



ON THE INSIDE

LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport

Chancellor's Corner



As we enter this new fiscal year, there is renewed reason for optimism about our future.

Not only did our North Louisiana Legislative delegation make sure that our operating budgets at Shreveport and Conway are adequate, Governor Blanco's Administration placed a one-time appropriation of \$4

million in the Shreveport budget to buy much-needed hospital equipment. In addition, there is \$6.5 million to replace obsolete hospital equipment included in the capital outlay budget. The appropriation is in the Priority 2 projects, and we are aggressively pursuing this line of funding.

We have stressed repeatedly to Legislators and the Administration the critical need to replace basic, worn-out hospital equipment so that we can maintain our patient care and teaching missions. It is obvious that the Governor, Commissioner of Administration Jerry Luke LeBlanc, and the Legislature have collectively heeded our message, and we are grateful.

The Administration also included funds in the state's operating budget intended for pay raises for university faculty. Allocation of those funds was in accordance with a distribution plan developed by the Louisiana Board of Regents and approved by the Administration.

Our School of Allied Health Professions has admitted its first class of 30 students seeking the new Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. Our delegation obtained necessary legislative approvals of tuition allowing us to implement the new DPT program. Governor Blanco signed the bill into law.

Reform continues to dominate the state healthcare agenda with added urgency as South Louisiana seeks to recover from hurricane devastation. To help guide that reform effort, the Legislature created the Louisiana Health Care Redesign Collaborative. LSUHSC-S has a seat on the Collaborative.

Unprecedented challenges face our state's health care system statewide, but also offer unprecedented opportunity for improvement. I am confident that our Monroe and Shreveport campuses will adapt and emerge even stronger.

Report Details Economic Impact of LSUHSC-S on State

The LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport is a giant economic engine for not only in Shreveport-Bossier and Monroe where its campuses are located but for all of Louisiana, a just released economic impact study confirms.

"It's Not Just Healthcare: The Economic Impact of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center on the State and Shreveport-Bossier City MSA," was commissioned by the LSUHS Foundation.

It presents an overview of the economic impact of LSUHSC-S, including and the E.A. Conway Medical Center in Monroe.

It describes the institutions as "impressive sources of high quality health services, education and research" and "significant economic drivers."

Highlights of the report include:

- LSUHSC-S is the largest employer in Shreveport with more than 5,200 employees
- One out of every 13 jobs in the Shreveport/Bossier Area (13,734 total jobs) can be traced back to LSUHSC-S
- Average annual wages/benefits of \$54,163

• \$380.6 million is pumped into the local economy as a result of LSUHSC-S.

The Foundation commissioned the report in order to provide updated data that show not only the role LSUHSC-S plays in healthcare, research and medical education, but also the significant role it has in creating jobs.

"This report will also serve as a benchmark to measure growth in future years and as a statement of fact regarding the excellent return the state and donors have received from their investment in LSUHSC-S," said Lisa Babin, President and CEO of the LSU Health Sciences Foundation.

Loren Scott, Ph.D., former head of the LSU Department of Economics and founder of a nationally recognized economic consulting firm, conducted the statistical assessment of the impact of the LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport's on the economy of Shreveport - Bossier City area and the State of Louisiana.

To view the entire report, go to the Foundation's website www.lsuhsfoundation.org.

MICU Nurses Become First in State to Win Prestigious Award

The prestigious "Beacon Award" for nursing critical care excellence has been awarded to the Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU) of LSU Hospital in Shreveport by the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN).

The award, established in 2003, recognizes the top hospital critical care units in the nation. No other Louisiana hospital has won a "Beacon Award."

Units selected for the critical care nursing excellence award must have:

- Recognized excellence in the intensive care environment in which nurses work and critically ill patients are treated;
- Recognized excellence of the highest quality measures, processes, structures and outcomes based upon evidence;
- Recognized excellence in collaboration, communication, and partnerships that support the value of healing and humane environments;
- A program that contributes to actualization of AACN's mission, vision and values.

Included in the criteria for winning a Beacon Award are innovation and excellence in nursing recruitment and retention, education, training and mentoring, evidence-based practice and research, positive patient outcomes, creating and promoting healing environments, and leader-

ship and organizational ethics.

Beacon Units have met rigid criteria for excellence. They exhibit quality standards and exceptional care of their patients, are seen as having a healthy work environment, have nurses that recognize their expertise is appreciated and valued and are publicly recognized at local and national levels.

"Attainment of the AACN Beacon Award by the nursing leaders and staff in our Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU) acknowledges the caliber of our staff," noted Pamela Simmons, Ph.D., chief nursing administrator for LSU Hospital in Shreveport.

"They demonstrate on a daily basis the philosophy of nursing we promote at LSU Health Sciences Center-Shreveport, which is to provide the highest quality

patient care in an ethical, competent and caring manner. Our goal is to continually work towards a standard of excellence and this award serves as just one example of how we are meeting that goal," said Dr. Simmons, Assistant Hospital Administrator for Patient Care Services.

Nurses in the MICU will be recognized in the nationally distributed AACN News. They also will be honored at AACN's National Teaching Institute and Critical Care Exposition, an event attended by more than 6500 critical care nurses. Additional recognition will come through the AACN web site.

Our goal is to continually work towards a standard of excellence...

Computer Password Changes

There's an important change about your LSUHSC-S computer password expiration. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the maximum length of time before your password on a LSUHSC-S network computer account expired was increased from 30 to 90 days.

That extension, however, was only temporary. The State Office of Information Technology requires a password expiration period of no more than 30 days.

To bring LSUHSC-S into compliance with this state standard, computer services has restored the 30-day maximum for a password to be used.

This same state standard mandates other characteristics of passwords. To be compliant with state law, LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport must implement the following standards:

Minimum password length is eight characters and must contain at least one of the following from each category: one upper case letter, one lower case letter, and one digit.

The changes will impact all users of the LSUHSC-S computer network as their existing passwords expire. ■

Faculty Promotions Effective July 1, 2006

Name	Department	New Rank
Donard Dwyer, Ph.D.	Psychiatry	Professor of Clinical Psychiatry
Michael Mathis, Ph.D.	Cellular Biology and Anatomy	Professor
Yuping Wang, M.D.	Obstetrics and Gynecology	Professor
Connie Arnold, Ph.D.	Medicine	Associate Professor
Lesley Arnott	Medical Library - E. A. Conway	Associate Librarian
Jean-Claude Comeau, M.D.	Pediatrics	Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Thomas Gates, M.D.	Radiology	Associate Professor of Clinical Radiology
Xin Gu, M.D.	Pathology	Associate Professor
Kimberly Jones, M.D.	Pediatrics	Associate Professor
William Klimstra, Ph.D.	Microbiology and Immunology	Associate Professor
Andrea Linscott, Ph.D.	Pathology	Associate Professor
Tushar Vachharanjani, M.D.	Medicine	Associate Professor
Paul Cooper, M.D.	Pediatrics	Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Sandra Partain	Cardiopulmonary Sciences	Assistant Professor of Clinical Cardiopulmonary Sciences
Wanda Wells, M.D.	Pediatrics	Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Esther Wylen, M.D.	Neurosurgery	Assistant Professor
Hong Yin, M.D.	Medicine	Assistant Professor

Human Resources Corner

To help classified employees better understand the Unscheduled Absenteeism Policy, LSUHSC-S Human Resources Management refers them to Administrative Directive 2.8.12, which went into effect in September 2003 after it was approved by the State Civil Service Commission and Chancellor John C. McDonald, M.D.

The policy is designed to reduce unscheduled absenteeism, encourage more responsible leave usage by employees, raise employee morale by reducing the negative effect of absenteeism on co-workers and improve service to patients, clients, and customers by promoting good attendance.

An unscheduled absence is defined by the policy as one in which the employee did not obtain oral or written supervisor approval at least 48 hours prior to the employee's absence on a scheduled workday. Absences coded as unscheduled must be for a minimum five-hour period.

Civil Service Rule 12.6 (a) states that when an employee is non-disciplinarily removed under this provision, he or she shall be paid all remaining sick leave. It is effective when an employee has more than nine unscheduled absences during any consecutive 26-week period. Approval of leave after the fact to cover an unscheduled absence shall not prevent the absence from being considered unscheduled.

Family Medical Leave Act, Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations and Pregnancy Discrimination Act are not considered an unscheduled absence. However, notice to supervisory personnel for these leaves will still be necessary.

Although the rule allows the approval of leave after the fact, the department retains the right to place an employee on unauthorized leave without pay for any unscheduled absence for which the supervisor will not grant approval. This includes the denial of a request for annual leave.

No absence will count for the purpose of this rule until the employee has been given written notice. Written notice can only be issued after a minimum of two documented unscheduled leave occurrences in a six month period. The supervisor shall ensure that the employee is notified each time an absence is counted as "unscheduled", and shall maintain sufficient documentation of the notices.

Unscheduled Leave Codes are established within TACS and shall be utilized to appropriately record an unscheduled absence.

Anyone with questions concerning the policy should contact Lisa Ebarb, Human Resources Management Associate Director, at 675-5611.

New Faculty Senate Elected

Votes from the recent faculty elections have been tallied with the following individuals elected to faculty offices effective July 1. **Paul Jordan, M.D.**, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, and Chief of the Section of Gastroenterology, will be General Faculty President for 2006–2007.

The election also filled several vacant Faculty Senate seats.

School of Medicine Basic Science faculty representatives are **Robert Chervenak, Ph.D.**, Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology; **Kenneth McMartin, Ph.D.**, Professor, Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology, and Neurosciences; and **Kelly Tatchell, Ph.D.**, Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Clinical Sciences faculty representative for the School of Medicine are **Pat Bass, M.D.**, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine; **Samina Hayat, M.D.**, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine; **Maureen Heldmann, M.D.**, Associate Professor, Department of Radiology; and **Diana Veillon, M.D.**, Professor, Department of Pathology.

School of Allied Health Professions faculty representative is **Diana Merendino**, Assistant Professor of Clinical Services and Program Director for Cardiopulmonary Services. ■

E.A. Conway Employee of the Month



Kristin Hales, R.N.

Kristin Hales was selected as the E. A. Conway Medical Center Employee of the Month for July.

A Registered Nurse in the Intensive Care Unit, Ms. Hales has been employed at Conway for two years.

She received her BSN in 2003 from the University of Louisiana – Monroe where she was a member of Sigma Theta Tau, nursing honor society. ■

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. Sixbey Receives Major Research Grant



John Sixbey, M.D.

An international leader in tumor virology, John W. Sixbey, M.D., of LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport, has successfully competed for a major National Cancer Institute grant of more than \$1.3 million over five years.

Dr. Sixbey is a Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, as well as a senior mentor in Molecular and Tumor Virology for the Feist-Weiller Cancer Center of LSUHSC-S.

The NCI funded his research project, "Epstein-Barr Virus-Enhanced Tumor Progression," which received the highest score among those reviewed by the National Institutes of Health panel that evaluates virology research grant proposals.

The grant will support Dr. Sixbey's important studies that address the role of the human herpesvirus, Epstein Barr virus, in human cancers.

Dr. Sixbey's research suggests that this virus has the ability to infect transformed cells and early stage tumor cells, and promote the transition of these cells to become highly tumor-causing cells.

The findings in Dr. Sixbey's laboratories have had a major influence on the understanding of the role of viruses in human cancer. ■

Medical Library/Medicine Joint Paper Takes Top Award

A paper citing a joint research project by faculty in the departments of Medical Library Science and Medicine was selected as best contributed paper at the Medical Library Association's recent national meeting.

Authors of the paper, "Mediated Literature Review for Cases Presented at Morning Report Decreases Hospital Charges and Length of Stay," included Donna Timm, Assistant Professor; Kerri Christopher, General Librarian; David Duggar, Assistant Professor; and Marianne Comegys, Associate Professor and Head, all from the Department of Medical Library Science; and Daniel Banks, M.D., Professor and Head; Runhua Shi, Ph.D., Associate Professor; and Jerry McLarty, Ph.D., Professor, all from the Department of Medicine.

Morning report is a case-based conference where Medicine house officers and attending physicians meet to discuss the care of patients. In June 2004, medical librarians began attending morning report.

After each session, a medical librarian conducts a search of the medical literature to identify citations to articles that are relevant to the patients' care.

The award-winning research paper reports on a study to determine the impact of the literature search on patient care. The study compared outcomes for cases that included computerized literature reviews with similar cases hospitalized at LSUHSC-S in the last five years.

The study demonstrated a statistically significant decrease in the patients' lengths of stay in the hospital as well as a reduction in total hospital charges for those morning-report cases in which literature reviews were conducted. ■

Foundation "Lunch and Learn"

Each day, some six million Americans query internet search engines, like Google or Yahoo, for health information, which they assume is correct with no way to validate its accuracy.

However, Healthelinks, a service of the LSUHSC-S Medical Library, provides a gateway to health websites that have been screened and selected for quality information.

During the next LSUHS Foundation Wellness Lunch and Learn, Marianne Comegys, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Medical Library Science, will discuss the importance of obtaining reliable medical information and explain the benefits of Healthelinks (www.healthelinks.org).

The program is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Cambridge Club in Shreveport.

The luncheon cost is \$10 per person. Reservations can be made by calling the Foundation at (318) 675-5002 by Monday, August 21. ■

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Medical Library Features Photography Exhibit

An exhibit of photography by Bob Wood, Ph.D., Instructor, Department of Medical Library Science, will be on display on the first floor of the LSUHSC-S library through the end of August.

Dr. Wood has been seriously interested in photography since 1979, when he began looking for a creative outlet following completion of his doctoral dissertation in American Studies at the University of New Mexico.

His subjects focus on ordinary life scenes and range from Terra Ceia Island in Florida to City Park in New Orleans to the New Mexico desert to, more recently, the bayous and flowers of Shreveport.

A reference librarian at LSUHSC-S since 1993, Dr. Wood earned his Master's degree in English from the University of North Carolina and his Master's degree in Library and Information Science from Louisiana State University. ■

Dr. Pramanik to Lead Group

LSUHSC-S neonatologist Arun Pramanik, M.D., Professor, Department of Pediatrics, was elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) at the organization's recent meeting in Atlanta.

AAPI, established in 1982, represents approximately 40,000 physicians and more than 12,000 medical students, residents and fellows. It is the largest ethnic medical association in the United States comprised of practicing and academic physicians.

It has more than 100 chapters across the United States, has a seat in the house of delegates of the American Medical Association, and works in conjunction with medical societies in this country as well as India.

A scientific and educational organization, AAPI is also involved in cultural and charitable causes in the U.S. and India.

AAPI members have donated countless hours and their expertise to the victims of earthquakes in Gujrat and Maharastra, Tsunami victims in Tamilnadu and Kerala in India, and also to the victims of hurricane Katrina and Rita in Louisiana and Houston and other victims in Florida.

Recently, an agreement was signed by the minister of external affairs of India and the United States to set up model clinics in rural India in four states which will be spearheaded by AAPI physicians in conjunction with their Indian colleagues. ■

Psychiatry Faculty Members Attend Conference

Three faculty members from the Department of Psychiatry were recognized for their excellence in teaching at the recent American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting held in Toronto.

They are Mary Jo Fitz-Gerald, M.D., Professor, and Associate Professors Juliana Fort, M.D., and Lee Stevens, M.D.

Dr. Fitz-Gerald received the Irma Bland Award for Excellence in Resident Teaching. She was also among the invited lecturers at the APA meeting. Her presentation, "Practical Skills to Help District Branches Develop Disaster Plans for their Communities," detailed the response by psychiatrists to hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Dr. Fort, won the Nancy C. A. Roeske Award for Excellence in Medical Student Teaching for Salaried Faculty.

Dr. Stevens won the Nancy C. A. Roeske Award for Excellence in Medical Student Teaching for Voluntary Faculty. Dr. Stevens, former director of the outpatient psychiatry clinic, is now in private practice but supervises residents and students at LSUHSC-S.

At the state level, Drs. Fitz-Gerald and Fort, along with colleague Marc Colon, M.D., Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, will hold offices in the Louisiana Psychiatric Medical Association during the coming year.

Dr. Colon will be president, Dr. Fitz-Gerald, treasurer, and Dr. Fort will be newsletter editor. ■

New Faculty

Rachel L. Whitaker, M.D., Assistant Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology

Adina K. Knight, M.D., Assistant Professor, Pediatrics

Bharat S. Sachdeva, M.D., Assistant Professor, Medicine

Henock G. Gebregziabher, M.D., Assistant Professor, Medicine

Ahmad Elsharydah, M.D., Assistant Professor, Anesthesiology

Tracy L. Behm, M.D., Assistant Professor, Medicine

Irfan Alam, M.D., Assistant Professor – Clinical, Medicine

Thomas D. Schult, M.D., Assistant Professor – Clinical,

Anesthesiology

Brandon L. Bregman, M.D., Assistant Professor – Clinical,

Anesthesiology

Wendell A. Wilson, M.D., Professor – Clinical, Medicine