



ON THE INSIDE

LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport

Microbiology Receives Another Major Grant

Katherine D. Ryman, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, has been awarded a three-year grant for \$476,816 from the Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy.

The grant will allow Dr. Ryman to carry out novel and exciting experimentation to develop and target certain viruses to kill tumor cells through a method known as virotherapy.

Dr. Ryman's extensive experience in molecular virology, will allow her to explore virotherapy as a possible means of cancer treatment.

William Klimstra, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, and Jill Williams, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Urology, are co-investigators for the project.

In addition to this grant, Dr. Ryman is a principal investigator of a project on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) COBRE grant that supports the Center for Molecular and Tumor Virology.

Dr. Ryman's COBRE project examines the differences in the molecular structure of pathogenic yellow fever virus and that of yellow fever that is non-disease causing and is a useful vaccine.

In addition to these two major grants, Dr. Ryman is co-principal investigator on two other NIH grants.

One is a new NIH grant awarded through the Regional Center of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases.

Principal investigator for that grant is Dr. Klimstra. The project will examine the use of molecular approaches to develop vaccines to control viruses that are potential bioweapons.

Dr. Ryman is also co-principal investigator on an NIH grant that was transferred to LSUHSC-S when she relocated from the University of North Carolina.

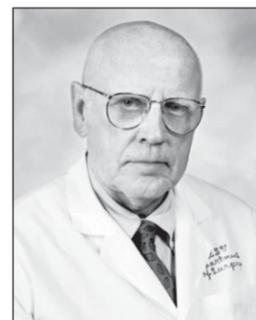
This NIH grant transferred nearly \$750,000 to LSUHSC-S for work concerning the nature of immune responses to Alphaviruses that are potential bioweapons.

Dr. Klimstra is principal investigator.

In all, the ongoing research of Drs. Ryman and Klimstra is now funded by nearly four million dollars in active grants, three from NIH.

Drs. Ryman and Klimstra joined the faculty of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology in March 2002. ■

Dr. McDonald Presented With Distinguished Service Award



Chancellor and Dean John C. McDonald, M.D., was presented the 2003 Shreveport Medical Society Distinguished Service Award to honor his "significant contributions to the medical profession in Shreveport."

The award was announced at the Medical Society's annual installation banquet on Dec. 13.

Dr. McDonald was cited by members of the Medical Society for his many achievements during the 26 years he has been affiliated with the LSU School of Medicine and LSU Hospital in Shreveport.

In the process of being appointed the first Chancellor of the LSU Health Sciences Center-Shreveport and Dean of the School of Medicine in 2000, he has been instrumental in establishing a regional burn center; an organ transplant center; a bone marrow transplant program; a cancer treatment, education and research center; a level one trauma center; and a new ambulatory care facility to be opened in 2004. Medical Society officials noted in bestowing the award.

Medical Society President M. Ragan Green, M.D., also acknowledged Dr. McDonald's contributions to medical education and to promoting excellence in the medical school's residency program.

While serving as chairman of the Department of Surgery at LSUHSC-S and Chief of Surgery at LSU Hospital for 23 years, he taught more than 100 medical residents in General Surgery and mentored many hundreds of medical students.

Dr. Green attributed Dr. McDonald's success as a "reflection of his steadfast resolve to improve medicine and education, his administrative skills, and his leadership and ability to manage difficult and challenging issues."

He also expressed appreciation to Dr. McDonald for all he has done and continues to do to improve the medical profession and health care in Shreveport. ■

LSUHSC-S Influential in Pediatric Research Equity Act

Thirty years of working for safe and effective drug labeling for children has finally paid off for John T. Wilson, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry, with congressional passage of the Pediatric Research Equity Act.

Last month, lawmakers gave final approval to the bill that mandates pharmaceutical companies creating new drugs to show how the medication will affect children.

Until now, physicians could only estimate how much of a drug to give children due to insufficient labeling information for many drugs. Unlike adults, few studies were done in children as a requirement for drug marketing.

Dr. Wilson first took note of the problem of insufficient drug labeling for children in

1973 when he reviewed 2,000 drugs in the Physician's Desk Reference. He found that nearly 80% did not contain sufficient information for safe and effective use by children. That study by Dr. Wilson is regarded by the Food and Drug Administration as the pivotal piece of work in moving forward the cause of pediatric drug equity.

"For 60 years children have been considered therapeutic orphans. That will now be corrected with the passage of this bill," Dr. Wilson said.

The Pediatric Research Equity Act restores the 1998 FDA Pediatric Rule, which required drug companies to study drugs for children, and will work in conjunction with exclusivity provisions granted by previous legislation

dealing with off-patent drugs as well as older on-patent drugs.

Several years ago, when the FDA began taking major steps towards equity for children's medication, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) developed a network of five Pediatric Pharmacology Research Units (PPRU) around the country. Since then the number has increased to 13 with LSU Health Sciences Center - Shreveport being one of the top performing centers. In spite of its small size relative to other centers, LSUHSC-S was often number one in protocol performance, and in the top 25th percentile by other NIH criteria.

Dr. Wilson and LSUHSC-S have been

instrumental in furthering the cause of pediatric labeling by testing medications through clinical trials in the Children's Clinical Research Center. This is a model unit and program with components emulated by other academic institutions. A recent survey revealed a high satisfaction among parents who had children participating in Center studies.

"Now that we have legislation that promotes studies of new and old drugs in children, a large increase in pediatric clinical trials is expected and already evident nationally. The LSUHSC program helped demonstrate that drugs can be studied in children with ethical and protocol design safeguards," Dr. Wilson said. ■

For 60 years children have been considered therapeutic orphans.

Employee Wellness Program Begins

Just in time for those New Year's resolutions, the LSUHSC-S Nutritional Services will begin an Employee Wellness Program in January.

The purpose of the program is to provide employees the opportunity to obtain current, credible knowledge in the areas of wellness, nutrition, and other health-related topics that will promote overall health enhancement.

The free program will help lower stress levels, increase well-being, improve self-image, improve physical fitness, and possible weight loss.

Participants may sign up as individuals or as a team. Classes will be held in room G-109 in the Comp Care building.

For more information, contact Sharon Frilot in nutritional services at 675-5124.

AHEC Prepares for "Day With the Doctors"

A Day With the Doctors, an annual program sponsored by North and Central Louisiana Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) and LSUHSC-S will be held January 13, February 10 and 24.

The North Louisiana AHEC has large student participation and will sponsor "Day With the Doctors" in 2004.

There will be approximately 30 high school students from each AHEC region who will participate in the eight-hour exposure to medical school offered by each session.

The students will visit selected patient care sites and participate in a suture workshop.

Family Medicine Interest Group medical students and residents will lunch with the AHEC students to give them a personal view of medical school life.

The LSUHSC-S AHEC Program Office, located in the Department of Family Medicine and Comprehensive Care, is partnering with the North and Central AHEC Programs to provide enhanced educational opportunities and service.

The AHEC Program Office is headed by Jill Rush-Kolodzey, M.D., Dr.PH, Program Director. Charlotte Young is the Program Coordinator. ■

Faculty Selected as Editors

Martin Muggerridge, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, has been invited to join the Editorial Board of *Virology*.

Dennis J. O'Callaghan, Ph.D., Boyd Professor, Willis-Knighton Chair of Molecular Biology, and Head of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, was re-appointed to another three year term as an Associate Editor of *Virology*. Dr. O'Callaghan has served in that capacity since 1982.

Virology is considered one of the leading journals in the field, and is highly respected by molecular scientists working in both academic and patient care settings. ■

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

Dr. Bahna Co-Chairs Food Allergy Conference

LSUHSC-Shreveport Chief of Allergy/Immunology, Sami Bahna, MD, Dr.PH, Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine, served as co-chairman of the recent American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology International Food Allergy Symposium.

The program's sessions were presented by a dozen invited authorities on food allergy from the United States and other countries.

In addition, 20 new studies were selected for abstract presentations, including two by the LSUHSC-S Allergy/Immunology Section.

The program was attended by more than 350 allergy specialists and scientists.

The international symposium was immediately followed by the annual meeting of the ACAAI where Dr. Bahna delivered three presentations.

He also served as chairman of the Allergy/Immunology Training Program Directors Committee and of the Adverse Reactions to Foods Committee.

In addition, two new abstracts were presented by other members of the LSUHSC-S Allergy/Immunology Section.

"Cysteinyl leukotriene synthase gene promoter polymorphism may be associated with asthma and/or atopy in African Americans" presented by John Moissidis, M.D., Pediatric Clinical Fellow.

"Delayed food-dependent, exercise-induced anaphylaxis" presented by Benjamin Oyefara, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics.

In addition to his national contributions, Dr. Bahna has been very active internationally lecturing on various allergy and immunology topics that reflect his research and clinical expertise. In 2003, he co-chaired and spoke at the Hong Kong Allergy Convention, as well as at major conferences in Mexico, Argentina and Canada.

Dr. Bahna has been invited to speak on "Severe food allergies through skin contact" at the upcoming conference on Allergy and Eczema in Italy. ■

LSUHSC-S Surgeons Elected to Association

Two LSUHSC-S Professors of Surgery were elected into the Southern Surgical Association, one of the most prestigious academic societies in the country, at the organization's recent annual meeting.

They are Richard Turnage, M.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Surgery, and Lester Wayne Johnson, M.D., Professor of Clinical Surgery and Chief of Surgery and Director of Surgical Services at E.A. Conway Medical Center in Monroe.

Drs. Turnage and Johnson join six other local members. The Southern Surgical Association limits its membership to 300 active members.

LSUHSC-S members are John C. McDonald, M.D., who is a past president and past member of the Council of the association; Mary Mancini, M.D., Ph.D.; Benjamin Li, M.D.; and Gazi Zibari, M.D. Charles Knight Sr., M.D., and F. Dean Griffin, M.D., both Shreveport surgeons, are also members.

Members are elected for their contributions either to the practice or research in the field of surgery. Election to membership generally indicates a national reputation. ■

Librarians Collect Books

The medical librarians at LSUHSC-S, with the help of the student Pediatric Interest Group, collected nearly 900 children's books during the month of October for the Reach Out and Read Early Literacy Program.

The record number of books came from several community contributors including Betty's Books, the Brookwood Baptist Church and St. Joseph Catholic Church.

The books were distributed to children who came to the pediatric clinics during last month.

Target Stores formed a partnership with national ROR for the promotion of literacy "Ready, Sit, Read!" initiative.

The local Reach Out and Read program has received colorful posters and 200 door knob hangers with messages promoting the importance of parents reading to their children. ■

New Faculty

Dolores Jones, Assistant Librarian, Library Services
Manoranjan Boddapati, M.D., Assistant Professor, Medicine

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>

Congress Designates Federal Funds for LSUHSC-S

LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport will receive \$750,000 for campus projects supported by Congressman Jim McCrery and other members of the Louisiana Congressional delegation that are included in the Federal omnibus budget bill for FY 2004.

The projects funded were included on the list of campus initiatives for which Chancellor and Dean John C. McDonald, M.D., is seeking Federal funds.

The list was submitted to Rep. McCrery, Sen. John Breaux, Sen. Mary Landrieu, and Rep. David Vitter, earlier this year.

Sen. Landrieu serves on the Senate Committee on Appropriations and Rep. Vitter sits on the House Appropriations Committee.

The proposed Brain Institute will receive \$500,000. The Brain Institute is among the campus Strategic Plan initiatives designed to build upon identified clinical, research and academic strengths.

For the third consecutive year, the Emergency Care Center Renovation and Expansion project was funded. This year's amount is \$250,000, which brings the amount of federal funds allocated for the project to about \$1.4 million. Other funds for the construction are included in the state's Capital Outlay bill.

In addition, "Cancer Prevention/Early Detection in High-Risk Population," a joint program of the LSUHSC-S Feist-Weiller Cancer Center, LSUHSC-New Orleans and Tulane Health Sciences Center, was funded for \$500,000. The money will be split among the partners. ■

LSUHSC-S Faculty Elected to Posts

Ronald Korthuis, Ph.D., Professor of Molecular and Cellular Physiology, was recently elected to serve on the Joint Program Committee (JPC) of the American Physiological Society for a three-year term.

The JPC is responsible developing the scientific programs of the Society, ensuring the scientific integrity of the Society's scientific programs, and assisting the Society's Council in shaping policy for scientific programs.

Matthew Grisham, Ph.D., Professor of Molecular and Cellular Physiology, was elected to serve as Chair of the Gastrointestinal and Liver Section of the American Physiological Society.

The GI & Liver Section represents the researchers in this area of physiology and is involved in programming the GI related presentations at the annual Society meeting held in conjunction with Experimental Biology.

D. Neil Granger, Ph.D., Boyd Professor and Head of Molecular and Cellular Physiology, was chosen to serve a three-year term as Councillor of the Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology (ACDP).

The ACDP is an organization composed of department heads whose faculty are involved in the research and teaching of physiology. ■

E.A. Conway Ends Successful United Way Campaign

The E.A. Conway campus of LSUHSC-S concluded its United Way campaign on September 30 after raising \$30,700, a 13% increase over the 2003 total.

Also, the number of employees who donated one-hour's pay per month doubled from 61 to 124.

The United Way of Northeast Louisiana announced in October that it had raised \$3,700,000 to support Monroe area non-profits in 2004. ■

E.A. Conway Employee of the Month



Barry Dopson

Barry Dopson has been named the E.A. Conway Employee of the Month for December 2003.

Mr. Dopson has been an employee at the Monroe campus since June 1992.

He earned his graduate degree in respiratory therapy from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in 1990.

Mr. Dopson, Assistant Manager of Respiratory

Therapy, is responsible for maintaining the day-to-day operation of the respiratory care division in the clinics, intensive care units and inpatient units. ■

LSUHS Foundation Acquires More Land for LSUHSC-S

The LSU Health Sciences Foundation has acquired two acres on the southeast corner of Linwood and Claiborne, formerly the home of the Monsour Family Dental Clinic and rental homes, for LSUHSC-S.

Closeness of this parcel to the campus and its visibility make it a significant acquisition.

Dr. Michael Monsour, who practiced dentistry for 57 years in Shreveport, had close ties with LSUHSC-S having been on the hospital staff when it was Confederate Memorial and having trained young dentists in dental surgery for many years.

Dr. Monsour said he is delighted his contribution to LSUHSC-S could continue through his property now becoming part of the campus.

Also acquired was property located at 3020 William Avenue, which is close to the soon-to-be-completed Feist-Weiller Cancer Center of LSUHSC-S.

Use of this property is being considered. ■

December Graduates Receive Degrees

Eleven students from the LSUHSC-S School of Graduate Studies and School of Allied Health Professions received degrees during commencement exercises held at the UNO Lakefront Arena in New Orleans on December 11, 2003.

The students were among 111 graduates to receive degrees during the ceremonies. ■

Graduate Student Wins Award

Will Langston, a graduate student in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Physiology, was honored at the Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine's (SFRBM) 10th Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington November 21.

Mr. Langston, who was presented with a Young Investigator Award, works in the lab of Chris Kevil, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pathology.

Only 21 awards were presented to the pool of 140 entrants. Established in 1987, the Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine (formerly The Oxygen Society) is a professional organization of more than 1,300 scientists, researchers and clinicians with an interest in the field of free radical chemistry, biology and medicine.

Matthew Grisham, Ph.D., Professor of Molecular and Cellular Physiology served as President of the organization from 2000-2002.

SFRBM is the North and South American affiliate chapter of the International Society for Free Radical Research. ■

Basic Statistics Course

In an effort to better understand and interpret research statistics, a Basic Statistics Course was organized by Sami Bahna, M.D., Dr.PH., Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine, for the Allergy/Immunology fellows.

The course was also approved by the Graduate Medical Educational Committee to be offered as an institutional educational event.

This course is especially designed to enhance the ability of clinicians and researchers to better design research studies; collect, analyze and present data; reviewing manuscripts for publication; and use electronic statistical programs.

78 people attended the course taught by Dr. Bahna; Steven Conrad, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Medicine and Emergency Medicine; and Runhua Shi, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine. ■

Conway Celebrates the Season



Ethan Whittington (son of Dody Whittington, Director of Patient Accounts) has his picture made and talks with Santa during E.A. Conway's Christmas reception

Employees of LSUHSC-Monroe were treated to a Christmas Reception sponsored by Hospital Service Directors December 11.

Employees brought their children and grandchildren in to give Santa (Mike Brister, R.N.) their Christmas list.

Bio-Medical Engineer LeRoy Marshall provided live music. Mike Bowen, Barry Hart, and Gerry Aaron of Facility Maintenance designed and built Santa's sleigh.

Maintenance Personnel served as Santa's elves. ■