



ON THE INSIDE

Chancellor's Corner



The Search Committee for Psychiatry recommended Paul D. Ware, M.D., the acting Head of the Department of Psychiatry, be appointed to the position on a permanent basis.

This was in view of the exceptional leadership he has shown over the past two years. Dr. Ware has accepted

this appointment.

After sixteen years of service as Head of the Department of Pharmacology, Adrian Dunn, Ph.D., Boyd Professor of Pharmacology, requested to relinquish that appointment in order to focus fully on his research. Dr. Dunn has received world-wide recognition for his work in neuropharmacology. He has been appointed a Boyd Professor, which is the highest academic rank provided by the LSU System. It is said that Dr. Dunn has changed the way the world thinks of the mechanisms of neurotrophic drugs.

We all owe Dr. Dunn our gratitude for his long-term devotion to our institution. We all wish him well in his continued research.

Nicholas Goeders, Ph.D., Professor, has been appointed as interim Head of the Department, newly named Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience.

Many of our faculty, led by Andrew Chesson, M.D., Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, have spent many months preparing for our re-certification by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Site visitors spent two days on the campus in early March.

We were found in full compliance in all respects except for governance.

This was expected since the requirements are for a single CEO, and we have two. They recommended that we immediately take steps to apply for separate accreditation, which we will do.

Many of our faculty worked to achieve this favorable outcome and they deserve our thanks and appreciation for this effort.

Dr. Chesson should be singled out for his diligence in organizing and directing this work.

Regents Okay Med School Department Name Change

It's official: The name of the medical school's Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics changed to the Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience with final approval from the Louisiana Board of Regents last month.

The change was made to more accurately reflect the academic and research interests of the faculty and to continually attract quality graduate students to the Ph.D. program, according to Nicholas Goeders, Ph.D., Professor and Interim Head of the Department.

Currently, nine faculty members are either toxicologists or neuroscientists. The departmental name change reflects these research areas. ■

Correction

In the March edition of *On the Inside*, Molly Maranto, Instructor - Department of Family Medicine, was incorrectly identified in the new faculty section as Holly Maranto.

Ken Betzing Receives State Board Appointment



Kenneth Betzing

Kenneth W. Betzing, MPAS, PA-C, Program Director, Physician Assistant Program at LSUHSC-S, and Certified Physician Assistant, has been named by Governor Kathleen Blanco to a six-year term on the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee to the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.

The five member committee, consisting of three licensed physician assistants and two physicians, is charged with advising the Board of Medical Examiners on all matters specifically dealing with licensing or disciplining of physician assistants or the drafting of regulations relating to physician assistants.

The advisory committee also reviews and makes recommendations to the board on applications for licensure as physician assistants.

The Physician Assistant Program at LSUHSC-S is the only such program in Louisiana. It was established in 1994 and has awarded 248 Bachelor of Science degrees to date. ■

Head and Neck Cancer Screening Day Set

The LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport Feist-Weiller Cancer Center (FWCC) will offer its annual free, appointment only head and neck cancer screening on Friday, April 15.

The screenings will take place on the third floor of the new Feist-Weiller Cancer Center Outpatient Treatment Building located on the east edge of campus next to the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

For an appointment, call (318) 675-6262. Free valet parking will be available to participants.

Screenings will be for cancers in the oral cavity, throat and voice box, neck and thyroid, and skin cancer.

This screening is part of a national Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week, sponsored by the Yul Brynner Head and Neck Cancer Foundation, through Feist-Weiller Cancer Center and the Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery at LSUHSC-Shreveport.

In past years, LSUHSC-S has been among the top sites in the country in the number of patients screened.

Dr. McMartin Hosts National Symposium for K-12 Teachers

Kenneth McMartin, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience, served as the primary organizer of the "Paracelsus Goes to School: Toxicology Workshop for K-12 Teachers" that drew 63 teachers to the Society of Toxicology (SOT) meeting in New Orleans last month.

The goal of the teachers' workshop was to increase awareness of toxicology as a scientific discipline and help show teachers ways to implement instructional materials that meet national science standards in their classrooms.

The workshop started with lectures on toxicology with an emphasis on research in Louisiana.

Steve Pruet, Ph.D., Professor of Cellular Biology and Anatomy, presented "Toxicology Research and Applications in Louisiana: Pesticides and the Immune System."

The teachers also attended grade-specific workshop sessions.

Each small group was facilitated by SOT member toxicologists, including Drs. McMartin and Pruet; Tammy Dugas, Ph.D., and Heather Kleiner, Ph.D., both Assistant Professors of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience; and Pam Hebert, Instructor in Cellular Biology and Anatomy. ■

Medical Students Participate in Match Day Activities

More than 100 senior medical students from the LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport cheered for their classmates as they took turns learning where they will enter residency training during annual Match Day ceremonies March 17.

This year 61% of the senior class will enter in-state residency training programs on July 1.

Among those will be 40 who chose to begin residency at the LSU Hospital in Shreveport, or its affiliated Family Practice program in Vivian and Alexandria.

It is important for Louisiana to retain its graduating medical school seniors as national studies have shown that doctors are most likely to practice near the site where they complete residency.

Thirty of the Shreveport medical students chose either internal medicine, family practice, pediatrics, or the combined medicine/pediatric internship (the specialties most often referred to as primary care).

Meanwhile, the LSU Hospital will welcome 78 first-year residents in July, this includes the 40 seniors from the School of Medicine in Shreveport who matched to its programs. E.A. Conway Medical Center in Monroe will welcome eight residents into its Family Medicine program. ■



Kelly Boudreaux, Jr. and Allyson Hingle discover where they will take their residency training during Match Day ceremonies

Dr. Nanda Elected President of Statewide Organization

Anil Nanda, M.D., FACS, Professor and Head of the Department of Neurosurgery, was named President of the Louisiana Neurosurgical Society (LANS) during the organization's annual meeting in New Orleans.

During his two-year term as president, Dr. Nanda will represent the organization in its initiatives to exchange scientific information among members as well as serve as liaison with state health agencies and societies.

"It's a great honor to be selected as President of the LANS," said Dr. Nanda, who noted that LANS provides a valuable service to the field of neurosurgery in the state. He added, "It is humbling to assume the position in which so many talented Louisiana neurosurgeons have served, and I look forward to working with other members to improve the quality and delivery of neurosurgical care in Louisiana."

Founded in 1975, the Louisiana Neurosurgical Society consists of more than 100 active, senior, resident, and honorary members throughout Louisiana.

Among the speakers at this year's conference was Anthony Sin, M.D., fourth-year neurosurgery resident. Dr. Sin was named as the recipient of the first John Jackson Award for Best Clinical Research Presentation.

He presented a study entitled "A Biomechanical Comparison Study after Anterior Plate Fixation in a Cadaver Cervical Model: Two Level Discectomy vs. Single Level Corpectomy."

The study tested the immediate stability of two surgical approaches to spinal fusion, utilizing specialized equipment in the biomechanics lab at LSUHSC-S.

Dr. Nanda said that the research sheds an interesting light on the varying approaches to spinal fusion. "Dr. Sin's research has shown that there is little difference between the immediate stability of discectomy vs. corpectomy once anterior plating fixation is added," he said. "We are excited about the potential of such a study, and congratulate Dr. Sin on being the first to receive this award."

The John Jackson award was instituted by LANS this year in honor of the retired LSUHSC-New Orleans Clinical Professor who practiced neurosurgery in the New Orleans area for more than 40 years until his recent retirement.

The award for Best Clinical Research Presentation recognizes his expertise in clinical neurosurgery and spinal conditions. ■

“What’s Up Doc?” Scheduled

Mark your calendar now for the sixth annual “What’s Up Doc?” presented by the LSU Health Sciences Foundation, scheduled for April 25 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Isle of Capri Hotel and Casino.

This signature fundraiser of the LSUHS Foundation brings together 40 faculty members and more than 300 people from around the region in an intimate dinner setting designed to broaden the community’s awareness of the distinguished

faculty and programs at the LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport.

Sponsorship levels of \$2,500 and \$5,000 are available as well as table sponsors at \$1,000 and individual tickets at \$125 each. A portion of sponsorship and tickets are tax deductible.

For more information call Sherry Sandidge, LSUHS Foundation, 675-5174. ■

“Boo Benefit” Donations Help LSUHSC-S Burn Patients

A donation of \$75,000 has been made to the Percy R. Johnson Burn Foundation raised from the 2004 “Boo Run Benefit” in Jefferson, Texas.

For the past seven years, former burn patient Charles “Boo” Chaler and wife, Patsy, founders of the “Boo Benefit,” have staged the rally with the help of friends and local businesses.

In 2001, the event raised \$30,000 used toward the week-long summer camp for burn survivor children from five to 17 years old.

The burn camp allows burn survivor children wishing to attend summer camp to enjoy many of the same activities as other children.

In 2002, the “Boo Run” contributed \$35,000 which helped the Foundation purchase a house near the LSU Hospital Regional Burn Center. The house was named the Chaler-Rods House.

The house is provided as a respite for out-of-town family members of burn patients during the critical stages of recovery.

This most recent donation to the Foundation was designated for continued support of the Louisiana Children’s Burn Camp and expenses associated with the Chaler-Rods House.

Board members are also considering using a portion of the donation to establish a scholarship program to help burn survivors pursue their higher education goals.

Kevin Sittig, M.D., President of the Percy R. Johnson Burn Foundation and Director of the Regional Burn Center at the LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Chalers and all those who helped make the “Boo Benefit” possible as he accepted the check. ■



Kathryn Richardson, M.D. (left) and Kevin Sittig, M.D. (center) thank Charles “Boo” Chaler for a donation from the annual fundraiser held by Chaler benefitting the Percy R. Johnson Burn Foundation

E.A. Conway Employee of the Month



Shirley Martin

Shirley Martin was named E.A. Conway’s Employee of the Month for March.

Ms. Martin, a custodian in the Environmental Services Department, has been employed at the hospital for four years.

Ms. Martin’s duties include being responsible for custodial work in the E.A. Conway Medical Center module units. ■

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.

Medicine Residents and Fellows Win Awards

Three trainees in the LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport residency program have won awards for their medical research.

Sujata Agnani, M.D., third-year resident, and Adrian Sequeira, M.D., second-year resident, both in the Department of Medicine, each received a Southern Section-American Federation for Medical Research (SAFMR)/ Southern Society for Clinical Investigation (SCCI) Trainee Research Award of \$500 during the organization’s recent meeting in New Orleans.

The organizations provide grants each year “to acknowledge the fine work of faculty and trainees including fellows, house staff, medical students and graduate students.”

Dr. Agnani presented two papers highlighting the clinical importance of hyperuricemia in acute renal failure and the differential diagnosis of hyperkalemia in a diabetic patient.

Dr. Sequeira presented four papers, including an oral presentation.

Bharat Sachdeva, M.D., Nephrology Fellow, received the Amgen Nephrology Young Investigators Award for his study of catheter design and its effect on hemodialysis therapy.

Tushar Vachharajani, M.D., FASN, and Naveen Atray, M.D., FASN, both Assistant Professor of Medicine, Section of Nephrology, served as mentors to the residents, and also presented a poster at the meeting. ■

Conference Features Prominent Neuroscientist

The Department of Neurosurgery at LSU Health Sciences in Shreveport hosted Mayo neurosurgeon Dr. David G. Piepgras as the Second Annual Mary Louise and Ben Levy, Jr. Visiting Professor in Neurosurgery.

Dr. Piepgras, the John T. and Lillian Mathews Professor of Neuroscience at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, presented “Management of Unruptured Intracranial Aneurysms – An Evolution from Bias to Evidence-Based Practice.” The lecture explored the progression of approaches to treating abnormal and potentially dangerous bulges in vessels within the brain.

Anil Nanda, M.D., FACS, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery, stated that Dr. Piepgras has developed an international reputation as an expert in intracranial aneurysms.

“In his 30 years at the Mayo Clinic, Dr. Piepgras has contributed significantly to the field of knowledge concerning intracranial aneurysms, as well as cerebrovascular occlusive disease and spinal cord tumors,” Dr. Nanda said.

In 1998, Dr. Piepgras was named by his peers as a Distinguished Mayo Clinician.

The Mary Louise and Ben Levy, Jr. Visiting Professorship in Neurosurgery was established in 2004 by the family of the late Mr. Levy, who was active in Shreveport civic affairs. In addition to serving on the Board of the LSU Health Sciences Foundation he also served on the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, and Shreveport Airport Authority. ■

Core Research Facility Acquires New Equipment

New instrumentation allowing researchers to better study proteins encoded by the human genome has been obtained by the LSUHSC-S Research Core Facility. A Thermo Finnigan LCQ Deca XP Max liquid chromatograph-mass spectrometer (LC/MS), fitted with an electrospray ionization (ESI) source and an ion trap mass analyzer, was acquired through funding from the Louisiana Board of Regents. The instrument’s electrospray ionization allows for the study of a wide range of molecular types. In addition, the instrument is interfaced to software that enables both small molecule identification (such as drug metabolites) and peptide/protein sequencing. The ion trap mass analyzer provides structural information, allowing the analyst to “walk down” the structure of the molecule.

The instrument is ideal for cases in which the molecular mass of the analyte is completely unknown, and is likewise well-suited for conducting proteomics-based biomedical research, which is defined as the qualitative and quantitative comparisons of proteins under different conditions. Specifically, the new instrumentation can provide information regarding protein identification and posttranslational modifications. For more information regarding its applications or use, contact Tammy Dugas, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmacology, Toxicology, and Neuroscience. ■



U.S. Senator David Vitter (left) visits with LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport Chancellor and Dean John C. McDonald, M.D., (center) and Teresa Yellowdy-Haley (right), whose children utilize the Children’s Center of LSUHSC-S, during the Senator’s recent tour of the new facility.

Senator Vitter announced the state’s congressional delegation obtained \$100,000 in federal funding to assist LSUHSC-S in renovating the building that will house the Children’s Center.

During his visit, Senator Vitter also met with several families whose children receive therapy for developmental conditions at the Children’s Center, a service component of the School of Allied Health Professions.

In addition to the federal funds, donations of more than \$107,500 raised by community contributors through the campaign, which has been a priority for the LSU Health Sciences Foundation. The Foundation acquired the building on behalf of LSUHSC-S.

Dr. Gehrig Inducted as a Fellow in AAOS

Laura Gehrig, M.D., Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) during the Academy’s recent annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Gehrig was one of 549 new Fellows inducted into the Academy, which has 28,000 members worldwide.

The AAOS is the largest medical association for musculoskeletal specialists. Its members are medical doctors who have finished at least a five-year residency in orthopaedics in an accredited program, passed a comprehensive oral and written exam, and are certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery.

The organization provides educational programs for orthopaedic surgeons, allied health professions and the public. Its goal is to raise awareness of musculoskeletal health, stimulate research and improve quality of life for people of all ages.

Since November of 2000, Dr. Gehrig, who has a particular interest in osteoporosis, has served as founding director of the Osteoporosis Center of LSU Hospital in Shreveport. ■



Laura Gehrig, M.D.

Dr. Albores-Saavedra Speaks at International Meeting

Jorge Albores-Saavedra, M.D., Professor and Director of Anatomic Pathology at LSUHSC-S, recently presented two lectures at the course on selected topics in surgical pathology organized by the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

The lectures, “Incipient neoplasia of the uterine cervix” and “Incipient neoplasia of the gallbladder,” were on early cancer of the uterine cervix and gallbladder.

Nearly two hundred Latin American pathologists attended the course.

During the event, Dr. Albores-Saavedra was honored by the Latin American Pathologists for his work on behalf of Latin American pathology. ■

New Faculty

Leslie A. Fitzgerald, D.V.M., Assistant Librarian, Library Services
Atossa A. Stanley, M.D., Assistant Professor - Clinical, Family Medicine