

On the Inside

January - March 2019

School of Medicine
School of Graduate Studies
School of Allied Health Professionals
Graduate Medical Education
Office of Research

Honors & Appointments

R. Keith White, MD, FACS, has been named Chairman of the Department of Surgery.

Roger E. Kelly, MD, has been named Chairman of the Department of Neurology.

Steven Bailey, MD, has been named Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine.

Rona S. Scott, PhD, has been appointed the Mingyu Ding Memorial Endowed Professorship in Microbiology.

Navdeep Samra, MD, FICS, FACS, Charles D. Knight, Sr., MD Endowed Professor in General Surgery, was elected for membership into the Society of University Surgeons (SUS).

Marlyn Langford, PhD, Director of Ophthalmology Research, was awarded the honor of Silver Fellow by the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) in their 2019 Fellows Class. Dr. Langford will be recognized at the ARVO Annual Meeting held in Vancouver, British Columbia this spring.

R. Shane Barton, MD, Chairman & Thomas Norris, MD Endowed Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, was elected President of the Louisiana Orthopaedic Association.

Matt Hefner, MD, PGY5 Neurosurgery Resident, was awarded the Dean Echols Award for the best basic science presentation at the Louisiana Neurosurgical Society (LANS) Annual Meeting for his presentation, "Preliminary Observations of a Murine Mesial Temporal Lobe Epilepsy Model using Kainic Acid."

Lee Stevens, MD, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, was inaugurated President of the Louisiana State Medical Society on Jan. 25. Mrs. June Stevens was inaugurated President of the Louisiana State Medical Society Alliance. This is only the second time in the history of the State Medical Association and the Alliance that both husband and wife have held the positions of President concurrently.



Five first-year Department of Physical Therapy students were elected to state office for the Louisiana Student Special Interest Group at the Louisiana Physical Therapy Association meeting. Congratulations to **Morgan LeBlanc** (Chairman), **Kaliee Lyons** (Vice Chairman), **Juliana Major** (Treasurer), **Elena DiMattia** (Secretary) and **Caroline Holloway** (Director).

Alex Gomelsky, MD, Professor and Chairman of Urology, was appointed the Burdette E. Trichel, MD Professor of Urology.

MATCH DAY 2019

On Friday, March 15, 116 LSU Health Shreveport School of Medicine students learned where they will be going for their residency training during the Match Day ceremony. Student were called to the stage in random order and received a sealed envelope containing the highly anticipated news of where they matched. Twenty-two percent of students will be staying in Shreveport, and 47% of students will be staying in the state of Louisiana. Prestigious out-of-state residency programs students matched to include Family Medicine at John Peter Smith Hospital, the Harvard Plastic Surgery residency program at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, University of Massachusetts, Wake Forest, University of Virginia, Mt. Sinai, Temple University, UT Southwestern, Baylor University, Oregon Health and Science University, and University of Alabama-Birmingham. **Congratulations, Class of 2019!**



John Mata, MD, Professor of Urology, was appointed the Eugene St. Martin, MD Professor in Urology.

Arun Pramanik, MD, DCH, FAAP, FIAP, Professor of Pediatrics, received the highest honor from the Indian Academy of Pediatrics, which included Honorary Fellowship and the Lifetime Achievement Award, for his services over the years to improve newborn and maternal care in India. Only a few International Pediatricians have received this award. Dr. Pramanik was also invited to speak at the annual conference, which was held in Mumbai, India, Feb. 7-10.



Nour Nakrou, MD, PGY3 Radiology Resident, won "Best Overall Abstract Submitted by a Trainee" at the Annual Meeting of the Southwest Chapter of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI) for her presentation titled, "FDG PET/CT and NO mediastinal nodal status in early stage non-small cell lung cancer: a single institution retrospective experience."

Joseph T. (Tod) Guidry, PhD, a recent Microbiology and Immunology graduate, has been awarded a Science Policy Fellowship by the American Association of Cancer Research (AACR). This is the first time that the AACR has awarded such a fellowship.

Aimee Vozenilek, PhD, also a recent Microbiology and Immunology graduate, has been named an ORISE (Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education) Fellow at the FDA, where she will work on projects to improve bacterial polysaccharide vaccines for use in children.

The Louisiana Board of Regents unanimously approved the continuation of the **Center for Cardiovascular Diseases and Sciences**

(CCDS) at LSU Health Shreveport as a Center of Excellence of research and innovation.

Congratulations to the new members of the Gold Humanism Honor Society!



Student Inductees: **Madison Buras; Lauren Cooper; Daniel Core; Blair Davis; Fehima Dawy; Claire Franklin; Phillip Holly; Amber McKenna; Katie Moreaux; Youmna Moufarrej; Chi Nguyen; Anne Lee Parsiola; Tina Phan; Tierra Range; Logan Roka; Collette Tilly; Jacqueline Van Gheem; Brooke Wilmore; Travis Wilmore; and Nicolas Zaunbrecher.**

Faculty Inductees: **Mila Shah-Bruce, MD; Navdeep Samra, MD, FICS, FACS; Wanda Thomas, MD; and R. Keith White, MD.**

Resident Inductees: **Sara Adams, MD; Caitlin Busada, MD; Caleb Dupre, MD; Nicholas George, MD; Lauren McCalmont, MD; and Jacob Sandoz, MD.**

Suzanne Tinsley, PT, PhD, NCS, Assistant Dean for Development and Parks Endowed Professor of Neurological Rehabilitation, was awarded one of six "New Professionals in Advancement" scholarships to attend the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District IV "We Are One" annual conference in Dallas, TX, Feb. 23-26.

Mansoureh Barzegar, MS, Molecular and Cellular Physiology Graduate Student, won the Bill Halpern Travel Award from The Microcirculatory Society, Inc., given to the top scoring applicant for her presentation, "Human placental stem cell therapy in stroke: endothelial/smooth muscle mechanisms underlying protection."

Kenneth Abreo, MD, FASDIN, Vice Chair of the Department of Medicine and Chief of the Nephrology Section, was honored as a Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient from the American Society of Diagnostic and Interventional Nephrology (ASDIN) at its 15th Scientific Meeting in Atlanta in February.

Pam McPherson, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, was honored with The Ridenhour Prize for Truth-Telling and awarded the Human Rights Hero Award by Physicians for Human Rights for her work challenging family separation and the detention of families at the border who are seeking asylum in the U.S.

RESEARCH RECAP

Yufeng Dong, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Orthopaedic Surgery, was awarded a five-year R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health for a total of \$1,633,905 for his project, "Notch-enriched Mesenchymal Stromal Cells for Bone Allograft Repair."

Chris Pattillo, PhD, Assistant Professor, Molecular and Cellular Physiology, was awarded a five-year R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health for a total of \$1,825,000 for his project, "Cellular Reductive State Regulates Arteriogenesis."

Leadership, faculty, staff and students recently celebrated the growth of research initiatives and funding at the inaugural Research Celebration event on Feb. 28. Since July 1, 2018, 17 new research grants have been awarded to LSU Health Shreveport researchers, totaling more than \$14 million in funding. Faculty members who have excelled in various areas of research were also honored.

A. Wayne Orr, PhD, Director of the Center for Cardiovascular Diseases and Sciences, received the Excellence in Extramural Funding award for having three concurrent R01 grants from the National Institutes of Health that support his cardiovascular disease research efforts.

Glenn Mills, MD, Director of Feist-Weiller Cancer Center, received the Excellence in Translational Research award for his contributions to cancer treatment and research.

Robert Rhoads, PhD, Emeritus Professor and former Chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, received the Excellence in Innovation award for his numerous patents made possible by discoveries in his lab.



ACGME ACCREDITATIONS

The following LSU Health Shreveport Residency and Fellowship Programs have received Continued Accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME): Allergy and Immunology, Anesthesiology, Cardiology, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Colon and Rectal Surgery, Critical Care Medicine, Cytopathology, Emergency Medicine, Endocrinology, Family Medicine - Alexandria, Family Medicine - Monroe, Family Medicine - Rural, Family Medicine - Shreveport, Forensic Psychiatry, Gastroenterology, Hematology/Oncology, Infectious Disease, Internal Medicine, Internal Medicine/Pediatrics, Interventional Cardiology, Nephrology, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Ophthalmology, Orthopaedic Surgery, Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, Pain Medicine, Pathology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Pulmonary Critical Care Medicine, Radiology, Rheumatology, and Sleep Medicine. LSUHS also received Institutional Sponsorship Continued Accreditation with no citations.

Presentations

Sasha Alvarado, MD, Allergy & Immunology Fellow; **Sarwat Umer, MD**, Associate Professor of Pediatric Rheumatology; **Sami Bahna, MD, DrPH**, Y.K. Reddy Professor of Allergy & Immunology and Chief, Section of Allergy & Immunology: "Pruritic rash whenever sweat or raindrops evaporate from the skin," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, San Francisco, CA, Feb. 22-25.

Rashmi D'Mello, MD, Allergy & Immunology Fellow; **Sasha Alvarado, MD**, Allergy & Immunology Fellow; and **Sami Bahna, MD, DrPH**: "Never judge a rash by its bullae," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, San Francisco, CA, Feb. 22-25.

Diana Munoz-Mendoza, MD, Allergy & Immunology Fellow; **Adrian Chapa-Rodriguez, MD**, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics; and **Sami Bahna, MD, DrPH**: "A child with recurrent respiratory and gastrointestinal symptoms," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, San Francisco, CA, Feb. 22-25.

Maria-Magdalena Georgescu, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Pathology and Medical Director of Neuropathology, and **Yan Li, MD, PhD**, PGY1 Pathology Resident; et. al.: "Mutations of the MAPK/TSC/mTOR pathway characterize periventricular glioblastoma with epithelioid SEGA-like morphology – implications for therapy," for United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP).

Maria-Magdalena Georgescu, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Pathology and Medical Director of Neuropathology, and **Yan Li, MD, PhD**, PGY1 Pathology Resident; et. al.: "Mutation status, epithelial differentiation and location stratify risk for tumor recurrence in chordoid meningioma," for United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP).

Andrew Tritter, MD, PGY4 Otolaryngology Resident; **Paul M. Weinberger, MD**, Associate Professor of Laryngology; and **Cherie-Ann Nathan, MD, FACS**, Professor and Chairman of Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery: "The effects of pneumatic compression garment therapy on symptomatic laryngopharyngeal edema in head and neck cancer patients treated with radiation," The Triological Society Combined Sections Meeting, Coronado, CA, Jan. 24-26.



Brian Manzi, MD, PGY3 Otolaryngology Resident; and **Cherie-Ann Nathan, MD, FACS**, Professor and Chairman of Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery: "Intramuscular myxoma mistaken for vagal nerve schwannoma: a case report," The Triological Society Combined Sections Meeting, Coronado, CA, Jan. 24-26.

Rusella Mirza, MD, PhD, PGY2 Pathology Resident, and **Eric X. Wei, MD, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Pathology: "Immunohistochemical Study to Differentiate and Improve Diagnostic Accuracy of Thyroid Hürthle Cell Lesions," Florida Society of Pathologists 45th Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, Feb. 22-24.

Beatriz Briones, MD, PGY2 Surgery Resident: "Association of Centres for Medicare & Medicaid Services Hospital Star Ratings with Outcomes in General Trauma: Insights into Patient Characteristics, Length of

Stay, Healthcare Utilization and Outcomes," LA-ACS/SAL Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Jan. 18-20.



Chad Brady, MD, PGY5 Surgery Resident: "Child Abuse in Pediatric Trauma: A 5-Year Single-Institutional Review," LA-ACS/SAL Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Jan. 18-20.

G. Patton Pennington, MD, PGY4 Surgery Resident: "Does Age Have an Effect on Morbidity, ICU Days, Hospital Length of Stay, Discharge Disposition, or Death of Individuals Involved in Motorcycle Accidents? Analysis of 419 Patients Treated at Level 1 Trauma Center," LA-ACS/SAL Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Jan. 18-20.

Oleg Chernyshev, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Neurology and Sleep Medicine Director, and Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport Stroke Program Chief, led a presentation on strokes to church members of Latter Day Deliverance Church in Houston, TX. The "Thanksgiving to LSU Health Stroke Fighters" campaign for the Academic and Committee Education and Research raised over \$1,000.

Cherie-Ann Nathan, MD, FACS, Professor and Chairman of Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery and Director of Head & Neck Surgical Oncology at Feist-Weiller Cancer Center, was a Visiting Professor and the Invited Keynote Speaker for Faculty Research Day at Stanford School of Medicine.



Conner McDaniel, MD, PGY4 Surgery Resident: "Improving Resident Feedback by Evaluating Perioperative Skill," 14th Annual Academic Surgical Conference, Houston, TX, Feb. 5-7.

John Savoy, MD, PGY3 Surgery Resident: "Smartphone Use as an Educational Tool for Trainees," 14th Annual Academic Surgical Conference, Houston, TX, Feb. 5-7.

Patrick Massey, MD, Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery; **Mitchell Myers, MD**, PGY2 Orthopaedic Surgery Resident; **R. Shane Barton, MD**, Chairman and Thomas Norris, MD Endowed Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery; **Giovanni Solitro, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Biomechanics Laboratory Director: "Biomechanical Analysis of Patellar Tendon Rupture Repair with Knotless Tape Versus Trans-Osseous Suture Repair," Louisiana Orthopaedic Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Feb. 15.

David Berken, MD, PGY5 Orthopaedic Surgery Resident; **Patrick Massey, MD**; **R. Shane Barton, MD**, and **Giovanni Solitro, PhD**: "CT Based Tunnel Characterization In Planning of ACL Reconstruction," Orthopaedic Research Society Annual Meeting, Austin, TX, Feb. 2-5.

Tyler Houston, Medical Student; **Michael Clark, MD**, PGY3 Orthopaedic Surgery Resident; **Marjorie Chelly, MD**, Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery; **R. Shane Barton, MD**; and **Giovanni Solitro, PhD**: "Recovery of Finger Extension Efficiency After Central Slip Injury," Orthopaedic Research Society Annual Meeting, Austin, TX, Feb. 2-5.

Drayton Daily, Medical Student; **Massimo Morandi, MD, FACS**, Vice Chairman and Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery; **Jayde Kee, MD**, PGY2 Orthopaedic Surgery Resident; and **R. Shane Barton, MD**: "Hardware Selection in Supracetabular Fixation for Pelvic Trauma," Orthopaedic Research Society Annual Meeting, Austin, TX, Feb. 2-5.

Claire Hays, Medical Student; **John Garrett, MD**, PGY4 Radiology Resident; **Andreas Chen, MD**, Orthopaedic Surgery Resident Graduate; **Massimo Morandi, MD, FACS**; **Alberto I. Simoncini, MD**, Professor of Radiology and Director of Musculoskeletal Radiology; **R. Shane Barton, MD**; and **Giovanni Solitro, PhD**: "Tibial Plateau Fractures: Comparison of Stiffness Among Different External Fixator Configurations And Their Effects On Magnetic Resonance Imaging Quality," Orthopaedic Research Society Annual Meeting, Austin, TX, Feb. 2-5.

Patrick Massey, MD; **Kaylan McClary, MD**, PGY3 Orthopaedic Surgery Resident; **Danielle Parker**, Allied Health Student; **James Robinson**, Medical Student; **R. Shane Barton, MD**; and **Giovanni Solitro, PhD**: "Biomechanical of Novel Repair Technique for Radial Meniscus Repair," Louisiana

CLASS OF 2021 WHITE COAT CEREMONY

On Saturday, March 23, 121 second-year School of Medicine students received their white coats, a symbol of their transition from classroom to clinical training. The Class of 2021 celebrated this milestone in their medical education with family, friends and LSU Health Shreveport faculty. Dr. Thomas C. Arnold, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine, was the guest speaker.



Orthopaedic Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Feb. 15.

Alex Gomelsky, MD, FACS, Professor and Chairman of Urology: "Where Urodynamics are Invaluable for SUI in 2019," Society of Urodynamics, Female Pelvic Medicine, and Urogenital Reconstruction (SUFU) Meeting, Miami, FL, Feb. 28.

Librado Valadez, MD, PGY3 Urology Resident; **Trapper Munn**, Medical Student; **Clifton Frilot II, PhD**, Assistant Dean for Research and Professor (SAHP); and **Alex Gomelsky, MD**, Professor and Chairman of Urology: "Long-term outcomes and complications of the transobturator midurethral sling," SUFU Meeting, Miami, FL, Feb. 28.

James Pilkington, MD, PGY5 Urology Resident; **Adnan Fazili**, Medical Student; **Clifton F. Frilot II, PhD**; and **Alex Gomelsky, MD**: "Outcomes of midurethral slings in the obese woman," SUFU Annual Meeting, Miami, FL, March 2.

Alex Gomelsky, MD: "What's Keeping You Up at Night? Nocturia as the Primary Complaint," Southeastern Section of the AUA (SESAUA) Annual Meeting, New Orleans, March 13.

J. Margaret Lovin, MD, PGY4 Urology Resident; **Alayna Dauzat**, Medical Student; **Emily F. Kelly, MD**, PGY2 Urology Resident; **Lindsey Leeper, RT**, Ultrasound Technician; **Clifton F. Frilot II, PhD**; and **John A. Mata, MD**, Professor of Urology: "The role of high-resolution doppler ultrasound for testicular localization in nonpalpable cryptorchid testes," SESAUA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, March 14.

Kevin Morgan, MD, PGY1 Urology Resident; **Emily F. Kelly, MD**; **Zachary Connelly, BS**, PhD Candidate, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; and **Kara Babaian, MD**, Assistant Professor of Urology: "Disease Severity of Prostate Cancer at Diagnosis in Uninsured and Low-income Patients" and "PSA Density Performs Better in Caucasian Men than African American Men in Predicting Prostate Cancer and Significant Cancer," SESAUA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, March 15.

Zachary M. Connelly, BS; **Shu Yang**, Research Associate; **Nazih Khater, MD**, Assistant Professor of Urology; **A. Wayne Orr, PhD**, Professor and Research Director of Pathology; and **Xiuping Yu, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, et. al.: "The pioneer transcription factor FOXA2 regulates integrin Alpha 1 expression facilitating prostate cancer bone colonization," SESAUA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, March 14.

Publications

Andrew D. Yurochko, PhD, Carroll Feist Endowed Chair of Viral Oncology and Vice Chair, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, et. al.: "OR1411 is a receptor for the human cytomegalovirus pentameric complex and defines viral epithelial cell tropism," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*; 116(14):7043-7052; DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1814850116; first published March 20, 2019.

Raquel Candal, Medical Student, and **Navdeep Samra, MD, FICS, FACS**, Charles D. Knight, Sr., MD Endowed Professor in General Surgery: "Anatomy, Abdomen and Pelvis, Celiac Ganglia," *StatPearls [Internet]*. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; Feb. 5, 2019.

Andrew Meram, DDS, MD, Assistant Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery; **Yasir Alzubaidi, MD, MPH**, PGY1 Pathology Resident; **James D. Cotelingam, MD**, W. R. Mathews Professor of Pathology and Director of Clinical Pathology and Hematopathology; **G. E. Ghali, DDS, MD, FACS, FRCS(Ed)**, Jack W. Gamble Chair and Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery; **Liora Lopez Matias, MD**, Assistant Professor of Pathology; **Rodney Shackelford, DO**, Assistant Professor of Pathology, et. al.: "Nicotinamide Phosphoribosyl Transferase Is Increased in Osteosarcomas and Chondrosarcomas Compared to Benign Bone and Cartilage," *Anticancer Research*, April 2019; 39(4):1761-1765. doi: 10.21873/anticancer.13282.

Steven A. Conrad, MD, PhD, Professor and Director of Critical Care Medicine Service and the Extracorporeal Life Support

(ECLS) Program; **L. Keith Scott, MD, MS, FCCM**, Professor and Chief, Section of Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine; **Navdeep Samra, MD, FICS, FACS**, Charles D. Knight, Sr., MD Endowed Professor in General Surgery; **Adam Wells, MD**, Former Internal Medicine Resident; and **Todd Oswald, MD**, Internal Medicine Resident Graduate: "Extracorporeal Carbon Dioxide Removal in the Management of Complex Bilateral Flail Chest Injury," *ASAIO Journal*, Jan. 3, 2019, doi: 10.1097.

Surabhi Chowdhary, PhD, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Postdoctoral Fellow; **Amoldeep Kainth, MS**, Graduate Student; and **David Gross, PhD**, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, et. al.: "Heat Shock Factor 1 Drives Intergenic Association of Its Target Gene Loci upon Heat Shock," *Cell Reports*, Jan. 2, 2019; 26(1):18-28.e5 doi: 10.1016/j.celrep.2018.12.034.

Alex Gomelsky, MD, et. al.: "Surgery for Urinary Incontinence in Women: Report from the 6th International Consultation on Incontinence," *Neurology and Urodynamics*, Feb. 2019; 38(2):825-837.

Kara N. Babaian, MD, et. al.: "Diminished long-term recovery of peak flow rate (PFR) after robotic prostatectomy in men with baseline PFR <10 mL/s and incidental association with high-risk prostate cancer," *Low Urinary Tract Symptoms*, Jan. 2019; 11(1): 78-84.

Meetings

A. Wayne Orr, PhD, Professor and Director of Research, Pathology and Translational Pathobiology, and Professor of Cellular Biology and Anatomy, and Molecular and Cellular Physiology; **Mabruka Alifaidi, PhD**, Postdoctoral Fellow; and **Zaki Al-Yafeai**, Graduate Student, attended the Vascular Cell Biology Gordon Research Seminar (GRS) and Vascular Cell Biology Gordon Research Conference (GRC) meetings in Ventura, CA, Jan. 20-25. Zaki Al-Yafeai presented at both: "Integrin-Specific Signaling Drives ER Stress to Promote JNK Signaling and Atherogenic Endothelial Activation." Dr. Orr gave a talk at the GRC: "Focal Adhesion EphA2 Signaling Promotes Contractility to Drive Fibrillar Adhesion Formation and Fibronectin Deposition."

Department of Surgery faculty and residents attended the LA-ACS/SAL Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Jan 18-20.



Pictured at the LA-ACS/SAL Annual Meeting: Dr. Navdeep Samra, Dr. G. Patton Pennington (back), Dr. Beatriz Briones, Dr. Forrest Griffen (back), Dr. Kathryn Rhymes, Dr. Jean-Luc Delafontaine, Dr. Jane Eggerstedt, Dr. Kamel Brakta (back), Dr. Chad Brady, Dr. Donnie Aultman (back), Dr. Hossein Amiri, Dr. Gazi Zibari, and Dr. Quyen Chu (back).

Bharat Guthikonda, MD, FAANS, FACS, Professor of Neurosurgery and Director of Skull Base Research, presided over the 44th Annual Louisiana Neurosurgical Society Meeting in New Orleans, Jan. 18-19.

Nazih Paul Khater, MD, moderated the Socioeconomics and Health Services Research Podium Session, SESAUA Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ, March 13.

Wanda H. Thomas, MD, FAAP, Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Pediatric Hospitalist, and Program Director for AHEC was the speaker of "Diversity in Leadership" at the 2019 NAO Leadership Conference Empowering Success Through Synergy in San Diego, CA, March 11-15.

International Outreach

Rosario Maria S. Riel-Romero, MD, FAAP, FAAN, FACNS, Vice Chairman of Neurology, Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics, and Director of Child Neurology, was a Visiting Professor in Pediatric Neurology at the University of the Philippines and Philippine General Hospital, Manila, Philippines.

R. Shane Barton, MD, Chairman and Thomas Norris, MD Endowed Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, presented at the 4th International Congress on Advanced Rehabilitation and Clinical Translation Research in Shanghai, China.

Massimo Morandi, MD, FACS, Vice Chairman and Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, was the guest speaker at the European Society Meeting in Bari, Italy.



On Feb. 16, the Science Matters student interest group hosted the 3rd annual Interactive Day of Education & Awareness for Science (I.D.E.A.S.) event. Medical, graduate, allied health, undergraduate and high school student volunteers led 50 hands-on demonstrations for attendees of all ages that highlighted a variety of science topics with the goal to help share with the community the importance of science in our daily lives. I.D.E.A.S is fully orchestrated by LSUHS students, and it is the largest Science Matters event held on campus.