CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2019!

193 LSU Health Shreveport students graduated on May 25 at Centenary College's Gold Dome. Twelve students received their PhD or Master's degree from the School of Graduate Studies; 62 students received their Bachelor's, Master's or Doctorate from the School of Allied Health Professions; and 119 students received their Doctor of Medicine degree from the School of Medicine. Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards gave the keynote commencement address. LSU President F. King Alexander and members of the LSU Board of Supervisors and the Louisiana Board of Regents also attended the graduation ceremony and conferred degrees.

RESEARCH RECAP

Hari K. Koul, PhD, FACC, FASN, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and Feist-Weiller Cancer Center's Associate Director of Basic and Translational Research, was awarded a five-year R01 grant from the NIH's National Cancer Institute for $323,975 for his project, "Prostate Cancer Health Disparity: Role of PDE5.

Praveen Kumar Jaiswal, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, received a prestigious Research Scholar Award for mentored Prostate Cancer Research from the American Urological Association. The award will help Dr. Jaiswal and the team of researchers led by Dr. Hari K. Koul to investigate a novel strategy to treat Castrate Resistant Prostate Cancer (CRPC), which is responsible for over 30,000 deaths in the U.S. each year. This study builds on a recent discovery from their lab that the gene EBI4G1 is amplified and expressed in a majority of CRPC patients. The silencing of this gene or inhibition of EBI4G1 protein function sensitized CRPC cells to current prostate cancer therapies. This prestigious award is one of only nine awards funded for 2019-2021.

The LSU and University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors, along with the Louisiana Board of Regents, have provided one-year conditional approval to establish the Center for Tissue Engineering and Regulatory Medicine (CTERM), a collaborative research endeavor between LSU Health Shreveport and Louisiana Tech University.

LSU Health Shreveport has signed on as the initial partner of LifeShare Blood Center's new Cellular Services Laboratory, which will utilize the patented technology of Yuting Wang, MD, Professor of Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology, who also led the training of the LifeShare staff that was required for lab certification.
Lynn Harrison, PhD, Professor of Molecular and Cellular Physiology, was recently awarded a year NIH R15 grant for $43,567 for her project, “Hydrogen Sulphide: A New Bioenergetically Beneficial Gas.”

Reggie Lee, PhD, Neurology Post-Doctoral Fellow, received an award of $27,000 for a 2-year project “Serum/glycocalcic-regulated cytokines and insulin resistance.”

David Gross, PhD, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, received a Diversity Supplement of the National Institute of Health R01 grant titled, “Role of Akt in the Chromosomal Center of Human Immunodeficiency Virus Organization of HSP Genes.”

Cassidy Blackburn, senior student in Dr. Matthew Woolard’s lab, was granted a Malcolm-feit Pre-Doctoral Fellowship by the Center for Cardiovascular Diseases and Sciences. Her grant is titled, “Macrophage-associated lipin-1 transcriptional co-regulatory activity is anti-atheroprotective.”

Julia Myers, senior student in Dr. Woolard’s lab, was awarded a Caflon-Feit Pre-Doctoral Fellowship.

Erika Knott, student in Dr. Nancy Leonard’s lab, was awarded a Caflon-Feit Pre-Doctoral Fellowship.

Malbuka Alafi and Zaki Al Yafai, PhD, PGY3 General Surgery residents, were awarded ATVE Young Investigator Travel Awards to the Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Research; to Medicine Conference in Boston, MA.

Gegampered Kan, Graduate Student, and Mansuresh Barzegar, Graduate Student, were awarded Malcolm-feit Pre-Doctoral Fellowships by the Center for Cardiovascular Diseases and Sciences. Ms. Kan’s grant is titled, “The Structure and Function of fructose 1,6-bisphosphate Glycolysis in Diabetic Retinopathy.” Ms. Barzegar’s grant is titled, “hPMS-CB kinaseActivity: ACE2 dependent protection in Isolated Rat Lung Microvessels and RAS Receptor and AT2 Receptor.”

Alok Khandelwal, PhD, Assistant Professor of Research, Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery, was awarded the California Otolaryngology Society’s Pitot Grant for his work on “CXCL-17 in cutaneous SCC.”

Shile Huang, PhD, Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, was awarded a preliminary grant ($40,000) by the Botanical Dietary Supplements Research Center for his proposal, “Role of Flavonoids in an anti-diabetic activity of Artemisia annua.”

Andrew Furr, PhD, Professor and Carroll Endowed Chair, Assistant Professor of Ursing, School of Allied Health Professions, is Co-PI on a recently awarded Proteome Institute project to the National Institutes of Health focusing on the mechanism of discovering signaling pathways in infected hematopoietic progenitor cells.

Jeremy Kamil, PhD, Associate Professor of Research, Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery, is Co-PI on a recently awarded R01 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to develop a new gene therapy vector that governs HCAV recravation from latency.

An investigative career stage grant held by the LSU Health Sciences Foundation in Shreveport on June 11 honoring Charity-Ann Noonan, MD, Chief of General Surgery and Jack W. Walls Endowed Chair of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery and Paul Wilterdink, MD, the new Chair of the Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery.

Kent Burton, MD, Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery Resident with Dr. Charity-Ann Noonan, won first place at the 2019 American Head and Neck Society Meeting’s poster competition for his project “On ‘FGFR2 in cutaneous SCC in a UVB model.’”

Lindsey Bovey, MD, PGY1 Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery Resident with Charity-Ann Noonan, won first place at the 2019 American Head and Neck Society Meeting’s poster competition for her project “On ‘PD-L1 in papillary thyroid cancer.”

Nimor Aedeel, MD, PGY3 Neurosurgery Resident, was recently appointed Section Editor for Vascular and Endovascular of the World Journal of Neurosurgery, the official publication of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies.

Jami Bohne, MD, DPPh, Professor of Pediatrics and Neurology/Neuroimmunology, was recently appointed Chief of Vaccine and Immunology Section, University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Steven A. Conrad, MD, PhD, the Murow Endowed Chair, Professor of Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, and Anesthesiology, was awarded first place for Life Senior Member of the Institute of Engineering, Science and Medicine (INSM) Invention Competition, “The Lumbar Spine of Allergy & Immunology.”

Navdeep Samne, MD, FICS, FACS, Charles D. Knight, Sr., MD, Endowed Professor of General Surgery, and rejuvenated the guide for this year’s Department of Surgery Residents.

Chris Kevil, PhD, Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies, was named a charter member of the University’s Exosomes Initiative and Chief of Immunology, is Co-PI on a recently awarded R01 grant titled, “The Structure and Function of fructose 1,6-bisphosphate Glycolysis in Diabetic Retinopathy.”

Steven A. Conrad, MD, PhD, the Murow Endowed Chair, Professor of Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, and Anesthesiology, was awarded first place for Life Senior Member of the Institute of Engineering, Science and Medicine (INSM) Invention Competition, “The Lumbar Spine of Allergy & Immunology.”

Congratulations to the following 4th Annual Regional Poster Presentation winners:

1st Place: RhiJu Peudel, MD, PGY1 Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery Resident, for “Improving Patient Care by Incorporating Orientation on Social Determinants of Health in Trainees in Resident Curriculum.”

2nd Place: Deepa Kailam, PGY3 Hematology/Oncology Resident, for “Streamlining Bortezomib Regimen: A Rapid Onset Quality Improvement Project to Enhance Care and Effectiveness of Patient Care.”

3rd Place: Khagendra Dahal, MD, PGY6 Cardiology Fellow, for “Multivariate Telemetry Monitoring to Reduce Inappropriate Telemetry Presentations.”

Ashley Fort, MPAS, PA-C, Physician Assistant Program Academic Coordinator and PA Program Director, for “What is the feasibility of interprofessional learning in a PA role in kidney transplant patients and how can lessons learned by foundry apply to increase the success of other PA’s?” Riverside Medical Center Conference, New Orleans, June 7-9.

Navdeep Samne, MD, FICS, FACS, Charles D. Knight, Sr., MD, Endowed Professor of General Surgery, was recently appointed Section Editor for Vascular and Endovascular of the World Journal of Neurosurgery, the official publication of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies.

Aedin Noonan, MD, PhD, Professor of Surgery and Chief of General Surgery, et. al.: “Length of Stay and ICU Stay Are Increased With Surgical Site Infection for Open and Endoscopic Component of Throat Surgery.” Presented at the 2019 World International Society for Operating Endoscopists Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD.

James Pilkington, MD, PGY5 Surgery Resident, Connor McCordian, MD, PGY4 Surgery Resident, Cherie-Ann Nathan, MD, FACS, F. Dean Griffiths, MD, FACS, and 17th International CMV Workshop held by the LSU School of Public Health, April 7-11. Her work with colleagues at the McGeoy’s Butcher Block of Stonewall for giving their time and materials to make this beautification project a success!

DEREK PALMER, MD, PGY5 Surgery Resident; Conner McCordian, MD, PGY4 Surgery Resident, Navdeep Samne, MD, FICS, FACS, and F. Dean Griffiths, MD, FACS, were awarded a Medical Society for Open and Endoscopic Component of Head and Neck Surgery Research Awards Annual Meeting, Seattle.

Meetings

Members of the Kamal and Yurashchik labs represented the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the 7th International Conference on Translational Research at the AACR-AHNS International Outreach, TX, April 29-30.

Audra Callendar, Medical Laboratory Sciences Student; Elise Stewart, Medical Laboratory Sciences Student; and Jessica S. Jones, PGY5 Medical Laboratory Sciences Graduate; Stephanie Blackcomb, MHS, Medical Laboratory Sciences Program Director; Lee Allen Brunson-Siciliano, MHS, Medical Laboratory Sciences Instructor; and Lynden Britton, PhD, Professor and Chair of Microbiology and Immunology, attended the ASCLS & AGT Joint Annual Meeting in Charlotte, NC, June 23–27. Audra received the Beckman Coulter Travel Grant.

The 3rd Southern Intensive Care and Emergency Medicine Conference April 5-6 in Shreveport was attended by 18 residents and 10 medical student students. Dr. Michael P. Finkley (University of Wisconsin) was the keynote speaker.

The 16th Annual Levy Gala was held on May 6 at the Shreveport Country Club. Dr. Levy was recognized honoring the day he founded the medical center.

The American Surgeon 2019 Annual Meeting COSM, Austin, TX, May 1-2.


The 3rd Annual Research Day, Chicago, IL, May 7.

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