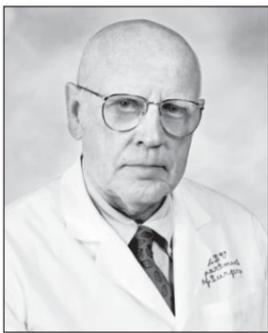




ON THE INSIDE

LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport

Chancellor's Corner



John C. McDonald, M.D.

Dr. Matthew Grisham was recently appointed a Boyd Professor by the LSU Board of Supervisors after the usual exhaustive survey of his scientific contributions.

The Boyd Professor title is the highest academic rank bestowed by LSU. Only 65 have ever been appointed.

There are now four on our campus: Drs. Granger, O'Callaghan, Dunn and Grisham. Dr. Neil Granger was appointed in 1998, Dr. O'Callaghan in 2002, Dr. Dunn in 2003 and Dr. Grisham in 2004. This represents the progressive recognition by the LSU System of the quality of our faculty and the scientific work taking place on our campus.

The Board of Regents at its March meeting severed all administrative ties between LSUHSC-S and LSUHSC-New Orleans. This automatically created two new schools—the School of Allied Health Professions in Shreveport and the School of Graduate Studies in Shreveport. As separate schools they are led by Deans. Drs. Joe McCulloch and Sandra Roerig have been appointed to these two positions.

The final step in this division is for the two Health Sciences Center campuses to be separated in the legal code of Louisiana. A resolution to request this is now working its way through the Legislature.

These are milestones in our institutional history.

Dr. Ryman Receives Young Investigator Award

Katherine Ryman, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, has received a young investigators award from the Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy. The \$500,000 grant is for three years.

Jill Williams, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Urology and William Klimstra, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Immunology are co-investigators on this grant.

Dr. Ryman was recognized for her research in virotherapy which involves infecting prostate cancer cells with a tumor killing virus.

The project employs viruses that specifically target and destroy cancer cells. The process has recently gained favor as a means of delivering cancer gene therapy.

The project is developing virotherapy for prostate cancer, using a virus called Sindbis (SB). SB does not normally cause disease in humans because our cells can protect themselves from infection by means of non-specific antiviral responses. However, tumor cells have frequently lost these antiviral responses and are therefore extremely susceptible to lethal SB infection.

SB spreads rapidly in the bloodstream, which should improve access to cancer cells that have spread to areas outside the prostate gland. If this approach proves fruitful, it offers a potentially powerful new way to attack hormone-resistant, metastasized prostate tumors.

Gene therapy is a revolutionary form of treatment. It has emerged in recent years with the remarkable potential not only to deliver a cure for many types of cancers, but also to improve the quality of life with reduced side effects for patients undergoing treatments.

Every year, more than a half million people die from cancer and another million are diagnosed with some form of the disease. Conventional therapies, including chemotherapy, surgery, and radiation, while having produced a measure of success with some cancers, have their limitations and can trigger adverse side effects for patients. ■

Dr. Grisham Receives LSU System's Highest Honor

Matthew B. Grisham, Ph.D., Professor of Molecular and Cellular Physiology, whose pioneering research led to a greater understanding of rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel diseases and colorectal cancer, was named a Boyd Professor—the highest academic rank conferred by the LSU System—by the LSU Board of Supervisors during its April meeting.



Matthew B. Grisham, Ph.D.

Dr. Grisham is the fourth LSUHSC-S faculty member to attain the prestigious designation of Boyd Professor and is the 65th Boyd Professor in LSU history.

“Boyd Professors are recognized as being the best of the best in the LSU System. Dr. Grisham has helped put LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, Louisiana, on the research world map,” said LSUHSC-S Chancellor/Dean John C. McDonald, M.D.

Before D. Neil Granger, Ph.D., Professor and Head of the LSUHSC-S Department of Molecular and Cellular Physiology, was named a Boyd Professor in 1998 there had never been a Boyd Professor north of Baton Rouge.

Subsequently, Dennis J. O'Callaghan, Ph.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology and Willis-Knighton Endowed Chair in Molecular Biology, and Adrian Dunn, Ph.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, were also elevated to the rank of Boyd Professor.

Only LSU faculty members who attained national and international distinction for outstanding teaching, research, or other creative achievement may be designated a Boyd Professor, according to the *Bylaws and Regulations* of the LSU Board of Supervisors.

The rank of Boyd Professor was created in honor of brothers Thomas and David Boyd, early faculty and former presidents of LSU.

A review of Dr. Grisham's work by an international team of experts confirmed the significance of his research contributions.

“Our understanding of the key role played by chronic inflammation in an ever expanding list of major diseases—including cancers, cardiovascular and neurodegenerative diseases, diabetes, and now obesity increases each year,” one reviewer wrote. “Researchers working in this field are heavily indebted to Dr. Grisham for his pioneering studies.”

“Because inflammation plays a contributory role in many of the most prevalent chronic diseases in the U.S., such as cardiovascular disease, certain cancers, and many neurodegenerative diseases,” another said, “the mechanistic insights from Dr. Grisham's work have very wide implications for human health and disease.”

Dr. Grisham joined the faculty of LSUHSC-S in 1986. He earned his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock, Texas, in 1982, and in 2001 received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Dr. Grisham, who also has a patent based on his work, currently holds two major research grants from the National Institutes of Health.

His research has resulted in publication of more than 225 peer-reviewed articles, 61 book chapters, one edited book and one published book.

Dr. Grisham is a past president of the 1,500-member Oxygen Society Council, which represents North and South America within the International Society for Free Radical Research. ■

Graduates Earn Degrees During Ceremony

One hundred seventeen students from three professional schools at LSUHSC in Shreveport were awarded degrees during commencement exercises held May 29 at the Strand Theatre.

Ninety-nine students received Doctor of Medicine degrees from the School of Medicine. Nine students from the School of Allied Health were awarded bachelors and master's degrees in various fields. Nine students from the School of Graduate Studies received Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees.

Keynote commencement speaker was Donald J. Palmisano, M.D., J.D., President of the American Medical Association.

Dr. Palmisano is in private practice in New Orleans as a general and vascular surgeon. He has been an authoritative advocate for the medical profession, and has often represented the voice of America's physicians before Congress and the national media. ■

Dr. Wilson Selected to Represent LSUHSC-S

John T. Wilson, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry, has been selected as a United States Pharmacopeia (USP) Convention member for 2005.

The organization is a unique forum which brings together medicine, pharmacy, nursing, consumers, industry and government as well as professionals from international health organizations.

The USP helps ensure consumers receive quality medicines by establishing state-of-the-art standards that pharmaceutical manufacturers must meet. As the world's most highly recognized and technologically advanced pharmacopeia, USP provides standards for more than 3,800 medicines, dietary supplements, and other health care products.

Dr. Wilson, who will represent the School of Medicine in Shreveport at the USP convention, has for decades been a leading advocate for safe and effective drug labeling for children.

That goal was realized late last year with congressional passage of the Pediatric Research Equity Act. ■

Dr. Banks Speaks at National Meeting

Daniel Banks, M.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Medicine, recently spoke at the American College of Physicians – American Society of Internal Medicine annual session in New Orleans. He delivered an hour and a half lecture entitled “Update in Critical Care Medicine”.

Dr. Banks addressed the group about less expensive and potentially more effective treatments for patients with pathogenic toxins. He discussed the use of hypertonic saline in order to improve volume status in volume depleted states. Such treatment can also improve blood viscosity, reduce fluid build up in tissue, and redistribute blood flow. In addition, Dr. Banks emphasized the practicality of goal directed therapy, telling those in attendance that not all patients require high-tech treatments. ■

Nominations Underway for Employee Excellence Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2004 Employee Excellence Awards which recognize 15 people at LSU Health Sciences Center who excel everyday. Each winner receives \$500, and is honored at a luncheon in September.

This is the 2nd year the LSUHS Foundation will sponsor the awards through support from Pfizer, Inc.

All full-time employees of the LSU Health Sciences Center-Shreveport/Monroe employed for at least 12 months are eligible.

Nominees should demonstrate excellence in their work and contribute to the Health Sciences Center's mission of teaching, research, patient care or public service.

Nominations must be received by June 25, in the form of an original letter to: The Employee Excellence Awards Committee, c/o LSU Health Sciences Foundation, Box 105, Allied Health Building, 1501 Kings Highway, Shreveport, LA 71103. Letters must include the name of the nominator, nominee and supervisor with phone numbers of the nominee & their supervisor. Letters with multiple signatures, or without the required information will not be accepted. For more information, look for posters around campus or call Sherry Sandidge in LSU Health Sciences Foundation office at 675-5174. ■

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>

Dr. Patterson Applies for Patent

James Patterson, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, has applied for a patent on his research that is expected to lead to earlier detection of Alzheimer's Disease (AD).

Dr. Patterson's research uses the PET imaging equipment to detect Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI), a condition that precedes Alzheimer's.

People with MCI have some early memory loss, which they might not recognize, or may ignore. Often patients don't want to acknowledge MCI for fear it might be AD, said Dr. Patterson.

Dr. Patterson has developed a test using a PET scan that is very sensitive and able to detect MCI early so that treatment can be started before the condition progresses.

The PET scan typically appears normal to the naked eye, but by using objective statistical analytic methods and a unique formula for analysis developed by Dr. Patterson, he is able to discern changes very early in the disease process.

Unfortunately, he said, most patients ignore symptoms until they are much advanced and after they have experienced significant brain damage.

Dr. Patterson said his objective is to change that by offering earlier detection and treatment which leads to longer and better quality of life.

He also has research planned to further test the methodology developed, as well as to see if patient care can be improved by early intervention and treatment. ■

Tennis Tournament Raises Money for Children's Hospital

The second annual LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport Children's Hospital charity tennis tournament raised more than \$16,000 to help purchase equipment for the facility.

The event was held the weekend of May 14-16 at Pierremont Oaks Tennis Club and featured nearly 200 players of all skill levels.

Thanks to BellSouth for its sponsorship and help in supporting the tournament.

For people who were not able to attend the tournament but who still wish to contribute to the children's hospital, several dozen fold out "bag chairs" with cup holders and extra large umbrellas with the children's hospital logo remain available for sale.

The chairs can be purchased for \$20, and the umbrellas for \$10. Call the LSUHS Foundation at 675-5002 for more information. ■

"What's Up Doc" Raises Funds for LSUHS Foundation

More than 30 LSUHSC in Shreveport faculty members discussed research and the practice of medicine during the LSUHS Foundation 5th Annual "What's Up Doc?"

Some 300 guests enjoyed dinner and conversation while learning more about LSUHSC and how physicians care for patients and discover new ways to treat diseases.

Thanks to faculty and the generosity of the principal sponsor Moffitt Volkswagen Porsche Audi Mazda, and numerous other sponsors, the event raised more than \$65,000.



From left to right: Manoranjan Boddapati, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine; Mrs. Jan Burton; Gary Burton, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Jonathan Glass, M.D., Professor of Medicine

New Faculty

Michael P. Davenport, Ph.D., Clinical Assistant Professor, Psychiatry

Anil K. Malik, M.D., Clinical Assistant Professor, Radiology

Calvin C. Walker, M.D., Clinical Associate Professor, Psychiatry

Ravish V. Patwardhan, M.D., Assistant Professor, Neurosurgery

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LSUHSC-S Spotlights Programs During "Day at the Capitol"

Top photo: William Jenkins, D.M.V., President of the LSU System (left), visits with Michael Mathis, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Cellular Biology and Anatomy (right), about Dr. Mathis' research involving gene therapy.

Bottom photo: Joseph McCulloch, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Allied Health, answers questions about the school and programs it offers students.

Drs. Mathis and McCulloch were among the representatives from LSUHSC who traveled to Baton Rouge recently for the LSUHSC "Day at the Capitol."

Representatives from the LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport School of Allied Health, School of Graduate Studies, Department of Family Medicine and Feist-Weiller Cancer Center were on hand for the event which gave state



legislators and others in the capitol an opportunity to better understand LSUHSC-S, the research being conducted here and the variety of care available to patients. ■

Electronic Interlibrary Loan Comes to Desktop

The Medical Library can now deliver many of the journal articles requested on interlibrary loans directly to a computer as a PDF file using the ILLiad interlibrary loan management system.

The user accesses the article by clicking on the link in the e-mailed notification that is sent to them when the article arrives.

For further information about receiving interlibrary loans in electronic form rather than by hard copy, contact Dawn Parker, Head of User Services, at 675-4712 or e-mail dparke1@lsuhsc.edu. ■

Dr. Stucker Speaks At International Meeting

Frederick Stucker, M.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery, recently served as a guest speaker at the International Conference for the Mexican Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery Society.

Dr. Stucker presented four courses, "Employing The CO2 Laser in Facial Reconstruction," "Management of Facial Deformations," "A Critical Analysis of 8,200 Personal Rhinoplasty Cases," and "Nasal Surgery in the Geriatric Patient." ■

Department of Pathology Makes Presentations

Several members of the LSUHSC in Shreveport Department of Pathology served as presenters at national and international events during the last month.

Guillermo A. Herrera, M.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Pathology, delivered two invited presentations at the XI International Symposium on Amyloidosis that drew more than 400 scientists to Tours, France. The first dealt with mechanisms involved in renal AL-amyloidosis and the other on the role of metalloproteinases in the mesangial damage that occurs in AL-amyloidosis. Other authors of the work presented, all from the Department of Pathology, included John Keeling, Ph.D., post-doctoral fellow; Jiamin Teng, M.D., Ph.D., Instructor and Elba A. Turbat-Herrera, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Another faculty member, Rachel B. Flamholz, M.D., Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology, presented a poster at the American Society for Apheresis annual meeting in Miami May 5-8. The title was "Goodpasture's Syndrome Treated with Plasma Exchange". Co-authors on the poster were Diana M. Veillon, M.D., Associate Professor, Xin Gu, M.D., Assistant Professor, Yeong-Ju Dancer, M.D., Resident, and James D. Cotelingam, M.D., Professor, all of the Department of Pathology.

On May 4, Jorge Albores-Saavedra, M.D., Professor and Director of Anatomic Pathology, and a co-presenter from Johns Hopkins University gave a short course on "Recent Progress in Pancreatic Neoplasia" at the National Mexican Pathology Congress that took place in Cancun, Mexico. Approximately 100 pathologists attended the course.

On May 6th, James D. Cotelingam, M.D., Professor and Director, Division of Clinical Pathology, presented the Callender-Binford Lecture at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, D.C. The lecture was entitled "Interpretation and Diagnosis of Bone Marrow Disease: Current Concepts". Invited guests included pathologists from regional universities and military facilities. The lecture was sponsored by the American Registry of Pathology. ■

Microbiology Fellow Receives Grant

Paul D. Ebner, Ph.D., a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, has been awarded a three-year \$139,200 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Awarded through the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), the grant is a three-year fellowship that will end April 30, 2007. The award will pay Dr. Ebner's stipend as a Postdoctoral Fellow and provide funds for travel and other research expenses.

Dr. Ebner is investigating the roles of two major herpesvirus regulatory genes in herpesvirus replication and is focusing on the role of altered forms of these two viral genes in the establishment of persistent herpesvirus infection. These studies may provide insight into which molecular events mediated by herpesvirus genes determine whether infection results in cell killing or in the establishment of a persistent infection in which the cell survives but continues to produce virus.

He received both the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Tennessee, where he studied the molecular characterization of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

He came to LSUHSC-S for postdoctoral training in molecular virology.

Dr. Ebner is mentored in his research by Dennis J. O'Callaghan, Ph.D., Boyd Professor and Head of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology and Willis-Knighton Endowed Chair in Molecular Biology. ■

E.A. Conway Employee of the Month

Ben Baugh, a radiological technologist, is E.A. Conway employee of the month for May 2004.

He has worked at the hospital for 11 years.

He is a graduate of South Arkansas Community College in El Dorado in 1993 with an Associate's Degree in Radiologic Technology. ■

Conway Retirees Honored



Roy Clay, Jr., M.D., Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and Medical Director, (center) joins Syble Burton (left) and Betty Johnson (right) during a luncheon honoring retirees of E.A. Conway Medical Center in Monroe. The meeting is held every three years at Conway.

Ms. Johnson was the first nurse hired at the then Monroe Charity Hospital when it opened July 1, 1941. Ms. Johnson retired in 1974.

Ms. Burton began her career in September of 1941 after graduating from nursing school in Mississippi. She retired in 1987.

Approximately 100 Conway retirees attended the event.