



ON THE INSIDE

LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport

Association of Medical and Graduate Departments of Biochemistry Elects Dr. Rhoads President



The Association of Medical and Graduate Departments of Biochemistry has elected Robert E. Rhoads, Ph.D., Professor and Head of the LSUHSC-S Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, to serve as President-Elect for 2003-04 and President for 2004-05.

About 100 biochemistry departments throughout North America are members of the Association of Medical and Graduate Departments of Biochemistry.

The Association deals with three major areas—research, public policy, and education, according to Dr. Rhoads.

In the research sphere, the Association works to improve funding for research by federal agencies like the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Public policy issues include working with elected officials and NIH and NSF representatives. In addition, Association officials deal with industry-university relations about workforce, research and policies regarding patents.

Education is prominently addressed at each annual meeting; one day is dedicated to presentations on trends in graduate and medical student admissions, core curricula, problem-based learning, etc. Also, the Association created the CUSBA program for identifying the most talented prospective graduate students in China, and maintains a database of over 10,000 biochemistry examination questions.

“The real benefit comes from the fact that problems each biochemistry department faces are being faced by many other departments,” said Dr. Rhoads. “I learn of imaginative solutions to our common problems that have been developed at other institutions and bring them back to LSUHSC-S.”

Among other benefits of membership is access to the comprehensive database of biochemistry programs that the Association maintains for its members. Comparative data can be found on all aspects of biochemistry from the amount of space allocated to each member department to research funding to salary by faculty rank within biochemistry departments, Dr. Rhoads noted.

Dr. Rhoads said that through the Association he is able to know many of the biochemistry department heads throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico, which has proven valuable in recruiting of faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students.

As President-Elect, he will travel to Washington, D.C., in June to confer with President Bush's Science Advisor, Dr. Marburger, and the new director of the NIH, Dr. Zerhouni, in a meeting of the National Caucus of Basic Biomedical Science Chairs.

Dr. Rhoads has served as Head of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at LSUHSC-S since July 1992. Over this period the graduate program has grown substantially to the point where more M.S. and Ph.D. degrees are awarded to students from this department than any other department at LSUHSC-S or LSUHSC-NO. ■

Annual Employee Appreciation Day is May 14

LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport will say “thanks” for jobs well done to employees with a campuswide “employee picnic” May 14 on the “H” lot.

The event coincides each year with National Hospital Week and consists of free meals served to employees by supervisors throughout LSUHSC-S who volunteer for that honor.

The “picnic” will begin at 11 a.m. for lunch and continue until 4 p.m.

Coupons good for a free meal will be distributed to employees. The event is funded by Auxiliary and Service Enterprises.

Dr. Goeders' Research on Stress and Addiction Draws More NIH Funds and Increasing International Attention

His ground-breaking research that is defining the relationships between stress and addiction is bringing increasing international recognition to Nick E. Goeders, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, and Psychiatry, and his research team at LSUHSC-S.

Last month, Dr. Goeders was one of 50 scientists from around the world invited to make presentations at a meeting of the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology in Nice, France. The meeting focused on clinical and basic research about addiction, and attracted a large international audience in person and by satellite.

Dr. Goeders presented an invited lecture on how stress can impact addiction. The work from his LSUHSC-S lab was very well received, according to colleagues, and he was asked to prepare an abstract of his talk for publication in a special issue of *European Neuropsychopharmacology*. Dr. Goeders was also asked to prepare a review paper based on his talk that will also be published in the *European Neuropsychopharmacology*.

In addition, he participated on a panel that debated the role for the neurotransmitter dopamine in addiction.

A native of Shreveport who attended local schools and earned his Ph.D. from the School of Graduate Studies of the LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, Dr. Goeders continues to promote scientific excellence locally and draw international attention to LSUHSC-S through his research.

For the past ten years, Dr. Goeders has been principal investigator for a grant from the National Institutes of Health entitled “Environmental influences on cocaine self-administration” that has funded his team's stress and addiction studies.

The grant gained competitive renewal for a third five-year period that began March 20 and will end Feb. 29, 2008, Dr. Goeders has been informed by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The award is \$875,000 for the five-year period. ■

British Royal College of Psychiatrists Elects Dr. Freeman Member

Arthur M. Freeman III, M.D., Professor and Head of the LSUHSC-S Department of Psychiatry, was honored by being only one of eight individuals from outside Great Britain to be elected to the distinguished British Royal College of Psychiatrists.

The Court of Electors of the Royal College elected Dr. Freeman, noting that membership to those outside Great Britain is extremely restricted. The letter received by Dr. Freeman notifying him of his election said that membership is extended only to those from other countries who have “served with distinction for a number of years as senior members of the medical profession.”

“I feel it a great honor,” Dr. Freeman said, “particularly since I have been in attendance at several of their meetings, I subscribe to their journal and I did part of my training at the Maudsley Hospital Institute of Psychiatry in London.”

Since 1970 when Dr. Freeman was a resident in training in London, he has returned several times as a Visiting Professor at the Institute of Psychiatry and he has maintained close relationships with colleagues throughout Great Britain. ■

Two Area Universities Honor Dr. Conrad

Steve Conrad, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Emergency Medicine, was honored twice in April by North Louisiana universities.

Louisiana Tech bestowed its 2002 Biomedical Engineering Distinguished Alumnus Award on Dr. Conrad. He was recognized for his service to the Biomedical Engineering Program as a member of Tech's Biomedical Engineering Advisory Board.

LSU in Shreveport presented Dr. Conrad with its 2002-2003 Academic Award in Masters of Science and Systems Technology. ■

Neuroscience Research Day

Friday, May 2, has been declared Neuroscience Research Day at LSUHSC-S, and employees and students interested in the neurosciences are invited to attend a lecture and poster session that day.

There has been a Shreveport Chapter of the national Society for Neuroscience for 20 years, and the Society has sponsored a Grass Foundation Lectureship in Shreveport approximately every other year.

This year the activities will be expanded to include posters from faculty, students, and postdoctoral fellows from LSUHSC-S as well as other North Louisiana campuses including LSUS, Centenary College, Louisiana Tech and University of Louisiana in Monroe.

Events begin at 1:30 p.m. with presentation of the Grass Foundation Lecture by Jay M. Weiss, the Jenny C. Adams Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Emory University School of Medicine. His lecture will be entitled “Locus Coeruleus: Role in Depression and Illness.”

For more than 35 years, Dr. Weiss has worked on the biological mechanisms underlying stress, and particularly on the functions of the locus coeruleus noradrenergic system in the brain.

A 3 p.m. poster session will follow in the atrium of the BRI. Prizes will be awarded for best posters by a graduate student and a postdoctoral fellow at 4:45 p.m. ■

Dr. Bilderback Returns to LSUHSC-S

Karl K. Bilderback, M.D., board certified in orthopaedic surgery, has returned to the faculty of LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport after completing a fellowship in hand surgery at the Oklahoma City Upper Extremity, Hand and Microsurgery Center.

Dr. Bilderback, Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, brings expertise in reimplantation to the LSUHSC-S Level I Trauma Center.

After completing his residency in orthopaedic surgery at LSUHSC in Shreveport in 1997, Dr. Bilderback took a fellowship in spine surgery at the Institute for Spinal Disorders at Baylor College of Medicine.

He earned his M.D. degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, and then completed a residency in Family Practice at Southwestern Medical School, John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth.

Dr. Bilderback subsequently came to LSUHSC-S an Assistant Professor in Emergency Medicine from June 1992 to June 1993. In July 1993, he entered the Orthopaedic Surgery residency program at LSUHSC-S.

He will also see patients at the DCI Clinic. For appointments, call 675-6184. ■

T.E.A.M. Members Win

March winners of the three preferred T.E.A.M. (Transforming Employee Attitudes Matters) parking spots in H-Lot have been announced.

They are JoAnne Collins, MICU; Charlie Poole, 6G; and Brenda Oes, 9H. Each is awarded approximately two months parking in the designated, close-in spaces.

Their names were drawn from a group of eligible employees during a recent Management Council meeting. Use of the preferred, designated parking by winning employees is a regular feature of the institutional T.E.A.M. incentive program. ■

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. It is designed by Lory Tubbs in Medical Communications and printed at the LSUHSC-S Print Shop.

Power Breaks Continue

The Rev. Roosevelt Seaberry, Director of Pastoral Care Services, has announced the schedule of Power Breaks for the rest of the year.

Rev. Seaberry started the program last year as a way for employees to relieve job stress. Supervisor's approval is required before an employee can attend.

Power Breaks are offered in the private dining room. The sessions will be available for employees between 10 to 11 a.m. each of these days: May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, and Dec. 16.

Pathology Department Makes Presentations at Major Meeting

The Department of Pathology house staff and faculty members participated in the largest pathology meeting in the world, The United States-Canadian Academy of Pathology, held in Washington, D.C., recently.

LSUHSC-S faculty and house staff made seven presentations, six posters and one oral.

Residents presenting were Drs. Michael Constantinescu, Jianhua Wu, Shahnila Latif, Deepti Shukla, Bernadette McLaren. Also presenting was John Keeling, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Cellular Biology and Anatomy.

Among the faculty members who presented their work were Drs. Jim Teng, Instructor; Xin Gu, Assistant Professor; Mary Lowery-Nordberg, Assistant Professor; Janice Matthews-Greer, Associate Professor; Marjorie Fowler, Professor; Elba A. Turbat-Herrera, Professor and Guillermo A. Herrera, Professor and Chairman.

In addition, Dr. Herrera, was the moderator of a scientific program, "The gist of GISTs (gastrointestinal stromal tumors): Perceptions from various angles." He also delivered a presentation entitled "Historical perspective: A journey through classification schemes of gastrointestinal tumors." ■

Dr. Staczek Receives NIH Grant to Fund Vaccine Research

John Staczek, Ph.D., Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, has been awarded a \$700,000 research grant from the National Institutes of Health to fund development of a vaccine against a common bacterium that is especially dangerous to those with weakened immune systems.

The pathogen is *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, which is life-threatening in individuals who have cancer, extensive burns or cystic fibrosis.

Dr. Staczek's team has developed a modified influenza virus that does not cause human illness and carries specific genes of *Pseudomonas*. Vaccination with the *Pseudomonas*-influenza hybrid elicits an immune response that is protective against *Pseudomonas*.

This grant focuses on identifying the immune responses to the vaccine.

Two other professors from the Department of Microbiology and Immunology are involved with the grant. Harry Gilleland, Ph.D., is co-investigator and Robert Chervenak, Ph.D., is a consultant. Nicole Kozen is a research associate. ■

Burn Foundation Opens Home for Patients' Families

Out-of-town families of patients in the Regional Burn Center of LSU Hospital in Shreveport now have a near-by home-away-from-home, a newly opened house at 1457 Claiborne provided by the Percy R. Johnson Burn Foundation.

The Percy R. Johnson Burn Foundation, established in memory of the Shreveport firefighter who died in the line of duty, was organized to support the work of the Regional Burn Center and assist its patients.

Members of the Percy R. Johnson Burn Foundation, which includes LSUHSC-S employees, held fundraisers to generate money to purchase the house, which is within walking distance to the hospital.

In February, the Community Foundation of Shreveport-Bossier donated \$25,000 to help renovate the house.

Donations will be requested of those who stay at the house, but there is no set fee for accommodations.

Establishing a house for families of patients at the Regional Burn Center is just one of the activities of the Percy R. Johnson Burn Foundation that draws participation from Burn Center employees as well as employees who work in diverse areas of LSUHSC-S.

A major annual project is the Burn Camp for children who are burn survivors. The weeklong camp is free of charge to campers. LSUHSC-S employees, local firefighters, and adult burn survivors volunteer as camp staff members. Camp will be held June 8 - 13, 2003.

Associate Professor of Surgery Kevin Sittig, M.D., is Medical Director of the Burn Center as well as Associate Medical Director of LSU Hospital in Shreveport. ■

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>.

Should Post-menopausal Women take Hormones? Local Scientific Symposium To Look at Evidence

More than a million women routinely took hormones around the time of menopause and after for relief of the symptoms of menopause, such as hot flashes, night sweats and other symptoms, until recently when findings from two large scientific studies linked common forms of hormone replacement therapy (HRT) to increased risk of ovarian and breast cancer.

So, should you take hormones?

Expert opinion is divided, but the Feist-Weiller Cancer Center of LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport will host a special one-day symposium on May 2 to examine the evidence about HRT.

Lectures, all open to the public, will begin at 9 a.m. in Room 1-400, the medical school auditorium. Speakers include experts from the National Cancer Institute and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle as well as from the Feist-Weiller Cancer Center.

The 12th Annual Carroll W. Feist Symposium is a continuing medical activity and continuing nursing education credits are available to those professionals who pre-register.

Hormone replacement therapy (HRT), estrogen or an estrogen combination drug, had long been thought to prevent heart disease, delay onset of Alzheimer's disease, prevent hip fractures and otherwise help women stay young before the two reports last summer in *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, dramatically challenged these beliefs.

In addition to finding that the common forms of HRT significantly increased the risk of breast and ovarian cancer, the two studies also found that HRT offered no protection from heart disease and Alzheimer's.

Both studies were long-term studies involving thousands of women. Since these reports, several major health agencies have advised against HRT for relief of menopausal symptoms and millions of women have discontinued their treatment.

However, some doctors and other organizations that are not convinced. Some criticize the studies and others think that lower doses of hormones are safe, and that the estrogen benefits of preventing of osteoporosis outweigh the risks.

SPEAKERS

Dr. James Lacey, National Cancer Institute, authored one of the JAMA papers that found increased risk to ovarian cancer. He will speak at 9:15 a.m.

Dr. Garnet Anderson, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, will speak at 10:15 a.m. He was intimately involved in the conduct, analysis and writing of the other JAMA study, which found the increase in breast cancer risk.

Dr. Anderson's study is the well-known Women's Health Initiative that is studying a number of health issues in women in addition to hormone replacement therapy.

Both speakers will describe their respective studies that reached the dramatic conclusions.

A third speaker, Kathleen Furniss, is a well-known nurse practitioner who worked in one of the centers implementing the Women's Health Initiative. She will speak about the impact of the study findings on the women who participated in the trial, and how they are coping after withdrawal from hormones. She will speak at 11:30 a.m.

At 1:45 p.m., Dr. Adriene Fugh-Berman, a physician from George Washington University School of Medicine, will lecture about complementary and alternative medicines and possible alternative therapies for relief of menopausal symptoms. She is a well-known author, speaker and consultant on women's health issues and alternative medicine.

Dr. Gary V. Burton of the Feist-Weiller Cancer Center, who will moderate a panel discussion between the speakers and the audience beginning at 3 p.m.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Lunch will be provided for registrants. For more information, or to register call the Feist-Weiller Cancer Center at (318) 675-4630. ■



New Faculty

Jeanne Street, M.D., Clinical Assistant Professor, Psychiatry
Alberto Carbo, M.D., Associate Professor, Radiology
Sherry Walker, M.D., Instructor, Orthopaedics
Teng Jiamin, Ph.D., Instructor, Pathology
Guy Brannon, Ph.D., Instructor, Microbiology
Rona Scott, Ph.D., Instructor, Microbiology

Berte Muslow Named Outstanding Volunteer

Berte Muslow, a founding volunteer of "Reach Out and Read" at LSUHSC-S was honored with an Outstanding Volunteer Award at the Reach Out and Read Louisiana Coalition Conference held recently in Lafayette.

Mrs. Muslow, who has been involved in various volunteer capacities at LSUHSC-S for nearly three decades, was nominated for the honor by Joseph Bocchini, M.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Pediatrics, and Daisy Kime, LSUHSC-S program coordinator.

Mrs. Muslow, in addition to being recognized as a volunteer reader, was cited for her work in establishing Reach Out and Read at LSUHSC-S, gaining support for the program from the LSUHSC-S Women's Club and the Shreveport Medical Alliance, as well as her work in promoting the program and recruiting volunteers.

The Reach Out and Read Louisiana Coalition includes 18 sites statewide. Keynote speaker was Dr. Robert Needleman, who helped create the Reach and Read program as part of his fellowship in Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics at Boston City Hospital in 1989. Dr. Needleman published the first study showing an increase in parental reading aloud after they are exposed to Reach Out and Read, in which volunteer reader models for parents the way to read to young children. ■

Dr. Givler Publishes Book for Cancer Patients

Amy Givler, M.D., of Monroe writes of her successful battle against cancer in the April edition of *Guideposts*, a publication nationally known for its stories of hope and inspiration.

Publication of Dr. Givler's experience with cancer in *Guideposts* comes on the heels of her just-published book, *Hope in the Face of Cancer: A Survival Guide for the Journey You Did Not Choose*. Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, Ore., is publisher.

"This is the book I wanted when I was first diagnosed with cancer," she begins her book. At that time, in 1993, she couldn't find a book that was both medically accurate and emotionally supportive. After she was declared cancer free, she determined to write that book herself.

Dr. Givler researched the medical literature to be sure she correctly conveyed what people newly-diagnosed with cancer need to know, then used her skills as a writer to weave stories into each chapter. "Stories are the most effective way to communicate new material when emotions are swirling," Dr. Givler says.

A free stand-up placard suitable for waiting rooms is available by going to Dr. Givler's website at www.amygivler.com and requesting it. The placard describes the book and contains a supply of free inspirational bookmarks.

A graduate of Georgetown University School of Medicine, Dr. Givler is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and Comprehensive Care at LSUHSC-S. Her husband, Donald Givler, M.D., is also a family physician and a member of the LSUHSC-S faculty at E.A. Conway Medical Center in Monroe. ■

Marianne Comegys Wins LLA Award

The Louisiana Library Association (LLA) has honored Marianne Comegys, Interim Director of the LSUHSC-S Medical Library, with the Lucy B. Foote Award.

The award honors an LLA member who has made a substantial contribution to the library profession through the field of special librarianship. It is presented by the Subject Specialists Section of the LLA.

Mrs. Comegys, a former LLA president, received the award at the recent LLA meeting in Gonzales. ■