GET READY FOR AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT
LSU HEALTH SHREVEPORT
AND DISCOVER WHY OUR COMMUNITY IS SO FORTUNATE
TO HAVE THIS REMARKABLE INSTITUTION.

MEDICAL EDUCATION
RESEARCH
GRADUATE EDUCATION
PATIENT CARE
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.

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 takes unexpected twists and turns for all of us through life’s journey, and the twist of my serving as Chancellor & Dean of LSU School of Medicine is one that I never expected, but one to which I am fully committed. People continue to ask me “Why would you want to take this job at a time when we are facing so many challenges?” The answer for me is simple, and that is, because I care so deeply about our health sciences center and our community.

Just like many of you, I have chosen to make Shreveport my home. I believe that all of us blessed with good health, knowledge and talent should be contributing in our respective ways to make this community, our home, the best it can be. I see my contribution as doing everything possible to strengthen our health sciences center which is vital to both our economy and our healthcare. I want to change the conversation from “is the medical school moving” to “what is being done to preserve and strengthen LSU Health Shreveport as a whole?” In an effort to make sure that you understand exactly what comprises LSU Health since the privatization of the hospital, we have devoted this issue of Inside LSU Health to answering that question. We will continue to use this publication and other forms of communication to keep you informed of the achievements and challenges on our campus. I encourage you to get an “up close and personal look” at our campus by participating in the next Mini-Med program which starts on February 28. (Details on the back cover.)

We welcome your input on ways that we can better provide the information of interest to you, so please do not hesitate to reach out to our Executive Director of Public Affairs, Communication and Development – Lisa Babin. Lisa can be reached at lbabi6@lsuhsc.edu or (318) 675-8769.

Thank you for your support of LSU and our Health Sciences Center.

Sincerely,

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

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Spotlight on Philanthropy
These are challenging, yet exciting times at LSU Health Shreveport which require that I successfully lead the charge to adapt to our new reality. Our new reality, in many regards, reflects a “perfect storm,” a term commonly used to describe an event or condition in which a rare combination of circumstances aggravates a situation drastically.

OUR PERFECT STORM INCLUDES:

- The privatization of our teaching hospital, which for decades supplemented the funding shortfall required to maintain the mission of our three professional schools.
- The mandate to cover the legacy costs when the three state hospitals managed under LSUHSC-S transitioned to the public-private partners. (Office of Risk Management Insurance — malpractice, workers’ compensation, and property; Retiree Insurance — health and life; termination pay; unemployment; residual operating costs at hospitals.) These legacy costs paid from our operating budget exceeded $60 million from October 1, 2013 through June 30, 2015.
- The dramatically diminished state funding for both higher education and healthcare.

I cannot change the past, but I can change the future with the support of our employees, elected officials, community leaders and supporters.

MY VISION TO CREATE A STRONGER LSU HEALTH SHREVEPORT REQUIRES:

- Incorporating accountability, collaboration and transparency (ACT) into every aspect of our clinical care, medical education and research.
- Implementing mission-based budgeting which began July 1, 2016.
- Increasing productivity among our research enterprise to generate more external funding.
- Create a business model that earns sufficient clinical revenue to support our academic mission. This model is focused on becoming less dependent on state funding and will demand:
  - Rebuilding our medical leadership — We have numerous interim department chairs plus several others being vacated by retiring faculty. I know we all want to attract and hire the best possible candidates who will bring substantive research revenue and clinical expertise.
  - Expanding the number of hospital partnerships to create new revenue streams, while also broadening medical education platforms.
  - Developing competitive services and programs.
  - Implementing a Faculty Practice Plan which will create a centralize operation focused on enhancing revenue cycles and business development.
- Increasing philanthropy — For LSU Heath Shreveport to continue playing a leading role in the economy, healthcare and quality of life in our community, additional private support is needed now.

I do not claim to have all the answers or delude myself that accomplishing the above objectives will be easy or quick. I commit to keeping you apprised to significant developments that affect our current and future condition.
LSU Health Shreveport Interventional Cardiology faculty brought recognition to our city and to LSU Health Shreveport by being the first location in Louisiana, and one of only a few in the country to implant the latest bio-absorbable coronary stents recently at University Health. The extensive experience of LSU Health Shreveport Interventional cardiology faculty in performing advanced and high risk complex coronary interventional procedures was one of the reasons Abbott pharmaceutical, which manufactures the Absorb GT1 dissolving stent, selected LSU Health Shreveport as the first location in Louisiana to offer this cutting edge cardiac technology.

“The development and availability of bio-absorbable, next generation coronary vascular scaffolds for clinical use is a major milestone in interventional cardiology. We are honored to be the first in Louisiana and this region to offer this potentially revolutionary technology giving new treatment options for some patients with coronary artery disease. It is important to note that this Absorb GT1 stent is not for everyone or every vessel. There are certain criteria that have to be met in order to be suitable for their use. Like all technologies, this will evolve,” shared Pavan Katikaneni, MD, Assistant Professor of Interventional Cardiology and Associate Program Director at LSU Health Shreveport.

With heart disease being one of the leading causes of death worldwide and taking the lives of nearly 610,000 Americans annually, the addition of this innovative technology brings another alternative for treating patients with coronary artery disease. This major advancement was approved by the FDA in July 2016 and was rolled out for clinical use recently.

“The dissolving stent is similar to absorbable sutures which dissolve into your body within a period of time. After opening the blocked artery, only a trace metallic marker is left behind for the purpose of indicating where the stent was implanted. It is an important option for patients who already have layers of stents in arteries that once again are blocked” stated Abdulrahman Abdulbaki, MD, Assistant Professor.

Studies have shown that this dissolvable stent has comparable safety and effectiveness to the currently used conventional metal stents. As more long term safety data becomes available, the usage of these new stents is expected to grow, says Henock Zabher, MD, Associate Professor and Medical Director Cardiac Cath Lab.

Those interested in being considered for evaluation by the Interventional Cardiology team should call (318) 675-7916. A full patient guide can be found at www.AbbottVascular.com/AbsorbPG.
DOUBLE TRIFECTA
results in alumni of the School of Graduate Studies at LSU Health Shreveport winning “The Most Amazing Entrepreneurial Competition on the Planet” and proving that Shreveport is indeed a place where great ideas can result in successful companies.

[LEFT TO RIGHT]
Chris Kevil, PhD—Co-founder and CSO
John Chidlow, PhD—Co-founder and CEO, and
Kevin Pavlick, PhD—Co-founder and COO
A single trifecta is not a common occurrence, much less a double trifecta, but that is exactly what happened to the local company **Innolyzer Labs, L.L.C.**
as it traversed the tricky waters of going from an idea to a reality.

The first trifecta in the journey of Innolyzer Labs, L.L.C., established in 2015, consisted of three outstanding alumni from the School of Graduate Studies at LSU Health Shreveport: John Chidlow, PhD—Co-founder and CEO, Kevin Pavlick, PhD—Co-founder and CTO, and Chris Kevil, PhD—Co-founder and CSO (Chief Science Officer). The trio came together, combining their knowledge and skills, to create and manufacture lab-on-a-chip devices used to detect the quantity of hydrogen sulfide in scientific, clinical, water, waste water, and oil and gas applications. “The three of us are all products of LSU Health Shreveport education. Chris and I are both natives of Shreveport and received our doctorates here in the department of Molecular and Cellular Physiology and Kevin, a transplant from Colorado, did his postdoc in the same department while I was in graduate school. Importantly, Chris’ lab is responsible for the invention of the technology we licensed, so our relationship with the University is strong and it has been a great partnership for us.,” said Dr. Chidlow.

The second trifecta was comprised not of people, but of organizations: the Louisiana Start Up Prize Competition, local entrepreneur assets the Entrepreneurial Accelerator Program (EAP) and Co-habitat Foundation (Cohab). Innolyzer also took advantage of LSU Health Shreveport’s express licensing procedure and was actually the first to do so. This was available to them because Dr. Kevil is a faculty member of LSU Health Shreveport. Anella Nelson, Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs and Technology Transfer (OSPTT) worked closely with the company during this process and local patent attorney Charles Holoubek assisted and has continued to work with Innolyzer Labs and the University on the prosecution of the patents. Cohab, managed by Executive Director Jessica Schiele, provides work space and early stage assistance, networking and mentoring, to scalable and lifestyle businesses in the community. EAP was designed by BRF to grow the North Louisiana entrepreneurial ecosystem. They provide business coaching, networking opportunities, and competitive access to the New Louisiana Angel Fund 1 (NLAF1). Both programs receive funding from the Caddo Parish Commission and City of Shreveport. Each of these entities played a decisive role in bringing Innolyzer Labs to Shreveport and allowing them to call this city home, giving hope to others who want north Louisiana to be a home for their innovations.

When asked about these organizations Dr. Chidlow responded, “Coming back to Shreveport, I found a city that had moved forward in some big ways. Our first step was to license the IP so that we could build a company around it. After that we started to lift the company and we took advantage of local institutions and their programs. Initially we joined Cohab where they helped us refine our message and pitch. We then got involved with Dave Smith and his people, the EAP and the New Louisiana Angel Fund 1 (NLAF1) that they manage. This was around the time we entered the Startup Prize. During these few months, the EAP helped us secure funding and I believe this forward momentum during the prize was a key factor in our winning. The prize judges could see that we were actively making progress throughout the competition. It was a fun time, I can’t say enough good things about the Startup prize, the collaborative competition, the energy it brings to town, and the all-around excitement that comes with any Prize Family event that Gregory Kallenburg puts on.”

Developing a new product requires cash, outstanding mentors, and an affordable location—these are critical to achieving success. Because of the assets at stake, winning the 2015 Louisiana Start Up Prize Competition known as “The Most Amazing Entrepreneurial Competition on the Planet” was a turning point for Innolyzer Labs. Though the founders had been working on it since 2013, it was not until 2015, after winning a $25,000 cash prize, $10,000 in marketing and accounting services and a free year of rent at American Tower, that Innolyzer Labs took off. EAP continued to support the company; in addition to funding received through the NLAF, they provided two years low rent lab space in the Intertech 1 building for the company to establish its prototyping and testing facility. LSU Health Shreveport has continued moving the patent process forward with Innolyzer Labs, two of the four patents licensed have now issued and the others are well on their way.

Today this privately held company which is developing the first lab-on-a chip (LOAC) for H2S measurement in liquids is continuing to specialize in the development and commercialization of innovative analytics for a broad array of industries.

**EXAMPLES INCLUDE:**

- **Oil and Gas** — Allows quick and easy measurement of H2S in water-based liquids, preventing corrosion and ensuring better environmental conditions
- **Water & Sewage** — Provides faster, more accurate, on-site, quantitative H2S measurement
- **Clinical Science and Medicine** — Provides ease of measurement and accuracy in clinical studies
- **Laboratory & Basic Science Research** — Promotes ease and accuracy in measurement of H2S

The mission is straightforward. Innolyzer Labs, L.L.C. aims to provide high quality, accurate, fast and affordable solutions to their customers with one-of-a-kind, LOAC devices; to advance technology in numerous industries; to ease compliance; to improve safety; and to remain the gold standard for measuring H2S in aqueous samples.

With its proprietary technology, innovative processes, and the comprehensive expertise of its executive team and advisors, Innolyzer Labs, L.L.C. is uniquely positioned across multiple world-wide markets to pioneer new territories for LOAC devices.

Innolyzer Labs, L.L.C. has proven, with the help of the other trifecta of organizations, that hard work, tenacity, taking advantage of available resources, and building a good team truly are the hallmarks of success.
The CMV Virus

Andrew Yurochko, PhD, was published in the National Academy of Sciences in August 2016 on the topic of “Viral binding-induced signaling drives a unique and extended intracellular trafficking pattern during infection of primary monocytes”. You are likely asking yourself, what does this mean? What that means to you is that there is a common virus (50% seroprevalence in the U.S.), CMV short for cytomegalovirus, that affects more individuals, particularly newborns than the Zika virus and to date the cause, much less a treatment or vaccine does not exist.

Very few people know about CMV or that right here in Shreveport we have a national and international leader researching the root causes of the CMV infection process. Awareness of CMV is now trending around the country because of the tremendous impact of CMV to the health of newborns. Nevertheless, studies tell us that very few are aware of this virus and the deadly consequences of congenital infection. Of these congenitally infected infants, up to 8,000 infants have or will develop long term disabilities. Disabilities include but are not limited to hearing loss, intellectual deficits and vision abnormalities, microcephaly and seizures. Because of the lack of treatment or a vaccine, the only mechanism to mitigate viral spread and congenital infection is careful handwashing and the avoidance of children’s saliva and other fluids during pregnancy. The study impacts not only the health of newborns, but the health of cancer patients and other patients who need to undergo solid organ or bone marrow transplants as well as a variety of cardiovascular diseases.

CMV should be a priority and is every bit as urgent as Zika virus. Dr. Andrew Yurochko is doing his part to make sure that the cause and a subsequent treatment for CMV become a priority.

ALS Gene Therapy Program Touts LSU Health Scientist Ronald Klein, PhD

Ronald Klein, PhD, Associate Professor of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience at LSU Health Shreveport, together with Gregory Petsko, DPhil, The Arthur J. Mahon Professor of Neuroscience in the Feil Family Brain and Mind Research Institute at Weill Cornell Medicine, and MeiraGTx are developing a gene therapy to target TDP-43 toxicity in ALS patients.

MeiraGTx and its academic collaborators are defining the role of RNA metabolism in the pathology of ALS, with the goal of developing effective gene therapies. “We are very excited about our work with Drs. Petsko and Klein, leaders in the field of neurodegeneration, to develop a gene therapy targeting TDP-43 dysfunction in ALS,” said Alexandria Forbes, PhD, President and CEO of MeiraGTx. “We believe that this may lead to not only an important new therapeutic approach, but will provide insight for the development of additional gene therapies to treat this and other devastating neurodegenerative diseases.”

“This is exciting work that targets RNA metabolism, which is known to be altered in ALS. This work will provide insights into underlying mechanisms in ALS and hopefully lead to clinical research trials in the future. I am very excited to partner with MeiraGTx and grateful for efforts from my collaborators and from people in my lab, my lab manager, Robert Dayton, and PhD student, Kasey Jackson.” remarked Ronald Klein, PhD.

MeiraGTx is committed to the development of novel gene therapies to transform the lives of patients suffering from acquired and inherited disorders.
This section of *Inside LSU Health* magazine is dedicated to creating a clear understanding of exactly what comprises LSU Health Shreveport. As listed below, our institution offers three post graduate schools and the continued education of medical students known as internship, residency and fellowship training.

- The School of Medicine
- The School of Allied Health Professions
- The School of Graduate Studies
- Graduate Medical Education (GME)

LSU Health Shreveport is an Academic Health Sciences Center (AHSC) and is one of just over a hundred in the nation making it a treasure in our community based on its impact on healthcare and the economy. Organizational structures in AHSC’s take on a variety of forms. In our case, we have nine affiliate hospitals with University Health as our primary affiliate hospital. (As a point of reference, LSU Health New Orleans has 30 affiliate hospitals.)

At University Health, LSU Health Shreveport faculty are the only providers of physician services. Payment for physician services to include residents and fellows is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between LSU, the Louisiana Division of Administration and University Health. The terms of this agreement are extremely important to the future of LSU Health Shreveport as clinical income is the primary source of funding for our three professional schools. This agreement expires June 30, 2017.

Prior to privatization of the hospital, excess income from the hospital was transferred annually to meet the budgetary requirements of our professional schools.
After much perseverance by north Louisiana lawmakers, physicians and community supporters, the LSU School of Medicine in Shreveport was officially authorized by the Louisiana Legislature in 1965. The first class of 32 medical students was enrolled in 1969, with classes held at the nearby Veterans Administration Hospital. The first Doctor of Medicine (MD) degrees were awarded in 1973. It wasn’t until 1975 that the medical school building we use today was completed. By 1978, the Shreveport campus consisted of the LSU Hospital, the School of Medicine, the School of Graduate Studies, and the School of Allied Health.

DEAN
G.E. Ghali, DDS MD FACS FRCS(Ed)
Interim Dean: March 11, 2016 – October 7, 2016
October 10, 2016 – present

DEGREES OFFERED

DOCTORAL DEGREE

Doctor of Medicine, MD

ACCREDITING AGENCY: Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME)
ACCREDITING CYCLE: Every 8 years
ANNUAL TUITION/FEES: LA Resident $29,343.25 | Non LA Resident $61,165.25
PROGRAM CONTACT: Jane Eggerstedt, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Vice-Dean of the School of Medicine jegger@lsuhsc.edu, (318) 675-6110

Once a degree is received, physicians continue their graduate medical training by completing a residency or fellowship. Students are placed by participating in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP). A “rank-order list” of their preferred institutions and specialties is submitted and an algorithm is used to pair the student and the institution. On Match Day, the third Friday of March each year, students at all of the medical schools in the United States receive the results of their “Match”.

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LSU HEALTH SHREVEPORT

Graduate Medical Education (GME)

ACCREDITING AGENCY: Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)
ACCREDITING CYCLE: ACGME reviews the program each year electronically and based on the results can receive continued accreditation or a scheduled site visit

ACCREDITING AGENCY: Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)
ACCREDITING CYCLE: Site visit every five years to receive continued accreditation

ENROLLMENT: 558 Residents and Fellows
38 Accredited ACGME Programs and 3 Accredited CODA Programs
564 Approved Positions

SALARIES: $47,000–$60,000

PROGRAM CONTACT: Kim Hunter, Director, khunte@lsuhsc.edu, (318) 675-5054
Christine Cheney, Coordinator, cmarom@lsuhsc.edu, (318) 675-5053
Russell Crews, Administrative Program Specialist, rcrews@lsuhsc.edu, (318) 675-7629

GME stands for “graduate medical education,” more commonly referred to as “residency.” This is the training physicians must complete to specialize and practice independently following medical school. A resident is a physician (one who holds the degree of MD, DDS or DO) in a graduate medical education program under the direct or indirect supervision of an attending physician.

A fellowship is the period of sub-specialty medical training in the United States and Canada that a physician or dentist may undertake after completing a specialty training program (residency). During this time (usually more than one year), the physician is known as a fellow.

LSU Health Shreveport offers 41 fully accredited residency and fellowship programs. Under the supervision of our faculty, residents and fellows see patients at partner hospitals such as University Health in Shreveport and Monroe, Overton Brooks VA, and Willis-Knighton. Almost 600 residents and fellows train in a variety of primary care and specialty programs. More than 5,000 residents and fellows have trained at LSU Health Shreveport over the years.

Upon completion of post graduate training, residents and fellows will have received the best possible training LSU Health Shreveport has to offer and be able to successfully provide exceptional patient care.

PROGRAMS

RESIDENCY
Anesthesiology
Emergency Medicine
Emergency Medicine/Family Medicine
Family Medicine
Family Medicine—Rural
Family Medicine—Alexandria
Family Medicine—Monroe
Internal Medicine
Internal Medicine/Pediatrics
Neurology
Neurosurgery
Obstetrics & Gynecology
Ophthalmology
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
Orthopaedic Surgery
Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery
Pathology
Pediatrics

ACREDITED FELLOWSHIP
Allergy/Immunology
Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
Cardiology
Cleft Lip/Plate & Craniofacial Surgery
Colon & Rectal Surgery
Interventional Cardiology
Critical Care Medicine
Cytopathology
Endocrinology
Forensic Psychiatry
Gastroenterology
Head & Neck Oncologic/Microvascular Reconstructive Surgery

Hematology/Oncology
Infectious Diseases
Nephrology
Pain Medicine
Pulmonary/Critical Care
Rheumatology
Sleep Medicine

NON-ACCREDITED FELLOWSHIP
Facial Plastic Reconstructive Surgery
Head & Neck Surgery
Interventional Pulmonology
Orthopaedic Trauma
Radiology Breast Imaging
Skull Base Neurosurgery
Spine Surgery Neurosurgery
Surgical Pathology

Executive Director for Medical Service/DIO
Leisa Oglesby, BS, RN, MBA, CPHQ

WWW.LSUHSCSHREVEPORT.EDU
The School of Allied Health Professions in Shreveport was established in 1977. It was created as a branch of the New Orleans School of Allied Health and began with three academic programs — Cardiopulmonary Science, Medical Technology and Speech-Language Pathology. A certificate program in EEG Technology was also offered. Each program had a Shreveport-based associate director who reported to the appropriate program director and department head in New Orleans, and then to the Dean of the School of Allied Health in New Orleans, Dr. Stanley H. Abadie. On March 25, 2004, the Louisiana Board of Regents officially transferred administrative control of the School of Allied Health from New Orleans to the Shreveport campus, naming Dr. Joseph McCulloch as Dean.

DEAN
Joseph McCulloch, PhD
2004–present

DEGREES OFFERED

BACHELOR’S DEGREE

Cardiopulmonary Science, BS (RRT after boards)

ACCREDITING AGENCY: Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC)
ACCREDITING CYCLE: Every 10 years

ANNUAL TUITION/FEES: LA Resident $9,848.50 | Non LA Resident $19,994.50
PROGRAM CONTACT: Diana Merendino, DPT, RRT-NPS, PT, FAARC, dmeren@lsuhsc.edu, (318) 813-2931

Clinical Laboratory Science, BS, MLS (ASCP after boards)

ACCREDITING AGENCY: National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science (NAACLS)
ACCREDITING CYCLE: Every 7 years

ANNUAL TUITION/FEES: LA Resident $9,848.50 | Non LA Resident $19,994.50
PROGRAM CONTACT: Stephanie Blackburn, sblack@lsuhsc.edu, (318) 813-2910
DEGREES OFFERED CONTINUED

MASTER’S DEGREE

Communication Disorders, MCD (once ASHA certified add CCC-SLP)

ACCREDITING AGENCY: Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA)
ACCREDITING CYCLE: Every 7 years

ANNUAL TUITION/FEES: LA Resident $12,991.50 | Non LA Resident $25,991.25
PROGRAM CONTACT: Sandra Hayes, shayes1@lsuhsc.edu, (318) 632-2015

Occupational Therapy, MOT (LOTR once licensed and registered)

ACCREDITING AGENCY: Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE)
ACCREDITING CYCLE: Every 10 years

ANNUAL TUITION/FEES: LA Resident $12,991.50 | Non LA Resident $25,991.25
PROGRAM CONTACT: Robin Steed, rsteed@lsuhsc.edu, (318) 813-2950

Physician Assistant, MPAS (PA-C after certification exams)

ACCREDITING AGENCY: Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc (ARC-PA)
ACCREDITING CYCLE: Every 10 years

ANNUAL TUITION/FEES: LA Resident $16,070.25 | Non LA Resident $27,519.25
PROGRAM CONTACT: Teri Bigler, tbigle@lsuhsc.edu, (318) 813-2920

Public Health, MPH

ACCREDITING AGENCY: Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)
ACCREDITING CYCLE: Every 5 Years

ANNUAL TUITION/FEES: LA Resident $7,399.74 | Non LA Resident $19,896.96
PROGRAM CONTACT: Jill Rush-Kolodzey, MD DrPH, jrush@lsuhsc.edu, (318) 813-2900

DOCTORAL DEGREE

Physical Therapy, PT DPT

ACCREDITING AGENCY: Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)
ACCREDITING CYCLE: Every 10 years

ANNUAL TUITION/FEES: LA Resident $18,252.75 | Non LA Resident $29,224.00
PROGRAM CONTACT: Ed Mahoney, emahon@lsuhsc.edu, (318) 813-2940
The School of Graduate Studies was established as part of the LSU Medical Center in 1965, with degrees offered in the five Basic Science Departments: Anatomy; Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Microbiology and Immunology; Pharmacology and Therapeutics; and Physiology and Biophysics. The first class was accepted in 1974 and first PhD degree awarded in 1978.

On March 25, 2004, the Louisiana Board of Regents approved administrative separation of the School of Graduate Studies in Shreveport from the School of Graduate Studies in New Orleans. The School of Graduate Studies in Shreveport was placed under the leadership of the Shreveport Chancellor and the first Dean of the School of Graduate Studies was appointed on April 1, 2004.

*PhD students in the School of Graduate Studies receive tuition waivers while enrolled. Stipends to help cover living expenses are also provided through numerous departments. MD/PhD students also receive a tuition waiver and a stipend for living expenses while enrolled in the PhD portion of the program but not during the MD portion of this degreed program.
Centers of Excellence

A select number of academic programs earn designation as a Center of Excellence by the Louisiana Board of Regents. Centers of Excellence must demonstrate statewide leadership in their area of designation and be a hallmark for the institution. The selected centers share a strong performance record, concentration on an area relevant to the state’s needs, a range of academic, training and research opportunities, engagement with the greater community, and a focus on issues and opportunities that improve the quality of life of Louisiana citizens.

Three LSU Health Shreveport centers have earned this distinction—Feist-Weiller Cancer Center of Excellence, Center of Excellence for Arthritis and Rheumatology, and Center for Cardiovascular Diseases and Sciences.

Feist-Weiller Cancer Center
Dr. Glenn Mills, Director

In 1993, Feist-Weiller Cancer Center was designated a Center of Excellence in Cancer Research, Treatment and Education. This cooperative community/academic partnership at Feist-Weiller Cancer Center serves area physicians, cancer patients and the general public as a resource in the fight against cancer. At Feist-Weiller Cancer Center, oncologists, clinician-scientists and cancer research scientists work together in various aspects of cancer treatment and cancer research. Area physicians are provided continuing medical education programs, new patient treatment information and the latest in clinical and basic science research. Cancer patients at Feist-Weiller Cancer Center are offered state-of-the-art, multidisciplinary cancer treatment protocols, participation in national cooperative cancer treatment studies, and full-service bone marrow transplantation. The general public benefits from active programs that are identifying and breaking down the barriers that interfere with effective cancer screening and cancer prevention. Contact (318) 813-1056.

Center of Excellence for Arthritis and Rheumatology
Dr. Samina Hayat, Director

The Center of Excellence for Arthritis and Rheumatology at the LSU Health Shreveport was established and funded as an Academic Administrative Unit and budgetary cost center by the Louisiana Legislature in 1990 for the development and expansion of multidisciplinary, interdepartmental clinical programs, research, and education. For over 20 years, the Center has sustained and expanded programs of excellence in clinical patient care, medical education, and research. The development of these comprehensive programs related to arthritis and other rheumatic diseases has established the Center of Excellence for Arthritis and Rheumatology as one of the country’s exemplary rheumatology programs. Contact (318) 675-5339.

Center for Cardiovascular Diseases and Sciences
Dr. Chris Kevil, Director

In December 2013, the LSU Board of Supervisors and the Louisiana Board of Regents approved designation of the Center for Cardiovascular Diseases and Sciences (CCDS) here at LSU Health Shreveport. The Malcolm Feist Cardiovascular Endowment now supports the CCDS with oversight from its Board of Directors to support and grow cardiovascular disease research and education through recruitment of new faculty, support of faculty research, major equipment purchases and, perhaps most important of all, funding of cardiovascular graduate and post-graduate training. The CCDS is committed to supporting and expanding cardiovascular research and education. In the coming years, the CCDS will gain greater visibility on campus and national recognition for the exceptional cardiovascular research and training opportunities available here at LSU Health Shreveport. Contact (318) 675-4694.
NOTEWORTHY FACTS ABOUT THE

LOUISIANA

POISON CONTROL CENTER

- In 1991 the Louisiana Legislature Directed the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) to create a poison control center to serve the entire state. The Louisiana Poison Control Center opened in March 1992 on the campus of the University of Louisiana at Monroe, and was relocated to Shreveport in October 2005, becoming part of the Department of Emergency Medicine at LSU Health. (The center purchased the building it is housed in from the LSU Health Shreveport Foundation.)

- The State of Louisiana provides 85% of the center’s funding. 15% comes from a grant program administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) specifically designed to enhance poison center services in the U.S.

- The mission of all poison control centers is to actively advance the health care role and public health mission through information, advocacy, education and research.

- It is estimated that for every dollar spent on poison center services $38-$40 dollars is saved by preventing unnecessary utilization of healthcare services.

- Over 85% of patients can be managed in a non-healthcare setting with appropriate triage, guidance and follow up.

- The Louisiana Poison Center was initially accredited as a Regional Poison Center by the American Association of Poison Control Centers in 1995 and has maintained continuous accreditation since that time.

- 55 poison centers currently operate in the U.S. Those 55 provide coverage to all the states and the U.S. territories. Shreveport is home to the only poison control center in the state of Louisiana.

- A national 800 number, 800-222-1222 connects the caller to the poison center providing service for the geographic area where the call is placed.

- Poison Control Centers operate 24 hours a day 7 days a week 365 days a year. This service provides a primary resource for poisoning information and helps reduce costly hospital visits through in-home treatment.

- Calls are answered by pharmacists and nurses trained in clinical toxicology. Our staff of eight has combined over 100 work years of poison center experience.

- Average yearly total call volume is 88,000 calls.

- The center has responded to over 2 million calls since opening.

- Over 30% of calls each day come from hospital emergency departments across the state.

- Most calls involve children under 6 years of age.

- Staff follow up with all callers until the patients symptoms have resolved.
On October 1, 2016, the Center for Cardiovascular Diseases and Sciences at LSU Health Shreveport and the Center for Biomedical Engineering and Rehabilitation Science at Louisiana Tech, sponsored the Industry Day Conference focusing on students, trainees, scientists, and clinicians conducting biomedical research who are interested in the interface between the laboratory and industry.

Associate Professor Rona Scott, PhD from the Department of Microbiology & Immunology was one of four keynote speakers presenting at the conference.

Second Annual Sci-Port Day a Success!

Sci-Port and LSU Health Shreveport, Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology & Neuroscience hosted their second annual Sci-Port Day on October 25, 2016. BioStart interns and their mentors presented experiments and activities for 180 eighth grade middle school students. The purpose of the event was to engage students in hands-on science experiments and to recruit students into the Biotechnology Academy at Southwood High School.

Funding for BioStart and Sci-Port Day was provided by a Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) from the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Joseph Bocchini Honored

Dr. Joseph Bocchini, Professor and Chairman of Pediatrics, was honored as the 2016 March of Dimes Person of the Year. The award is given based on dedication, passion, and philanthropic efforts to support the March of Dimes. A special committee selected Dr. Bocchini based on the work he is doing with our Maternal Child Health Committee and the impact their actions are having on our area.

Step Forward

Step Forward exists to create a civic infrastructure that aligns and supports the efforts to drive excellence in education locally.

PICTURED ARE:
Susan Gatti, PhD, Dr. Joe Bocchini, Donna Edwards (Governor’s wife), and Pam Kimbrough, MEd. Director of the Children’s Center, SAHP.

River Bend Rotary officials Tyler Williams and Toni Mitchell Goodin present Dr. Joseph Bocchini with a check for funds raised at the Donut Dash.
The Gold Humanism Honor Society has recently approved a chapter at LSU Health Shreveport. GHHS is a national honor society designed to recognize students, residents and faculty for their dedication to compassionate patient care. Sixteen students were nominated by their peers and were inducted this fall. Previous Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine award winners including faculty and one resident were inducted this fall as well. Plans for a spring induction for 3rd year students are underway.
NEWLY APPOINTED
VICE CHANCELLORS

DAVID F. LEWIS MD
Vice-Chancellor of Clinical Affairs

Working in concert with Department Chairs and Faculty, Dr. Lewis is responsible for increasing clinical volume and improving quality of care and outcomes, and facilitating multidisciplinary collaboration across clinical departments. He will serve as a key member of the Chancellor’s leadership team with focus on developing and enhancing relationships with partner hospitals and driving clinical growth to support LSU Health Shreveport’s transition to a new business model.

CHRIS KEVIL, PhD
Vice-Chancellor for Research

Dr. Kevil is responsible for providing executive leadership in research administration and planning. Significant focus will be placed on strengthening the capacity for an innovative and multi-disciplinary research program and to facilitate translational research opportunities. Dr. Kevil is a native of Shreveport and received his PhD in Molecular and Cellular Physiology from LSU Health Sciences Center-Shreveport followed by a fellowship in Genomics and Pathology. Dr. Kevil is Professor of Pathology, Molecular and Cellular Biology and Cell Biology and Anatomy, the Director of the Center for Cardiovascular Diseases and Sciences and Director of the Division of Research in the Department of Pathology and Translational Pathology.

JANE EGGERSTEDT, MD
Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs - Shreveport

Jane Eggerstedt MD expanded her role beyond Vice Dean of the School of Medicine when she was named Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. She will provide the executive leadership for all academic programs in Shreveport and is responsible for their advancement, administration, service and strategic growth. As the Chief Academic Officer, she serves as institutional interface with the Louisiana Board of Regents related to Academic Common Core and the Regents Endowment Program.

LESTER W. JOHNSON, MD
Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs - Monroe

Dr. Johnson’s duties will focus on furthering the academic mission of LSU Health activities at EA Conway Medical Center. Responsibilities will include working with senior leadership to promote and enhance academic excellence, augment educational infrastructure, and to expand the scope of individual academic programs as well as interdisciplinary curricula. Additional responsibilities include formulating and administering institutional policies, developing institutional long-range goals and objectives and coordinating the academic affairs.

CHIEF OF SURGICAL ONCOLOGY receives awards

Quyen D. Chu, MD MBA FACS, Chief of Surgical Oncology and Charles Knight Professor in Surgery, was one of ten cancer leaders honored with the American Society of Clinical Oncology’s (ASCO) Special Awards, during the ASCO Annual Meeting in June. Dr. Chu is the recipient of the society’s 2016 Humanitarian Award.

In addition, Dr. Chu was also selected as Marshall for the 2016 ACS Convocation. He is the recipient of the Business of Excellence Innovative Technology Award of the Southern Hospitality Exposure Magazine. Dr. Chu was also recently appointed Co-Chair of the AHLBA Publications Committee and served as Chair/Moderator of the 2016 World Congress of the IHPBA.

DR. MARK RYAN named AAPCC president-elect

The American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) has named Mark Ryan, PharmD, its new president-elect following a general membership vote among the nation’s 55 poison centers. He will be sworn in as president-elect at the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology meeting in Boston September 18th and will become president of the organization in September 2018. Dr. Ryan has served on the AAPCC Board of Directors for the last five years.

DEBBIE CHANDLER, MD named Assistant Dean for Diversity Affairs

Dr. Chandler will be responsible for providing leadership and vision to recruit, retain and support an outstanding and diverse faculty, staff and student body. She is an Associate Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology, Director of PeriOperative Services and the Pediatric Division of Anesthesiology at LSU Health Shreveport.
PROFESSOR receives International Awards

Sami Bahna, MD, DrPH, Professor of Pediatrics & Medicine, Chief of Allergy & Immunology, was invited to speak at the IX World Asthma, Allergy & COPD Forum held in Saint Petersburg, Russia in July. He was also awarded an Honorary Membership of the World Immunopathology Organization (WIPO).

Dr. Bahna also received the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy (HKIA) President’s Medal at the 9th Biennial Convention last October. Dr. Bahna assisted the HKIA in planning its first scientific convention in 1998 and has been a constantly invited speaker since. His presentation this time was on “Difficulties in Food Allergy Diagnosis”.  

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR receives LA CaTS award

Matthew D. Woolard, PhD, Assistant Professor, in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology recently received a Louisiana Clinical and Translational Science (LA CaTS) pilot award for his work involving immune cell function during cardiovascular and metabolic disease. The Pilot Grants Program ensures the support and identification of promising research projects in the form of translational research awards.

TRAVEL GRANT received for presentation

Yufeng Dong, MD PhD, 2016 ASBMR Young Investigator Travel Grant for the abstract presentation “Notch Activation Enhances Mesenchymal Stem Cell Sheet Osteogenic Potential by Inhibition of Cellular Senescence”
Did You Know?

The Mollie E. Webb Speech and Hearing Center provides over 600 speech/language and audiological evaluations each year and schedules a minimum of 900 therapy sessions per year.

Did You Know?
The Mollie E. Webb Speech and Hearing Center recently dedicated its Hearing Aid Room in memory of Charlotte Ellerbe Webb, a former profoundly hearing impaired patient who was a faithful supporter of LSU Health Shreveport.

Ms. Charlotte Webb was the daughter of Mollie Ellerbe Webb, who devoted her life to the special needs of children and adults with speech, language and hearing problems and whose efforts led to the founding of the Mollie E. Webb Speech and Hearing Center. The legacy of Mrs. Webb and her daughter Charlotte live on and continue to impact the lives of students training in the Department of Communication Disorders and Speech-Language Pathology through two separate student scholarship and award endowments.

Charlotte, along with her cousin, Mrs. Lennis Elston, attended and presented the endowed scholarship awards to several worthy students only months before her passing in July of 2016.

Faculty, staff, alumni and students are all grateful for the contributions the Webb Family continues to make to the LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport through their endowed gifts and are honored to dedicate this room in Charlotte’s memory.
IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Arthur Tomlinson Fort, III died on September 13 just weeks shy of his 85th birthday. He began his career in academic medicine at the University of Tennessee then moved to Shreveport in 1971 to serve as the first full-time Chairman of Obstetrics & Gynecology at LSU Health Science Center. He moved to New Orleans and became board certified in Family Medicine. He returned to Shreveport and served as Chairman of Family Medicine at LSUHSC from 1981-2010. During his tenure the department grew to include residencies in Monroe, Alexandria, and Vivian as well as a combined Emergency Medicine/Family Medicine residency.

Robert “Bob” Hamm, who was a long-time member of the LSU Health Science Foundation’s Board of Directors, died suddenly on October 8, 2016 at the age of 76. Bob was a strong and vocal advocate for LSU Health Shreveport. He served on the Foundation Board’s Executive Committee for many years in addition to holding the positions of secretary and Governance Committee Chair. A mechanical engineer and entrepreneur, Bob dedicated himself to a broad range of community service and shared his leadership skills with numerous organizations.

Dr. Joseph Peter Orsulak, 53, passed away on November 18. He graduated from the School of Medicine in 1988.

Dr. Richard Warren Williams died on October 19, at the age of 65. He graduated from LSU Health Shreveport’s School of Medicine in 1976 and completed a psychiatric residency in 1979. He was Medical Director of the Chemical Dependency Units at P&S Hospital, Charter Forest Hospital, Brentwood Hospital and North Louisiana Regional Hospital. Other positions held include Chief of Staff at Charter Forest Hospital, Deputy Coroner for Caddo Parish and Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at LSU School of Medicine. He received professional recognition as a pioneer in addiction medicine, including a publication in Current Therapeutic Research.

NEW FACULTY

Andrew Stevenson Joel Chandranesan, MD, Assistant Professor-Clinical, Infectious Diseases
Adrian Chapa-Rodriguez, MD, Assistant Professor-Clinical, Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition
Catherine Chaudoir, MD, Assistant Professor, Pathology
R. Edward Betcher, MD, Associate Professor of Clinical OB/GYN; Chief, Gynecology Services
Kamal Bhusal, MD, Assistant Professor-Clinical, Endocrinology
Paige E. Bundrick, MD, Assistant Professor, Facial Plastic Reconstructive Surgery
Anand Desai, MD, Instructor-Clinical Specialty, General Medicine
Lauren Dulaney, MD, Instructor, Emergency Medicine
Ashley Ferraro, Clinical Assistant Professor, Pulmonary
Maria Georgescu, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, Pathology
Matthew Hanudel, MD, Instructor, Emergency Medicine

Ryan Jones, MD, Assistant Professor-Clinical, Pediatric Cardiology
Judy King, MD, PhD, Professor and Director of AP Pathology
Uma Lakshmanadoss, Assistant Professor, Cardiology
David F. Lewis, MD, MBA, Professor and Chairman, OB/GYN; Vice Chancellor of Clinical Affairs
Claude V. Lockhart, MD, Assistant Professor of Clinical OB/GYN
C. Eric McCathran, MD, Professor of Clinical OB/GYN and Vice Chairman
Augustine Njoku, MD, Assistant Professor, Cardiology
Hrishikesh Samant, MD, Assistant Professor-Clinical, Gastroenterology/Hepatology
Mingxia Shi, MD, Assistant Professor, Pathology
Diana Cruz-Topete, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Molecular & Cellular Physiology
Paul M. Weinberger, MD, FACS, Associate Professor, Laryngology
The first Clays for Camp Tiger, a sport shooting tournament to raise funds for Camp Tiger, was held in Spring 2016. The event was moderately successful, raising $3,500. The second tournament was held in October 2016 to coincide with fall hunting seasons, which proved to be very successful. Net proceeds increased to $17,629, which will benefit Camp Tiger campers in 2017.

The success of the event can be attributed to the persistence and hard work of medical students and Class of 1973 alumnus, Dr. Tim Hart. Dr. Hart, or “Doc” as he is now called by the Clays committee members, is a retired local OB/GYN physician with experience in sport shooting for a cause. He served on the board of directors for Samaritan Counseling Center, where he and another board member began the Samaritan Open to benefit the Client Care Fund for the Center. Dr. Hart was a member of the first graduating medical class and has been a strong supporter of the Medical Alumni Association.

The students organizing Clays for Camp Tiger found Dr. Hart’s help to be invaluable. Ali Fruge, from Lafayette, LA, coordinated the marketing of the event. “Looking back on the great success of Clays for Camp Tiger, much gratitude is due to Dr. Hart. From the get-go, he attended every single meeting with a contagious enthusiasm and went above and beyond spreading the word.”

Class of 2018 and Lake Charles native, Nick George, also recognized Dr. Hart’s contribution, particularly in publicizing the event to the community: “He was instrumental in the event’s growth within the Shreveport community. In addition to putting in countless volunteer hours, he led by example in reaching out for support, lending supplies, and building relationships with local partners for this event. He helped us reach out to local civic clubs, like Southside Rotary, who were quick to show their support for Camp Tiger.”

However, the students found the benefits of working with Dr. Hart to extend past the actual fundraising event. Nick George commented, “He has become a mentor for my clinical years in medical school and a dear friend. He’s easy to talk to about questions that come up during clinical rotations, as well as giving me his input on how to handle clinical situations to which I am certainly naïve in my formative years as a clinician. Doc has undoubtedly become a real friend.”

Class of 2019 Clays Chairman, Seth Fruge, remembers his first meeting with Dr. Hart during his second semester of medical school. “Dr. Hart and I met for coffee and within minutes of talking, I felt like I had known him for years! He outlined the steps to follow and took the time to explain their importance in detail. Our shared passion for the sport was evident, but, looking back, what I appreciate the most was how he related that to making a difference in healthcare and the future careers of me and my fellow students. I have learned so much from Dr. Hart in the short time I’ve known him.”

Describing his enthusiasm for Clays for Camp Tiger, Dr. Hart stated, “When I was asked to help out with Clays for Camp Tiger, I was happy to do it. I have a grandson that attended Camp Tiger, and I love sporting clays. It was the perfect avenue for me to give back to my community and support the school I was privileged to attend and love.” Dr. Hart recognizes the benefits of Camp Tiger for both the campers and the medical students: “Camp Tiger helps both the special needs children and the medical students. The children get to experience something that may have been out of their reach, and the medical students gain experience in interacting with special needs children. The medical students will carry that experience into their clinical years and beyond. It is a lesson worth learning for aspiring physicians.”

Dr. Tim Hart, a member and past president of the Southeastern Obstetrical and Gynecological Society, practiced obstetrics and gynecology for over 29 years before retiring in 2006. He and his wife Betsy have five children and twelve grandchildren.

**CAMP TIGER** is a five-day camp organized and run by medical students. The camp serves children with physical and/or mental disabilities between the ages of 5 and 12. The camp is open to all qualified children on a first-come, first-served basis, and is ENTIRELY FREE OF CHARGE. For more information or to make a donation go to [camptigershreveport.com](http://camptigershreveport.com)
James Aymond completed internship and residency in Orthopaedic Surgery at Duke University Medical Center and completed a spine surgery fellowship at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in 1993. He has been in private practice in Charleston, SC for the past 23 years. He and his wife, Andrea, have three daughters.

Brent Bankston is the Head Team Physician for the LSU football team. He was chosen as the SEC Physician of the year in 2015. He is currently employed at the Baton Rouge Orthopedic Clinic.

John Bundrick has been married to Suzanne for almost 30 years and they have three beautiful daughters. Sarah, the oldest, just received her MD at LSUHS as a proud member of the class of 2016! John is a Consultant in Internal Medicine at the Mayo Clinic, where he has received many teaching awards and has been inducted into the Mayo Teacher Hall of Fame. He is also the Governor of the Minnesota Chapter of the American College of Physicians.

Francisco Castellanos and his wife, Felice Kaufmann, live in New York. After graduation, he spent five years in the triple board residency program at Lexington, Kentucky, ten years at the NIH in the Child Psychiatry Branch of the NIMH, and the past 15 years at NYU.

Mark Crump has been in practice in Camden, Arkansas for 27 years. He has been married to his wife, Kim, for 34 years. They have two children. He is also a deacon of First Baptist Church in Camden.

David Fakier has been married to Laura for 30 years. He practiced radiology in Houma, Louisiana for 23 years before moving to New Orleans in 2013 and currently is on staff at Ochsner Clinic Foundation. He provides part-time coverage primarily at Ochsner St. Anne General Hospital. They have two sons who live in New Orleans. Their daughter, Rebecca passed away at the age of 8 in 2003 after a 16 month battle with Neuroblastoma. In 2009, the family began doing missionary work in Haiti through Haiti Mission, Inc. David and Laura have made 14 trips over the past six years and now lead groups several times a year to Haiti. They also travel on pilgrimages and have been to the Holy Land, Rome and walked the Camino de Santiago in recent years.

Patricia Nicol and her husband, David live near Lake Travis in Spicewood, Texas. After several years in busy pediatric practices in Austin & Lufkin, Pat is now working as a consultant in pediatric disabilities for the state of Texas, while her husband, David, is a radiologist at the Central Texas VA Medical Center. They are almost “empty nesters” and have moved out to the country at Lake Travis.

Bruce Roach and his wife, Beth, spent six years in private practice in Lecompte and Alexandria, Louisiana before joining the staff of a mission hospital in the Middle East. Bruce served there for 6.5 years; three of those years he was chief of the medical staff. For the last 13 years they have lived in Minot, ND. Bruce continues to practice primary care medicine. They have two sons.

Julie Guidroz Cupp completed her General Surgery residency at the University of Iowa and Breast Surgical Oncology Fellowship at MD Anderson. After several years of private practice in North Carolina, she recently joined the Willis-Knighton Health System as a breast surgeon. She married Brian Cupp five years ago, and they have two children.

Aimee Borazanci completed her neurology residency and multiple sclerosis fellowship at LSUHSC-Shreveport. She worked as a staff neurologist at Christus Schumpert Hospital in Shreveport for two years and then moved to Arizona in 2013. She is currently part of the faculty at Barrow Neurological Institute (BNI) in Phoenix, where she serves as director of the MS fellowship program. She is also Assistant Professor at the University of Arizona Medical Center and neurology clerkship director at Creighton Medical Center. In 2016, Aimee was recognized as “Teacher of the Year,” which is awarded by the BNI neurology residents. She and Dr. Erkut Borazanci have been married since 2004 and have two daughters.

Marianne Ballisty lives in Asheville, NC, with her husband, Tim, and their two sons. She is part of a private practice radiology group and predominately practices pediatric radiology.

Josh Best lives in Zachary, LA, with his wife, Jessica, and their three children. He is an Obstetrician/Gynecologist at Lane Regional Medical Center.

Aimee Borazanci completed her neurology residency and multiple sclerosis fellowship at LSUHSC-Shreveport. She worked as a staff neurologist at Christus Schumpert Hospital in Shreveport for two years and then moved to Arizona in 2013. She is currently part of the faculty at Barrow Neurological Institute (BNI) in Phoenix, where she serves as director of the MS fellowship program. She is also Assistant Professor at the University of Arizona Medical Center and neurology clerkship director at Creighton Medical Center. In 2016, Aimee was recognized as “Teacher of the Year,” which is awarded by the BNI neurology residents. She and Dr. Erkut Borazanci have been married since 2004 and have two daughters.

Michelle Mayeux practices internal medicine in Natchitoches with her sister, Dr. Mary Long. She has been married to Chris Mayeux, owner of M&M Pharmacy, for 22 years. They have four boys.

Rebecca Soksin Hicks lives and works in the heart of Silicon Valley. In addition to working part-time in a hospital practice, she is delving into tech-centered telemedicine with some interesting projects on the horizon. She and her husband, Michael, have three children.

Jen Courtney has been married to Teresa for 24 years and they have three children. Jen has been practicing physical medicine & rehabilitation since 2000, when he completed his residency at University of Arkansas Medical School in Little Rock. He has an outpatient clinic in Shreveport, is Medical Director of Rehab at Minden Medical Center, and does consulting at Life Care Hospitals. He is board certified by the American Board of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation.

Monty Heinen and his wife, Tiffany have been in Eunice, Louisiana since July of 2000 and have seven daughters. Monty has been in private practice as an OB/GYN for 16 years.

Webster Johnson and his wife, Amy moved to Memphis, Tennessee where Webster did a gastroenterology fellowship at the University of Tennessee. In 2002, they moved back to their hometown of Shreveport where Webster joined gastro/intestinal specialists. They have one daughter and enjoy traveling, snow skiing and tennis when school/work schedules allow.

Tonya Kelly Slusher practices pediatrics at Green Clinic, a multi-specialty group, in Ruston, Louisiana. She is married to Jaime, a Family Medicine physician who practices in Jonesboro, Louisiana. In their downtime, Tonya and Jaime enjoy cooking, relaxing at the lake, traveling and watching their two sons play football.

Bart Liles and Leigh Liles live in Monroe, Louisiana and have three children.
Jaya McSharma completed her residency at LSU Health Shreveport in family medicine in 2009. After working in Monroe, Louisiana, for five years as a hospitalist, she is now a hospitalist at Christus Highland in Shreveport. She and her husband, who is a musician, are involved in the entertainment industry. They appeared on the television program “Say Yes to the Dress,” have worked on several short films, and have contributed to the online culture magazine Helipolis.

Josh Mizell and Kelly Mizell were married during their intern year. After completing their residencies in Mobile, Alabama, Josh worked for a year in a rural clinic west of Nashville, while Kelly completed a fellowship at Vanderbilt. They have now settled in Metairie, LA, where Josh practices combined Medicine & Pediatrics at a clinic associated with West Jefferson Medical Center on the West Bank of New Orleans. Kelly is a pathology partner at East Jefferson General Hospital. They have two children.

Margaux Murray has been a pediatric hospitalist with Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta at Scottish Rite since she finished residency at Emory University in 2009. In addition to pursuing her interests in academic medicine and evidence-based clinical guidelines, she also led in the development of a nocturnist service that now admits and co-manages hematology/oncology patients at night. She recently accepted the position of Medical Director of Complex Care to improve the lives of medically fragile children through better coordination of care and access to services. Margaux has been married since 2012 to Gordon, and they have two children. She and her family live in Atlanta, Georgia.

Tomasina Parker-Actlis is an Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology and Director of Obstetrical Anesthesia at LSU Health Shreveport/University Health. She and her husband, Philip, celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary in March 2016, and they have two daughters.

Thad Primeaux and his wife, Brandi (MD, 2005), are both pathologists in Lake Charles. They have two children.

Bryan Shelby completed a psychiatry residency and addiction psychiatry fellowship at Yale and a forensic psychiatry fellowship at Albert Einstein in New York City. Since 2012, he has been Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry in the Yale Department of Psychiatry, seeing patients and teaching residents as part of the Connecticut VA. He also has a private practice in Westport, CT. His wife, Vicky is a family practice physician. They have two sons.

Raja Verma and his wife, Tina, live in Frisco, Texas. He is a General Neurologist in at Baylor Regional Medical Center in Plano, Texas.

Jules Walters completed his general surgery residency at LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans and a plastic surgery residency at the University of Texas at Houston. He is board certified in both plastic surgery and general surgery. He has been in private practice at Khoobehi and Associates in New Orleans, Louisiana, since 2014.

Rishi Wadhwa completed his neurosurgery residency in Shreveport in 2013. He then did a spine fellowship at University of California at San Francisco (UCSF), where he stayed on staff and is currently Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery. In his spare time, he serves as a team physician for the 49ers and Raiders. He married Elizabeth in 2012. She completed her pediatric residency at Stanford and is a hematology/oncology fellow at UCSF. They have twin boys.
Spotlight on Philanthropy

Generous gifts from grateful patients, alumni, and friends are vital to LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport. Great things are happening here because of your support!

More than $6.3 million donor dollars were allocated to research in the areas of cancer, cardiovascular and diabetes. Philanthropy often provides the initial funding source for physicians and researchers, allowing them to develop their theories and forge new frontiers.

Donor Gifts Leverage a 10:1 Return

The Idea Grant Program at LSU Health Shreveport’s Feist-Weiller Cancer Center funds the development of new ideas, helping researchers successfully compete for national grants from entities such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) or the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Idea Grants are funded with proceeds from the annual Life Savers Ball. Thank you to all the donors who directly support this event and this very important program.

Donor Dollars Allocated in 2016*

$9,019,051

*Fiscal Year: July 2015 – June 2016

$14.3 million

National Grants

$1.4 million

Local Idea Grants

Impact on Students and Residents

This year your gifts provided the furnishings for new apartments in Monroe that will house up to 36 residents and students completing their clinical rotations at EA Conway.

Above photo: The Max Morelock Student Research Program, funded by Mrs. Jasmine Morelock-Field, allowed medical students to participate in head and neck cancer research this past summer. Students and researchers are pictured with Dr. Chello-Anne Nathan and Dr. Maurice Morelock, the donor’s son.
An Evening for Healers celebrates emergency responders, physicians and healthcare professionals who provide healing care to patients in our area. Proceeds from the event support the Chancellor’s Fund for Excellence, which addresses LSU Health Shreveport’s greatest needs.

**COMMUNITY HEROES**

**Ike Muslow, MD**
Former Dean of the School of Medicine and Founder of LSU Health Sciences Foundation

**Donald Zadeck**
Founding Board Chairman/Chairman Emeritus, LSU Health Sciences Foundation

To become a sponsor, purchase tickets or make a donation, go to lsuhsfoundation.org/healers or contact Lindsay Brown at (318) 861-0855 or lbrown@lsuhsfoundation.org.

**Susan Moffitt**
An Evening for Healers 2017 Chairperson

“I know, first-hand how important it is to have an institution like LSU Health Shreveport in our community. LSU brings internationally known physicians and researchers, within our reach.”
Join over 200 community members who have discovered the value of Mini Med School. In this four week program, faculty lecture and answer questions on interesting health topics, with demos and hands-on activities.

**UPCOMING EVENTS at LSU HEALTH SHREVEPORT**

Some of the most momentous events in the lives of medical, graduate and allied health students at LSU Health Shreveport are just around the corner.

- **MATCH DAY**—On March 17 at 11 am in the Biomedical Research Institute Atrium, fourth-year medical students will learn which programs they have matched to and where they will spend the next three to seven years of their lives in residency training.

- **WHITE COAT CEREMONY**—On March 25 at 2 pm in Riverview Theater, third-year medical students will receive short white coats and Humanism in Medicine pins, symbolizing that they have completed basic science training and are moving into the patient care aspect of medical school.

- **STUDENT AWARDS**—On May 26 at 1 pm in the Catholic Center, medical students will be honored at the annual Awards Day celebration.

- **PHYSICAL THERAPY AWARDS BANQUET**—Also on May 26 at Eldorado Resort Casino, the School of Allied Health will recognize distinguished Physical Therapy students.

- **COMMENCEMENT**—On May 27 at 10 am in the Centenary Gold Dome, graduating students from all three schools will receive their diplomas.