

Quality For All:

LSU Hospital, E.A. Conway and Huey P. Long All Take Home Awards

All three teaching hospitals of the LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport—LSU Hospital in Shreveport, E.A. Conway Medical Center in Monroe and Huey P. Long Hospital in Pineville—have received prestigious Louisiana Hospital Quality Awards.

The Louisiana Hospital Quality Awards, bestowed by eQ Health Solutions (formerly Louisiana Health Care Review), recognize improved quality of patient care.

Eligibility is limited to hospitals active in clinical quality improvement in one or more of four clinical topics: Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI), Heart Failure (CHF), Community-Acquired Pneumonia (PN), and Surgical Care Improvement (SCIP).

E.A. Conway in Monroe received the highest award, Platinum Level. Platinum level signifies improvement in each of the four clinical areas.

Huey P. Long and LSU Hospital in Shreveport each received the Silver Award, which recognizes gains in two of the four areas.

In order to be considered, a hospital



Representatives from eQ Health Solutions and E.A. Conway (top left), Huey P. Long (top right) and LSU Hospital in Shreveport (bottom) pose with their 2009 Louisiana Hospital Quality Awards.



must achieve at least 25 percent improvement from baseline to re-measurement or maintain a high level of performance greater than 90 percent.

This is the second consecutive year in

which all three hospitals of the LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport have been recognized by eQ Health Solutions with Louisiana Hospital Quality Awards.

Former Medical School Dean Discusses Diversity

The United States has one of the best healthcare systems in the world, but there are significant disparities that prevent everyone from accessing that care equally, Donald Wilson, M.D., Dean Emeritus University of Maryland School of Medicine, noted in a recent Department of Medicine Grand Rounds lecture he delivered at LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport.

Noting that a lack of diversity among practitioners and unequal treatment go hand in hand, Dr. Wilson said it is incumbent upon medical schools nationwide to recruit more minority students and faculty. Dr. Wilson, the first African-American Dean of an accredited non-minority medical school, served from 1991 until 2006 as Dean of the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

In his presentation, he cited instances of minority patients being treated differently based on race or gender. For example, he said, coronary heart disease prevalence and death rates are higher among African

Americans while the frequency of by-pass surgeries in these patients is lower than for white patients.

During Dr. Wilson's tenure as dean at Maryland the number of minority students more than doubled and minority faculty more than tripled. He noted that was made possible through efforts such as the creation of an academic program in minority health and health disparities in education and research, and a strong message from the top that the university is welcoming, committed and fair.

He challenged medical schools to provide a diverse educational experience that will improve sensitivity to patients of all races and genders. This, in turn, enhances the entire medical educational experience as it helps to "bridge the gap" that currently exists in health care.



Donald Wilson, M.D.

Copping Award Honors Excellence in Teaching

School of Medicine faculty members Joan Blondin, M.D., Professor, Department of Medicine, and Tammy Dugas, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience, were

honored at the 2010 spring commencement ceremonies as recipients of the institution's highest teaching award, the Allen A. Copping Excellence in Teaching Awards.

The prestigious Copping awards are presented during spring commencement to faculty members from the School of Medicine in Shreveport, one each from the basic and clinical sciences departments.

The School of Allied Health Professions presents the Copping Award to one faculty member during its August graduation.

The Copping Awards are named in honor of former longtime Chancellor of what was then the LSU Medical Center and later the LSU System

president, Allen Copping, D.D.S.

Dr. Copping engineered the transfer of the former state charity hospital named Confederate Memorial Medical Center to the School of Medicine in Shreveport as the state's first university teaching hospital, today named the LSU Hospital in Shreveport.

After serving as Chancellor of the LSU Medical Center, he went on to serve for 15 years as the LSU System President. Dr. Copping established the award to recognize faculty who are excellent teachers, have demonstrated a life-long quest for discovery and inspire their students. Nominations for the winners come from both students and faculty colleagues.

Nominators cited Dr. Blondin, a faculty member since 1996, for the way in which she uses every opportunity to mold students and young residents into both successful clinical physicians and responsible citizens.

Dr. Dugas, a faculty member since 2001, was praised in nominations for her enthusiasm in teaching, her ability to make difficult concepts understandable for students, and her ability to bring her subject to life.



Joan Blondin, M.D.



Tammy Dugas, Ph.D.

Grant to Support BioStart Program

A federal grant totaling nearly \$1.3 million over five years has been awarded to LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport to fund an innovative internship program called BioStart that pairs LSUHSC-S faculty scientists with seniors from the Biotechnology Magnet Academy at Southwood High School.

It is the first Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) in Louisiana. Nationally there are approximately 80 such grants, which are funded by the National Institutes of Health/National Center for Research Resources (NCRR).

SEPA was created to encourage biomedical and/or behavioral scientists to work as partners with educators, media experts, and community leaders on projects that improve student understanding of the health sciences in K-12 education, and increase the public's understanding of biomedical science. Heather Kleiner-Hancock, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience, serves as Principal Investigator for the grant.

The BioStart Internship program grew out of Southwood's Biotechnology Magnet Academy. The Biomedical Research Foundation of Northwest Louisiana, which is affiliated with LSUHSC-S, raised funds for BioStart's pilot year in 2009 from more than 40 individuals, corporations and foundations.

The BioStart Internship program has two primary goals. One is to increase among high school students and their parents an understanding of the link between basic science discoveries and clinical research. The second addresses the need to increase the quality and quantity of area graduates in the medical, biotechnology and life science fields by encouraging these students to pursue educational experiences will prepare them to participate in the regional workforce as medical professionals, research scientists, teachers and technicians.

New Faculty

Jacob Samson, M.D., Assistant Professor, Anesthesiology

Chancellor's Corner

Each year the LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport impacts the lives of hundreds of thousands of patients in very positive ways. As June 6th is National Cancer Survivor's Day, I'd like to take this opportunity to discuss our efforts in the fight against cancer.



Under the leadership of Jonathan Glass, MD, the dedicated team of physicians, nurses and other staff of the Feist-Weiller Cancer Center perform miracles every day at Louisiana's preeminent cancer center. Many of their patients have overcome incredible odds to beat what was once considered an unbeatable disease, and while their determination played a significant role in their conquering cancer, a great deal of credit is due to the phenomenal team at the Feist-Weiller Cancer Center.

Many people benefit from Feist-Weiller researchers who work behind the scenes to make the next groundbreaking discovery in the arena of cancer treatment. The care, the education and research that takes place in the Feist-Weiller Cancer Center is superb and I want to thank the dedicated faculty and staff for all they do.

Before closing, I would like to mention that a forthcoming statement will be addressing some core values and principles that we need to keep in mind as members of the Health Sciences Center team. Please note that the statement will address diversity, ethics, confidentiality, transparency, and the commitment to change. It is my hope that faculty, staff and students will take the time to read this letter in the context of their activities here at the Health Sciences Center. It will be distributed by way of e-mail and other means. Thank you.

Robert A. Barish M.D.

Humanism In Medicine

Jennifer Kelley, a member of the Class of 2010, and long-time faculty member Steven Levine, M.D., Professor of Medicine, are the 2010 winners of the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award for the School of Medicine in Shreveport.

This annual national award was established to honor both a faculty member and a graduating medical student.

Approximately 75 of the accredited 130 medical schools across the United States present the Tow Humanism awards each year.

Dr. Kelley, who graduated May 29, will remain in Shreveport to enter her residency in Medicine - Pediatrics at LSUHSC-S on July 1.

Nominators praised Dr. Kelley as a compassionate and conscientious clinician.

Dr. Levine, Chief of the Section of Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases drew to accolades for teaching and for his dedication as a physician.

Nominators noted Dr. Levine's more than twenty years of commitment to selfless patient-centered care and stressed his ever-present caring attitude toward patients and their families. These attributes have consistently drawn glowing reports and admiration from students, residents, fellows and faculty, making Dr. Levine a true example of the humanistic physician.



Steven Levine, M.D.



Jennifer Kelley, M.D.

“What’s Up Doc?” Raises Funds and Awareness

The 2010 LSU Health Sciences Foundation’s annual fundraiser, “What’s Up Doc?”, this year drew more guests, filled more tables and showcased more LSUHSC-S faculty members than ever before while raising \$125,000 in funds for Foundation operations.

Sponsors, guests, and faculty browsed the silent auction before sitting down to dinner at Diamond Jack’s Casino and Resort.

Over dinner, the LSUHSC-S “doc” at each table conversed with his dinner partners about his or her area of expertise and recent developments in that field.

The Foundation’s consistently successful signature event, “What’s Up Doc?” has raised awareness of the LSU Health Sciences Center and its exceptional faculty for more than a decade.

The LSU Health Sciences Foundation would like to recognize the following sponsors for their support of “What’s Up Doc?” and the LSU Health Sciences Center: Chesapeake Energy; JPMorgan Chase; O’Brien Energy Company; SRP Environmental, LLC; Vantage Health Plan, Inc.; Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana; and, as always, a special thanks to the title sponsor, Moffitt Volkswagen, Porsche, Audi and Mazda.

LSUHSC-S Recognized by Animal Care Organization

The LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport was recently recognized by the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW) for the institution’s 23 years of support of the organization. SCAW is composed of professionals dedicated to balancing animal welfare and excellence in research. The organization affirms that the potential benefit to humans and animals from research and the cost to the animal models must both be considered. By addressing animal research challenges directly through education and training, SCAW help open discussions and craft solutions as well as promote best practices.

Hugh Price, DVM, Director, Animal Resources said, “SCAW provides a forum that enables those individuals involved in the use of animals in research to hear new ideas, express concerns, form relationships with other individuals similarly involved, and build coalitions of individuals working in these areas.”

Dr. Hutt-Fletcher Named As Senior Editor

Lindsey M. Hutt-Fletcher, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, has been appointed as a senior editor of the *Journal of Virology*.

The *Journal of Virology* is considered the premier journal in the field of virology and has a large international readership. Dr. Hutt-Fletcher’s appointment as a senior editor recognizes her pioneering research in the field of tumor virology.

The ground-breaking work of Dr. Hutt-Fletcher, a leader in the areas of herpes virology, tumor virology, and viral molecular biology for many years, yielded insight into the mechanisms by which Epstein Barr Virus can switch cell types for its replication such that this tumor virus is capable of infecting lymphocytes and epithelial cells. Her research has provided fundamental information that explains the linkage of this virus with several different types of human cancer.

Graduates Earn Degrees During Ceremony

One hundred and sixty-five students from the three professional schools of LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport were recognized during commencement exercises held May 29 at the Centenary College Gold Dome.

One hundred and eleven students received Doctor of Medicine degrees from the School of Medicine. Of those, about half will stay in Louisiana to begin their residency training on July 1.

Forty-one students from the School of Allied Health Professions received bachelor, master or doctoral degrees in various disciplines. Thirteen students graduated from the School of Graduate Studies.

Keynote commencement speaker was pre-eminent orthopaedic surgeon and Homer native, James Andrews, M.D. Dr. Andrews is widely considered one of the foremost surgeons in the United States for knee, elbow, and shoulder injuries.

Microbiology and Immunology Faculty Win Grants

The three faculty members of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology have competed successfully for grants awarded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to support their research. Their combined grant totals are about \$1 million.

Traci L. Testerman, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, received a two-year research grant for \$396,365 to support her research on the growth requirements and mechanism of pathogenesis of *Helicobacter pylori*. This bacterium is a very important human pathogen associated with diseases including gastritis, peptic ulcers, gastric adenocarcinoma, and gastric mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue (MALT) B-cell lymphomas.

Matthew D. Woolard, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, was awarded a two-year grant totaling \$270,000 that will allow him expand his research into the mechanism by which *Francisella tularensis* evades the immune system. *Francisella tularensis* is an intracellular pathogen that can survive for long periods in white blood cells known as macrophages. The pathogen is a potential bioweapon. Dr. Woolard’s work seeks to gain insight into the interactions of this organism and the host immune system.

Stephanie M. Karst, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, has won a two-year grant for \$402,875 to support ongoing research on the interaction of Norovirus with the immune system.

Norovirus is a major cause of diarrheal disease syndrome, and basic aspects as to why infection often fails to help patients develop immunity to future exposures are not understood. Dr. Karst has developed an animal model to address this basic and important question. Her work will provide information required for development of a future vaccine.

E.A. Conway Employee of the Month



Bradley Waldrop

Bradley Waldrop was recognized as the E.A. Conway Medical Center Employee of the Month for May.

Mr. Waldrop is a Custodian in the Environmental Services Department.

He graduated from Caldwell High School in 1998. His nominator noted that he is “kind, very conscientious, and reliable.”

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Current and past issues of “*On the Inside*” can be viewed on the LSUHSC-S web site at <http://www.lsuhschshreveport.edu> > More News > *On the Inside*

Visit www.LSUHSCShreveport.edu 24/7 for the latest news postings.

Recognitions and Presentations

◆ **Frederick Stucker, M.D.**, Professor and Head of the Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery, recently returned from St. Petersburg, Russia where he delivered a presentation on Pediatric Nasal Surgery at the International Association of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery, of which he is a founding member.



Dr. Stucker led the first medical delegation to the interior of Russia in 1991 while he was the president of the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and founder of the group “Face to Face”.

At that time the group performed more than 60 cleft lip and palate procedures on disabled Russian children.

◆ The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) has selected **Michael Madden, M.D.**, Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine, as one of five finalists in the AAFP 2011 Family Physician of the Year competition. A panel of national judges will review entries of the finalists for the award which will be presented at the AAFP’s annual conference in late September.



Dr. Madden is the former program director of the Family Practice clinic in Alexandria.

◆ **John P. Rowell, RN, MSN, CCRC**, Director of the Clinical Trials Office, spoke at the recent Association of Clinical Research Professionals’ (ACRP) Annual Conference in Tampa. Mr. Rowell presented two educational sessions at this conference.



The first was entitled “Why and How Academia Should Be Running Clinical Trials.” That was followed by a workshop entitled “Tools That Optimize Site Performance and GCP Compliance”.

This is the 10th year that Mr. Rowell has represented LSUHSC-S at ACRP.

Immediately after the event, Mr. Rowell traveled to the University of Saskatchewan where he presented a workshop on protocol feasibility, trial budgets, and research tools.

◆ **Stephen M. Bonsib, M.D.**, Professor and Head of the Department of Pathology, presented two invited lectures at the American Society of Clinical Pathology Resident In-Service Review course held recently at Northern Illinois University.



His presentations included a comprehensive lecture on renal pathology, followed by an interactive “quiz bowl” to reinforce content from the lecture. Approximately 110 pathology residents attended the program which serves as a review in preparation for taking the Anatomic and Clinical Pathology Board Examination.

◆ Five residents and fellows from the Department of Pathology made a total of 11 presentations at the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

Amy Bhalodia, M.D., made an oral presentation entitled “Intravenous dissection; the optimum strategy for staging renal cell carcinoma”; **Stephen M. Bonsib, M.D.**, Professor and Head of the Department of Pathology, served as senior author. **Iris Wang, M.D.**, presented “Routine immunohistochemistry for *H. pylori* in gastric biopsy is neither cost effective nor necessary”; **Jaiyeola Thomas, M.D.**, Associate Professor, Department of Pathology, was senior author. Drs. Bhalodia and Wang, in addition to **Brandi Kelly, M.D.**, **Tanya Varma, M.D.**, and **Delecia LaFrance, M.D.**, also made poster presentations at the meeting.

◆ **Anita Kablinger, M.D.**, Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Director, Psychopharmacology Research Center, recently served on a panel of experts as part of a series of article in the *Wall Street Journal* focusing on the need for increased clinical trials research.



Dr. Kablinger provided her insight as to questions such as “What is the largest barrier to increasing patient participation?”, “How can we best ensure the safety and cost effectiveness of developing medical products?”, and “What is the biggest misconception about clinical research?”

Human Resources Corner

The beginning of another fiscal year approaches making June a busy month in Human Resources. Here are a few tips for supervisors and employees alike.

- June Orientation Dates for New Employees and Student Workers: New Employee Orientation dates are June 7 and June 21 – 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the medical school auditorium (Room 1-400). Student Worker Orientation dates are June 14 and June 28 – 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. in the medical school auditorium, (Room 1-400).
- Student Worker Requirements: Eligibility for employment as a Student Worker requires the individual be at least sixteen (16) years of age and enrolled in an accredited high school, junior college, college or university, or vocational-technical school in a full-time status. Application must be signed and school seal affixed to verify applicant’s status as a full-time student. More information about Student Worker vacancies and pre-employment requirements can be found on the Human Resources website, or by contacting the Staffing Office (318-675-5606).
- PERs: ATTENTION BUSINESS MANAGERS The deadline for submitting PER-3s to change the source of funding retroactive to fiscal year 2009-2010 (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010) is Friday June 25, 2010. All PERs must be received in the HRM Budget office by close of business on the 25th for timely processing. For assistance with PER’s, contact your Human Resources Office.
- Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA): FMLA paperwork can now be found on the Human Resources website. On the main LSUHSC Shreveport website (<http://www.lsuhschshreveport.edu/>), click on the link to the employee site, Inside myHSC (<http://myhsc.lsuhschshreveport.edu/>) > HR tab > Employee Relations > FMLA. Completed paperwork must be returned within the time limit given on the website to Jean Brown, Human Resource Management.
- CPTP for 2010 – 2011:

The schedule for CPTP classes to be taught at LSUHSC Shreveport beginning September 2010 will be available this summer. Check email and watch for an announcement via E-Announcements and the Daily News on inside myHSC early in August. This will include classes for Civil Service Minimum Supervisory Training groups as well as for non-supervisors and managers.