



ON THE INSIDE

LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport



From left, Brandon Garsee, Heidi Birdsall, Juanetz Allen, Jessica Baker and Dennis Wissing, Ph.D. prepare to serve food at Grace Home.

Cardiopulmonary Science Students Aid Grace Home

Cardiopulmonary Science students in the School of Allied Health Professions have taken on a heartwarming volunteer project at Grace Home.

Heidi Birdsall, Jessica Baker and Brandon Garsee, along with other Cardiopulmonary Science students, serve lunch once a month to residents, family visitors, staff and volunteers at the local Hospice.

In February, the second month of their venture, they cooked a casserole, bread, vegetables, and king cake.

Dennis Wissing, Ph.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Clinical Sciences, also participated.

Dr. Wissing mentioned a similar church project to Ms. Birdsall and she decided to enlist students for the project. "We enjoy volunteering and want to help the community," she said.

Juanetz Allen, a volunteer at the facility, says the families really enjoy having the LSUHSC-S students come to Grace Home. ■

Dr. Jennings Gets Grant

Stephen R. Jennings, Ph.D, Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, has been awarded a \$1.125 million five-year National Institutes of Health grant to investigate "The biology and function of anti HSV CD8 T cells."

Dr. Jennings will investigate the role of a specific type (CD8) of lymphocyte in protective immunity to infections with herpes simplex virus. CD8 lymphocytes are very important in controlling virus infections and can acquire the ability to kill herpesvirus infected cells.

Robert Chervenak, Ph.D., Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, is a co-investigator.

A nationally recognized leading viral immunologist, Dr. Jennings has served on many NIH Study Sections and is associate editor of the *Journal of Immunology*. ■

Dr. Berney Chairman-Elect of Southern Section, AFMR

Seth Berney, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, Center of Excellence in Arthritis and Rheumatology, has been elected chairman-elect of the Southern Section of the American Federation of Medical Research (AFMR) which co-sponsors the yearly Southern Regional Meeting in New Orleans.

He will assume the chairmanship in 2004.

Dr. Berney has served as a councilor-at-large in the national organization, which serves as an advocacy group for medical research and a forum for young investigators to present their research.

Dr. Berney is also an associate editor of the *Journal of Investigative Medicine*, the official publication of the federation. ■

LSUHSC-S Trauma Center Maintains Level I Status

The Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) has reviewed the Level I Trauma Center at LSUHSC-S and verified that it meets the stringent standards for Level I designation.

The most recent verification brings to the period of Level I status for the LSUHSC-S Trauma Center to 12 consecutive years that it has been a unique community and regional resource.

Verification recognizes the Trauma Center's dedication to providing optimal care for injured patients. Lou Smith, M.D., is medical director for the Level I Trauma Center at LSUHSC-S.

A Level I Trauma Center is capable of providing total care for every aspect of injury—from prevention through rehabilitation.

Key elements of a Level I Trauma Center include 24-hour, in-house coverage by general surgeons and prompt availability of care specialties that include orthopaedic surgery, neurosurgery, anesthesiology, emergency medicine, radiology, internal medicine and critical care.

Other capabilities include cardiac, hand, pediatric, microvascular surgery and hemodialysis. A multidisciplinary team approach is the basis for the Level I Trauma Center.

The Level I Trauma Center provides leadership in trauma prevention, public education about trauma and continuing education of the trauma team members.

Established by the ACS in 1987, the COT's Verification/Consultation Program for Hospitals promotes the development of trauma centers in which participants provide not only the hospital resources necessary for trauma care, but also the entire spectrum of care to address the needs of all injured patients.

The ACS Committee on Trauma's verification program does not designate trauma centers. Rather, the program provides a confirmation that a trauma center has demonstrated its commitment to providing the highest quality trauma care for all injured patients.

The ACS is a scientific and educational association of surgeons that was founded in 1913 to raise the standards of surgical education and practice and to improve the care of the surgical patient. The College has 59,000 members and it is the largest association of surgeons in the world. ■



Lou Smith, M.D.

Board Recommends Administrative Change for E.A. Conway

LSUHSC-S and E. A. Conway Medical Center in Monroe welcome a proposal by the LSU Board of Supervisors to transfer management of the Monroe public hospital to LSUHSC-S to more fully integrate the two medical centers that have been closely affiliated for more than 20 years.

Officials from both LSUHSC-S and the LSU Health Care Services Division (HCS), the LSU unit which now has operational responsibility for Conway, say they view a merger as the logical "next step" in evolution of the contractual partnership that LSUHSC-S and Conway began in 1978.

"We would welcome having E. A. Conway take its place as a full partner with our Shreveport campus," said Chancellor/Dean John C. McDonald, M.D. "And we appreciate this vote of confidence by the Board of Supervisors.

"If this proposed merger is approved, I want the residents of Northeast Louisiana to know that we intend to work even harder with Conway to improve their healthcare services," Dr. McDonald added.

Patients who need care not available at Conway are transferred to the LSU Hospital in Shreveport.

There are 36 Conway staff physicians who are full-time faculty of the Shreveport medical school, who live in Monroe and who work daily at Conway. These LSU faculty physicians at Conway oversee training of residents, teach medical students and deliver direct patient care in Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Surgery and Ophthalmology. Pathology faculty also are on staff in Conway's clinical and anatomical pathology laboratories.

Under its contractual partnership with LSUHSC-S, Conway has developed a number of model programs such as its Family Practice residency, its telemedicine program for care of prisoner patients, "Partners in Wellness" rural outreach program and the North Louisiana Area Health Education Center (AHEC), an independent program with the goal of encouraging Louisiana youth to become healthcare professionals and serve in rural and other underserved areas of Louisiana.

Legislation to accomplish the recommended transfer is expected to be introduced in the upcoming regular session. ■

Doctors Receive Research, Investigator Awards

V.T. Vachharajani, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine, received the Southern Section of the American Federation for Medical Research's (SAFMR) Young Faculty Award at the group's plenary session held recently in New Orleans.

She presented a paper, "P-Selectin Expression in Septic Obese Mice after Cecal Perforation" for which she received this award.

Three LSUHSC-S Medicine Fellows also received SAFMR Trainee Awards and presented papers at the meeting.

They are Vipul M. Joshi, M.D., Fellow in Rheumatology; R.T. Muldoon, M.D., Ph.D., Fellow in Hematology-Oncology; and Rashid Sharaf, M.D., Fellow in Nephrology.

Dr. Joshi presented "Use of Infliximab in Patient with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus." Dr. Muldoon presented his study to determine the medical decision making concordance of third year hematology/oncology fellows with established practice guidelines. Dr. Sharaf presented "Variability of Access Blood Flow: Pre- and Intra-Dialysis Measurements by Glucose Pump Test." ■

Dr. Bharwani Receives Award

Sulaiman Bharwani, M.D., F.A.A.P., F.A.C.G., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, received the prestigious Young Investigator Award at the recent annual meeting of the Southern Society of Pediatric Research.

The Award Judicial Committee had selected six papers as finalists for competitive presentation at the SSPR Plenary session. The winner of the award was determined by the scientific merit and originality of the research and the clarity of the oral presentation.

Additional criteria included the ability of the finalists to respond to questions and the data analysis in the manuscript. Eligible studies addressed a clinical or basic science problem, either diagnostic or therapeutic, with relevance to the field of pediatrics.

Dr. Bharwani was the first place winner of the Basic Science Young Investigator Award.

He currently heads the Section of Pediatric Gastroenterology. He is a collaborator and team member participating in the NIH Program Project Grant for which Neil Granger, Ph.D., Boyd Professor and Head of the Department of Molecular and Cellular Physiology, is the principal investigator.

Dr. Bharwani's work with Hirohisa Harada, M.D., a post-doctoral Physiology Fellow, and Matthew Grisham, Ph.D., Professor of Physiology, has shown the significant role of estrogen receptor alpha and up regulation of eNOS, a Nitric Oxide (NO) releasing enzyme, in preserving the liver against the injurious effects of ischemia and reperfusion. ■



S. Bharwani, M.D.

Remote Access Available in Medical Library

Faculty, staff and students are often frustrated when they are off campus that they are denied remote access to Internet information resources available to them at work, such as electronic journals and many databases.

To overcome this problem, the LSUHSC-S Medical Library offers faculty and students access through a proxy server.

There is no charge, but an account is required. Contact library staff to have an account set up on the server and to receive instructions on how to configure your web browser to use it. Contact Michael Watson at 55455. ■

Faculty Travel Grants Increased

Faculty travel grants funded by LA EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) have been increased for Louisiana science and engineering faculty in tenure-track but untenured positions to visit federal agency program officers or give an invited plenary or major presentation at regional, national or international meetings, according to the Board of Regents.

The maximum available to visit a federal agency is \$750. If accompanied by a tenured/funded faculty mentor, an additional \$750 is awarded. The maximum available to faculty traveling to give a presentation is \$1,000.

An estimated 50 grants for agency visits and 100 for presentations are expected to be awarded through Dec. 31, 2003.

"Travel Grants for Emerging Faculty" is funded by the Board of Regents and National Science Foundation under the three-year LA EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement award. A Request for Applications that includes details is available online at <http://laregents.org>. ■

Dr. Peterson on CIIM Editorial Board

Kenneth Peterson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, has been appointed to the editorial board of *Current Issues in Intestinal Microbiology (CIIM)*.

Dr. Peterson directs a National Institutes of Health-funded research program on the molecular aspects of *Vibrio cholerae*, the bacterium that causes cholera. He also serves on the editorial board of *Infection and Immunity*, a leading journal in bacteriology.

CIIM is a peer-reviewed, international journal publishing high-quality papers in all areas of intestinal microbiology pertaining to human and other animal systems, including microbial ecology and pathogenic organisms. ■

'What's Up Doc' Slated May 4

Mark your calendars for the "What's Up Doc" event presented by the LSU Health Sciences Foundation to be held Sunday, May 4, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Superior's Steakhouse.

Principal Sponsor for this year's event is Moffitt Volkswagen, Porsche, Audi and Mazda.

This signature event brings together 20-plus faculty members and members of the community in an intimate dinner setting designed to broaden the community's awareness of the distinguished doctors and programs at LSUHSC-S.

This is accomplished by allowing guests to talk with a doctor on a pre-determined topic of interest. Each table consists of the host doctor and eight dinner guests.

Funds raised support the Health Sciences Center in remaining at the forefront of health care advances and maintain its continued excellence in education, patient care and research.

Information and tickets can be obtained from the LSUHS Foundation's office by calling Sherry Sandidge at 675-5174 or 675-5002. Because of limited seating, reservations will be on a first-come, first served basis. Your check is your reservation.

Sponsorship levels of Silver Sponsor, \$2,500; Gold Sponsor, \$5,000; and Table Sponsor, \$1,000 are available along with \$100 individual tickets. A portion of your sponsorship or ticket cost is tax deductible. ■

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

84 Students Enjoy Day With The Doctors

This year's annual *Day With The Doctors* program, sponsored by North Louisiana Area Health Education Center (AHEC), Central Louisiana AHEC and the LSUHSC-S AHEC Program Office drew 84 area high school students to LSUHSC-S in February to learn about medical and allied health careers.

The hospital's Emergency Care Center, Burn Center and NICU, the School of Allied Health Professions, and the Departments of Family Medicine, Radiology and Cellular Biology and Anatomy in the School of Medicine participated.

A new hands-on workshop on suturing was especially popular.

The students were exposed to all aspects of medicine and received advice on how to prepare to apply for medical school.

Students were selected by their high schools to attend on the basis of academics, civic leadership and prior participation in other AHEC programs.

They represented many rural and underserved areas in both Central and North Louisiana.

Statistics show that more than 85 percent of students who attend the AHEC *Day With The Doctors* events choose a medical field for their career.

AHECs of Louisiana are community-based non-profit organizations whose primary mission is to improve the quality and distribution of healthcare personnel within the state of Louisiana. The LSUHSC-S AHEC office provides a link between its professional schools and Louisiana's medically underserved or rural communities.

AHECs also provide assistance to practicing health professionals through community-based services designed to aid in the development and maintenance of necessary skills, including continuing medical education. ■



Students learn about medical and allied health careers at Day With The Doctors



Camp Tiger Set for June

Our medical students give back to our community each year by sponsoring *Camp Tiger*, a weeklong summer adventure free to area mentally and/or physically disabled children ages 5-12.

Each camper is assigned a medical student "counselor" and takes part in a variety of recreational activities from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. This year's *Camp Tiger* will be June 2-6. Enrollment is first-come, first served.

Medical students who run *Camp Tiger* will appreciate donations to help cover costs. Contact Amy Hicks in Alumni Affairs, ext. 56065 to make a donation or get more information. ■

Copier Scam Warning Issued

If you get a call from someone asking about the copy machine in your area, beware and do not give them information. It's a scam.

Several departments have recently been contacted about copier supply orders. However, LSUHSC-S is under a copier facilities management contract with Stuarts Inc. and no one from Auxiliaries or Stuarts will call you asking for the model number of your copier because they already know it. If you receive such a call, please forward them to Tammy Jernigan, Assistant Director of Auxiliary Enterprises and Services, extension 57650. She advises never giving unsolicited callers your name, copier model number, department or shipping address, as they will use the information to ship LSUHSC-S products at inflated prices. ■

New Faculty

Douglas C. Holman, M.D., Assistant Professor, Family Medicine and Comprehensive Care
Suzan R. Salter, P.A., Instructor, Emergency Medicine

3 Win Cardelli Awards

The three winners of the Jason A. Cardelli Award for Excellence in Cancer Research were announced in conjunction with the Barlow Symposium, sponsored by the Feist-Weiller Cancer Center of LSUHSC-S.

Ajay Jawahar M.D., Neurosurgery, was selected for "Gamma Knife Radiosurgery in the Management of Brain Metastases from Lung Carcinoma: Factors Affecting Survival, Local Control and Freedom from New Brain Metastases."

Laura McGhee, a graduate student in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, won for "Gfi-1 Attaches to the Nuclear Matrix, Associates with ETO and Histone Deacetylase Proteins, and Represses Transcription using TSA Sensitive Mechanism."

Shane Smith, a graduate student in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, was selected for "Potential Mechanisms by which HCMV Utilizes the Monocyte as a Vessel for Viral Spread."

A Cardelli Award carries a cash prize of \$250.

Jason Cardelli was the brother of James Cardelli, Ph.D., LSUHSC-S Professor of Microbiology and Immunology and Director of Research for the Feist-Weiller Cancer Center. He was a nationally recognized astronomer on the faculty at Villanova at the time of his death in 1996 at the age of 40.

In memory of his brother's many efforts, including the impact he had on young students, Dr. Jim Cardelli initiated the award to be given to one student and one postdoctoral fellow/resident doing research in a cancer area.

This year there was a tie between two graduate students and two awards were given out. This award is funded in part by contributions in excess of \$10,000 contributed to FWCC by Dr. Cardelli's parents. ■

Nominations Being Accepted for Employee Excellence Awards

A new annual Award for Excellence in Research, Education, Patient Care and Community Outreach Programs will recognize and honor 15 LSUHSC-S employees who excel at their work and without whom the institution would be a lesser place.

Each winner will receive \$500 and be honored at a special recognition luncheon.

This is the first year the LSU Health Sciences Foundation will sponsor the Employee Excellence Awards, underwritten by Pfizer Inc.

The luncheon is planned for Sept. 16 at the Cambridge Club from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All full-time employees of LSUHSC-S who have been employed for a minimum of 12 months are eligible.

Nominees should demonstrate excellence in their work and contribute in an exceptional way to the LSUHSC-S missions of teaching, research, patient care or public service.

Nominations will be accepted from any full-time employee. To submit a nomination, write a letter to the Employee Excellence Awards Committee, c/o LSU Health Sciences Foundation, Box 105, Allied Health Building, 1501 Kings Highway, Shreveport, LA 71103. In your letter, state why you think your nominee should win.

Nominations should be as specific as possible. Anecdotal stories, specific examples of excellence in the workplace and descriptions of behavior can be used to describe your nominee to the committee.

Only one signature per letter will be allowed, and each nominator must send an original letter. Letters should be no longer than two pages.

Nomination letters should include the name of the employee you are nominating, the employee's supervisor and phone numbers for both. Also include your phone number.

All nominations must be received by 5 p.m. June 2. You may fax your letter to 675-5004 before the deadline. An original copy must follow. All nominations are kept confidential.

For more information, contact Sherry Sandidge at the Foundation office, 675-5174. The Employee Excellence Award Committee consists of an anonymous group of LSUHSC-S employees. ■

Dr. Cardelli To Present Paper

James Cardelli, Ph.D., Professor of Microbiology and Immunology and Director of Research for the LSUHSC-S Feist-Weiller Cancer Center, will present a seminar at the American Association for Cancer Research Meetings April 5-9 in Toronto, Canada.

It is entitled "The hepatocyte growth factor (HGF/scatter factor) acts through the Ras, PI 3-Kinase and MAPK signaling pathways to stimulate E-cadherin internalization, peripheral lysosome redistribution and invasion of prostate cancer cells." ■