



ON THE INSIDE

LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport

LSUHSC-S Officials Thank Legislators For Their Efforts

Members of the northwest Louisiana Legislative delegation were guests of LSUHSC-S and the LSU Health Sciences Foundation at a post-session luncheon at the former Caddo School for Exceptional Children, now part of LSUHSC-S.

John McDonald, M.D., Chancellor and Dean praised lawmakers for their hard work during the legislative session, and said LSUHSC in Shreveport is grateful for their efforts.

Dr. McDonald thanked the group for, among other things, helping eradicate a proposed \$14 million deficit in the LSUHSC-S budget, developing the state's first health literacy task force which will be chaired by Terry Davis, Ph.D., Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics; and for passing legislation to transfer E.A. Conway Medical Center in Monroe to LSUHSC-S.

The delegation was also thanked for obtaining for LSUHSC-S the 2,007 acres of land adjacent to the L and B parking lots that was the former site of the Caddo School for Exceptional Children.

In addition to transferring the state property to LSUHSC-S, the legislation authorized the LSU Health Sciences Foundation to purchase the school building on the land for the appraised value.

LSUHSC-S will lease/purchase the facility from the

Dr. John McDonald thanks lawmakers for their work (below); McDonald with retiring Senator Ron Bean (right).



foundation for departmental offices and for the Division of Research of the Department of Medicine to consolidate its clinical trials core facility. ■

Researcher Publishes Work on Enzyme

Pedram Ghafourifar, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, recently served as guest Editor-in-Chief for a special forum issue of "Antioxidants and Redox Signaling".

Publishers of the journal asked Dr. Ghafourifar to write and review articles written by others concerning "Mitochondria and Nitric Oxide".

Dr. Ghafourifar first made the discovery of the "Mitochondrial Nitric Oxide Synthase (mtNOS)" in 1997 while working in Switzerland, after leaving his native Iran.

Dr. Ghafourifar said the sources of and ways that nitrogen oxide species act in processes such as aging or conditions like neurodegenerative or neuroinflammatory diseases is still a matter of debate. He believes every year more scientists, including those who contributed to the special forum issue, share the view that mtNOS may play an as yet undetected role in these processes and conditions. ■



Library Plans Academic Journal Review

The Medical Library of LSUHSC-S will conduct an on-line survey from September 8 - 19 to determine which journals are rated as most valuable by LSUHSC users.

Results will be evaluated by the library and library committee and decisions made as which journals might be eliminated based on funding.

Cutbacks in journals are anticipated due to expected increases in the price of journal subscriptions. ■

New Children's Center Receives Donation

The Shreveport Bar Association has adopted the LSUHSC-S Children's Center as its charity for 2003, a decision that carried a \$25,000 donation to sponsor the Center's multipurpose therapy room.

The room will be part of the Children's Center when it is moved into the renovated Sklar-Phillips Building on the corner of Kings Highway and Mansfield Road.

Fundraising to pay for the renovations is ongoing.

The Bar Association held several fundraising events during the past year, including a crawfish boil at the Shreveport Yacht Club. Proceeds were directed to the LSUHS Foundation for the Children's Center renovation.

Opportunities continue for individual and corporate giving to support the Children's Center. For a gift of \$250,000, the LSU Health Sciences Foundation, which owns the building, is willing to name the building in someone's memory or honor. ■



National Institutes of Health Recognizes Two

Researchers in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology continue to bring in funding from the National Institutes of Health, with the two most recent awards totaling nearly \$2,000,000.

Mike Wolcott, Ph. D., Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, received renewal of his NIH grant worth more than \$1.8 million over five years.

The \$1,812,500 grant will support Dr. Wolcott's research, "Hematopoietic Stem Cells and Lympho-Hematopoiesis: Effect of Alcohol."

Bryan Bellaire, Ph.D., has been awarded a \$144,000 three-year Postdoctoral fellowship by the NIH to study a bacterial pathogen which could be used as a chemical weapon. Dr. Bellaire is studying the organism in an effort to develop a safe and effective vaccine for humans.

He works in the laboratory of James Cardelli, Ph.D., Professor of Microbiology and Immunology. ■

Service Awards Dinner Set

Eligible employees, mark your calendars now for the annual LSUHSC-S Employee Service Award recognition dinner.

This year's event is Thursday October 23rd.

Invitations will be sent out soon to those receiving their years of service pins.

Nearly 150 LSUHSC-S employees will receive recognition for their years of service ranging from 20 to 45 years.

Make plans now to attend and enjoy an evening with co-workers.

Prostate Cancer Researcher Speaks at Regional Conference

Shari Meyers, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, spoke at an international conference recently about research being done at LSUHSC-S which could play a significant role in understanding one of the ways prostate cancer develops.

Dr. Meyers talk focused on a protein known as RUNX, and research being done on it by Marcie Fowler, a Ph.D. student in Dr. Meyers' lab.

Although much is known about the protein's role in controlling the differentiation and proliferation of blood and bone cells, little is known about its effect on other cell types.

Ms. Fowler and Dr. Meyers were among the first to characterize the expressions and functions of these cancer-causing proteins in the prostate.

The team found high levels of RUNX protein expression in prostate cell lines. Dr. Meyers and Ms. Fowler also have shown that the RUNX proteins regulate the expression of the clinically important serum marker prostate specific antigen (PSA). PSA is almost exclusively expressed in the prostate and its presence in serum is used for diagnosis and monitoring of prostate cancer.

Dr. Meyers told the audience that further investigation will focus on understanding the regulatory role RUNX proteins play in the normal and cancerous prostate.

She added that understanding these interactions is essential to developing novel therapeutic strategies, particularly those involving gene therapy, aimed at decreasing mortality from prostate cancer. ■

Students Graduate During Summer Ceremonies

Ninety-two students from the School of Allied Health Professions and School of Graduate Studies received degrees during summer graduation ceremonies at the Strand Theatre on August 16.

Lynn D. Nicholas delivered the commencement address. Ms. Nicholas, chair of the Louisiana Health Works Commission, is president of the Louisiana Hospital Association. ■

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Multicultural Affairs Wraps Up Summer Programs

Thirty high school youngsters and more than a dozen college students finished eight weeks of intensive, hands-on learning as the annual LSUHSC-S Jumpstart and Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship programs ended for 2003.

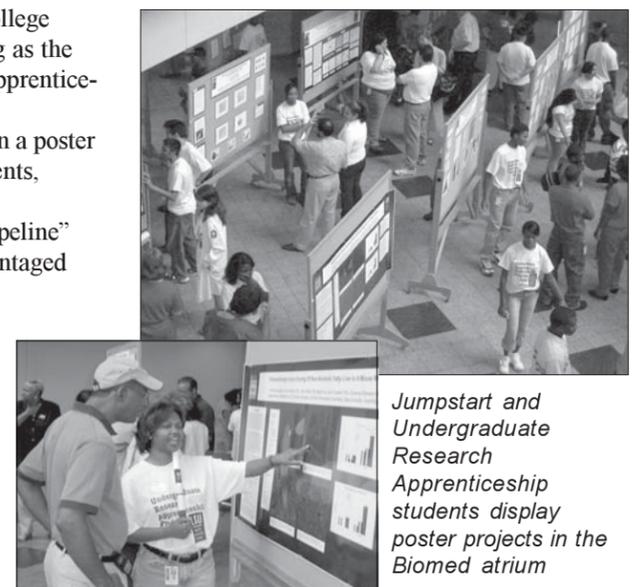
As a culmination of their works, each student took part in a poster session that described their research projects to fellow students, faculty mentors and other invited guests.

The programs are links in the "Partnerships in Science Pipeline" that targets economically, socially and educationally disadvantaged youngsters and guides them towards a career in science.

The pipeline, which is comprised of six programs, recently received a \$900,000 federal Health Careers Opportunity Program grant that will provide funding for the next three years.

The pipeline is a concept designed and developed by Shirley Roberson, director of Multicultural Affairs at LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport.

More than 40 LSUHSC-S faculty and staff participate in the pipeline programs annually. ■



Jumpstart and Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship students display poster projects in the Biomed atrium

LSUHSC Runners Prepare to Race for the Cure

Thousands of women, men and children are getting in shape to help beat breast cancer by participating in the upcoming Susan G Komen Race for the Cure September 20.

The race will start at 8 a.m. in the Sears' parking lot behind Mall St. Vincent.

Participants will be separated into several age groups and divisions including a non-walking group, 5K run, 5K walk, and 1 mile family walk.

Last year, the local Komen Race for the Cure drew more than 4,000 people and raised \$160,000.

Seventy-five percent of the money raised locally remains in the Shreveport-Bossier City area to benefit under-served communities and support programs for breast cancer survivors and their families.

The remainder funds the Susan G Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Award and Research Grant Program.

The Komen Foundation's mission is to "eradicate breast cancer as a life threatening disease by advancing research, education, screening and treatment."

This year faculty, housestaff, students and LSUHSC-S employees are participating in the race as the LSUHSC-Feist-Weiller Cancer Center team.

If you would like to participate with the team or just support us as a phantom walker, please call 675-6108 or come to Room 3-330 in the Medical School to get a race application/waiver form. Please turn in your fee and entry form to Room 3-305 by September 3.

Individual entries will be accepted until the day of the race. The entry fee is \$20 per person and includes a T-shirt. ■

Dr. Mayeaux Invited to Contribute to Journal

E. J. Mayeaux, M.D., Professor of Family Medicine, and Obstetrics and Gynecology, was invited guest author of the feature article for the August issue of "The Female Patient."

Dr. Mayeaux's article focused on the accurate and timely diagnosis of bacterial vaginosis, the most prevalent reason for vaginal irritation, especially in younger women.

The condition often goes undiagnosed, according to Dr. Mayeaux, because as many as half of those affected may not realize they have a problem beyond a yeast infection.

Dr. Mayeaux emphasized in the article the importance of female patients talking to their physician and to assure they get appropriate treatment for the condition.

"The Female Patient" is a peer reviewed journal distributed primarily to obstetric and gynecology physicians and residents across the country.

Dr. Mayeaux's article was the lead article in the Obstetric and Gynecology, Primary Care, and Patient education editions of the journal. ■

Dr. First Receives Grant

Eric First, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, has received a \$900,000 research grant from the National Institutes of Health to continue his work that shows promise in the design of new antibiotics.

The grant is for four years.

Dr. First's research will complete analysis that was begun almost 30 years ago by his postdoctoral mentor, Professor Alan Fersht of Cambridge University. ■

Psychiatry Study Examines Families of Schizophrenics

James Patterson II, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, has begun work on an NIMH-funded two-year project designed to determine which combination of cognitive traits does or does not lead to schizophrenia.

Dr. Patterson says the study involves studying close relatives of schizophrenics.

The research may one day lead to determining what genes are related to Schizophrenia.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of this study is the examination of real-time cognitive processing in the brains of research participants by using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI).

This technique uses a typical MRI, but with specific settings that allow a picture of the brain to be taken every three seconds, while the research patients take a type of memory test.

In this way, the researchers will capture hundreds of images of the brain activity involved in memory, and can then correlate it with how well each person did on the

Dr. Price Elected to Organization

V. Hugh "Chip" Price, D.V.M., Director, Animal Resources and Associate Professor, Department of Molecular and Cellular Physiology, has been elected Vice President-Elect of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS).

Dr. Price will serve a one-year term as Vice President-Elect, before assuming the Vice Presidency, and becoming President in 2004.

AALAS is an association whose members include veterinarians, veterinary technicians, animal care specialists, administrators, researchers, educators, and business people working in all facets of laboratory animal science from research to administration to animal production on both national and international levels.

Laboratory Animal Science is the production, care, and study of animals used in research.

Membership in the association is national, and international. Members are dedicated to the responsible care and treatment of research animals and to quality research that leads to scientific gains that benefit both mankind and animals.

LSUHSC-S has been an institutional member of AALAS since 1991. ■

Dr. Baudoin Gains Certification

Tammy Baudoin, M.D., Clinical Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Anesthesiology, has been certified by the American Academy of Medical Acupuncture (AAMA).



Dr. Baudoin received her acupuncture training through UCLA and completed her training in May 2000.

After two years of practical experience, Dr. Baudoin is eligible to take the AAMA board exam.

Dr. Baudoin practices in the noninvasive section of the Department of Anesthesiology's Pain Clinic as well as the Center for Integrated Medicine, under an agreement between LSUHSC-S and Christus Schumpert.

Randall Cork, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Anesthesiology, is also certified by the AAMA. ■

Clinic Gets Golfers "Back In Swing"

"Back in Swing" an interactive golf clinic presented by Louisiana Pain Physicians and Cornerstone Rehabilitation to support the LSU Health Sciences Foundation, will be held October 27, at Southern Trace Country Club.

A seminar on "golf and the spine" along with a clinic on "the biomechanics of the golf swing" will be presented at 10:30 a.m. followed by 9 holes of golf starting at noon.

The cost is \$75 per person and includes lunch and golf gifts.

For reservations call Sherry Sandidge at 675-5174.

Employee Excellence Awards Announced

The LSU Health Sciences Center Foundation has announced winners of the first Employee Excellence Awards, sponsored by the Foundation and underwritten by Pfizer, Inc.

Fifteen employees were selected. They are: Ricky Bullard, Orthopedic Surgery Clinic; Jennifer Byrd, Hospital Administration; Patricia Dugger, Grants Administration; Charles Everton, Pharmacy; Marjorie Fowler, M.D., Pathology; Henry George, Renal Unit; Barbara Golden, Trauma Center; Mary Howell, Human Resources; Jamie Jett, Hospital Education; Deborah Phillips, Operating Room; Lois Prohaska, Mollie Webb Speech and Hearing Center; Mark Randolph, Respiratory Therapy; Carolyn Robberson, Ambulatory Care Division; Jacqueline Robinson, Outpatient Surgery; Sandra Willis, Environmental Services.

Each of the winners will receive \$500 and a trophy to be presented at a luncheon in their honor at the Cambridge Club on September 16.

Co-workers nominated employees and the selection of winners was made by a committee. ■

Department of Medicine Begins Scholars Program

A Scholars in Medicine program for freshman medical students is being initiated in the Department of Medicine named in honor of Ronald B. George, M.D., Emeritus Professor and former Head of the Department of Medicine.

Dr. George, a veteran member of the LSUHSC-S faculty, retired in 2000. He is internationally recognized as an authority on asthma, respiratory infections and other lung disorders. His many publications include one of the most used pulmonary disease textbooks.

As envisioned, the program will award stipends to ten freshmen, allowing them to work with LSUHSC-S faculty internists over the summer between their first and second years of medical school. Joan Blondin, M.D., Professor of Medicine, is working to implement the program.

Stimulating medical students' interest in internal medicine early in their medical school experience is the cornerstone of the Scholars in Medicine program, according to Dr. Blondin. "It is an opportunity for them to see internal medicine and its possibilities early in their careers."

Projected implementation date will coincide with this entering freshman class of medical students. Brochures describing this program in detail will be available soon.

Applications will be solicited in the next several months.

The first class of Scholars in Medicine will begin in summer 2004.

Daniel Banks, M.D., Professor of Medicine, first conceived the Scholars in Medicine program earlier this year. ■

Urology Plans Prostate Cancer Screenings

The LSUHSC in Shreveport Department of Urology is preparing for its 14th annual prostate cancer screening.

The screenings are open to the public and will take place in the Urology Clinic from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. September 15 - 19.

The American Cancer Society recommends that African-American men, or men with a family history of prostate cancer begin annual screenings at age 40, and beginning by age 50 in all other races.

Given the number of men who take advantage of this potentially life saving opportunity annually it is advised to call for an appointment. An appointment may be scheduled by calling 675-6421. ■

New Faculty

Shile Huang, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Biochemistry

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>