



ON THE INSIDE

LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport

New Assistant Hospital Administrator Named

LSU Hospital Administrator Joeseeph Miciotto has announced the appointment of veteran LSUHSC-S employee Mark Randolph as the new Assistant Administrator of Professional Services.

Since he began his career at LSUHSC-S in 1987, Mr. Randolph has served as the Director of Cardiopulmonary Services and Director of Radiology Services, the position he held prior to his appointment as an assistant hospital administrator.

"Mr. Randolph is well known for his commitment to quality patient care, his leadership and high standards. He will be a tremendous asset to the administrative team and the hospital as a whole," Mr. Miciotto said.

Betty Johnson, recently appointed Associate Hospital Administrator, was the previous Assistant Administrator of Professional Services. ■

Neurosciences Research Day

Tuesday, September 26, is the date for the 2006 Neuroscience Research Day at LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport, sponsored by the Shreveport Chapter of the National Society for Neuroscience.

Faculty, postdoctoral fellows, students and other employees interested in the neurosciences are invited to attend lectures and a poster session on topics in Neuroscience.

There will be two seminars presented by invited speakers. Poster sessions will represent work not only from LSUHSC-S but also will include Centenary College, Louisiana Tech University, the University of Louisiana in Monroe, and LSU-Shreveport.

Opening the daylong Neurosciences event will be a 10 a.m. seminar presented by Dr. Ronald Gaykema, Research Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department, University of Virginia. His lecture, "Behavioral depression in sickness: arousal systems as targets in immune modulation of brain function," will be held in the medical school auditorium, Room 1-400.

Dr. Lisa Goehler, Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department, University of Virginia, will lecture at 3:30 p.m. Her topic will be "Is the immune system the sixth sense?"

The poster session will be presented from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the atrium of the Biomedical Research Institute. Prizes will be awarded for the best poster by a graduate student and a postdoctoral fellow. ■

Dr. Harrison Receives Cancer Research Grant



Lynn Harrison, Ph.D.

Lynn Harrison, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Molecular & Cellular Physiology, has been awarded a \$1.1 million, five-year grant from the National Cancer Institute to study how DNA repair can be used against tumor cells to convert radiation or chemotherapy DNA damage into lethal lesions (DNA double strand breaks).

The aim is to identify the DNA repair enzymes that will generate double strand breaks during mis-repair of the initial damage. This knowledge may lead to novel approaches to manipulate DNA repair enzymes in a manner that will enhance the killing of replicating tumor cells at the time of irradiation or chemotherapy.

Dr. Harrison said she is optimistic that this work will lead to a greater understanding of how tumor cells can be more effectively killed by radiotherapy and chemotherapy and result in the design of new cancer treatments. ■

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.

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

Pediatric Surgeon Returns Home to LSUHSC-S



Kevin Boykin, M.D.

Pediatric surgeon Kevin Boykin, M.D., has joined the faculty of the School of Medicine in Shreveport, adding yet another resource to the array subspecialty services available through LSUHSC-S and its Children's Hospital.

Dr. Boykin, a 1997 graduate of School of Medicine in Shreveport, completed his Fellowship training Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Md. While at Johns Hopkins he completed a one year transplantation Fellowship as well as a two-year pediatric surgery Fellowship.

He went to Johns Hopkins following completion of his general surgery residency at LSUHSC-S in 2003. During his general surgery residency, Dr. Boykin was encouraged by Gazi Zabari, M.D., Professor, Department of Surgery and head of Transplantation Surgery at LSUHSC-S, to further prepare himself by seeking the Fellowships at Johns Hopkins.

"It's good to be back," Dr. Boykin said. "The great variety of cases in pediatric surgery here are a challenge. I am very happy to be home working with the people who inspired me to pursue academic surgery."

Dr. Boykin sees his role at LSUHSC-S as twofold. He will collaborate when appropriate with faculty pediatricians to find surgical solutions to medical problems in children, and he will provide a full range of pediatric surgical procedures at the LSUHSC-S Children's Hospital.

While at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Boykin worked extensively with pediatric trauma patients, and he plans to continue his interest in pediatric trauma by working closely with the Level I Pediatric Trauma Center at LSUHSC-S.

Dr. Boykin, Assistant Professor of Surgery, readily admits that he enjoys the challenges that pediatric surgery presents. He hopes he encourage surgical residents currently training at LSUHSC-S that will work with him to consider Fellowship training in a surgical subspecialty as Dr. Zibari encouraged him. ■

Dr. Goeders to Chair Special NIH Grant Review Panel

Nicholas Goeders, Ph.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience, has accepted an invitation to chair a special panel that will review applications for federal research grants intended for the most promising and exceptionally talented new investigators.

The panel will review National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant applications submitted to National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) in response to the NIH new "Pathway to Independence" initiative.

One primary goal of the "Pathway to Independence" program is to assist young investigators in competing successfully for a NIH grant at an earlier point in their research career than is typical.

The initiative is also to assist investigators in securing a stable research position during this critical early stage of their career. ■

E.A. Conway Employee of the Month



Frank Padgett

Frank Padgett was E. A. Conway Medical Center's Employee of the Month for August.

Mr. Padgett, Director of the Admitting/Screening Department, has worked at the hospital for two years.

He has more than two decades of experience in medical receivables management and has worked in hospitals in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

Mr. Padgett completed his undergraduate work in Aviation Management at Auburn University in 1969, and received his Master of Divinity from Emory University in 1980.

LSUHSC-S Residency Programs Rank Among Nation's Best

Residency training programs at LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport rank among the top three in the United States, according to a national benchmarking study conducted by the University HealthSystem Consortium (UHC).

Residencies at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School, and Duke University Health System also ranked among the top three.

UHC will use information from the benchmarking study as the basis for a reference book it will distribute to all academic medical centers. Six LSUHSC-S faculty members who are either residency program directors or department heads are being interviewed for the book.

"Analyses of residency programs were quite detailed, but essentially there were eight key measures used to judge residency program performance," said John C. McDonald, M.D., LSUHSC-S Chancellor and Dean.

In 1946, the first approved residency training program in North Louisiana was established at the Shreveport Charity Hospital, forerunner of today's university teaching hospital at LSUHSC-S.

Six decades later in 2006, the hospital is a major residency training institution with 18 residency training programs and 15 fellowships accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

Currently there are 344 interns and residents and 65 fellows training in LSUHSC-S residency programs. ■

Dr. Huang Receives National Cancer Institute Grant



Shile Huang, Ph.D.

Shile Huang, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and member of the Feist-Weiller Cancer Center, has been awarded a four-year research grant in the amount of \$829,479 from the National Cancer Institute/National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study how rapamycin inhibits tumor cell motility.

Preliminary studies from Dr. Huang's laboratory have been published in *Oncogene*, a leading scientific journal.

Rapamycin and its analogs are being used in clinical trials as novel anticancer agents. They specifically block the function of an enzyme known as the mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR), inhibiting growth of numerous solid tumors (renal, breast, prostate, colon and brain) with only mild side effects. However, the anti-cancer mechanism of rapamycins is not clearly understood. While intensive studies have focused on the growth-inhibiting effect of rapamycins, their ability to decrease cell motility is only beginning to be recognized.

The LSUHSC-S team directly involved in this project include Lei Liu, Ph.D., and Long Chen, Ph.D., both postdoctoral fellows; Fengjun Li, M.D., research associate; and Christopher S. Beevers, graduate student.

In addition, James A. Cardelli, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology and Director of Research Feist-Weiller Cancer Center; Jun Chung, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; and Robert E. Rhoads, Ph.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, are collaborators on the project. ■

Correction:

Alireza Minagar, M.D., Associate Professor, Department of Neurology, was inadvertently omitted from the faculty promotions list a story in the July *On the Inside*.

Dr. Minagar was promoted from the rank of Assistant Professor to Associate Professor effective July 1.

Dr. Rhoads Receives Two NIH Research Grants



Robert Rhoads, Ph.D.

Robert Rhoads, Ph.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, has been awarded two grants to continue his work concerning the mechanism and regulation of protein synthesis.

The first, a \$1.5 million grant from National Institute of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health

(NIH), was awarded for four years.

This latest grant constitutes NIH funding for years 32 through 35 for Dr. Rhoads's research project, "Regulation of Eukaryotic Protein Synthesis Initiation." NIH administrators state that only 1 percent of current NIGMS grants have been funded for this long.

Long-term project goals are to understand how genetic messages encoded in the DNA are translated into proteins, a process that involves recruitment of messenger RNA to the ribosome, determines rate of protein synthesis, spectrum of mRNAs translated, and rate of mRNA turnover.

The research is centered on a protein that Dr. Rhoads co-discovered in 1982 termed eIF4E, or 4E for short, that recognizes and binds to mRNA.

One aim of the research is to examine how the activity of 4E is regulated in the cell. Another will test how 4E affects the lifetime of messenger RNA in the cell. Still another centers on how 4E is linked to the ribosome through two other proteins.

These studies have relevance to cancer because overexpression of 4E causes malignant transformation of cells, human tumors contain greatly elevated levels of 4E, and 4E is the target of novel anti-cancer therapies.

Also, 4E plays a critical role in both germ cell maturation and early embryonic development, which impacts on abnormalities resulting in birth defects. Interestingly, one 4E isoform is required for normal development of sperm, which may shed light on infertility conditions.

Co-investigators on the grant are Nadejda Korneeva, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and Marjan Trutschl, Department of Computer Science, LSUS. Collaborators are Eric Aamodt, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Edward Darzynkiewicz, University of Warsaw; and Robert Callahan, National Cancer Institute.

The second grant, awarded by the United States-Israel Bi-national Agricultural Research and Development Fund, is for \$310,000 over three years.

This grant represents the 4th through 6th years of funding for the project entitled "Translational Mechanisms Governing Milk Protein Levels and Composition." The research is a collaborative study with the laboratory of Itamar Barash, Institute of Animal Science, Israel.

The two research objectives are to obtain a better understanding of the role of amino acids as regulators of protein synthesis in mammary epithelial cells and to understand why there is a synergistic enhancement of milk-protein production when mammary epithelial cells are treated with both insulin and prolactin. ■

LifeShare Blood Drive
September 21, 2006
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
BRI Atrium

Human Resources Corner

As the election season draws near, employees of LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport, are reminded of the Civil Service prohibitions against classified employees participating in certain political activities.

Prohibited activities include:

- distributing election materials
- becoming a candidate for nomination or election to public office
- displaying bumper stickers, yard signs
- contributing to or soliciting donations for a candidate or political party
- attending a fund-raising event for a candidate or political party
- publicly supporting or opposing a candidate in writing or any other manner

If you have questions about what additional political activities are and are not allowed, please contact Human Resource Management at 675-5610, or the Louisiana Department of State Civil Service at (225) 219-9437.

Dr. Kleiner Speaks to Minority Students at University of Arizona

Heather Kleiner, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and the graduate school recruiter for the Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience, recently was invited to the University of Arizona, Tucson, to meet with undergraduate students from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) program.

The MARC program at UA offers a unique research, mentoring, financial and academic opportunity for underrepresented minority students who have interest and potential to pursue careers in biomedical research.

In addition, the program assists students with preparation for the Graduate Record Exam, applying to graduate schools and for graduate fellowships.

Dr. Kleiner was invited to present a seminar of her research entitled "Chemopreventive effects of citrus/ginger compounds on breast and skin cancer."

The research focuses on the use of natural products, particularly those found in the diet, to prevent chemical-induced cancer-causing agents.

LSUHSC-S offers disadvantaged students – from kindergarten to medical school – opportunities to access healthcare and research career paths through the Office of Multicultural Affairs. ■

Allied Health Copping Award Winner



Cindy Murray

Cindy Murray, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy, was presented the 2006 Allen A. Copping Excellence in Teaching Award for the School of Allied Health Professions in Shreveport during LSUHSC-S August commencement ceremonies in which degrees were conferred on 80 allied health and graduate students.

The Copping Award is named in honor of the former longtime Chancellor of what was then the LSU Medical Center who went on to serve as LSU System President for many years.

He established the award to recognize faculty who are excellent teachers, have demonstrated a life-long quest for discovery and inspire their students.

A faculty member since 1996, Ms. Murray's clinical specialty is occupational therapy in children. However, colleagues say her appreciation for the broader perspective of occupational therapy makes her a valuable asset in many areas of the curriculum.

In nominations, students described Ms. Murray as "someone who really knows her subject," "fabulous," and "makes me learn."

Copping Awards are presented also during the spring commencement ceremonies to two faculty members of the School of Medicine in Shreveport; one from the basic sciences and one from the clinical sciences faculty. ■

Graduate Studies Plans Student Welcome Event

Students, staff and faculty of the School of Graduate Studies are invited to attend a new-student welcome lecture and reception Friday, September 15, sponsored by the Graduate Council in Room 1-400.

At 3 p.m., a student from each basic science department will make a short presentation highlighting his or her department's area of focus.

At 4 p.m., Chad Beyer, Ph.D., Principal Research Scientist at Discovery Neuroscience, Wyeth Research, and alumnus of the LSUHSC-S School of Graduate Studies, will give a presentation entitled "Innovative Strategies for Antidepressant Drug Discovery."

Immediately after the lecture, a reception will be held in the Student Union building located adjacent to the new Allied Health Building. ■

New Faculty

Lucas Anissian, M.D., Associate Professor, Orthopaedics
 Kevin N. Boykin, M.D., Assistant Professor, Surgery
 Marisa T. Johnson, M.D., Assistant Professor, Medicine
 Kalgi A. Modi, M.D., Assistant Professor, Medicine
 Julius B. Paul, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology
 Kevin Pruitt, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Physiology
 Alberto A. Simoncini, M.D., Assistant Professor, Radiology
 Tamara J. Trainer, Instructor, Obstetrics and Gynecology

United Way/Employee Assistance Program Begins

The LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport will launch its annual United Way/Employee Assistance Program campaign later this month with a goal of \$30,000.

Employees will receive their pledge cards with their September 29 check.

As has been the case for the past two years, donors will have several options when it comes to directing their United Way pledge including two which benefit LSUHSC-S. The Feist-Weiller Cancer Center's indigent pain fund and the Reach Out and Read program are again designated as approved non-member agencies to receive directed donations.

As always, employees may designate contributions for the LSUHSC-S Employee Assistance Program.

From October 2 - 13, donors may drop off their pledge cards or return them through campus mail to hospital administration or the Office of Information Services, Room 1-201, in the medical school.

Dr. Shelver Appointed to Heart Association Study Section

Daniel W. Shelver, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, has been appointed to the Immunology and Microbiology Peer Review Study Section of the American Heart Association.

Dr. Shelver is a National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded investigator who works on the pathogenesis of Group B streptococcus. Specifically, Dr. Shelver and his research team conduct studies to gain better understanding of the process by which these organisms cause disease at the molecular and cell levels.

These bacteria are a major cause of severe infections, especially in newborn infants, pregnant women, and the elderly. Despite advances in antibiotic treatment, Group B streptococcus is still a leading cause of neonatal sepsis and meningitis. ■

LSUHS Foundation Tees Up "Back in Swing" Fundraiser

Golfers, it's time to get "Back in Swing."

The 5th annual LSUHS Foundation fundraiser and interactive golf seminar/clinic will be held from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, October 27 at East Ridge Country Club.

This fun and informative event is the only one in the region which brings together medicine, physical therapy and golf.

Two LSUHSC-S graduates, Bill Whyte, M.D., of Louisiana Pain Physicians, and Mike Jones, P.T., of Cornerstone Rehabilitation, will educate attendees about the treatment and, more importantly, prevention of spinal injury and back pain.

After the seminar, physical therapists and golf professionals will provide participants with one-on-one help to improve swing technique. Attendees will then have an opportunity to practice what they've learned as they play nine holes of golf.

The cost is \$750 for a team sponsorship which includes four players, or \$150 for an individual player. The registration fee includes a continental breakfast, the seminar, interactive clinic, lunch and nine holes of golf. Hole sponsorships are available for \$1,500.

All proceeds benefit the LSU Health Sciences Foundation and are tax deductible. To sign up call 675-5002. ■



Prostate Cancer Screening Scheduled

Area men aged 50 and older are encouraged to make appointments for a free screening during the 17th annual prostate cancer screening, a public service offered through Partners in Wellness at LSUHSC-S Sept. 18-21.

Appointments, made on a first-come, first-served basis, are available by calling (318) 813-2225. On the days the screenings are offered, they will be conducted in Room 1067 of the Ambulatory Care Center from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The American Cancer Society recommends African-American men and other men with a family history of prostate cancer begin having annual screenings at age 40. Other men should begin annual screenings by age 50.