



ON THE INSIDE

LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport

Two LSUHSC-S Faculty Members Chosen as Leaders

Two LSU Health Science Center at Shreveport faculty members were honored recently among the Outstanding Leaders for 2005 selected by editorial board of *The Times* newspaper.

Anil Nanda, M.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Neurosurgery, and Terry Strain, PA-C, Instructor in the Department of Medicine, were recognized for their community contributions, through both their professional and personal efforts.



Anil Nanda, M.D.

Dr. Nanda was praised by the newspaper for his success in enhancing the international reputation of LSUHSC-S and the local community "as a place for first-rate healthcare treatment and research.

At the same time," The Times noted, "he supports a number of local cultural and civic endeavors."

Dr. Nanda's passion for science extends to Shreveport's Sci-Port Discovery Center since he believes that encouraging the bright young minds of today is the only way to promote and grow the next generation of scientists.

He is an ardent supporter of not only the symphony, opera, and River City Repertory theatre, but also serves on the Robinson Film Center board of directors.

Ms. Strain was honored for her volunteer efforts to make medical care available to the area's poor by founding the Pool of Siloam Medical Clinic at Faith United Methodist Church in February of 2005.

The free clinic provides basic medical care to residents of primarily the Cedar Grove neighborhood. Since its opening, the clinic has served more than 300 patients.

Ms. Strain was also commended for her work as a volunteer at Red Cross-sponsored hurricane shelters in Shreveport and Ruston, where she spent countless hours caring for hundreds of evacuees with a variety of injuries and illnesses. ■



Terry Strain, PA-C

Allergy and Immunology Residents Excel on Boards

Four physicians who completed their fellowship training in Allergy and Immunology at LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport have passed the American Board of Allergy and Immunology board certification examination.

Sanaa Mahmoud, M.D.; I. John Moissidis, M.D.; David Kaufman, M.D.; and Shahid Bangash, M.D., passed on their first attempt, a tradition among those who have completed the LSUHSC-S fellowship program since 2002.

The Allergy and Immunology fellowship at LSUHSC-S is one of only 71 such training programs in North America. Sami Bahna, M.D., Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Chief of the Section of Allergy and Immunology, became program director in 2002. It accepts physicians who completed residency training in either pediatrics or internal medicine.

The American Board of Allergy and Immunology is a joint board of the American Board of Pediatrics and the American Board of Internal Medicine. ■

New Faculty

Harris R. Baig, M.D., Clinical Assistant Professor, Anesthesiology
John C. Charity, Instructor, Orthopaedics
Stephanie L. Gordon, Instructor, Medicine

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

Dr. Witt Receives NIH Grant to Study Parkinson's Disease

LSUHSC-S scientist Stephan Witt, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, has competed successfully for federal research funds to support his efforts to help those with Parkinson's Disease.

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke awarded Dr. Witt a of \$325,525 to fund "A novel method to discover genes that protect cells from alpha synuclein." The grant period is two years.

Lucy Robinson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, serves as a consultant on the project.

The project involves using yeast to screen the human genome for genes that protect cells from the toxic effects of a Parkinson's Disease-related protein called alpha-synuclein.

The protective genes that are discovered might be used in a gene therapy approach against Parkinson's disease.

In addition, Dr. Witt's research receives a \$10,000 Parkinson's Disease Resource Award provided by the LSUHSC-Shreveport Parkinson's Disease Resource Foundation. ■

Blood Drives Planned

Again in 2005, LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport ranked as one of the top collection sites for LifeShare Blood Center with employees and students donating 625 units during 13 drives.

During a recent luncheon LSUHSC-S was recognized for meeting its donation goal for the year.

Two employees were honored for their individual blood donations. Jaqueline Foster, Registrar's Office and Eurvin Kittle Jr., Hospital Billing, were both recognized for being seven-time donors during the last year.

LifeShare officials say they are grateful for the donations as they consider LSUHSC-S instrumental in helping maintain the area's blood supply.

Employees and students who have given in the past are encouraged to consider making donations again in 2006 during one of the scheduled events.

All drives are planned on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the atrium of the Biomedical Research Institute.

The dates are: February 16, March 23, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 30, and December 14.

Cancer Experts Scheduled to Participate in Live Radio Show

Three specialists with the Feist-Weiller Cancer Center of LSUHSC-S will give be panelists discussing colon cancer and fielding caller questions on a live call-in radio show Thursday, February 23, from 6-7 p.m. on KDAQ public radio at 89.9 on the FM dial.

Glenn Mills, M.D., Professor, Department of Medicine, and Feist-Weiller Cancer Center Director of Clinical Services; Benjamin Li, M.D., Professor, Department of Surgery, and Chief of Surgical Oncology; and Quyen Chu, M.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, will respond to the callers as they discuss colon cancer.

The call in number is (800) 552-8502.

They will also provide information about the colonoscopy trial offering free colon screenings to those who qualify.

Additionally, Drs. Li and Chu will discuss the new Intraperitoneal Hyperthermic Chemo-Perfusion (IPHC) surgery procedure.

The Feist-Weiller Cancer Center is one of four sites for both the clinical trial and the procedure. ■

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Otolaryngology Moves Toward Cochlear Implant Program



Gale Gardner, M.D.

The LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery has taken the formidable first step in establishing the first cochlear implant program in Northwest Louisiana by recruiting a neuro-otologist.

Gale Gardner, M.D., Clinical Professor of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery, is developing a neuro-otology

program with a goal to establish a center for cochlear implants. The department is actively recruiting a full-time neuro-otologist.

Currently, Dr. Gardner spends two days a week at LSUHSC-S, away from his busy private practice in Memphis.

This is not Dr. Gardner's first association with the LSU Hospital in Shreveport. The University of Tennessee Medical School graduate took a surgical internship in LSU Hospital (then Confederate Memorial) in 1955.

Dr. Gardner is currently screening patients to identify potential cochlear implant recipients for the anticipated establishment of this program.

Prior to performing the first implantation, residents and support personnel who would be involved with not only the surgery but also with the vital rehabilitation associated with cochlear implants will undergo extensive training.

Already several members of the Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery have attended in-service sessions.

Dr. Gardner has had a long time interest in cochlear implants. He trained under William House, M.D., the Los Angeles based otologist who first began contemplating the idea of an implantable electronic hearing device in the mid-1950s and developed the first practical model in 1984.

Since then, cochlear implants have increased in acceptance, not only in the hearing impaired community, but also among insurance companies in reimbursing healthcare facilities which perform the surgeries. In addition, more hearing-impaired individuals have been identified as potentially benefiting from the implants.

"We are truly fortunate to obtain the services of an internationally recognized neuro-otologist to join our department," said Frederick Stucker, M.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery. "Dr. Gardner is a patient and effective teacher who is on the cutting edge of neuro-otology advances. It is with a great deal of pride that I welcome him as a member of our faculty." ■

Surgical Vascular Laboratory Receives Accreditation

The LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport Surgical Vascular Laboratory has been accredited for three years by the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Vascular Laboratories (ICAVL).

The laboratory was recognized by the accrediting body for its commitment to providing a high level of patient care and quality testing for the diagnosis of vascular disease.

The vascular lab joins seventeen facilities from Louisiana that meet ICAVL standards for noninvasive vascular testing.

Accreditation covers various aspects of the vascular lab, including organization, screening, extracranial cerebrovascular, peripheral venous, and peripheral arterial. ■

Graduate Student Invited to Present Work at Symposium

Satish Cheepala, a student in the School of Graduate Studies at LSUHSC-S who is working toward his Doctor of Philosophy degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, has been awarded an expense-paid trip to present his work at a professional meeting later this month.

Mr. Cheepala, who is working in the laboratory of John Clifford, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, will attend the Timberline Symposium on Epithelial Cell Biology in Mt. Hood, Oregon. His poster presentation is on his research about skin carcinogenesis. ■

Prohibited Political Activities Concerning Recall Efforts

Rules that govern political activity by classified employees in the State Civil Service include efforts to recall from office of an elected public official are among the political activities covered, as cited below.

Civil Service Rule 14.1(e) 5 reads as follows:

14.1 Prohibited Activities.

(e) No employee in the classified service and no member of the Commission shall ...

5. Take active part in an effort to recall from office an elected public official, or seek, solicit or attempt to coerce any person including any employee in the classified service and any member of the Commission into participating in any such effort or signing a recall petition except that nothing contained herein shall prevent an employee in the classified service or member of the Commission from signing a recall petition.

Therefore, a state classified employee may sign a recall petition.

However, a state classified employee may not take any active part in a recall effort.

Examples of what a state classified employee may not do are: Circulate a recall petition, ask others to sign a recall petition, offer to mail a recall petition for others, man a table collecting signatures on a recall petition, or e-mail a recall petition to others.

Signing a recall petition is personal business not to be conducted on state time or using state resources. Employees may not sign and submit recall petitions on line from their state computers.

If there are any questions, please contact Lisa Ebarb, Associate Director of Human Resource Management, (318) 675-5605.

SMART Students at LSUHSC-S Win Major Competitions

Three local high school students who participate in the Science and Math Academic and Research Training (SMART) program at LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport were winners in two international competitions.

Caddo Magnet High School seniors Charles Dyer and Monika Kumar participated in the Intel Foundation competition. Colin McRae, Parkway High School senior, is a semi-finalist in the Siemens Foundation Competition.

The Intel Foundation competition is known as the Intel Science Talent Search (ISTS). The oldest pre-college science competition in America, sometimes called the "junior Nobel Prize," selects semi-finalists based on a research paper, teacher recommendations, high school transcript, and standardized test scores (ACT and SAT).

The Siemens Foundation competition is designed to recognize remarkable talent early on and foster individual growth for high school students who are willing to challenge themselves through science research. Through the competition students have an opportunity to achieve national recognition for high science research projects. Finals of the competition will be later this year.

Mr. Dyer, Ms. Kumar and Caddo Magnet High each will receive prizes of \$1,000.

Mr. Dyer is a student in the lab of John Clifford, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and Ms. Kumar is a student in the lab of Andrew Yurochko, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology.

Mr. McRae is a student in the lab of Tammy Dugas, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience.

The SMART program is sponsored jointly by the LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport Office of Research and the Biomedical Research Foundation of Northwest Louisiana.

The program is open to Caddo and Bossier Parish high school seniors recommended by their schools and interested in pursuing a career in science. ■

LSUHS Foundation Acquires Additional Property

The LSU Health Sciences Foundation continues their investment in real estate near the LSUHSC-S campus.

Recently the Foundation acquired a four-acre parcel with frontage on both Wilkinson and West Kirby streets. The property consists of four buildings, including the former LifeShare Blood Center building at 1521 Wilkinson Street. The acquisition provides more than 26,500 additional square feet of office and warehouse space.

The Louisiana Poison Control Center, headed by Tom Arnold, M.D., Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Emergency Medicine, is scheduled to move into a portion of the LifeShare building during the first quarter of 2006.

Determination regarding space utilization in the remainder of the building will be made by LSUHSC-S Chancellor/Dean John C. McDonald, M.D.

For more information about the LSUHS Foundation and its mission to support the LSU Health Sciences Center, please visit the web site at www.lsuhsfoundation.org.

Urology Residency Program Gains Re-Certification

The LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport Department of Urology residency, which continues to be one of the strongest urology training programs in the United States, has been re-certified by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) for the next five years.

Dennis Venable, M.D., is Professor and Head of the Department of Urology. He has headed the department since 1981.

The ACGME bestowed its highest rating, Continued Full Accreditation with Commendation, on the Urology residency program based on its recently completed review. The organization had also awarded accreditation with commendation to the program at the time of the previous review in 1999.

The four-year program is approved for eight residents total (two at each level of urology training) with two additional residents participating in pre-urology surgical training during their first year. ■

Search Begins for New Pathology Department Head

Veteran faculty member Marjorie Fowler, M.D., Professor, Department of Pathology, has been chosen as interim Head of the Department of Pathology.

Guillermo Herrera, M.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Pathology, has accepted a similar position at St. Louis University, effective March 1.

Dr. Fowler is a graduate of the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans and completed her residency at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis.

Benjamin Li, M.D., Professor, Department of Surgery, is chairman of the search committee charged recommending a permanent department head. Faculty with suggestions for the position are asked to forward them to Dr. Li. ■

LSUHS Foundation Adds Two Staff Members

The LSU Health Sciences Foundation continues to make personnel changes to meet the evolving role of the Foundation.

Tracy Burch, an attorney and former LSUHS Foundation Board Member, has joined the Foundation as Chief Administrative Officer.

Ms. Burch is a graduate of LSU Law School in Baton Rouge and was in private practice for 14 years prior to joining the Foundation.

"I am looking forward to the opportunity to devote my full professional attention to helping the LSU Health Sciences Center achieve its potential," said Ms. Burch. She will be involved with property transactions, planned giving, and special projects.

Kristen Gary joined the staff in November as the Director of Communications. Ms. Gary received her undergraduate degree in Mass Communication from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and her M.B.A. from the University of New Orleans.

Her responsibilities include writing and editing the FOCUS newsletter, Annual Report and other Foundation publications. Ms. Gary will also manage public relations for the Foundation and maintain its website.

The LSUHS Foundation is excited about the future opportunities to assist LSUHSC. "I am confident our dedicated and well trained Foundation staff can make a positive impact on LSUHSC," said Lisa Babin, Foundation President and CEO.

The LSUHS Foundation's sole mission is to support the LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport in its many endeavors. ■

Human Resources Corner

Business managers, supervisors and timekeepers who would like to learn more about the Family and Medical Leave (FMLA) Act may attend one of two upcoming seminars being offered on Wednesday, February 22, by Human Resource Management.

Jean Brown, Manager, Human Resource Management, will conduct the meetings. Topics will cover tracking FMLA hours, documenting FMLA correctly, new approach to the intermittent FMLA challenge, and explanation of the FMLA occurrence year. Those attending will have an opportunity to share concerns and issues regarding FMLA.

The sessions will be held in the LSUHSC-S Conference Center - Room G-221 of the medical school. The first session will be from 10 a.m. -12 noon; a second session will be from 1-3 p.m.

Registration deadline is Friday, February 10. Call Ms. Brown at 675-5634 or by email gbrown@lsuhsc.edu.

If you are unable to attend, but have questions regarding the Family and Medical Leave Act, contact Ms. Brown. ■

E.A. Conway Employee of the Month



Tommie Griffin

Tommie Griffin has been honored as E.A. Conway Medical Center's Employee of the Month for January.

Mr. Griffin is an electrician foreman in the Facility Maintenance Department who has worked at Conway for nearly five years.

During his military service with the U.S. Marine Corps, he attended the University of Maryland. He is a Vietnam veteran.

In 1974, Mr. Griffin graduated from the Winnsboro Vo-Tech School in Basic Electronics. ■

AHEC Day With the Docs Provides Students Glimpse of Medicine

The annual Day with the Doctors program, jointly sponsored by the North Louisiana Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), Central Louisiana AHEC and LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport AHEC Program office, continues to expand in both size and scope.

More than 120 North and Central Louisiana high school juniors and seniors interested in a career in a health care profession will visit the campus for three day-long sessions. The third session is scheduled for February 16.

Students tour the campus and meet medical professionals in the Emergency Care Center and Regional Burn Center as well as the academic departments of Radiology and Family Medicine and Comprehensive Care.

Student participants were selected by their schools based on academic achievement, civic leadership and previous AHEC involvement. Many of the students live in rural and medically underserved areas of the state.

Day with the Doctors participants also receive advice from current medical students about how to apply to and prepare for medical school.

AHECs are community-based, non-profit organizations whose mission is to improve the quality of healthcare across Louisiana, especially in the rural and underserved areas.



Left: Jill Rush-Kolodzey, M.D., Dr.PH, Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine, uses oranges to demonstrate proper suture techniques during Day With the Doctors.

Below: Steve Kitchings, M.D., first-year Family Medicine resident, gives students an insider's view of medicine.



AHECs also provide assistance to practicing health professionals, especially those in rural areas, through community-based services that are designed to aid in the development and maintenance of necessary skills, including medical education.

An offshoot of the original Day with the Doctors will also take place Feb. 21 during the second annual Day with the Allied Health Professionals.

During that program, students are introduced to the many disciplines associated with allied health and its impact on healthcare. ■