



# ON THE INSIDE

## LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport

### New Trauma Surgeon Joins LSUHSC-S Faculty



Asser Youssef, M.D.

The Level I Trauma Center of LSUHSC-S now has a second trauma surgeon, Asser Youssef, M.D., who joined the staff of the LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery.

Dr. Youssef joins Cuthbert O. Simpkins, M.D., Professor, Department of Surgery, Chief, Division of Trauma Surgery and Critical Care.

Dr. Youssef was recruited to LSUHSC-S after he completed a fellowship in Trauma Surgery at the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, University of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore.

He previously completed a fellowship in Surgical Critical Care at Winchester Medical Center in New York, a Level I Trauma Center.

He took his general surgery residency at the Harlem Hospital Center in New York, also a Level I Trauma Center, and served his general surgery internship at Harlem Hospital Center where he also served his general surgery internship.

After earning his medical degree from Alexandria, Egypt, University, Dr. Youssef was a house officer at Abu Kir Hospital in Alexandria and served his rotating residency at Alexandria University Hospital and Ministry of Health Hospitals in Alexandria.

"He is well-trained and brings a wealth of knowledge to our trauma program. We are fortunate to recruit him here and we will do our best to recruit others of similar high quality," said Dr. Simpkins.

The Level I Trauma Center has enjoyed wide community support. Last year, Christus Schumpert and Willis Knighton each gave LSUHSC-S \$140,000 to support the Trauma Center. The gifts were an outgrowth of discussions during the meetings of the Committee of One Hundred sub-committee on health care. ■

### Dr. Hutt-Fletcher Receives Third Major NIH Grant

Lindsey Hutt-Fletcher, Ph.D., Professor, Department Microbiology and Immunology, recently received her third National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant, boosting to \$4.5 million the total of NIH research funding for which she is currently principal investigator.

The latest grant, funded by National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, will support studies that investigate how saliva and antibodies in saliva play a role in the ability of the human herpesvirus, Epstein-Barr Virus, to gain entry into epithelial cells in the oral cavity.

Dr. Hutt-Fletcher presently directs two other active NIH grants that concern basic aspects of the replication and pathogenesis of this important DNA tumor virus. Epstein-Barr Virus is associated with several human diseases, including infectious mononucleosis and several types of cancer.

Dr. Hutt-Fletcher is internationally recognized for her many contributions to the understanding of DNA tumor virology. She has served on several NIH Study Sections, editorial boards of leading journals, and international scientific panels.

Additionally, she has received several major research awards and is an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Hutt-Fletcher's research has been the topic of a feature article in the journal *Nature Medicine* as her studies revealed for the first time how Epstein-Barr Virus is able to alter its molecular structure such that it can switch from infecting B lymphocytes of the lymphoid system to infecting epithelial cells.

Her research findings help explain how this lymphotropic virus is able to cause cancers of various organ systems.

In addition to her faculty appointment in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Dr. Hutt-Fletcher serves as Program Leader of the Tumor Virology Program in the Feist-Weiller Cancer Center of LSUHSC-S. ■

### Five New Endowed Professorships Created at LSUHSC-S

Five new endowed professorships have been established at LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport thanks to private local donations matched by \$200,000 in state funds awarded by the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savioe, Ed.D., presented the state matching funds to John C. McDonald, M.D., Chancellor/Dean of LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport, during recent ceremonies.

The endowed professorships are the Dr. Bipin and Dr. Mrunalini Shah Professorship in Anesthesiology Education Enhancement; the E. Earle Dilworth Professorship in Obstetrics and Gynecology for Excellence in Teaching, Research and Patient Care; the George Khoury and Donald Mack, M.D., Professorship in Pediatric Oncology; the James A. Ardoin, M.D., Memorial Professorship in Obstetrics and Gynecology; and the Thomas Norris, M.D., Professorship in Orthopaedic Resident Support.

Rose Brouillette, M.D., Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, was named to hold the Ardoin Professorship.

The other four professorships will underwrite guest

lecturers for resident and medical student education for their respective disciplines.

Each endowed professorship requires \$100,000 in funding. The Louisiana Education Quality Support Fund that was constitutionally established in 1986 provides \$40,000. The \$60,000 institutional match is from private donations.

The LSU Health Sciences Foundation in Shreveport spearheaded fund raising of the private donations. ■



(l to r) John C. McDonald, M.D., LSUHSC-S Chancellor and Dean, accepts a check from Board of Regents members W. Clinton Rasberry and Artis Terrell, Jr. during ceremonies establishing five new endowed professorships at LSUHSC-S.

### LSUHSC-S Receives Additional Funds From Lawsuit



Glenn Mills, M.D., Professor, Department of Medicine (left), accepts checks from Louisiana Attorney General Charles Foti (right) for LSUHSC-S/hematology-oncology outreach clinics in Mansfield and Monroe.

LSUHSC-S has received \$50,000 to support its fight against cancer from Louisiana's share of the settlement of a class action lawsuit against a drug manufacturer involving the cancer medication Taxol.

Louisiana Attorney General Charles Foti presented the Feist-Weiller Cancer Center of LSUHSC-S with \$25,000 to support its hematology-oncology clinic at E. A. Conway in Monroe and \$25,000 for its hematology-oncology outreach clinic at DeSoto Regional Health System in Mansfield.

The DeSoto Regional Health System partnership with Feist-Weiller Cancer Center of LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport has brought advanced cancer care and clinical trails to Mansfield.

The program was recognized as the 2006 Outstanding Rural Health Program of the Year by the Louisiana Rural Health Association.

Gary V. Burton, M.D. and Francesco Turturro, M.D., staff the DeSoto Regional Health System clinic.

### Neuro-Interventional Suite Enables Enhanced Treatment

The new \$2 million neuro-interventional suite opened by the LSU Hospital in Shreveport greatly enhances the ability of LSUHSC-S neurosurgeons to perform procedures such as minimally invasive repair of brain aneurysm, occlusion of vascular tumors in the brain, and opening of blocked arteries in the brain.

The new suite provides high quality digital fluoroscopy along with numerous special features for guiding these complicated procedures.

Real-time 3-D angiography and 3-D road mapping allow for improved treatment planning as well as the ability to navigate wires and catheters directly on the 3-D image.

Digital imaging provides CT quality images with multiplanar reconstruction. Using it, neurosurgeons can detect any evidence of bleeding, significant swelling of the brain or development of hydrocephalus—a condition in which increased fluid in the head causes swelling of the skull and increases pressure on the brain—without leaving the interventional suite. ■

### Feist-Weiller Receives Grant for Minority Based Program

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has designated Feist-Weiller Cancer Center of LSUHSC-S as a Minority-Based Community Clinical Oncology Program (MBCCOP). The designation carries with it a three-year grant in the amount of \$991,036.

Basic Community Clinical Oncology Programs permit community physicians to work with researchers on clinical trials supported by the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

This collaboration allows for the development of large-scale cancer treatment, prevention and control studies. Both university and community physicians are then able to treat patients with advanced cancer care.

MBCCOP funding will increase involvement of minority patients in research, in turn increasing their access to the latest cancer treatments.

Feist-Weiller Cancer Center has actively participated in NCI clinical trials for more than 20 years as a member of the South West Oncology Group (SWOG) and Clinical Trials Support Unit research bases.

The LSUHSC-S Feist-Weiller Cancer Center MBCCOP is working to expand its affiliate physician network to additional practices in north and central Louisiana. ■

### Parkinson's Symposium Planned

The Parkinson's Disease Resource will sponsor the Tenth Annual Lola Eichler Memorial Parkinson's Disease Symposium on Friday, October 19 beginning at 4 p.m. in Room 1-400, the LSUHSC-S auditorium.

The free public event is designed to raise awareness about Parkinson's disease. Parkinson's patients, their families and caregivers, allied health and medical professionals and students are encouraged to attend.

Featured speakers will include William J. Weiner, M.D., Professor and Chair, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Department of Neurology, and Director, Maryland Parkinson's Disease & Movement Disorders Center, Baltimore; Wei-Ming Duan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, LSUHSC-S Department of Cellular Biology and Anatomy; A.C. Cowan, Patient Advocate and Parkinson's Resource Volunteer; and Richard M. Zweig, M.D., Professor, LSUHSC-S Department of Neurology, and Director of Movement Disorders. Dr. Weiner has been a leader in the field of Parkinson's management for a number of years and was the senior author of a recent series of articles in the journal, *Neurology*, establishing evidence-based guidelines for the treatment of PD and its complications.

A reception, including a silent auction, displays and refreshments will follow the symposium. Proceeds will support the Parkinson's Disease Resource, which works to promote Parkinson's disease-related basic science research at LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport.

In addition to supporting local research, the Resource publishes a quarterly newsletter, maintains a lending library, assists local and regional support and caregiver groups, and provides an annual symposium for individuals with Parkinson's.

The Parkinson's Resource is affiliated with the American Parkinson Disease Association which has further enhanced the Resource by providing additional local and national services. ■

## LSUHSC-S Employee Excellence Award Winners Honored

Fifteen full-time employees were honored last month at the annual Employee Excellence Awards, a peer-nomination program begun five years ago by the LSU Health Sciences Foundation to recognize employees who make a positive difference at LSUHSC-S by routinely going beyond the call of duty.

Eleven Shreveport campus and four E.A. Conway campus employees were guests at the awards luncheon where they were praised for their contributions.

Each winner was presented with an engraved trophy and a check for \$ 500.

This year's Shreveport campus winners are: Barbara Bruner, Pediatrics; Stephanie Dewitt, 8K - PCS Surgery Unit A; Ernestine "Cookie" Grant, Renal Unit; Jackie Hatcher, Student Admissions; Kimberly Jones, M.D., Pediatrics; Mary Moore, Telemetry; Kathy Price, Medical Communications; Kay Robinson, Obstetrics and Gynecology; Charlotte Singleton, Student Affairs; Dianne Talley, Medicine; and Connie Watson, Clinical Laboratory Sciences. Monroe campus winners are: Tammy Dykes, Post-



Winners of the Employee Excellence Awards pose with John C. McDonald, M.D., LSUHSC-S Chancellor and Dean (far left). They are (seated l to r) Barbara Bruner, Connie Watson, Ernestine "Cookie" Grant, Jackie Hatcher, Mary Moore, Tammy Dykes. (standing l to r) Dr. McDonald, James Kees, Kay Robinson, Dianne Talley, John "Richy" Hearn, Raina Futrell, Kimberly Jones, M.D., Stephanie DeWitt, Charlotte Singleton, Kathy Price.

Partum; Raina Futrell, Pediatrics (NICU/NNCN); John "Richy" Hearn, Pharmacy; and Mickey Kees, Information Technology.

Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, AmSouth Bank, JPMorgan Chase Bank and Campus Federal Credit Union also provide sponsorship for the event. ■

## Animal Science Employee Receives Recognition

Melissa Brown, Associate Clinical Specialist in Animal Resources, recently received the President's Award from the Louisiana Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS).

Ms. Brown, branch Secretary/Treasurer, was presented with the award by outgoing President Mark Murchison.

The award was based on Ms. Brown's support and assistance during his presidency as well as for her dedication to the branch and its mission of advancing responsible care and use of laboratory animals through education, training and information exchange for the benefit of human and animal health. ■

## Medical Library Announces Free Trial of Online Resource

The Medical Library of LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport has arranged for a free trial through December 31 of *Current Protocols in Stem Cell Biology*, an online resource offering information on experimental methodologies in this rapidly emerging area.

*Current Protocols in Stem Cell Biology* can be reached through the library's database menu at <http://lib.sh.lsuhsoc.edu/databases/>.

The John Wiley & Sons *Current Protocols* series is widely recognized as an authoritative source of state-of-the-art information on experimental techniques in a wide range of biomedical disciplines. ■

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>

## Human Resources Corner

Human Resources managers want to make employees aware of several upcoming events of interest.

**VALIC Representatives** will be at LSUHSC-S Tuesday, October 9, in the eighth floor BRI conference room. They will conduct informational sessions at 11 a.m. and again at 12:30 p.m. There will be a questions and answering period at the end of each presentation.

**Deferred Compensation Representative** will be at LSUHSC-S Monday, October, 15 and Tuesday, November 13 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. in third floor conference room of the BRI. A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 23 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the second floor conference room at E.A. Conway.

No meetings have been scheduled yet for Huey P. Long campus.

**PM-11 deadline** Completed PM-11 forms must be sent to Jean Brown, Allied Health Building, Room 116A-1, Human Resource Management **no later than October 31, 2007.**

Check the HRM website ([www.sh.lsuhsoc.edu](http://www.sh.lsuhsoc.edu) - click on Administration> Human Resource Management) for education class schedules, orientation and CED dates. You may now register for CPTP classes online from the site.

## Dr. Kevil Featured Speaker at International Meeting

Chris Kevil Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pathology, was a featured speaker at the "2nd International Role of Nitrite in Physiology, Pathophysiology, and Therapeutics" meeting held recently at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

His lecture, "Chronic Sodium Nitrite Therapy Augments Ischemic Tissue Angiogenesis and Blood Flow," presented his laboratory's recent pioneering work that shows daily sodium nitrite therapy is highly effective in stimulating new blood vessel growth in tissue that chronically gets inadequate blood supply.

Dr. Kevil's research focuses on how blood vessels are developed with the goal of identifying novel therapeutic strategies that will permit regulation of blood vessel growth. ■

## LSUHSC-S Team Places in "Lighten Up Louisiana"

The LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport "Mansion Bound" team is proud it was among the "biggest losers" in the 2007 *Lighten Up Louisiana* weight-loss competition.



The team placed in two categories. It ranked sixth place for weight loss and tenth place for activity points.

The team consisted of (standing l to r) Vicki Spann, Tony Diez, Gail Juniel, and Tonya Winkler. (seated l to r) Shatarsha Murray, Earnestine Mack, and Sandra Adger, all in Respiratory Therapy. (Not pictured) Diane Clark, and Janet Sykes-Harris, both in Respiratory Therapy and Andrew Burrell, SICU.

## New Faculty

David Barnard, M.D., Associate Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Adrian Casillas, M.D., Associate Professor, Pediatrics  
Mark Cogburn, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Psychiatry  
Bharat Guthikonda, M.D., Assistant Professor, Neurosurgery  
Laurence Hiller, M.D., Assistant Professor, Surgery  
Gunjan Kahlon, M.D., Instructor, Medicine  
Paul Lowe, Instructor, Cardiopulmonary Science  
Kimberly Noland, Instructor, Orthopaedics  
Roberta Steed, Assistant Professor, Occupational Therapy  
Susan Vaughn, Instructor, Emergency Medicine  
Christine Wright, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Occupational Therapy

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## Employee Service Awards Events Planned

Eligible employees, please mark your calendars and make plans to participate in the upcoming annual LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport Employee Service Award program on Tuesday, October 23.

Invitations to the event are being distributed to all employees slated to receive their service pins.

During afternoon ceremonies for the Shreveport campus, 423 employees with 5, 10 and 15 years of service completed by June 30, 2007, will be honored with pin presentations and a reception.

That evening at a seated dinner, 149 employees will be recognized for 20, 25, 30, 35 or 40 years of service.

E.A. Conway Medical Center is now making plans for employees at E.A. Conway and the service awards program will also be instituted at Huey P. Long Medical Center next fall.

If you believe you are eligible for one of these milestone service pins but did not receive an invitation, please contact Information Services at (318) 675-5408 in Shreveport. Eligibility is based on an employee's adjusted service date as of June 30, 2007.

## Foundation Prepares for "Back In Swing" Event

Looking for a fun way to learn to play better golf while at the same time getting tips on how to avoid the aches and pains that often accompany a round? Then the LSU Health Sciences Foundation's "Back in Swing" fundraiser is for you.

This unique golf and health education event is scheduled for Friday, October 26, at East Ridge Country Club. The sixth annual "Back in Swing Interactive Golf Clinic and Tournament" is the only event that combines the disciplines of medicine and physical therapy with golf to help prevent spinal injuries and decrease back pain often associated with playing golf.

"Back in Swing" was developed by LSUHSC-S alumni, William "Bill" Whyte, M.D., of Louisiana Pain Physicians, and Mike Jones, physical therapist and Regional Director of Operations for Cornerstone Rehabilitation.

Golfers will rotate through various clinics, working with physical therapists on strengthening and stretching exercises, while golf professionals help them improve their swing technique.

Attendees will cap off the morning by practicing what they've learned during nine competitive holes of golf that will include putting, closest-to-the-pin, hole-in-one and long-drive contests.

Funds raised by the event benefit the LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport. Entry fee is \$125 and hole sponsorships start at \$1,500. To register call the Foundation at (318) 675-5002, or online at [www.backinswing.com](http://www.backinswing.com). ■

## Arts In Medicine Offers Cards Featuring Patient Works

Occasional cards featuring 10 different works painted by cancer patients through the Arts in Medicine (AIM) program sponsored by the Feist-Weiller Cancer Center of LSUHSC-S are being sold with proceeds going to support AIM.

Sold in packages of 10, each with a different painting, the cards are blank the inside, making them appropriate for any occasion.

The paintings featured on the cards represent just a few of the paintings completed through AIM by Feist-Weiller Cancer Center clinic patients.

More than 600 patients have produced approximately 120 paintings since the program began six years ago.

The cards, \$10 per package, are available in the medical school bookstore, the University Hospital gift shop, and in the Feist-Weiller Cancer Center library. ■



## E.A. Conway Employee of the Month



Kesha Gipson

Kesha Gipson was E.A. Conway Medical Center's employee of the month for September.

Ms. Gipson, a 10-year veteran employee, is a Food Service Specialist in Nutritional Services Department.

She is a graduate of Carroll High School. ■