

ONTHE

"This medical center has come a

years, and this grant award lets us

know we're doing things right."

long way in the last nine or 10

LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport



Within the past month, Dr. colleagues in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology grant ever awarded to this

This National Institutes of

It's called a COBRE grant which stands for Center Of Biomedical Research Excellence. The purpose of this prestigious award is to study several aspects of Virology and to train a number of highly qualified young virologists. Congratulations to all involved for

Department Heads.

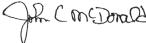
Mrs. Marianne Comegys has accepted the appointment as Head Librarian. Mrs. Comegys has held a senior appointment in the Medical School Library for several years, and has held a number of positions in national organizations of librarians. A search committee evaluated a variety of candidates for this position and found none that they thought better qualified and therefore recommended her appointment. Congratulations to Mrs. Comegys.

Dr. Thomas Arnold has accepted the appointment department well and has obtained approval to begin a

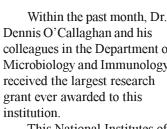
a reception and the awarding of years of service pins.

whose service extends for 20,25, 30, 35 years and longer.

This year we recognized Dr. John Hardin who has been on our staff for 45 years. What a blessing these people have been to the LSUHSC-S.



Chancellor's Corner



Health grant is for \$8.4 million over a five-year period.

this accomplishment.

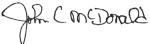
I wish to announce the appointment of two new

as Head of the Department of Emergency Medicine. Dr. Arnold is a graduate of this medical school. He had full training in Emergency Medicine elsewhere, and returned to join our faculty. He has served diligently here for several years. About two years ago he accepted the appointment as interim Chair of the Department. During this past two years he has led the residency in Emergency Medicine which will officially open in July 2004. Congratulations to Dr. Arnold.

And finally, late last month the annual affair recognizing long term employees occurred.

On the afternoon of Oct. 23, those employees who have served for 5, 10, and 15 years were recognized with

That evening, a banquet was held to honor those



Allergy and Immunology **Accreditation Continues**



Sami Bahna

The Accreditation Council for **Graduate Medical Education** continued the full accreditation of the LSUHSC-S Allergy and Immunology fellowship training program, without any citations.

Since March 2002, the program has been directed by Sami Bahna, M.D., Dr.P.H., Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine, who since 1978 has directed three other successful

programs at LSUHSC-New Orleans, the Cleveland Clinic, and the University of South Florida/All Children's Hospital.

Dr. Bahna made several changes that were welcomed by the ACGME and the Allergy and Immunology Residency Review Committee, including the independence of the program. Previously, the program was required to supplement the fellows' training by a 6-month rotation at Tulane Medical School in New Orleans.

The LSUHSC-S program is approved for four fellows, and is one of only 70 accredited programs nationwide.

New Faculty

Amy Warren, Instructor, Physician Assistant Program Richa Dhawan, M.D., Assistant Professor, Medicine David Gordon, M.D., Assistant Professor, Surgery

Grant Creates Opportunity For Teaching and Research

The LSU Health Sciences Center-Shreveport Department of Microbiology and Immunology has won a five-year \$8.4 million federal research grant that not only will fund research on viruses but also create a program to train young scientists of exceptional promise.

It is the largest single award in LSUHSC-S history.

The National Institutes of Health notified officials at LSUHSC-S that the Department of Microbiology and Immunology will receive \$8,429,651 to create a Center for Biomedical Research Excellence—a so-called COBRE grant—designated as the Center for Molecular and Tumor

The multidisciplinary Center will be led by internationally known virologist Dennis J. O'Callaghan,

Ph.D., Boyd Professor and Willis-Knighton Chair of Molecular Biology who heads the Department of Microbiology and Immunology.

Dr. O'Callaghan said the award is important not only to LSUHSC, but also the community as a whole, "This medical center has come a long way in the last nine or 10 years, and

this grant award lets us know we're doing things right."

Four senior virologists will serve as mentors to four junior level faculty members to develop the LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport's capacity to compete for national funding and to increase the productivity of the junior faculty members' research programs.

> Lindsey Hutt-Fletcher, Ph.D.; Stephen Jennings, Ph.D.; and John Sixbey, M.D.; all Professors in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology also will serve as mentors.

> > The four junior

microbiology faculty members are Katherine Ryman, Ph.D., Assistant Professor; Rona Scott, Ph.D., Instructor; Patrick Smith, Ph.D., Instructor; and Andrew Yurochko, Ph.D., Assistant Professor.

Their research will address the mechanisms of different disease states resulting from viral infections.

The scientists involved in the Center will look at their projects from a molecular level and will work to understand the varied ways by which viruses alter the cell and set off a chain of events that result in disease.

Library Receives Grant to Help Fund Pilot Project

The Medical Library at LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport received one of nine national Outreach Partnership Planning Awards from the National Library of Medicine.

The \$20,000 award will help fund a nine-month pilot project, "The Allendale Family Centered, Community Based Diabetes Reduction Control Project," initiated by Arthur Fort, M.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Family Medicine and Comprehensive Care.

Principal investigator for the grant is Dennis Pernotto, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Head of Integrated Advanced Information Management Systems (IAIMS) and Program Evaluation, Medical Library.

Dr. Pernotto said that the National Library of Medicine intends to develop projects involving strong collaborations with groups, organization and individuals working to improve access to health information and eliminate health disparities among minority under-served and underrepresented populations. To answer this challenge, a multiinstitutional and multi-organizational committee has been formed for this project.

Currently, several members of the Department of Family Medicine, School of Allied Health Professions, Department of Bioinformatics and the Department of Medical Library Science represent LSUHSC-S in developing this grant.

Community-based medicine involving this number of entities presents challenges, according to Dr. Perrnotto. Challenges include developing, testing, and documenting effective communication models between professionals and patients, creating culturally sensitive and medically appropriate education materials, and establishing measurable results. Although this study centers on diabetes, any community-based effort may use the major portion of these

Marianne Comegys, Director of the Library, said that, "This project embodies our expanded role to become an integral part of teaching, patient care, and research."

Children's Center Donation Card Campaign Kicks Off

Are you thinking about what to give loved ones, friends or colleagues this year for the holidays?

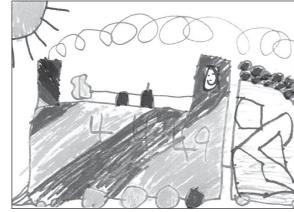
Why not honor them with a gift in their name to the LSU Health Sciences Foundation, Children's Center Fund, and support a worthy cause with your gift.

For each contribution of at least \$10, the Foundation will send you a donation card that you can personalize with your own note.

The inside of each card reads: "A gift has been given in your name to the LSU Health Sciences Foundation, Children's Center Fund, for supporting the educational and therapeutic needs of children in Northwest Louisiana."

Phone orders can be placed by to 318-675-6800 or faxed to 318-675-4783. Charges can be made to most major credit cards.

The donations are being used to support the renovation of a donated building that will house the Children's Center now in the old Linwood Apartments. The newly acquired building is at the corner of Kings Highway and Mansfield Road and was formally owned by Sklar-Phillips.



Artwork for this year's Children's Center Donation Cards

It is in need of about \$300,000 in renovations. The Children's Center of the School of Allied Health

Professions serves several hundred children and their families each year while it supports education and training of students in medicine allied health.

United Way Campaign

The LSUHSC-S annual United Way campaign is underway. All employees should have received a donation card with their October 31, 2003 paycheck.

The theme of this year's campaign is, "From Our Family to Yours."

Last year, LSUHSC-S raised more than \$34,000 for United Way. Our goal this year is \$35,000.

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



Parkinson's Symposium Informs Patients and Family Members

The recent Sixth Annual Lola Eichler Memorial Parkinson's Symposium was attended by more than 100 people with Parkinson's, their families, caregivers, and allied health professionals.

Ron Klein, Ph.D, Assistant Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics presented, "Gene therapy in Parkinson's disease." Bill Ondo, M.D., Associate Professor of Neurology, Baylor College of Medicine, in Houston discussed "What's New in Parkinson's." Richard Zweig, M.D., Associate Professor of Neurology, presented an overview of Parkinson's, the basic science research initiatives and clinical trial studies being conducted here at LSUHSC in Shreveport.

In addition, Trudy Floyd, a Parkinson's patient, provided a personal perspective on Parkinson's and her advocacy role for national funding of Parkinson's research.

The annual event was sponsored by the Parkinson's Disease Resource of Northwest Louisiana. Its goal is to provide education and support to local and regional groups and other programs specifically designed for the Parkinson's patient; to enhance public education and awareness of Parkinson's disease; to support Parkinson's related basic science research; and to support advocacy for national funding of Parkinson's research.



Top: Dr. Bill Ondo and Dr. Richard Zweig at the annual Parkinson's Symposium Bottom: Dr. Ron Klein discusses his presentation

SMART Students Return to LSUHSC-S

Three students who participated in the Science and Medicine Academic Research Training (SMART) program have returned to LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport.

Nathan Alexander, Dana Merrill and Jason Ray are the first students to complete the program and continue training in the medical and research field after college.

Nathan is a first year medical student, Dana works as a Research Associate in Rheumatology, and Jason a Research Associate in Pathology. The SMART program is jointly sponsored by the LSUHSC-S Office of Research and the Biomedical Research Foundation of Northwest Louisiana.

SMART is open to qualified high school seniors interested in pursuing a future in the science.

Applications are sent to Bossier and Caddo Parish public high schools in January to be forwarded to students who qualify.

A maximum of ten students are selected to participate in the program annually.

After a screening and interview process, those chosen spend the summer between 11th and 12th grades working full time in a faculty/mentor lab.

At the beginning of their senior year, they continue to work 10 hours a week in their respective laboratories.

Each SMART Program student is required to submit applications to several nationwide scientific competitions.

In addition, each student presents his/her research to LSUHSC faculty and Bossier Parish and Caddo Parish representatives.

Almost half of the SMART students have attended a Louisiana college or university, and 93% of program participants go on to major in science.

Employees Honored for Service

Long time employees of the LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport were recognized recently for not only their dedication to their jobs, but also their commitment to the institution at the annual employee service awards.

Two events were held October 23, 2003.

Employees with 5, 10, and 15 years of service were honored with a program and reception during the afternoon. Each employee were presented a pin signifying their years of service.

Employees with 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, and 45 years of service were the honored guests at a dinner held at the Shreveport Country Club hosted by Chancellor/Dean John C. McDonald, M.D.

In all, more than 550 employees were recognized during the two events.

 $Special\ recognition\ went\ to\ John\ Hardin,\ M.D.,\ Clinical\ Professor\ of\ Surgery,\ for\ his\ 45\ years\ of\ service.$

No other individual has achieved 45 years of service since the program began back in the early 1980s. \blacksquare

Pathology Faculty Co-Chairs Course

Mary Lowery-Nordberg, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology, co-chaired a course, "Current Topics in Flow Cytometry," at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Pathology.

The course covered the recent advances in flow cytometry, outlined appropriate diagnostic and prognostic uses of the technology, and assisted participants in interpretations from reference laboratories.

The comprehensive course included flow cytometric, molecular and cytogenetic technologies in the workup of hematologic malignancies.

Researcher Selected to Panel

Lindsey M. Hutt-Fletcher, Ph.D., Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, has accepted an invitation to serve as a member of the Experimental Virology Study Section, Center for Scientific Review for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), until June 30, 2007.

Members of NIH Study Sections are selected on the basis of their achievements in their scientific disciplines and the quality of their research, scientific publications, and honors.

As a member of the Study Section, Dr. Hutt-Fletcher will review grant applications made to the NIH and then make recommendations.

Dr. Hutt-Fletcher, who has earned international prominence during her career in the field of virology and virus immunology, came to LSUHSC-S in August.

"It's My Turn" Women's Workshops Continue

The LSU Health Sciences Foundation's "It's My Turn" series continues this month with a workshop on how to manage and understand gene therapy treatment.

We hear and read about the progress being made in treatment through gene therapy. Now you have the opportunity to learn in lay terms about the ability to replace or repair defective genes.

Cherie-Ann Nathan, M.D., Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery, will discuss current gene therapy and research related to head and neck cancer being conducted at LSUHSC-S.

The event is scheduled for Tuesday November 11, 2003 from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Catholic Center 3500 Fairfield Avenue.

The cost is \$10 person.

The workshop is part of an ongoing series developed to educate women on wellness and wealth issues.

Otolaryngology Faculty Presents Posters

Several members of the LSUHSC in Shreveport Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery made presentations at the recent meeting of the American Academy of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery.

Cherie-Ann Nathan, M.D., Assistant Professor, presented a poster, "Growth Inhibitory Effects of Rapamycin in Oral Cavity Squamous Cell Carcinoma."

Fred Stucker, M.D., Professor and Head of the department along with Timothy Lian, M.D., Assistant Professor, presented a poster entitled "Acne Keloidalis Management."

Dr. Stucker, Dr. Nathan and Chief Resident Joanne Pham, M.D., presented a poster on "Vocal Cord Granulomas: Botulinum Toxin may be first in line of treatment."

Dr. Stucker also delivered an invited lecture to those in attendance on "Rhinoplasty Overview," a subject in which Dr. Stucker is recognized internationally.

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 Derek Daniel, editor, at 318-675-5408 or ddani1@lsuhsc.edu to submit information, comments or suggestions

Leaders Discuss Institute

In an effort to better meet the needs of the medically disadvantaged in Northwest Louisiana the LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport Department of Family Medicine and Comprehensive Care has begun working to establish a Community Health Institute. The intent is to network a wide variety of resources dedicated to improving the health of these citizens. The goal of networking is for the whole to be greater than the sum of the parts.

Chronic progressive diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, morbid obesity, and emphysema are becoming epidemic in our community, state and nation. They are predicted to eventually overwhelm our health care system. Persons living in disadvantaged communities have a disproportion number of these diseases and rely on LSUHSC-S for care. Health promoting lifestyles, disease prevention and regular medical care are essential to halting this epidemic. Presently, many LSUHSC-S patients only come for "crisis" care, and typically miss 50% of regularly scheduled visits and rarely follow medical advice.

Arthur Fort, M.D., Professor & Head of the department, says this situation is unacceptable. "We must systematically understand and address the complex conditions in our patients' lives and communities that determine their behavior. We must work with the patients in their communities. We must see through their eyes."

A recent meeting brought together leaders from several area health care resources including dedicated citizens, physicians, and governmental agencies. Their input was sought to help give the institute its direction.

Dr. Nanda Presents at International Conference



Anil Nanda

Anil Nanda M.D., FACS, Professor and Head of the Department of Neurosurgery at LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, was a featured guest lecturer recently at the Annual Conference of the Skull Base Surgery Society of India.

Dr. Nanda presented two invited lectures, "Meningiomas of the Parasellar Region" and "Aneurysms of the Skull Base Region."

The conference, held in Bangalore, India, attracted 300 prominent neurosurgeons from across Asia.

Fellow Chosen as Finalist

Michael Constantinescu, M.D., a cytopathology fellow in the Department of Pathology, was one of 16 finalists for the national Sheard Sanford Pathology Residents Awards Competition among approximately 100 presentations.

The award is given for the best presentation by a trainee at the American Society of Clinical Pathology Meeting.

Dr. Constantinescu's work was "c-kit expression in ovarian fibromas" and was published in the September 2003 issue of the *American Journal of Clinical Pathology*.

Collaborators were residents Joseph J. Ivy, M.D., Obstetrics and Gynecology and Deepti Shukla, M.D., Department of Pathology, faculty collaborators were Guillermo A. Herrera, M.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Pathology and Elba A. Turbat-Herrera, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Dr. Shukla had three poster presentations at the meeting. Topics were "Her-2/neu overexpression and oncogene amplification in breast carcinoma" and "Alterations in cell cycle gene expression in recurrent brain tumors."

Co-authors on these three posters were Marjorie Fowler, M.D., Professor of Pathology; Mary Lowery-Nordberg, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pathology and Pediatrics; and Fleurette Abreo, M.D., Associate Professor of Pathology; Runhua Shi, M.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine; Sakeer Hussain, M.D., Resident, Department of Medicine and Ajay Jawahar, M.D., Instructor, Department of Neurosurgery.

Researcher Wins Honor

Jin Song, M.D., Ph.D., a postdoctoral trainee in the lab of Daniel Keppler, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Cellular Biology and Anatomy, has been awarded an American Association for Cancer Research-Takeda Scholar-in-Training Award for his abstract detailing his work with the gene Cystatin M.

Dr. Song discovered that when Cystatin M is introduced into cancer cells it alters expression of several genes that are important in tumor growth and neovascularization.

Dr. Song presented his work last month at the AACR Special Conference on Cancer Research, New Directions in Angiogenesis Research.