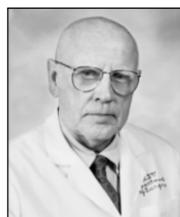




ON THE INSIDE

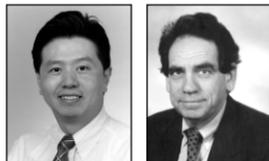
LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport



Chancellor's Corner

Jonathan Glass, M.D., has been appointed as the first incumbent of the Carroll Feist Endowed Chair for the study of cancer. The Feist Chair in Cancer makes the fourth endowed chair to be filled. The first was the Willis-Knighton Chair in Molecular Biology held by Dennis J. O'Callaghan, Ph.D. The second was the Gamble Chair in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery held by Ghali E. Ghali, D.D.S., M.D. The third was the Schumpert Chair in Neurobiology held by John Zhang, Ph.D.

We also have two other funded and approved endowed chairs, which are not yet filled. One is the Malcolm Feist Chair in Diabetes, and the other is The E. Earle Dilworth Chair in Obstetrics and Gynecology. I hope to see these filled in the coming year with scholars as distinguished as those already present on the campus.



Dennis O'Callaghan, Ph.D. (top left), Ghali E. Ghali, D.D.S., M.D. (top right), John Zhang, Ph.D. (lower left), and Jonathan Glass, M.D. (lower right).

Construction is beginning on the clinical research center for gene therapy on 3-G and the new Ambulatory Care Center.

John C. McDonald

Dr. Li Appointed to Lead Louisiana Cancer Liaison Program

Benjamin Li, M.D., FACS, Associate Professor of Surgery and Chief of Surgical Oncology, has been appointed to serve as the Cancer Liaison Physician to the American College of Surgeons for the State of Louisiana.

Currently he serves as LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport Cancer Program Liaison. In that position, Dr. Li is responsible for providing leadership and direction to establish, maintain and support our facilities cancer program with the criteria set by the American College of Surgeons.

Established in 1963, the Cancer Liaison Program of the Commission on Cancer was developed as a grassroots network of physician volunteers willing to manage clinically related cancer activities in their local institutions and surrounding communities.

A state chair serves as the main contact person within his/her state for information about the programs and activities of the Commission on Cancer.

The LSUHSC-S cancer committee recommended Dr. Li for the position based upon his strong commitment to the success of the LSUHSC-S cancer program and quality of care provided to patients with cancer. ■

Editor's note: The following anonymous letter was received and addressed to the Doctors of LSU Health Sciences Center.

I do not know the names of the people involved in saving the life of my son's friend. But I want you all to know how grateful we are for what you did. She has always been a fun, humorous young woman and to hear her laugh again is truly a blessing.

My faith was strengthened because I truly believe God works through us. And it is people like you that give your all for strangers.

I wish you the best. Thank you.

New Outpatient Ambulatory Care Building Moves Ahead

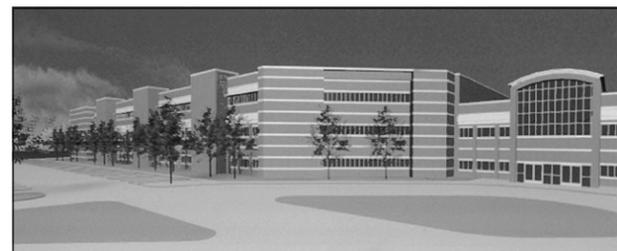
After more than a decade, ground was broken last month on the outpatient Ambulatory Care building, a \$23,395,000 project that will allow LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport to consolidate clinic services as well as free up space in LSU Hospital for much needed expansion of clinical services.

The Ambulatory Care building, approximately 160,000 gross square feet, will be constructed adjacent to the Women's and Children's Center on the northwest corner of Kings Highway and Linwood Avenue.

Completion will take 24 months.

"We were very pleased with the bids on the Ambulatory Care building," according to Charles Robinson, Director of Physical Plant and Facility Planning. "We came in under budget at approximately \$17.2 million," he said. Plans are to use the remainder of the \$23.4 million to equip the clinic building.

Renovation of the vacated space in the hospital will permit expansion of the Clinical Laboratories, Diagnostic Radiology and the Emergency Care Center, all functioning in inadequate space.



Architect's rendering of Ambulatory Care building

"The aesthetics and environment of the new Ambulatory Care building will be a tremendous improvement over the existing facility," said Joe Miciotto, Hospital Administrator. "The outpatient facilities that are presently being used were designed to accommodate just over 100,000 patients. We now have in excess of 400,000 outpatient visits each year. This building will satisfy critical needs."

The new Ambulatory Care building will enable LSU Hospital in Shreveport to better fulfill its mission of providing direct patient care in a teaching environment unique in the Ark-La-Tex. ■

International Competition Pays Off for Three SMART Students

The Science and Medicine Academic Research Training Program (S.M.A.R.T.) of LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport continues to prove its value in the scientific development of Bossier and Caddo Parish high school students, most recently in dollars and cents.

This May, three of this year's ten SMART Program students qualified to compete in the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) held in Louisville, Kentucky. The Intel ISEF is the world's largest pre-college celebration of science that brings together over 1,200 students from 40 nations to compete for scholarships, tuition grants, and internships.

Rebecca McGaha, 17, Caddo Parish Magnet High School, was awarded first place in the Medicine and Health Category. Her research, "Regulation of Tumor Angiogenesis and Apoptosis via Suppression of the Translation Initiation Factor eIF4E in Prostate Cancer," earned her a \$4,000 scholarship as well as an \$8,000 scholarship from the US Navy and admission to the University of Louisville's M.D./Ph.D. program with an \$18,000 stipend for a six-year period.

Her faculty mentor at LSUSHC-S is Jill Williams, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Urology.

Two other SMART students, Ryan Bienvenu, 18, and Benjamin Scruggs, 18, both of Caddo Parish Magnet High School, received second place in the team category for their research "Bioengineering of an Artificial Blood Vessel." They were awarded \$1,500 each in scholarship awards and \$500 each from Sigma Chi Fraternity.

Kevin McCarthy, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Pathology, is their faculty mentor.

Ryan and Ben were also regional finalists in the Siemens Westinghouse Science Competition held last fall. Rebecca was a semi-finalist in both the Siemens Westinghouse Science Competition and the Intel Science Talent Search. Rebecca and Ben were also among the top five presenters at the Louisiana Junior Science and Humanities Symposium in January.

All ten students involved in the 2001-2002 LSUHSC-S SMART program will be attending colleges/universities this fall and studying some subject in the field of science. Five will be attending Centenary College; one will attend Mississippi State University; one will attend Georgia Institute of Technology; one will attend Washington University in St. Louis; one will attend Vanderbilt University; and one will attend Rhodes College. Four of the SMART students will continue to work in LSUHSC-S laboratories this summer.

The Biomedical Research Foundation helped to establish the SMART program and provides operating support through gifts from individuals, corporations and foundations. ■

Bringing Pets Into Hospital Benefits Patients

There is something about a dog's friendly welcome and the special bond that humans develop with a non-threatening pet. Hospital patients often find a visit from a friendly animal especially comforting.

Studies have shown that animals can help people feel less lonely and less depressed. An animal visit can offer patients entertainment or a welcome distraction from pain and infirmity.

The Children's Hospital of LSUHSC-S recently established a pet visitation and therapy program. Certified Pet Therapy Dogs visit every 1 to 2 weeks and are escorted to each pediatric patient's room. According to Tamela Blocker, Pediatric Child Life Specialist, pet therapy is a wonderful way to heal and help. "It seems everyone is entertained by animal visits in some way," she said. "Most patients have reported that the animal visits are the highlight of their day."

The Department of Psychiatry at LSUHSC-S also uses Pet Therapy and was the first to use pet therapy in the institution. In situations that are depressing or institutional, the presence of the animals serves to brighten the atmosphere, increasing amusement, laughter, and play.

In some cases, having an animal to hold, hug, and touch can benefit patients who would otherwise have no other positive, appropriate physical contact. The positive distractions may help to decrease feelings of isolation or alienation.

Dogs have been used in animal-assisted therapy programs conducted in diverse health care settings, including intensive care, long term care facilities and children's units. ■



Mariah Williams (left) and Charles Bostick (right), both patients at the Children's Hospital of LSUHSC-S, enjoy their visit with the therapy dogs.

On the Inside is published monthly by the Office of Information Services for employees, students and friends of the LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport. Please contact Jessica Thompson, editor, at 318-675-5408 or jthomp13@lsuhsc.edu to submit information, comments or suggestions.

Current and past issues of "On the Inside" can be viewed on the LSUHSC-S web site at <http://www.sh.lsuhscc.edu/our.html>.

LSU Health Sciences Center
SHREVEPORT

Diabetic Limb and Wound Care Clinic Set to Open at LSUHSC-S

LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, a major advocate for better health care for diabetics in North Louisiana, will open a Diabetic Limb and Wound Care Clinic in July, giving diabetes patients access to the most advanced diabetes treatment and disease management techniques.

John C. McDonald, M.D., Chancellor and Dean of LSUHSC-S, strongly supports LSUHSC-S taking the lead to address the increasing number of diabetics in this region.

"We are working diligently to fill the Malcolm W. Feist Endowed Chair and to develop the proposed Diabetes Center of Excellence," said Chancellor McDonald.

He is convinced that the Diabetic Limb and Wound Care Clinic at the hospital will fill a void in diabetes care in North Louisiana. "The new Diabetic Limb and Wound Care Clinic will expand the capabilities to see more patients and manage these patients' needs," he said.

A driving force behind the new clinic is Marshall Cunningham, M.D., Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery and Chief of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at LSUHSC-S. The number of diabetics admitted in the hospital since 1990 has doubled, he notes.

"Diabetics account for about 60% of all non-traumatic amputations each year," he said. "A multidisciplinary team approach—what I call a 'one stop shop'—is being developed to provide new pathways of care strictly devoted to diabetic patients."

LSUHSC-S already has a Diabetes Foot Clinic. Unfortunately, the clinic does not have sufficient space for the growing volume of diabetic patients.

Diabetes is a disease in which the body does not produce or properly use insulin. Insulin is a hormone needed to convert sugar, starches and other food into energy. Diabetes can cause devastating complications that compromise the health of the diabetic patient, including heart disease, blindness, kidney failure, and lower-extremity amputations.

The good news is that diabetes can be controlled through a combination of patient attentiveness and care and doctor management. Diabetics need patient education to learn how to get their blood glucose levels to as close to normal as possible as well as information about maintaining proper weight, exercise and diet.

The clinic will be open five days a week, eight hours a day. "By having this dedicated clinic, patients will be able to attend to most of the physical therapy treatment in the clinic that day as opposed to having patients rescheduled for another day which would delay the whole healing process," said Joseph McCulloch, Ph.D., Executive Associate Dean for the School of Allied Health Professions.

The clinic will consist of a team of specialists and provide expertise in the areas of routine diabetic foot exam, diabetic wound healing, surgery to manage infections, reconstructive surgery, prescription of orthotics, diabetic nutrition.

Diabetes is a major health problem in this country; its incidence is increasing 3% per year. 17 million Americans have diabetes, and 5.9 million of them are undiagnosed, according to the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. In Northwest Louisiana, there are approximately 50,000 diabetics. ■

Healthy Men Wanted for SELECT!

Selenium and Vitamin E Cancer Prevention Trial

You are invited to participate in an important clinical research trial designed to prevent prostate cancer.

You must be 55 years of age or older (50 or older if African American) and in general good health.

Call **675-6440** for more information.

Correction

Paul Matthews, D.O., Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, is a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, not an M.D. as reported in May's *On the Inside*.

Dr. Zhang Named Schumpert Endowed Chair in Neurosciences

Neuroscience research at LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport received a major boost this year with the arrival of John H. Zhang, M.D., Ph.D., to fill the Schumpert Endowed Chair in Neurosciences.

Dr. Zhang, 46, joined the Department of Neurosurgery as Professor and Director of Neuroscience Research in January. He holds joint appointments as Professor of Molecular and Cellular Physiology and Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

Dr. Zhang will promote neuroscience research within LSUHSC-S, using the collective strengths of existing neuroscience programs to target clinical problems.

"One of the top priorities is to promote more stroke and cerebrovascular research in neurology, neurosurgery, and psychiatry in clinical and basic research and neuroimaging," Dr. Zhang said. "Other CNS disorders will be studied as well, including spinal cord problems and neurodegenerative diseases."

Since joining the faculty at LSUHSC-S, Dr. Zhang has taken numerous steps towards strengthening and enhancing research in the Department of Neurosurgery. This has included establishing a team of postdoctoral research fellows and research associates, as well as the conversion of several labs on the 6th floor of the BRI to research labs equipped to support animal surgery and molecular biology experiments.

Future plans involve the dedication of two additional labs to neurosurgery research, the establishment of a neurosurgery brain bank, and the use of gene array technology to assist in diagnosis and offer guidance for clinical treatment.

Anil Nanda M.D., FACS, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery, said that the addition of Dr. Zhang to the neurosurgery faculty will greatly enhance the scope of the department on a clinical level as well as on a research level.

"We are extremely pleased and honored to have Dr.

Zhang join our faculty as the Schumpert Endowed Chair in Neurosciences," Dr. Nanda said. "Dr. Zhang's research has the potential to shed critical light on treatments for stroke and cerebrovascular disease, and his bench to bedside approach allows clinical application of his work to directly benefit patients."

Earning his M.D. prior to a residency in neurology at Chongqing University of Medical Sciences in Chongqing, China, Dr. Zhang pursued graduate studies at Chongqing and the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada. There he earned his Ph.D. in experimental surgery, which he followed with a postdoctoral fellowship at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada and research in neurosurgery at the University of Chicago in Illinois. He has special interest in cerebral vasospasm after subarachnoid hemorrhage. The tools used in his studies include molecular biology, histology, gene expression, gene therapy, and animal models.

Dr. Zhang has been actively involved in the research of cerebral vascular diseases and brings to LSUHSC-S a variety of projects in ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke, neonatal hypoxia/ischemia, and a number of AHA and NIH-funded grants.

Recently he was awarded a grant of more than \$1 million by the National Institutes of Health to study new therapies for the treatment of vasospasm.

In addition to the clinical application of his research, Dr. Zhang focuses his attention on the educational and recruiting potential his research can provide.

"A good research division will not only support clinical service for which we are a leader in the state, but will play a crucial role in the education and training of our residents," Dr. Zhang said. "Such a division can also serve as an attraction for recruiting faculty or clinical fellows, will offer an environment for independent clinical research, and will enhance the reputation of the department for attracting patients." ■

M Lot North Closure Notice

M Lot north will no longer be available for parking due to the construction of the Ambulatory Care Clinic. All individuals that park in this lot will be directed to M Lot South and the Chevylard lot, located on Linwood Avenue two blocks north of the corner of Kings Highway and Linwood Avenue (which will be the new M Lot North) during regular business hours. Employees that are assigned to M Lot also have night and weekend access to parking lots closer to the hospital. All cards are already programmed for access to the respective parking lots.

M Lot South will continue to have shuttle service from 4:15 a.m. to midnight and Chevylard will continue to have shuttle service from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Students and employees that are assigned to M Lot and are on campus during regular business hours are encouraged to park in the Chevylard lot. Those that are on campus past 6:00 p.m. must plan to park in M Lot South in order to have shuttle services to and from campus.

We apologize for the inconvenience. ■

Congratulations to...

Todd Thoma, M.D., Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine. He has been selected to receive the Award for Public Service from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) at the Lifesavers National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities in Lake Buena Vista, Florida on June 11, 2002.

Dr. Thoma will be honored by the NHTSA for his dedication to public education about use of seat belts to avoid severe injuries in motor vehicle accidents. His efforts are recognized as being instrumental in helping to save lives and prevent needless injury. In addition, he has provided aid to those who have suffered in traffic crashes.

As Medical Director of the Emergency Care Center, Dr. Thoma has taken his campaign for use of seat belts across the nation, speaking to high school students as well as professional groups about how seat belts can save lives and prevent serious injuries.

Kevin J. McCarthy, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pathology, was nominated to serve as a member of the Research Grant Review Panel of the American Diabetes Association for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2002, and extending through June 2005.

The Research Grant Review Panel conducts objective, scientific peer review of grant applications, as well as refers suggested changes in review procedures and grant policy to the Research Policy Committee. ■

Medical Students Work to Offer Camp to Special Kids

Most children experience the adventures of a summer camp, but children with mental and physical disabilities often miss out on this enriching experience because their daily challenges and special needs can't be accommodated by many camps.

Camp Tiger, a summer day camp program designed just for those special children, is the answer offered by medical students at LSU School of Medicine in Shreveport. This year camp was held May 28th to May 31st.

A four-day camp held each summer for mentally and physically disabled children between the ages 5 and 14, Camp Tiger was founded at LSUHSC in New Orleans in 1985. Since its inception, it has been planned solely by medical student volunteers.

The first-year medical students at the LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport bring local children with various disabilities together to enjoy camp activities.

"We have all worked very hard during our first year of medical school to learn basic sciences and clinical exam skills. Now as this year draws to a close, it seems appropriate that we spend some time giving back to the community," said med student Amy Ashford, Camp Tiger Co-Chair.

Attendance to the free camp is first-come, first-served. As each child is accepted, a student/counselor is assigned to work just with that camper.

The campers spent their days visiting places such as Sci-Port Discovery Center, Walter B. Jacobs Nature Park, Chuck E. Cheese, and Hot Wheels Skating. There's even time for pet therapy dogs and pony rides.

In addition to the pleasures of a summer camp, the children (and their parents) feel safe knowing that any special needs are met.

"Camp Tiger offers the children a chance to interact with other kids that face some of the same daily challenges as they do, but it also offers my classmates the opportunity to meet some of these exceptional children and learn from what they have to teach," said Ms. Ashford. ■

New Faculty, April 2002

Manish Dhawan, M.D., Instructor in Medicine
Gwendolyn George, RN, NNP, Instructor-Nurse Practitioner
(E.A. Conway)

William King, M.D., Assistant Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology
Cherukupally Reddy, M.D., Assistant Professor in Family Medicine
Bipin Shah, M.D., Assistant Professor in Anesthesiology