

ON THE MSIDE

LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport

Medical Library Head Receives Prestigious Award

Marianne Comegys, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Medical Library Science, received a regional Medical Library Association Distinguished Service Award at the recent annual meeting of the MLA's South Central Chapter.

The prestigious award, created in 1985, is presented to a medical librarian within the five-state region that includes Louisiana in recognition of outstanding contributions to the South Central Chapter and the profession of medical librarianship.

Ms. Comegys joined the library faculty in 1976. She holds her MLS from LSU in Baton Route and after a program of study in 1987 at LSU, she was awarded special certification in library automation, an emerging, rapidlychanging field that at the time involving mainframe computers.

With this expertise, Ms. Comegys was well equipped to spearhead the library's push to migrate its card catalog and all other aspects of its daily operations to online systems.

She served as Associate Director of the medical library from 1988-2003, supervising daily operations. After Ms. Comegys was named Head of the Department of Medical Library Science in 2003, she began to address the changing role of the library in the Internet age.

Throughout her career, Ms. Comegys has been active in many LSUHSC-S organizations. She has held the position of co-director of the medical school's Alumni Organization since 1998. She has likewise been continuously active in professional organizations such as the Medical Library Association, both at the national level and in its South Central Chapter.

Medical Student Wins National Research Award



Roy Burrell

Third-year medical student Roy Burrell of Shreveport has received the National Student Research Forum (NSRF) Poster Award, presented by the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX, (UTMB-Galveston) Department of Orthopaedics in recognition of his outstanding research.

Mr. Burrell's project, "A Study of Morphology and Mechanical Properties of

Goat, Sheep, and Human Lumbar Vertebral Bodies," was conducted with members of LSUHSC-Shreveport's Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. They included Richard McCall, M.D., Professor and Head; Alan Ogden, Research Associate; and Debi Mukherjee, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Coordinator of Bioengineering.

The research project was accepted for presentation at the NSRF national conference in Galveston, Texas.

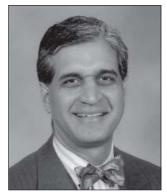
Mr. Burrell's research sought to compare the morphology, mechanical properties and ash contents of L1 and L2 vertebral bodies to aid in selecting the proper animal model for biomechanical studies.

The data gained from this study can be used as a guide in selecting appropriate animal models to determine the proper spinal instrumentation to aid in the study of osteoporotic conditions of the human lumbar vertebral bodies.



Current and past issues of "On the Inside" can be viewed on the LSUHSC-S web site at http://www.sh.lsuhsc.edu/our.html

Dr. Nanda Presents at Chinese Neurosurgery Conference



Anil Nanda, M.D.

Anil Nanda, M.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Neurosurgery, was featured speaker at the Congress of Chinese Neurosurgeons Conference held recently in Beijing.

Of the three international guests who were invited presenters. Dr. Nanda was the only one from the United States.

His lecture, "Skull Base Tumors: Past, Present, &

Future," opened the conference. Dr. Nanda presented techniques, video clips of surgeries and case studies to the more than 7,000 convention delegates.

"This is a huge event with thousands of people. It is a great honor to have been asked to speak to such a highly regarded group of neurosurgeons," said Dr. Nanda. "China has invested wisely in their neurosurgical infrastructure."

Also while in China, Dr. Nanda served as a Visiting Professor at Fudang University. He presented a lecture entitled "Skull Base Approach to Vascular Lesions" to the faculty and staff of Hua Shan Hospital in Shanghai.

"The hospital has an impressive neurosurgery department. It is always a privilege to be asked to be a visiting professor at another university," Dr. Nanda noted.

Dr. Lowery Nordberg Makes Invited Presentations

Mary Lowery Nordberg, Ph.D., an Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology, a member of the Feist-Weiller Cancer Center team, and nationally known for her expertise in flow cytometry and molecular diagnostics, recently participated in several invited presentations at conferences.

Dr. Lowery Nordberg and her collaborator, Dr. Jack Sun of University of Colorado Health Sciences Center/Veterans Association Medical Center, co-chaired a workshop on "Current Topics in Flow Cytometry and Molecular Diagnostics" at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP) in Las Vegas.

She teamed with James Cotelingam, M.D., Professor, Department of Pathology, and Director of the Clinical Laboratory at LSUHSC-S, to present a second ASCP workshop. The session was entitled "What, When, Where? The "How Do I Do It?" Practical Approach to New Technologies in Evaluating Hematologic Disease - Frequently Asked Questions."

Dr. Morgan Recognized for "Inspiring Confidence"

Marie Vazquez Morgan, Ph.D. PT, of LSUHSC-S is one of 10 national winners in the "Empowerment through Education" competition for women sponsored by Maybelline New York.

A physical therapist, Dr. Morgan is an Assistant Professor, Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, Program in Physical Therapy in the School of Allied Health Professions. She will be featured in the December issue of *People en Español* magazine.

In addition to a trip to New York for a gala press event, each winner received a \$10,000 grant. Dr. Morgan earmarked her grant for the LSUHSC-S Physical Therapy program.

The 10 winners are women who excel in helping further educational initiatives in their communities. The "Empowerment through Education" contest, is part of Maybelline New York's philanthropic efforts to further education in the United States.

Contestants submitted original essays describing the importance that education plays in a person's success.

Thousands of entries were submitted for judging by representatives from *People* and *Essence* magazines as well as Maybelline New York.

Holiday Decoration Guidelines

With the approaching holidays, employees are reminded of safety regulations regarding decorations, and that supervisor approval is required before decorating work areas.

Decorations must conform to the National Fire Prevention guidelines, according to the LSUHSC-S Safety Office.

These fire safety guidelines state:

Live trees are prohibited. Artificial trees may be used if they are certified as flameproof or fire resistant and must be UL listed.

Electrical lights are prohibited. Battery operated lights, which are UL listed, may be used.

No trees or decorations may be placed in passageways or near exit doors.

Only decorations that are flame-retardant are allowed.

If you use decorations that are flameretardant, you must have documentation showing that to be the case.

Flame-retardant decorations can be used only in limited quantities.

For questions concerning the decorating guidelines, call the Safety Office at (318) 675-5410.

Research Could Benefit Patients Suffering from Chronic Stroke



Li-Ru Zhao, M.D.

Promising stroke research by LSUHSC-S faculty members Li-Ru Zhao, M.D., Assistant Professor of Neurology, and Wei-Ming Duan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Cellular Biology and Anatomy, was selected among the top five abstracts included in the Press Book for the recent Neuroscience annual meeting.

"The study provides the first evidence demonstrating that chronic stroke, in an animal model, can respond to pharmaceutical intervention," said Dr. Zhao.

The abstract, "Beneficial effects of hematopoietic growth factors on chronic stroke" reported that in a well-established animal model, innovative pharmaceutical intervention—administered as late as three

and a half months after a stroke—has three benefits. It reduces the size of the residual brain lesion, restores the brain's normal neuronal network, and promotes motor functional recovery.

Functional recovery was evaluated over a period of up to 17 weeks after treatment with well-characterized neuron functional behavioral tests.

"Stroke is the leading cause of adult long-term disability worldwide. Currently, there is lack of treatment for stroke survivors who are left with disability in the chronic phase of stroke," said Dr. Zhao.

"Moreover, the LSUHSC-S study suggests that simulation of the body's own stem cells have the potential to promote recovery from stroke," she added.

This research could lead to the development of a novel, non-invasive, and effective stem cell therapy for not only stroke, but also potentially other neurodegenerative diseases. A particular attraction for this approach is the avoidance of ethical concerns associated with other approaches.



Wei-Ming Duan, Ph.D.

LSUHSC-S Nurses Gain **National Certification**

Four registered nurses are among the most recent LSUHSC-S employees to gain national certification as clinical research coordinators.

Twyla Balentine, RN; Tommie Stapleton, RN; Yvette Viverette, RN; and Karen Hale-Stenson, RN, recently passed the Certified Clinical Research Coordinators (CCRC) exam administered by the Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP).

CCRC certification is formal recognition of clinical research professionals who have met the professional eligibility requirements and demonstrated job-related knowledge and skills.

Certification is granted based on documented and verified work experience and after successful performance on a multiple choice exam.

There are now seven Certified Clinical Research Coordinators working in the Department of Medicine/ Division of Research.

Art Show Provides Funds for Medical Library

A recent art show and sale netted more than \$2,600 for the Medical Library at LSUHSC-S.

Hosted at the home of Marianne Comegys, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Medical Library Science, the show featured works by Jill Steenhuis, a noted French impressionist who lives in the south of France.

In June, Ms. Steenhuis was the Cezanne specialist for the Smithsonian Institute when Smithsonian officials traveled to Aix-en-Provence to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Cezanne's death.

The money raised locally will fund projects and equipment purchases for the medical library.

Human Resources Corner

HRM TOP TEN LIST for 2007 Things we want you to know

- 10. Unclassified Positions Posted on the website each Monday and Wednesday. Applicants should submit a current resume via mail, fax, or email. A SF-10 application is not needed for unclassified positions.
- 9. Newly hired unclassified employees Begin employment on the first of a month for benefit eligibility and leave accrual purposes. If justification can be provided, a new hire can begin work later in the month, but no later than the 15th of each month.
- 8. Applying for several classified positions -Provide a separate copy of your application for each position, no copies.
- 7. Open Enrollment April is the time for employees to learn of new or changing insurance plans.
- 6. Applying for classified position without the exam - When the Classified Competitive positions close to application, the application will be screened for minimum qualification requirements as well as the appropriate test score. The applicant must show in the application the minimum qualification requirement is clearly met. HR will verify the test score requirement with Civil Service.
- 5. FMLA and Confidentiality Medical certification is highly personal and confidential. Supervisors and managers must remember to refrain from giving out medical or other details about employees' absences and keep medical certification which indicates medical facts in the departmental files

FMLA certification is to be kept only in a confidential medical file located in Human Resource Management.

- 4. Performance Planning and Review Conduct planning sessions within 30 days after the appointment of a new employee or after the movement of an existing employee to another department. The evaluation session should be within 60 days of the employee's anniversary date. Anything outside these times is a violation of Civil Service Rules.
- 3. The Road to Retirement- Schedule your one-onone sessions to inquire, plan and gather pertinent information to transition from career to retirement.
- 2. Name Change Bring the SSN card with the new name on it to the Records Section. The receipt of order for the SSN card will not do. Address Change – For benefits or retirement, go to the Benefits Section (AHB 124) and change your address.
- 1. Check the HRM website revised Employee Handbook information about hiring, jobs, retirement and insurance benefits, training, employee relations, frequently used forms are at www.sh.lsuhsc.edu/HR.

Those with **PeopleSoft access** – run queries to obtain information about training records, PERs, leave, FMLA, CED, earnings accounts, more!

LSUHS Foundation Scores With "Back In Swing" Event

The LSUHS Foundation, in conjunction with Louisiana Pain Physicians and Cornerstone Rehabilitation held the fifth annual "Back in Swing: Interactive Golf Clinic" at East Ridge Country Club.

Back in Swing provided some important lessons to help golfers remain injury free while raising more than \$35,000 for the LSU Health Sciences Foundation, which provides support to LSUHSC-S.

Event founders and LSUHSC-S alumni, Bill Whyte, M.D., and Mike Jones, PT, conducted an informational seminar which educated attendees on treatment and, more importantly, prevention of spinal injury and back pain.

Shannon Caverly, Head Golf Professional at East Ridge Country Club; Emlyn Aubrey, PGA Professional Golfer; and Shane Warren, Assistant Coach of the LSU Men's Golf Team, worked with participants one-on-one, instructing them on proper positioning of the spine during the swing.

Following the seminar and clinic, golfers practiced what they learned during nine holes of golf on the challenging East Ridge golf course.



L to R: Scott Brooks, Jay Brooks and their father Gary Brooks, M.D., Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, on the course at Back in Swing 2006

Flu Shots Offered To **Employees**

With the first case of influenza now confirmed in the Shreveport area, LSUHSC-S employees are reminded that influenza vaccine is being administered free of charge in the Employee Health Clinic, eighth floor of the hospital.

All employees are eligible to be vaccinated at the clinic between 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. No appointment is necessary.

Employees with direct patient contact are especially encouraged to get a flu vaccination. Individuals with severe allergies to either latex or eggs should consult their physician prior to getting a shot.

Noted Speaker Addresses Family Medicine Event

William Coleman, M.D., Ph.D., of the University of Alabama at Birmingham Huntsville Regional Medical Campus, challenged current medical students to consider primary care—more specifically Family Medicine—as their choice when he addressed the LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport Family Medicine Interest Group.

Dr. Coleman is Director of the Office for Family Health Education and Research, University of Alabama School of Medicine Huntsville Regional Medical Campus.

He noted that the specialty of Family Physician offers broad patient care opportunities. Emphasizing that Family Medicine is not just routine clinic visits for those with colds and minor aches and pains, he noted more and more family physicians are the first contact for diagnoses of cancer, heart disease and other life-threatening illnesses.

Dr. Coleman, a former president of the American Academy of Family Physicians, serves on a number of local, state and national professional committees. He is currently President of the American Association for Primary Care Endoscopy, a pioneer organization for family physicians.

During his visit to LSUHSC-S, Dr. Coleman also met with John C. McDonald, M.D., Chancellor/Dean, and other officials to discuss the innovative program at Huntsville that is designed to attract and mentor rural students who are interested in medical school.

E.A. Conway Employee of the Month



Todd Walters

Todd Walters was E. A. Conway Medical Center's Employee of the Month for November.

Mr. Walters has worked at Conway for 11 years and is an Information Technology Analyst in the Computer Services Department.

He received a bachelor of science degree in Computer Science from the University of Louisiana at Monroe in 1993.

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Medical Students Present Work at AMA Meeting

Research projects of two LSUHSC-S medical students was featured at a recent national meeting.

Third-year student Kristen Berlin, of Covington, and second-year student Lauren Ditta, of Harvey, both presented abstracts at the recent American Medical Association (AMA) Interim Meeting Medical Student Section (MSS) Research Poster Symposium in Las Vegas.



Kristen Berlin

Both students were selected for awards in their categories: Ms. Berlin in the area of microbiology and immunology and Ms. Ditta in clinical and epidemiological health care.

Ms. Berlin's project, "Immune defects in subjects with dsymorphic disorders: Using Lymphocyte Mitogen response by CD69 expression to assess T-Cell response to antigenic stimulation," sought to evaluate

the cellular function of patients with documented and suspected immunodeficiency syndromes.

She is working with clinicians in allergy and immunology to establish an analysis to better identify patients with immunodeficiencies. The goal is to help assess the immunocompetence of an individual by measuring the immune response to specific mitosis and antibody causing agents.

Ms. Berlin's co-authors were Narlito V. Cruz, M.D., Fellow in the Section of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology; Sami L. Bahna, M.D. DrPH, Professor, Department of Pediatrics and Chief, Section of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology; and her faculty

adviser, Mary Lowery Nordberg, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pathology.

Ms. Ditta's project, "Pharmacogenomics in Colorectal Cancer- UGT1A1 Genetic Polymorphism," focused on a sensitive pharmacogenomic screen which may reduce health care costs for select patients by enhancing therapeutic benefits and reducing the incidence of adverse reactions to a variety of certain drugs, including Irinotecan.



The goal of the project was to assess the prevalence of a specific gene known as UGT1A1 in colorectal cancer patient population, with the aim of identifying those at greatest risk for Irinotecan toxicity. This toxicity can lead to side effects, the most significant being severe diarrhea and neutropenia.

Co-authors were Desiree Maresca, RN; Glenn M. Mills, M.D., Professor, Department of Medicine; and faculty adviser, Dr. Lowery Nordberg. Scott Crawford, a high school student in the SMART program, also assisted in the project.

Posters were judged by members of the AMA council on Science and Public Health, as well as local medical school faculty members.

New Faculty

Sujata T. Agnani, M.D., Assistant Professor, Medicine Sameh M. Hussein, M.D., Assistant Professor, Pediatrics Allison E. LeBlanc, Instructor, Family Medicine Venkateswara Rao, M.D., Professor, Medicine