU Health* it was announced that on Sept. 24, 2018, the State of Louisiana, the LSU Board of Supervisors on behalf of LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport and the LSUHSC-S Faculty Group Practice, and Ochsner Health System had finalized the Public Private Partnership Agreement in Shreveport and Monroe. LSU Health Shreveport and Ochsner jointly formed Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport to oversee and coordinate activities between the health sciences center and the healthcare delivery system. Under the new structure, Ochsner will bring their nationally-recognized expertise to the management of operations for partner hospitals in Shreveport and Monroe, clinics and the clinical activity of the LSUHSC-S Faculty Group Practice. LSU will continue to successfully oversee the LSUHSC-S School of Medicine, School of Allied Health Professions, School of Graduate Studies, Graduate Medical Education, and research initiatives. The Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport joint venture went into effect on Oct. 1, 2018.



Warner Thomas, CEO of Ochsner Health System, Dr. G. E. Ghali, Chancellor of LSU Health Shreveport, and F. King Alexander, LSU System President, after the partnership announcement.



"I'm excited about this opportunity for the people of North Louisiana and for our state," said Governor John Bel Edwards. "Our commitment has been to finding the right solutions that enable us to take care of more Louisianans, while preserving medical education in Northwest Louisiana. We are able to do that without additional financial burden on the state or our citizens. It takes innovative thinking and I believe this partnership will enable Ochsner and LSU to bring that same expertise to strengthening and growing the medical school, improving facilities, and ultimately delivering better health care to everyone in this region."



Leading the new joint venture as Chief Executive Officer is **Chuck Daigle**. **Dr. David Lewis**, Dean of the School of Medicine, is the Chief Medical Officer of Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport. **Dr. Chuck Fox**, Vice Chancellor of Clinical Affairs, is the Chief Executive Officer of the LSUHSC-S Faculty Practice Group.

The Ochsner LSU Health System of North Louisiana named the 10 individuals comprising the joint venture's board of directors in November. The role of the board is to represent Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport stakeholders and manage the business affairs of the partnership.

The board is comprised of ten directors. The President of LSU appointed five directors, and Ochsner Health System appointed five directors. Four appointees, two from each organization, serve as community directors.

LSU APPOINTEES:

- **Dr. G.E. Ghali**
Chancellor, LSU Health Shreveport
- **Dr. Lester Johnson**
Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs in Monroe, LSU Health Shreveport
- **Jeff Reynolds**
Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance, LSU Health Shreveport
- **Jacqueline Scott, Esq.**
Jacqueline Scott & Associates
- **Dr. R. Timothy Jones**
Pastor, Peaceful Rest Missionary Baptist Church

OCHSNER APPOINTEES:

- **Warner Thomas**
Chief Executive Officer, Ochsner Health System
- **Pete November**
Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, Ochsner Health System
- **Dr. Leo Soane**
Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer, Ochsner Health System
- **Steve Skrivanos**
Owner of Skrivanos Engineering Inc.
- **Dr. Carolyn Hunt**
Executive Director, Louisiana Center Against Poverty Inc.

A LOOK AT THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF THE PARTNERSHIP

Under the new structure, Ochsner and LSU Health Shreveport announced plans for expansions and investments, including: upgrading facilities and equipment, enhancing technology capabilities, creating easier access to care, and establishing new community health programs.

EQUIPMENT UPGRADES: A total of \$10 million in new equipment is planned and approved for 2019, and more than \$4.5 million has already been ordered. The new equipment includes laparoscopic surgical equipment, orthopaedic equipment, bed monitors for all Emergency Room beds in Shreveport, compared to 70 percent previously, and an upgrade to monitors for all Emergency Room beds in Monroe. By equipping more beds with these monitors, patients entering the ER with serious symptoms can receive care more quickly. Both Shreveport and Monroe facilities are currently updating ultrasound imaging equipment, fetal monitors and anesthesia machines, as well as undergoing a complete renovation of central sterilization within the surgery department.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO CARE: Thirty-eight new physicians have been hired or have made commitments to join the Ochsner LSU Physician Group in specialties including orthopaedics, ophthalmology, cardiology, and pediatrics is improving access to care while supporting healthcare needs in North Louisiana. The clinics have increased patient capacity by 10%, which reduces the time between a patient's appointment request and when they receive care at the clinic. A walk-in clinic for non-emergency healthcare needs is now open at the Shreveport facility, and the Monroe walk-in clinic continues to see patients, providing a more convenient care option in the appropriate setting. Another Shreveport clinic is expected to begin operations in April 2019 and will be dedicated to the screening, diagnosis and treatment of patients with Hepatitis C.



Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport Academic Medical Center
Shreveport, LA



Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport Monroe Medical Center
Monroe, LA

ACADEMICS: LSU Health Shreveport and Ochsner Health System have committed to growing the medical school class size from 126 students to 200 students over the next five years to address the current physician shortage and meet the future healthcare needs of our state. By combining the resources of both organizations, a nuclear medicine residency program will start at LSU Health Shreveport this summer. Additionally, the partners have started hosting international radiology conferences and radiology continuing medical education conference for primary care physicians.

RESEARCH: LSU Health Shreveport and Ochsner Health System have been working closely to grow research that impacts patients in North Louisiana. Joint research grant applications and collaborative research projects have begun between researchers at LSU Health Shreveport and Ochsner Health System, including a joint application between the two organizations for a \$10 million grant from the Department of Defense. The partners have also committed to funding collaborative research through the Louisiana Clinical & Translational Science Center grants program.

FACILITY INVESTMENT: \$30 million dollars has been allocated to deferred maintenance throughout the year, and \$150 million has been identified for the next five years. Facility improvements currently underway are paint, flooring, furniture and new energy-efficient LED lighting, already seen in the Shreveport ER lobby, Ambulatory Care Clinic and several inpatient rooms. Upgrades to the ICU, and Behavioral Health and Emergency Department nurses stations are also underway at the Monroe Medical Center. A two-year project to replace and upgrade elevators in Shreveport is proceeding, and roof repairs and replacement began in early 2019. Exterior upgrades include lighting, fencing and aesthetic landscaping improvements.

Additional updates in the first 100 days of the partnership include hiring new leadership to focus on patient experience and quality, process improvements to reduce wait times and match patients with providers, new technology installed, and enhancements made to parking and safety.

Learn more about
Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport:
savingandchangingmorelives.org



Alumni Spotlight:

Dr. Karen Small, Class of 2012

Giving the Gift of Sight Around the World

Karen Small's journey to becoming a doctor could be described as a bit unorthodox. After earning her Chemical Engineering degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York, Dr. Small went to work for a pharmaceutical company in New Jersey and continued her education by earning an Executive MBA, taking classes at night after work. When her company purchased a pharmaceutical site in Shreveport, she relocated to North Louisiana to lead the new site's Quality, Regulatory and Technical Support Department. When offered a promotion to be a Vice President for the company in Basel, Switzerland, Dr. Small decided to change directions in her career and follow her desire for a more hands-on job in healthcare. So, she turned down the promotion and applied to medical school!

"I had spent almost 15 years alternating between a hard hat and steel-tipped shoes in manufacturing plants, and a suit and high heels negotiating in board rooms. I was ready for my next career where I could care for patients instead of generating legal documents about their pharmaceutical adverse events. I worked some weekends for Balentine Ambulance as a licensed Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), and I took vacations to go on medical outreach trips to Mexico. Spending time in the shelters in Shreveport after Hurricane Katrina, as well as watching my husband working at the LSU Health Shreveport Emergency Room and still absolutely loving what he did after more than 20 years, made it clear to me that it was time for a change in my life," said Dr. Small about her decision to go to medical school.

Drawn to the specialty of Ophthalmology early on during her time at LSU Health Shreveport, Dr. Small sought out all of the available avenues in the field. She participated in Ophthalmology research starting as a first-year medical student, volunteered at glaucoma screenings with the Lions Club, and participated in international medical missions on vacations.

"I had a Grandmother with macular degeneration, and as her central vision got worse it made it difficult not only to navigate around, but to read and see faces on pictures sent to her. Just imagine how much your life would change if you lost your vision. Navigating a laptop or handling mail would be difficult. All those mounds of books and journals would be irrelevant. How many times do we lose something and search all over the house for it? All of these things and more would be forever changed. In developing nations, it is far more challenging, where not only the person who is blind is not able to work, but someone else in the family must take care of them. Many surgeries in Ophthalmology take 10-30 minutes to perform, and the difference in the patient's quality of life afterwards is just amazing," said Dr. Small.

Dr. Small had been on a number of medical outreach trips prior to medical school, and her role on these trips developed as her training evolved from more general medicine to her Ophthalmology specialty. After her Fellowship training in Uveitis under Dr. C. Stephen Foster at the Massachusetts Eye Research & Surgery Institution outside of Boston, she decided that it would be a great opportunity to learn from surgeons in multiple parts of the world.

Dr. Small's first stop: **China.**

"I lived a few hours outside of Beijing in the city of Changchun, and worked at HuaZheng Tongren. I was in the operating room five to six days during the week. My cases included pterygia excisions and phaco cataract extraction. Clinics and surgery occur seven days a week at the hospitals in China, and I had the chance to see patients at hospital locations in various cities throughout Northeast China, including areas bordering Mongolia," said Dr. Small of her time in China.



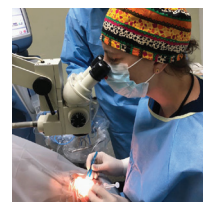
While in China, Dr. Small worked alongside top Ophthalmology surgeons who focus on addressing the huge population with significant near-sightedness, as well as Dr. Ying Li, who is the leading worldwide expert on the VisuMax SMILE procedure. Since visiting China, Dr. Small has traveled to Africa, Honduras, and Guatemala on medical mission trips.

"Patients from China to Kenya to Honduras and Guatemala were some of the most humble and gracious people I have ever met. They show genuine gratitude even when there was very little we could offer them. It has been a remarkable



year to be able to use my hands and my heart in many places throughout the world," said Dr. Small. "Whether it is a first medical outreach experience when considering a career in medicine, or from the

perspective of an experienced surgeon, I have no doubt that getting involved in medical missions will be an inspiring time that will remain with you for your lifetime. I look forward to greeting old friends and new on my future journey."



Kenya:

For my months in Africa, I flew in to Nairobi and then traveled by vehicle for five hours to reach Tenwek hospital. We were located at a high enough elevation, so malaria was not a major concern, although all beds were outfitted with mosquito netting. A local river provided the source for electricity and there were central locations to obtain drinking water. Missionaries had children of all ages and visiting doctors often bring their own children. Completely unplanned, Dr. Danielle Cooper (OB/GYN) and Dr. Paul Cooper (Pediatrics) were serving for a few weeks in Tenwek during the exact same time I was there. Both of their children have been to the hospital previously and visited again to see their local friends. Utilities in general were intermittent. I was very impressed with the skills of the clinic staff to handle power outages during clinic and surgery. Kenya has a health insurance system and with Tenwek being a major training institution for eastern Africa, an office was available to help people obtain insurance coverage. Various medical specialties have residencies at Tenwek. Every clinic is busy and diseases many of us rarely saw, like tetanus and tuberculosis, were present. Residents and medical students definitely benefit from a rotation in global medicine, and we are already seeing faculty at LSU Health Shreveport advocating for this like the OB/GYN department, where rotation opportunities are being offered in Tenwek, and the Family Medicine-supported program, SHIP, for medical students wanting to go to Kenya.



Guatemala:

Guatemala has been close to my heart for a number of years. By networking at an Academy meeting during my first year of Ophthalmology residency, I came to know people from Loyola who travel to Guatemala every year for outreach work. These annual trips are supported by Humanity First (HF) and Gift of Sight, who handles the administrative coordination of our team. Over the years, we have watched the building of a new charity hospital, Nasir in Antigua, which was funded by HF. Dr. Rudy Gutierrez has a private Ophthalmology clinic with associated operating room in Guatemala City. He also heads an Ophthalmology residency program. His staff identifies patients requiring cataract and pterygium surgery. They work with the HF staff so that as many patients as possible present to the surgery location during our time. Watching the dedication of the surgeons during my initial outreach, and seeing their desire to serve, is an experience that I have carried with me over the years.



Supporting the Next Generation of Doctors

Reflecting back on her career change, Dr. Small says that starting over at the bottom of the food chain in medicine is the best (and scariest) decision she ever made.

"I applied to a few different medical schools in the region, but the School of Medicine at LSU Health Shreveport had the best combination of early clinical skill training, faculty support, research resources, and overall focus on systems-based education. Ten years later and after working with medical students from many different locations, I still believe this," she said.

It was this belief in LSU Health Shreveport that inspired the Dr. David DeSha Endowment for Medical Education, which was started with a generous gift from Dr. Small and her husband,

Dr. James Small, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine. Karen and James attended medical school at LSU Health Shreveport years apart, yet had the exact same experience with Dr. DeSha as the energetic and positive Anatomy Professor who makes the most dense basic science material come alive into something memorable.



"Over his more than 40 years, he is always the consummate educator who has taught every medical student, and has ultimately been a part of sending better doctors into the world. If you return to visit him, even after decades, he will likely

remember your name from a class of 100 students," said Dr. Small of Dr. DeSha.

Class Notes

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE CLASS OF 1988

Tommy Causey and his wife Susan moved to Shreveport in 2017, after 21 years of solo practice in Monroe/West Monroe. Tommy loves his job as a Cardiology Hospitalist for ACS, a large independent group. When not working, they love to travel to see their three children and enjoy playing tennis.

Ellen Connor is beginning her twenty-fifth year as a Wisconsin resident, continuing her career as Professor of Pediatric Endocrinology. She loves teaching and has many opportunities through the university. Her daughter is currently a third-year Neurology resident and her son is completing his Masters in Music Performance. Ellen is the 2018-19 President of the North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology. She was awarded Best Madison Docs and has received the Top 25 Teaching Award.

Tom Montgomery did his residency at the University of Mississippi Medical Center from 1988 to 1993 in Orthopaedic Surgery. He was awarded a fellowship in Adult Reconstructive Surgery and Sports Medicine at the Center for Hip and Knee Surgery in Mooresville, Indiana. He returned to Lafayette in 1994 to begin his orthopaedic practice. He and his wife, Deidre, have four children.

Mark Posner has been in practice with two other LSU Health Shreveport graduates - Dr. Jimmy Morris (MD, '86) and Dr. Randy Vick (MD, '93) for more than 20 years in Baton Rouge. He and his wife Linda have two sons and a daughter.

CLASS OF 1998

David Helft opened his private practice, Pediatric Wizards, in Melbourne, Florida, in 2004. He's the proud father of a one-year-old son and two dogs. They love LSU Football - Geaux Tigers!

Dale Meade completed his residency in Alexandria, Louisiana, then taught for the residency program from 2001 until December 2004, and then practiced at Sicily Island Medical Center from January 2005 through August 2009. In 2009, he received his Master of Arts in Dogmatic Theology from Holy Apostles College & Seminary, completed his philosophy studies at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio in 2011, followed by a Master of Divinity degree from the same institution in 2015, and was ordained a priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana, in 2015. He is currently serving as Pastoral Administrator of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Winnsboro, Louisiana along with its mission of St. John's in Columbia, Louisiana.

Cathy Speights lived in Baton Rouge 12 years, working in emergency medicine and urgent care. She moved back to Shreveport in 2010 and is currently serving as medical director for the Willis Knighton Quick Care clinics. She enjoys spending time with family and recently adopted two rescues, Louie and Lexie. In her spare time, she is renovating the family home in Keatchie, Louisiana.

CLASS OF 2008

Erin Dauterive joined a group practice at Ochsner in Baton Rouge, Louisiana after completing a residency in OB/GYN at Ochsner in New Orleans. While practicing general OB/GYN, she developed a special interest in adolescent gynecology and minimally invasive surgery, particularly robotic surgery. She and her husband, Ben, have three beautiful children.

Matthew LaFleur completed his Radiology residency in Jackson, Mississippi, followed by an MRI Fellowship in New Orleans with Ochsner Health System. After a short stint in Lake Charles, he and his wife Lynda moved to Baton Rouge in 2015 with their two children. He currently practices with Ochsner.

Martin Setliff has been married for eight years to April, whom he met during his fourth year of medical school. They have two children. Martin is the Medical Director of the Physical Medicine & Rehab Inpatient Unit at Our Lady of the Lake in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he is also a member of the Our Lady of the Lake Utilization Management Committee, and Co-Chair of the Humane Bold Goal Initiative. He is also a member of the Speech Language and Pathology Advisory Board at Southern University.

Ginny Towles Weathers is married to Will. They recently moved to Carbondale, Colorado and had a baby girl in August 2018.

IN THE NEWS:

Frederick J. White, III, has been named Chairman of policyholder-owned malpractice insurance company LAMMICO's Board of Directors. White is a board-certified Cardiologist practicing at Willis-Knighton Cardiology in Shreveport and was co-founder and partner of Cardiovascular Consultants LLP in Shreveport. He joined LAMMICO's risk management committee in 1999 and became a member of the Board of Directors in 2001. White graduated from the LSU Health Shreveport School of Medicine and completed his residency and internship at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and is pursuing a Master of Business Administration at LSU Shreveport.

Logan Atkins, School of Medicine Class of 2012, was named Chief of Staff at Franklin Medical Center in Winnsboro, Louisiana.

"#BrownBridgetMD!" was a top 20-finalist film in the 2018 Louisiana Film Prize. **Jaya McSharma**, the writer and star of the film, also won Best Actress at the festival. Jaya trained at LSUHS and is a doctor who also writes, acts and performs as an online media personality. She and her husband, Jacob, own McSharma Productions. "#BrownBridgetMD!" will premiere as part of the LSUA Cavanaugh Lecture Series in February at the Alexandria Museum of Art. The film also premiered at the Cinema on The Bayou Film Festival in Lafayette.

Upcoming Events

Spring 2019

BATON ROUGE AREA ALUMNI CHEERS & BEERS

DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 29

MONROE AREA ALUMNI SOCIAL

DATE: THURSDAY, APRIL 25

SPRING ALUMNI REUNION

HONORING THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
CLASSES OF 1974 & 1979

DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 24 & SATURDAY, MAY 25

LEGACY REUNION WEEKEND

FRIDAY, MAY 24:

Welcome Reception at 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 25:

Commencement Ceremony at 9 a.m.

Health Sciences Center Tour at 2 p.m.

Reception & Dinner at 6 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE

FALL 2019 ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND

HONORING THE
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
CLASSES OF
1989, 1999 & 2009

FRIDAY, SEPT. 27 &
SATURDAY, SEPT. 28

Visit our website at
www.lsuhsfoundation.org/alumni
for more information and to register
for upcoming events.

Stay Connected:

We'd love to hear from you! To share a professional or personal note, or update your email and mailing address, visit www.lsuhsfoundation.org/alumniupdate.

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Find more photos from
the 2018 Fall Alumni
Reunion on Facebook!



NEW & NOTEWORTHY

BODILY AWARDED AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY LECTURESHIP



Jason Bodily, PhD, Assistant Professor of Microbiology & Immunology, recently received the Charles C. Randall Lectureship from the South Central Branch of the American Society for Microbiology. The Charles C. Randall Lectureship was established by the South Central Branch and awarded annually to an "outstanding young faculty member" who will present a lecture on his or her research at the annual branch meeting. A panel of senior faculty members appointed by the Branch President selects the recipient. The award includes travel expenses to the branch meeting, a plaque, and an honorarium. Dr. Bodily is the seventh LSU Health Shreveport faculty member to receive this esteemed award. The lectureship award honors Charles C. Randall, former Chairman of the Department of Microbiology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and former President of the ASM South Central Branch, who made enormous contributions to the growth and development of the microbiological sciences within the South Central Branch, which includes the states of Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

McMARTIN RECEIVES 2018 AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Kenneth E. McMartin, PhD, Professor of Pharmacology, Toxicology & Neuroscience, received the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology (AACT) Distinguished Service Award at the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology (NACCT) meeting in Chicago on Oct. 26. This award recognizes Dr. McMartin as an individual who has performed outstanding and dedicated work on behalf of the AACT and the field of clinical toxicology. Past recipients represent the leaders in the field of toxicology and have helped shape AACT to where it is today. Specific recognition was given to Dr. McMartin for his service on the AACT Board of Trustees from 2010-2016 and as Chair of the AACT Research Awards Committee from 2010 to now. He has also served as a member of the AACT Scientific Research Committee and the Multi-Center Research Study Review Committee. He has been the AACT member of the Senior Editorial Board of the journal Clinical Toxicology since 2012. At NACCT, he received the Best Scientific Paper Award in 1998 and the Informa Outstanding Innovation Award (Best Presentation) in 2011. His research efforts have emphasized the clinical aspects of toxicology, especially his work that led to the discovery and development of fomepizole, which is now the standard of care antidote for the treatment of methanol and ethylene glycol poisonings. His current research aims to determine the mechanism of toxicity of diglycolic acid, the toxic metabolite of diethylene glycol (DEG), with a goal of finding treatments for these difficult-to-treat DEG poisonings. For such research, he received the Kenneth Morgareidge Award in Toxicology from the International Life Sciences Institute in 1988 and the Translational Impact Award from the Society of Toxicology in 2010. He is currently chair of the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Toxicology Program of NIEHS.



BAHNA HONORED WITH GOLD-HEADED CANE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (ACAAI) presented Sami Bahna, MD, DrPH, Chief of Allergy & Immunology Section in the Department of Pediatrics, with the Lifetime Achievement Gold-Headed Cane Award, given to an ACCAAI Fellow “for demonstrating the highest standards of scientific excellence and integrity.” Dr. Bahna was among four nominees selected by the ACCAAI Board of Regents. All ACCAAI Fellows completed the final vote through an electronic ballot. The award ceremony was held during the recent ACCAAI Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle, Nov. 15-19. Dr. Bahna received a standing ovation twice, when he was called to receive the award and again after his appreciation speech. During the scientific program, he also chaired two sessions and the LSU Health Shreveport Allergy/Immunology Fellows presented three abstracts.



Dr. Bahna has been ACCAAI Fellow for 36 years and was College President during 2009 to 2010. He has chaired and been a member of many committees over the years, and Associate Editor of the College's scientific journal, *Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology*. He currently serves on the Past President, Dermatology, International, and Training Program Directors Committees, and the Food Allergy/GI Disorders subcommittees of the Annual Meeting Program.

Dr. Bahna's career comprises medical graduation with Honors at Cairo University, followed by Masters and Doctorate Degrees in Public Health at Alexandria University. Following a research fellowship at the University of Bergen in Norway, he completed a Pediatric Residency at the University of Maryland and Allergy/Immunology Fellowship at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. Over a span of 40 years, he served as director of allergy/immunology programs at LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, Cleveland Clinic, University of South Florida All Children's Hospital, and at LSU Health Shreveport since 2002. He has mentored 80 fellows and his publications include 187 peer-reviewed papers, 152 abstracts, 39 book chapters, and guest-editor of several journal supplements.

The history of the Gold Headed Cane goes back to more than 300 years with the first recipient being prominent British physician John Radcliffe in 1689, who was the personal physician of King William III. It became a concept used by many medical schools and specialty societies to recognize a physician who symbolizes the pursuit of the highest standards of scientific excellence and integrity, and earns the respect of colleagues and the profession at large. The ACCAAI adopted this tradition in 2001.

GUTHIKONDA INDUCTED AS FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS



Bharat Guthikonda, MD, Professor of Neurosurgery and Director of Skull Base Research, was conferred as a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) on Oct. 21 at the international Clinical Congress meeting.

Guthikonda currently serves on the LSU Health Shreveport Admissions Committee and serves as a Senior Medical Student Mentor and 3rd Year Student Promotions Committee Member. He also has many statewide and national leadership appointments including serving as an AANS Neurosurgery Resident Mentor, member of the AANS Communications and PR Committee, and a past member of the Joint Washington Committee with the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS). He is also the Chair of the Medical-Legal Committee of the Council of State Neurological Societies (CSNS) and the current President of the Louisiana

Association of Neurosurgeons (LANS). He also serves on the Awards Committee of the North American Skull Base Society (NASBS) and has served as a faculty member for the NASBS pre-meeting and summer resident courses.

BMT PROGRAM RECEIVES FACT ACCREDITATION

The Blood and Marrow Transplantation (BMT) program at Feist-Weiller Cancer Center recently received notification of its first FACT Accreditation. FACT is the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy. Founded in 1996, FACT establishes standards for high quality medical and laboratory practice in cellular therapies. FACT is a non-profit corporation co-founded by the International Society for Cellular Therapy (ISCT) and the American Society of Blood and Marrow Transplantation (ASBMT) for the purposes of voluntary inspection and accreditation in the field of cellular therapy. FACT accreditation is the threshold for excellence in cellular therapy including bone marrow or cord blood transplant (BMT). Organizations must maintain FACT accreditation through a rigorous process that demonstrates a belief in the need for providing outstanding patient care.

CHILI COOK-OFF RAISES \$6,500 FOR CAMP TIGER

The 11th annual Chili Cook-Off, sponsored by the Camp Tiger Benefit Group, was held at Fud's on Saturday, Oct. 27. All proceeds from the cook-off, as well as the accompanying raffle, are donated each year to Camp Tiger. Four medical students served as judges and one student, Bradley Ber, cooked chili. The Benefit Group delivered a \$6,500 check in January for Camp Tiger. Thanks to Paula Pendleton, Mike Akers and Angie Sellars who played key roles in organizing this event. They are already planning for the fall Cook-Off to be held on Oct. 19, 2019 – save the date!



INTEGRATED INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY RESIDENCY PROGRAM RECEIVES INITIAL ACCREDITATION

The Department of Radiology has received initial ACGME accreditation for a new Integrated Interventional Radiology residency program. Dr. Chaitanya Ahuja, Director of Interventional Oncology and Associate Professor, will lead the new program. As of October 2018, LSU Health Shreveport is now one of 83 institutions in the country to offer an ACGME accredited integrated IR residency program. An integrated IR residency is five-years in length, with the first three years concentrated on Diagnostic Radiology and the final two years focused on Interventional Radiology. This is the first new residency program to come to LSU Health Shreveport since 2006. The Department of Radiology also has a Diagnostic Radiology residency program, led by Dr. Alberto Simoncini, and a Breast Imaging and Intervention Fellowship, led by Dr. Gina Wilson.

CONGRATULATIONS 2018 ALPHA ETA SOCIETY INDUCTEES



Alpha Eta is the National Honor Society of the Allied Health Professions. Members represent the top ten percent of graduates of Allied Health Schools and Colleges.

Cardiopulmonary Science: Jordan Anderson; **Communication Disorders:** Emily A. DiGiacomo; **Medical Laboratory Science:** Matthew Ursua, Emma Fontana-Cain, Tawsha Munroe, and Alexandra Cheung; **Physical Therapy:** Ryan Barcelona, Kade Billeaudeaux, Rebekah Dornier, Sara Howington, Zachary Pitre, Denise Joplin, and Avery Keene;

Physician Assistant: Kendra Hinnenkamp, Claire Keaton, Chelsea Simon, Nicole Toups, Jenna Vega, and Alaina Wilson; **Occupational Therapy:** Sydney Ewing, Brittany Gosserand, Valerie Procell, Ashton Byrd, and Joselynn Cramer; **Faculty:** Emily M. Weidman-Evans, Pharm.D, BC-ADM, CPE

LSUHS HOSTS REGION III MEDICAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

LSU Health Shreveport was the host campus for the 2018 Region III Medical Education Conference (RMEC), sponsored by the Office of Diversity Affairs. Approximately 120 minority pre-medical and current medical students traveled from seven states to learn to be clinically excellent future physicians. The theme of the conference was, "Forging the Future of Medicine: Servant Leadership in Healthcare." The aim was to highlight a commitment to the state of health care for all, especially the medically underserved, and provide a venue where emerging healthcare professionals can grow in their professional and leadership development while gaining the necessary tools to be the best advocates for their future patients. Dr. Joseph W. Semien, Jr. co-author of "Pulse of Perseverance," was the Keynote Speaker.



CLAYS FOR CAMP TIGER EVENT RAISES \$27,000

Clays for Camp Tiger, a skeet shooting tournament held on Oct. 20 to raise funds for Camp Tiger, was a huge success! The event raised \$27,000 for Camp Tiger, a week-long camp for children in the Shreveport-Bossier City area with physical and mental challenges. Students raise funds throughout the year to keep the camp completely free of charge for families. The Clays for Camp Tiger is one of the major fundraisers for the students.

"Clays for Camp Tiger went amazing! Even with the weather, we had approximately 21 teams come out to support this event," said Katy Bland, MS2 and the 2018 Clays for Camp Tiger Director. "We had the most money raised and the most amount of teams this year than ever before! The money we raised for Camp Tiger with Clays will be able to cover the buses that we use to transport the campers and counselors. The work we put in for Clays for Camp Tiger will help make Camp Tiger even more amazing than previous years. Thank you to everyone who has supported us with this event and continue to support Camp Tiger!"



Learn more about Camp Tiger at
camptigershreveport.weebly.com.

Thank you to the Clays for Camp Tiger 2018 Sponsors!

Marianne Comegys & Dr. David DeSha

Betsy and Tim Hart

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TODD HONORED WITH LIFETIME ADVOCACY AWARD



John Todd, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine in the Section of Infectious Diseases, was recently presented with the Lifetime Advocacy Award by The Philadelphia Center for his part in founding the Viral Disease Clinic, and for 30 years of providing care for and advocating for patients infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). The Philadelphia Center is the Northwest Louisiana HIV/AIDS Resource Center. Executive Director, Chris Miciotto, presented the award at a ceremony at the Amphitheater at Centenary College. Dr. Todd has worked on research in Infectious Disease for the past 30 years. His published work on infections caused by the algae, *Prototheca*, has been widely used throughout the medical community.

LSU HEALTH SCIENCES FOUNDATION IN SHREVEPORT NAMED 2019 PHILANTHROPY OF THE YEAR

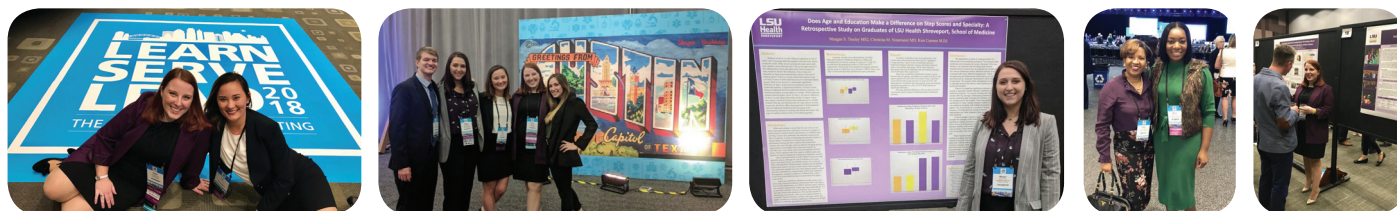
Congratulations to the LSU Health Sciences Foundation in Shreveport on being named the 2019 Philanthropy of the Year by the Young Professionals Initiative of the Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce!



"The LSU Health Sciences Foundation in Shreveport is honored to be chosen as YPI's 2019 Philanthropy of the Year. Our mission is to inspire donors to invest in LSU Health Shreveport, arguably our community's most important asset. With nearly 900 students and 550 residents and fellows, LSU Health is producing the next generation of healthcare professionals. This partnership will not only directly benefit our institution, but it will also give our students and doctors more opportunities to engage with the business community," said Kevin Flood, President and CEO of the Foundation.

STUDENTS & FACULTY ATTEND AAMC LEARN SERVE LEAD CONFERENCE

Faculty and students from LSU Health Shreveport attended Learn Serve Lead 2018, the Association of American Medical Colleges' (AAMC) Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas, Nov. 2-6. Five students, Rebecca Budish, Amber McKenna, Cat Nix, Grant Pearson, and Meagan Tinsley, presented research. Learn Serve Lead 2018 welcomed more than 4,600 attendees for the four-day meeting that featured 130 education sessions and 80 networking events.



AAMC PRESIDENT VISITS CAMPUS



Darrell G. Kirch, MD, President and CEO of the Association of American Medical Colleges, visited campus and gave an institutional grand rounds presentation on Nov. 15. Dr. Kirch's session was titled, "How Will the Academic

Health Center Lead in A Time of Major Challenges?" Dr. Kirch also met with leadership and students.

RESIDENT AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP



LaTashia Irving, MD, PGY3 Family Medicine Resident, received the 2019 Visionary Woman in Medicine Award, a \$10,000 scholarship awarded by Dr. Pamela Wible. Dr. Irving plans to use the scholarship money to help her open her own clinic.

SAVE THE DATE: MINI MED SCHOOL FALL 2019

The next Mini Medical School session is scheduled for September of 2019. LSU Health Shreveport will open its doors to the community for this four-week program that features interesting discussions on a variety of topics and hands-on activities led by faculty members. The fall session will be held every Tuesday evening in September beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 3. Classes start at 5:30 p.m. and last until 7:15 p.m. The cost of Mini Med School is \$40 for first-time participants, and \$20 for returning participants. The registration fee includes a white lab coat and all four sessions. The minimum age to attend is 16-years-old, and anyone from those interested in pursuing a career in healthcare to those who just find the medical field fascinating and want to learn something new are welcome to attend. For more information and to register, visit www.lsuhsfoundation.org/minimed.



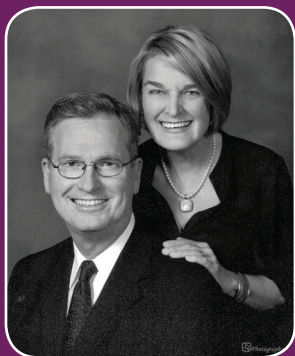
AN EVENING FOR HEALERS

MAY 2, 2019

save the date for a night to honor
our community's lifesaving heroes and healers

WELCOME RECEPTION AT 5:30 PM
DINNER & PROGRAM AT 7:00 PM
SHREVEPORT CONVENTION CENTER

An Evening for Healers is the signature fundraising event for the LSU Health Shreveport. Not only does this event raise important funding for our campus, it also shines a light on the first responders and healthcare professionals in our community who work tirelessly every day to save lives. Funding from An Evening for Healers helps LSU Health Shreveport recruit and retain top faculty, acquire cutting-edge equipment, and support student programs.



Doctor Ed and Mary Pat Morgan will chair this year's event. Ed is an Orthopaedic surgeon in private practice with Willis-Knighton and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at LSU Health Shreveport. Mary Pat is a graduate of the LSU School of Nursing and is a community volunteer. Their daughter, Ali, is a second year medical student at LSU Health Shreveport.

"We are excited and proud to participate in this event benefiting LSU Health Shreveport! The evening celebrates the incredible dedication and strength of our community of healers. It is also a wonderful opportunity to showcase how our community's support directly impacts the growth of the health sciences center, which in turn enhances healthcare for all of us."

- Ed & Mary Pat Morgan, An Evening for Healers 2019 Chairs

To become a sponsor, purchase tickets or make a donation, visit
www.lsuhsfoundation.org/healers
or contact Mary Cobb at mcobb@lsuhsfoundation.org.

2018

EMPLOYEE SERVICE



EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The LSU Health Sciences Foundation in Shreveport is pleased to present the 2018 Employee Excellence Award winners. These 12 recipients were among many outstanding employees nominated by their peers and managers. Recipients were chosen based on dedication, excellence in attitude, skills, and work ethic.

Congratulations to our Employee Excellence Award Winners!



Betty Bass
Administrative
Assistant, Urology



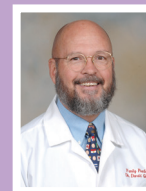
Dr. Lauren Beal
Associate Professor,
Internal Medicine/
Pediatrics



Russell Crews
Administrative
Program Specialist,
Graduate Medical
Education



Margaret Fletcher
Administrative
Coordinator,
Pediatric Endocrinology



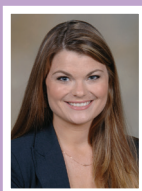
Dr. Donald Givler
Clinical Associate
Professor, Family
Medicine &
Comprehensive Care



Gail Harris
Director, Continuing
Medical Education



Stacy Lee
Director,
Clinical Skills Center



Valorie Lurry
Director of Student Life,
School of Allied Health
Professions



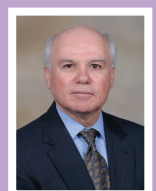
Sha Williams
Business Manager,
Office of Research



Debbie Miller
Director of
Compliance



Dede Plette
Business Manager,
Oral & Maxillofacial
Surgery



Joe Miciotto
Executive Director,
Campus Operations

Congratulations to our Employee Service Honorees:

5 Years

Carmen Artison
Allen Barnes
Eddy Blossom
Moheb Boktor
James Booker
Tangelia Boyd
Brenda Bullock
David Burkett
Marjorie Chelly
Angela Cornelius
Nestor Dela Cruz
Elizabeth Disbrow
Annie Douglas
David Foster
Charles Fox
Monya Gallagher
Brian Gardner
Felicity Gavins
Ed Glasscock
Sharon Grubbs
Nicole Hall
Kellie Jones-Van Domelen
Julia Knight
Hari Koul
Megan Lerchie
Xiaohui Ma
Sumitra Miriyala
William Olmstadt
John Owings
Manikandan Panchatcharam
Laura Seacord
Rodney Shackelford
Fred Sullivan
Randolph Taylor
Jennifer Thomas
Sidhar Trumala
John Wagner
Michelle Yetman-Katz
Peimin Zhu

10 Years

Angela Benedetto
Kevin Carter
Christine Cheney
Tamra Cochran
Debbie Crafts
Anna Crowson
Alberteen Davenport
Julia Esparza
Gabriel Evans
Shiela Farrell

Ashley Fort
William Foust
Marjorie Glass
Dominique Griffin
Bridget Hall
Carlton Harp
Quartine Henderson
Long Jin
Eboni Lacour
Lisa Locke
Dana Mays
LaQuanta Minnifield
A. Wayne Orr
Celso Palmieri
Adrian Sequeira
Anthony Sin
Christine Tharpe
Laura Vidrine
Debra Warner
Megan Watts
Richard Wigle

15 Years

Towanno Alexander
Wendi Barnette
Luke Baudoin
Pat Bass
Betty Bass
Kathleen Bloomingdale
Jonathan Brewer
Vicki Brown
Alberto Carbo
Russell Crews
Susan Driskell
William Flynn
Brooksie Fulgium
DeAnna Fuller
Susan Galambos
Marc Gibson
Eduardo Gonzalez-Toledo
Ernest Guy
Chris Hardjasudarma
Nadine Hart
Bonita Hathorn
Shile Huang
Monica Johnson
Dongsoo Kim
Ronald Klein
Michael Leon
Lihong Liu
Jeanie McGee
Gary Menefee
Amira Odisho

Sibile Pardue
Alison Ransbottom
Christi Rinaudo
Marlene Robinson
David Ruesch
Guillermo Sangster
L. Keith Scott
Carmen Sutherlin-Faulk
Mary Templeton
Wanda Thomas
Cynthia Whitten
Christopher Wolcott
Jimmy Wise

20 Years

Lesley Arnott
Delores Brown
Marc Colon
April Daniel
Linda Doucet
Jodi Elliot
George Fobbs
Derrel Graham
Jennifer Green
Rebecca Green
Yang Gu
Jesse Halpern
Jennifer Harper
Debbie Henderson
Lisa Hudson
Kimberly Hutchinson
Kent Judkins
Lawrence Lea
Michael Madden
Kenneth Manas
Lisa Mason
Jennifer Nicholson
Mary Lowery Nordberg
Candace Posey
Thomas Redens
Barbara Rogers
Stacey Stringer
Reneau Youngblood

25 Years

Thomas Arnold
Joel Davidson
Jacinda Dupuy
Donard Dwyer
Phyllis Fuller
Floyd Galiano
Lea Green

William Grimes
Samina Hayat
Audrey Jackson
Barbara Jenkins
Queenie Jones
Tammy Jones
Monica Laurents
Ronald Maloney
Darla McKee
Mary Moore
Martin Muggeridge
Mary Murray
Leisa Oglesby
Marion Plummer
Cynthia Shorter
Dollie Smith
Chris Winner
Stephan Witt
Krishna Yanamandra

30 Years

David Boyle
Cynthia Brewer
Mary Fitz-Gerald
Kimberly Harris
Kenneth Peterson
Leonard Prouty
Brent Reed
Russell Roberts
David Scarborough
Joel Schulan
Carole Woodruff

35 Years

William Byrd
Michael Jones

40 Years

Kathleen Ballard
Belinda Bonnette
Kathleen Julian
John King
Sheila Lofton

45 Years

Elna King
Joe Penny

Raffle Prize Winners

Generously sponsored by:

CAMPUS  **FEDERAL**®

LSU Baseball signed by
Coach Mainieri
Ed Glasscock, PhD



LSU Football signed by
Coach Orgeron
Michael Jones



FACULTY HONORS & ELECTIONS



Navdeep Samra, MD, FICS, FACS, was named the Charles D. Knight Sr. MD Endowed Professor in General Surgery.



G. E. Ghali, DDS, MD, FACS, FRCSEd, was elected as a Special Society Governor for the American College of Surgeons to represent the American Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons.



Marlyn Langford, PhD, was awarded the honor of Silver Fellow by the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) in their 2019 Fellows Class. ARVO is the largest and most respected eye and vision research organization in the world, with nearly 12,000 members from over 75 countries.



Marie Vasquez Morgan, PT, PhD, was appointed to serve on the Louisiana Physical Therapy Advisory Board.



Steven A. Conrad, MD, PhD, was inducted into Fellowship of the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (FELSO). This Fellowship is a global recognition of those who have advanced the field of extracorporeal life support in diverse and lasting ways.



Harold Chen, MD, was selected as the 2018 Excellence in Genetics Research Award winner by the Association of Chinese Geneticists in America (ACGA).



Roger Kelley, MD, has been named Chairman of the Department of Neurology.



Ashley Fort, MPAS, PA-C, received the School of Allied Health Professions Outstanding New Faculty.



Lindsay Ferrington, MS, PA-C, was presented with the School of Allied Health Professions Faculty Service Award.



Christina Notarianni, MD, FAANS, accepted the position of President of the Shreveport Medical Society for 2019 at the SMS Installation Dinner on Nov. 30.



F. Dean Griffen, MD, FACS, was elected to serve as the American College of Surgeons' Second Vice President.



Julia Esparza, MLS, AHIP, was named Librarian of the Year at the South Central Chapter of the Medical Library Association Meeting.



Rita Y. Horton, MD, will represent LSU Health Shreveport on the Louisiana Mental Health Coalition Board.

NEW FACULTY

Amornpol Anuwatworn, MD

Assistant Professor, Cardiology

Ameya Asarkar, MD

Assistant Professor, Otolaryngology

Paul Crawford, MD

Clinical Assistant Professor, Obstetrics & Gynecology

Elizabeth Mora Garzon, MD

Assistant Professor, Cardiology

Roger Kelley, MD

Chairman of Neurology

Aristotelis Papayannis, MD

Assistant Professor, Cardiology

Amos Sit, MD

Assistant Professor, Clinical Surgery

Jane Sugar, MD

Assistant Professor, Breast Surgery and General Surgery

Miles Sugar, MD

Clinical Assistant Professor,

Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

Saksham Sulove, MD

Assistant Clinical Professor, Monroe Medical Center

FELLOWSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to our incoming Neurology/Sleep Medicine Fellows: **Megan Smalley, MD**, Internal Medicine, LSU Health Shreveport; and **Brittany Monceaux, MD**, Psychiatry, LSU Health Shreveport.

The Department of Ophthalmology congratulates the following PGY4 Residents on matching into Fellowship programs:

Kyla Aschenbeck, MD – Cornea, External Disease & Refractive Surgery, University of Wisconsin

Maxwell Burch, MD – Cornea & Anterior Segment, The New England Eye Center/Tufts Medical Center

Jason So, MD – Retina, University of South Florida (USF) Eye Institute

IN MEMORIAM

DR. RICHARD BENNETT LANGFORD passed away on Jan. 10, 2019. He was a School of Medicine faculty member, and served on the faculty of Tulane Medical School and as Chief of Staff at T. E. Schumpert Memorial Hospital. Dr. Langford practiced his medical specialty of Internal Medicine in Shreveport for 43 years. After retirement, he served as a Medical Consultant in the Social Security Disability program. During his years of practice, Dr. Langford was a member of the American Society of Internal Medicine, American Medical Association, the Louisiana State Medical Society, the Shreveport Medical Society, and the American Diabetes Association. He was a Life Fellow of the American College of Physicians, receiving the Laureate award in 2008. He also was a founding member and first President of the Louisiana Society of Internal Medicine.

JAMES PATRICK CRAIG passed away on Jan. 18, 2019. Pat's career began with teaching school in Gould, Arkansas, moving to University of Arkansas, to The National Toxicological Center, University of Southwest Medical School, University of South Florida, Louisiana Health Science Center Library in Shreveport, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, and the International Academy of Amman, Jordan. Pat and his wife, Paula, shared special memories of their time in Doha, Qatar, where he established the first digital medical library.

MARILYN D. MILLER passed away on Dec. 19, 2018. Marilyn was medical librarian at the Veterans Administration in Washington D.C., Birmingham, Alabama and Shreveport, Louisiana. Marilyn was Head of the Reference Department at the LSU Health Sciences Library and temporarily served as the Acting Library Director in 1987.

DR. MAUREEN L. SWISHER passed away on Nov. 24, 2018. Dr. Swisher graduated from the LSU Health Shreveport School of Medicine in 1987. She focused her career in Internal Medicine and pediatrics at various hospitals and medical practices. She was married to her husband, Mason William Swisher, on May 22, 1993, in Alexandria, was a member of St. Martin Catholic Church and enjoyed cooking.

DR. NORMAN DEVECMON OTT, III, passed away on Aug. 29, 2018. Dr. Ott earned his Bachelors Degree in Biology at Southeastern Louisiana University and then his Doctor of Medicine from LSU Health Shreveport School of Medicine in 1973. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine at LSU Health Shreveport and entered private practice in Franklinton, Louisiana. He completed his medical career as owner and Medical Director of Louisiana Primary Care Consultants from 2009 until his death.

DR. CHRIS O. WOODARD passed away on Nov. 29, 2018. Chris was a graduate of Bossier High School, Louisiana Tech University, and the LSU Health Shreveport School of Medicine. He practiced Cardiology at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, UTMB Galveston, and the Overton Brooks VA Medical Center in Shreveport.

FRANCES ANNE DONNES HIGDON passed away on Oct. 29, 2018, after battling lung cancer. Anne worked at Feist-Weiller Cancer Center for 20 years developing the community outreach programs, including the highly successful Life Savers event.

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY



1 LSUHS students welcomed Board of Supervisors members to campus for a visit and tour while they were in Shreveport for the January board meeting.

2 Student leaders attended a roundtable with the new Commissioner of Higher Education, Dr. Kim Hunter Reed. Commissioner Reed made a stop in Shreveport while on a tour of the state to share her vision for higher education in Louisiana. Provost Dr. Jane Eggerstedt also attended the event.

3 Geaux Bald kicked off the launch of their 2019 campaign at Graft Raft Brewing. Students fundraise throughout the year leading up to the annual Geaux Bald Shave Day event, which raises funds and awareness for childhood cancer research.

4 In observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the School of Allied Health Professions and LSUS Master of Public Health program, along with SAVE, hosted a balloon release in memory of victims and in celebration of survivors. Releasing the balloons symbolized letting go of past pain and moving towards a more positive future. All materials used (the balloon and the ribbon) were made in the USA and were biodegradable.

5 American Heart Association Regional Directors visited LSU Health Shreveport to learn about research being conducted by the Center for Cardiovascular Diseases and Sciences. They also toured labs and met with researchers who have been funded by AHA grants, like Dr. Aimee Vozenilek.



6 Dr. Samina Hayat and Dr. Mamatha Katikenini organized a Lupus Education Event on Dec. 8 to help bring awareness to and educate the community about this disease that affects 5 million people around the world.

7-9 JA Inspire students visited the Schools of Medicine and Allied Health Professions to learn about various careers in healthcare. Dr. David Lewis, School of Medicine Dean, and Dr. Chuck Fox, Vice Chancellor for Clinical Affairs, also stopped to talk with students and answer questions

10 The Department of Neurosurgery hosted the 7th Annual Woodward Symposium on Oct. 26. The 2018 Keynote Speaker was Laligam Sekhar, MD, FACS, FAANS, world-renowned expert in treating complex neurosurgical problems.

11 Nearly 100 volunteers from the School of Allied Health Professions spent an afternoon completing beautification projects on campus and at the Mollie Webb Speech and Hearing Center. Shreveport Green donated equipment and estimated the value of the cleanup to be \$4,000!

12 The Resident Council visited Caddo Heights Elementary School and delivered toys that were collected through the annual Toy Drive. Every student received a gift! Thank you to the students, faculty, staff, Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport Academic Medical Center employees, the Shreveport Fire Department and the Shreveport Police Department for making the Toy Drive and delivery a success!





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Shreveport, LA 71130-3932

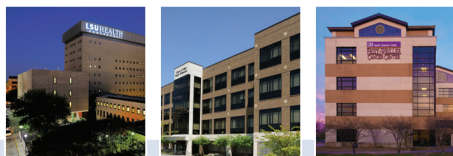
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School of Graduate Studies

School of Allied Health Professions

Feist-Weiller Cancer Center



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