

# On the Inside

April - June 2019

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

## Honors & Appointments

**Sharon Dunn, PT, PhD, OCS**, has been named Dean of the School of Allied Health Professions.

**Cherie-Ann Nathan, MD, FACS**, Professor and Chairman, Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery, and Director of Head and Neck Surgical Oncology and Cancer Research, was inducted as the President of the American Head and Neck Society. Dr. Nathan was also nominated as President Elect of the Association of Academic Departments of Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery (AADO – HNS).



**J. Margaret Lovin, MD, PGY4** Urology Resident, participated in the Resident Quiz Bowl at the SESAJA Annual Meeting and was selected to the team representing the Southeastern Section at the AUA Annual Meeting in May.

**Oleg Chernyshev, MD, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Neurology, has been elected to serve on the 2019/2020 Sleep Medicine Fellowship Directors Council (SMFDC) Steering Committee. His three-year appointment to the SMFDC Steering Committee commences in June at SLEEP 2019, the Annual Meeting of the Associated Professional Sleep Societies (APSS).



**John A. Vanchiere, MD, PhD**, Professor of Pediatrics, Chief of Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Vice Chair of Pediatric Research, received the Allen A. Copping Excellence in Teaching Award for Clinical Science.

**Mary Jo Fitz-Gerald, MD, MBA, DLFAPA, FACP, FACLP**, Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Vice Chairman of Psychiatry Medical Education, has been elected to the American Psychiatric Association's Assembly. Dr. Fitz-Gerald will represent the APA serving a one-year term as Assembly Recorder.

**Debbie Chandler, MD**, has been appointed Associate Dean of Student and Diversity Affairs for the School of Medicine.

**Norman Harris, PhD**, has been named Chairman of the Department of Molecular and Cellular Physiology.

**G. E. Ghali, DDS, MD, FACS, FRCS(Ed)**, was named an American Cancer Society "Champion of Hope" Honoree. He will be recognized at the 2019 American Cancer Society's White Out Cancer Gala on Aug. 24 at East Ridge Country Club in Shreveport.

**A. Wayne Orr, PhD**, Director of the Center for Cardiovascular Diseases and Sciences, and **Sharon Dunn, PT, PhD, OCS**, Dean of the School of Allied Health Professions, were honored at the annual LSU Day at the Capitol in Baton Rouge on April 16.



## 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.



**Diana Merendino, DPT, RRT, PT, RRT-NPS, RPFT, FAARC**, Clinical Associate Professor and Program Director of Cardiopulmonary Science, was honored with the Terry Bourgeois Award of Excellence for her service and commitment to the respiratory therapy profession.



**R. Shane Barton, MD**, Chairman and Thomas Norris, MD Endowed Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, was installed as President of the Louisiana Orthopaedic Association (LOA).

**David Kaufman, MD**, was named President of the Louisiana Society of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (LSAAI).

Congratulations to our Junior Achievement of North Louisiana award recipients! Awards were presented at the 2019 JA ROI Showcase and JA Volunteer & Student Recognition Luncheon on May 7.



Community Impact Award: **Dennis Wissing, PhD**, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, School of Allied Health Professions; **Lindsay Ferrington, PA-C**, Clinical Instructor, Physician Assistant Program; and **Madeline Barclay, MPH**, School of Allied Health Professions Director of Admissions and Records.

New Volunteer Group Award: **LSU Health Shreveport School of Medicine and School of Allied Health Professions (Amanda Bernard, DPT**, Director of Clinical Education - Physical Therapy Program, and **Lisa Babin**, Executive Director of Public Affairs, Communications and Development)

**Julia Esparza, MLS, AHIP**, Professor of Medical Library Science and Associate Director of Health Sciences Library, assumed

the role of Medical Library Association (MLA) President at their annual conference in Chicago, IL, May 3-8.

Congratulations to the following medical students who were category winners at the Medical Student Research Symposium:

- **Grant Pearson, MSII** (Medical Education/Quality Improvement)
- **Blake Boudreaux, MSIII** (Case Reports)
- **Kaitlin Crane, MSIII** (Basic Science Research)
- **Lindsay Herndon, MSIII** (Clinical Research)
- **James Robinson, MSII** (Platform Presentations)

Congratulations to the following Graduate Research Day winners:

- Junior Division Poster Competition: **Tyler Reekes** - Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience (1<sup>st</sup> place) and **Bhattarai Susmita** - Cellular Biology and Anatomy (2<sup>nd</sup> place)
- Senior Division Poster Competition: **Hemangini Dhaibar** - Cellular Biology and Anatomy (1<sup>st</sup> place) and **Linda Rubio** - Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (2<sup>nd</sup> place)
- Talks: **Samantha Murphy** - Microbiology and Immunology (1<sup>st</sup> place) and **MB Wynne** - Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience (2<sup>nd</sup> place)

**Avery Callahan, MD**, Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, was elected as President of the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of EMS Physicians.

**Angela Cornelius, MD**, Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, was chosen to serve as President-Elect for the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of EMS Physicians.

**Oleg Chernyshev, MD, PhD**, and **Hugo Cuellar, MD, PhD**, Associate Professor of Neurosurgery, Neurology and Radiology, co-direct the Stroke Center at Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport Academic Medical Center, which was recently awarded the Gold Plus Achievement Award and Target Stroke Honor Roll Elite Plus Award by the American Heart Association.



**Martin Sapp, PhD**, Chairman and Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, was selected to be a member of the NIH's Center for Scientific Review Virology-A Study Section. He will serve July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2023.

**David Duggar, MLIS, AHIP**, Professor of Medical Library Science and Head of Library Liaison Program, received the Meritorious Service Award at the Louisiana Library Association annual meeting.

## RESEARCH RECAP

**Hari K. Koul, PhD, FACN, 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 \$333,975 for his project, "Prostate Cancer Health Disparity: Role of PDEF."

**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 (CPCR), 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 EIF4G1 is amplified and overexpressed in a majority of CRPC patients. The silencing of this gene or inhibition of EIF4G1 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 Regenerative 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 techniques of **Yuping Wang, MD**, Professor of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology, who also led the training of the LifeShare staff that was required for lab certification.



## March of Dimes Healthy Babies Community Baby Shower

On April 28, the Department of Pediatrics participated in the March of Dimes Healthy Babies Community Baby Shower held at the Shreveport Aquarium. The event was designed to provide information to pregnant women and parents of newborns on the resources available for them. An estimated 100 women and families from the community took advantage of this opportunity. The Pediatric Department had two tables at the event - one table was organized and run by two first year pediatric residents, **Dr. Lauren Bridges** and **Dr. Kristen Sandoz**, who volunteered to provide information and handouts on newborn care, infant safety, safe sleep, vaccines and breast feeding, amongst others. Additional handout materials were provided by Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport and March of Dimes. The second table was organized by **Christine Tharp**, Coordinator of the Department's Reach Out and Read and CARKEYS programs. Ms. Tharp provided free copies of the popular book *Goodnight Moon*, while making families aware of the importance of early reading and language experiences in childhood development and school readiness. She also made families aware of the need to be certain that car seats are used properly. **Dr. Joseph Bocchini** served on the March of Dimes planning committee for the event.





## RESEARCH RECAP (CONTINUED)

**Lynn Harrison, PhD**, Professor of Molecular and Cellular Physiology, was awarded a three-year NIH R15 grant for \$435,667 for her project, "Hydrogen Sulfide as a Radiosensitizer for Glioblastoma."

**Reggie Lee, PhD**, Neurology Post-Doctoral Fellow, received an American Heart Association Career Development award of \$231,000 for his three-year project, "Serum/glucocorticoid-regulated kinases 1 in cerebral ischemia."

**David Gross, PhD**, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, was awarded a Diversity Supplement to his NIH R15 grant, "Role of Actin in the Chromosomal Conformation & Nuclear Organization of HSP Genes."

**Cassidy Blackburn**, senior student in Dr. Matthew Woolard's lab, was granted a Malcolm-Feist Pre-Doctoral fellowship by the Center for Cardiovascular Diseases and Sciences. Her grant is titled: "Macrophage-associated lipin-1 transcriptional co-regulatory activity is atheroprotective".

**Julia Myers**, senior student in Dr. Rona Scott's lab, was awarded a Carroll-Feist Pre-Doctoral Fellowship.

**Erika Knott**, student in Dr. Nancy Leidenheimer's lab, was awarded a Carroll-Feist Pre-Doctoral Fellowship.

**Mabruka Alfaidi and Zaki Al Yafeai** from Dr. A. Wayne Orr's lab were awarded ATVB Young Investigator Travel Awards to the Vascular Discovery: From Genes to Medicine Conference in Boston, MA, May 14-16.

**Gaganpreet Kaur**, Graduate Student, and **Mansoureh Barzegar**, Graduate Student, were awarded Malcolm-Feist Pre-Doctoral Fellowships by the Center for Cardiovascular Diseases and Sciences. Ms. Kaur's grant is titled, "The Structure and Function of the Endothelial Glycocalyx in Diabetic Retinopathy." Ms. Barzegar's grant is titled, "hPMSC exosome-ACE2 dependent protection in stroke injury: Role of Mas Receptor and AT2 Receptor."

**Alok Khandelwal, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Research, Otolaryngology / Head and Neck Surgery, was awarded the American Head and Neck Society's Pilot Grant for his work on "CXCL-17 in cutaneous SCC."

**Shile Huang, PhD**, Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, was awarded a pilot grant for \$30,000 from the Botanical Dietary Supplements Research Center for his proposal, "Role of PHLPP and PP2A in the anti-diabetic activity of Artemisia extracts."

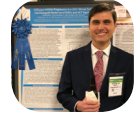
**Andrew Yurochko, PhD**, Professor and Carroll Feist Endowed Chair of Viral Oncology, and Vice Chair of Microbiology and Immunology, is Co-PI on a recently awarded Program Project Grant from the National Institutes of Health focusing on how HCMV affects signaling pathways in infected hematopoietic progenitor cells.

**Jeremy Kamil, PhD**, Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, is Co-PI on a recently awarded five-year, multi-PI R01 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to investigate the molecular switch that governs HCMV reactivation from latency.

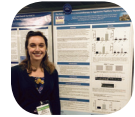
An investiture ceremony was held by the LSU Health Sciences Foundation in Shreveport on June 11 honoring **Cherie-Ann Nathan, MD, FACS**, the Jack W. Pou, MD Endowed Chair of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery, and **Paul Weinberger, MD**, the Dr. Cherie-Ann O. Nathan, MD Endowed Professor of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery.



**Kent Burton, MD**, Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery Chief Resident with Dr. Cherie-Ann Nathan's lab, won first place at the National Triological Society's poster competition for his work on "Targeting FGFR2 in cutaneous SCC in a UVB model."



**Lindsay Boven, MD, PGY1** Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery Resident in Dr. Cherie-Ann Nathan's lab, won first place at the National American Head and Neck Society Meeting's poster competition for her work on "PD-L1 in papillary thyroid cancer."



**Nimer Adeeb, MD, PGY3** Neurosurgery Resident, was recently appointed Section Editor for Vascular and Endovascular of the World Neurosurgery Journal, the official publication of the World Federation of Neurological Societies.



**Sami Bahna, MD, DrPH**, Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine, Chief of Allergy and Immunology Section, was recognized with a plaque for his contributions to the scientific program and long-term support to the Lebanese Society of Allergy & Immunology.



**Navdeep Samra, MD, FICS, FACS**, Charles D. Knight, Sr., MD Endowed Professor in General Surgery, received the Best Teaching Faculty Award from the Department of Surgery Residents.

**Chris Kevil, PhD**, Vice Chancellor for Research and School of Graduate Studies Dean, was named a charter member of the NIH Center for Scientific Review's Atherosclerosis and Inflammation of the Cardiovascular (AICS) System Study Section.

**Steven A. Conrad, MD, PhD**, Ike Muslow Endowed Chair, and Professor of Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, and Anesthesiology, was awarded the status of Life Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

Congratulations to the following 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Poster Presentation winners:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Rhiju Poudel, MD, PGY2** Family Medicine-Monroe Resident: "Improving Patient Care by Incorporating Orientation on Social Determinants of Health in Minorities in Resident Curriculum"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Deepti Kallam, MD, PGY5** Hematology/Oncology Fellow: "Streamlining Bortezomib Regimen: A Quality Improvement Project for a More Cost Effective and Patient Friendly Drug Monitoring Protocol"
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Khagendra Dahal, MD, PGY6** Cardiology Fellow: "Appropriate Telemetry Monitoring to Reduce Inappropriate Telemetry Admissions"

## Presentations

**Ashley Fort, MPAS, PA-C**, Physician Assistant Program Academic Coordinator and Assistant Professor, and **Teri Bigler, DHEd, MS, PA-C**, Physician Assistant Program Director and Assistant Professor: "What is the feasibility of interprofessional learning in an asynchronous environment, and how can lessons learned by faculty apply to increase the success of others?" Teaching Professor Conference, New Orleans, June 7-9.

**Navdeep Samra, MD, FICS, FACS**, Charles D. Knight, Sr. MD Endowed Professor of General Surgery: "Communication Skills for Surgical Practice," Surgery Visiting Professor, Ochsner Clinical School & Ochsner Department of Surgery, New Orleans, April 29.

**Ahmad Azzawe, MD, PGY4** Urology Resident; **Julia Willingham, MD**, Graduated Urology Resident; and **Alex Gomelsky, MD, FACS**, Professor and Chairman of Urology: "Robot-Assisted Laparoscopic Excision of Intravesical Bladder Mesh" SESAUA Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ.

**Alex Gomelsky, MD, FACS**; **Librado Valadez, MD, PGY3** Urology Resident; **Trapper Munn, BS**, Medical Student; and **Clifton Frilot II, PhD**, Assistant Dean for Research (SAHP) and Professor of Physical Therapy: Podium "long-term outcomes

## SAHP CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION

The School of Allied Health Professions SGA rallied students, faculty, and staff for a campus beautification day at the Mollie E. Webb Speech and Hearing Center. More than 80 volunteers planted flowers, trimmed trees, cleared sidewalks, painted pavers and picked up trash along Tulane Avenue. One major project they tackled was preparing an area for a playground that was made possible by a generous donor. Thank you to all the volunteers, Shreveport Green, donors, and McCoy's Butcher Block of Stonewall for giving their time, talents, and materials to make this beautification project a success!



and complications of the Transobturator Midurethral Sling," SESAUA Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ.

**James Pilkington, MD, PGY5** Urology Resident; **Adnan Fazili**, Medical Student; **Clifton F. Frilot II, PhD**; and **Alex Gomelsky, MD, FACS**: "Outcomes of Midurethral Slings in the Obese Woman," SESAUA Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ.

**Emily F. Kelly, MD, PGY2** Urology Resident; **Kevin Morgan, MD, PGY1** Urology Resident; **Zachary Connelly, BS**, Graduate Student; and **Kara N. Babaian, MD**, Assistant Professor of Urology: "PSA Density Performs Better in Caucasian Men than African American Men in Predicting Prostate Cancer and Significant Cancer," SESAUA Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ.

**Kent Burton, MD, PGY5** Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery Resident; **Alok Khandelwal, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Research; **Xiaohua Rong**, Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery Research Technician; **Tara Medlin-Moore**, Research Lab Manager; **Xiaohua Ma, MD**, Clinical Research Associate; **Cherie-Ann Nathan, MD, FACS**; et. al.: "AZD4547 Inhibits Progression in a cSCC Mouse Tumor," National Triological Society, Austin, TX, May 3-4.

**Lindsay Boven, MD, PGY1** Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery Resident; **Stephanie Terhoeve**, Medical Student; **Abhijit Gundale, MD**, Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery Fellow; **Tara Moore-Medlin**; **Jerry McLarty, PhD**, Director of Cancer Prevention and Control at Feist-Weiller Cancer Center; **Xiaohua Ma, MD**; **Hillary Savage**, Student Worker in Dr. Nathan's lab; **Cherie-Ann Nathan, MD, FACS**; et. al.: "Investigating the Potential Role of Anti-PD-L1 Immunotherapy in Aggressive Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma," American Head and Neck Society 2019 Annual Meeting COSM, Austin, TX, May 1-2.

**Chris Kevil, PhD**: "Regulation of Health and Disease by Physiological Gasotransmitters," Keynote presentation at Ochsner's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Day, New Orleans, May 24.

**Julia Esparza, MLS, AHIP**: "Elevating our Vision," Inaugural Address as President at the Annual Meeting of the Medical Library Association, Chicago, IL, May 7.

**Erin Reardon, MFA, MLIS**, Reference Librarian: "New Member Immersion Session," Panel Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Medical Library Association, Chicago, IL, May 5.

## Publications

**Junaid Ansari, MD, PhD, PGY1** Neurology Resident, et. al.: "Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury in Sickle Cell Disease," *The American Journal of Pathology*, Volume 189, Issue 4, 706-718, April 2019.

**Alex Gomelsky, MD, FACS**, Professor and Chairman of Urology: Editorial Comment on "6-Month Results of Selective Bladder Denervation in Women with Refractory Overactive Bladder," *Journal of Urology*, March 2019; 201(3): 579-580.

**Arun Pramanik, MD**, Professor of Pediatrics; **Jonathan S. Alexander, PhD**, Professor of Molecular and Cellular Physiology; et. al.: "Metabolic-hypoxic modulation of cytokine induction of intestinal endothelial adhesion molecules: Relevance to ischemic injury mediated necrotizing enterocolitis?" *Pathophysiology*. 2019 Jun;26(2):169-174. doi: 10.1016/j.pathophys.2019.03.003. Epub 2019 Apr 14.

**Derek Palmer, MD, PGY5** Surgery Resident; **Conner McDaniel, MD, PGY4** Surgery Resident; **Navdeep Samra, MD, FICS, FACS**; and **F. Dean Griffen, MD, FACS**, Gratis Faculty, Professor of Clinical Surgery: "Comparing Surgical Site Infection for Open and Endoscopic Component Separation," *The American Surgeon*, April 1;85(4):350-352, PMID: 31043193.

**Navdeep Samra, MD, FICS, FACS**, Charles D. Knight, Sr. MD Endowed Professor of General Surgery, and **Quyên Chu, MD, MBA, FACS**, Professor of Surgery and Chief of Surgical Oncology, et. al.: "Length

of Stay and ICU Stay Are Increased With Repair of Traumatic Superior Mesenteric Vein Injury," *The Journal of Surgical Research*, May 6;242:94-99. doi: 10.1016/j.jss.2019.04.043.

**Derek Palmer, MD, PGY5** Surgery Resident; **Conner McDaniel, MD, PGY4** Surgery Resident; **Navdeep Samra, MD, FICS, FACS**; and **F. Dean Griffen, MD, FACS**: "Comparing Surgical Site Infection for Open and Endoscopic Component Separation," *The American Surgeon*, April 1;85(4):350-352, PMID: 31043193.

## Meetings

Members of the **Kamil and Yurochko Labs** represented the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the 7<sup>th</sup> International Congenital CMV Conference and 17<sup>th</sup> International CMV Workshop held in Birmingham, AL, April 7-11. **Heather Fulkerson** was chosen to present her work and **Andrew Yurochko, PhD**, was chosen as the Keynote Speaker and also gave a talk at a breakout session.

The **Woolard Lab** attended the Atherosclerosis Gordon Research Conference held in Newry, ME, June 16-21. **Cassidy Blackburn**, **Robert Schilke**, and **Sunitha Chandran, PhD**, Microbiology and Immunology Fellow, presented posters.

**Ellen Friday, PhD**, Clinical Assistant Professor and Researcher; **Jennifer Carroll**, Research Specialist; and **Reneau Youngblood**, Lab Manager, with Feist-Weiller Cancer Center attended the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, March 29-April 3.

**Audra Callendar**, Medical Laboratory Sciences Student; **Elaine Stewart**, Medical Laboratory Sciences Student; and **Jessica Lawless**, recent Medical Laboratory Sciences Graduate; **Stephanie Blackburn, MHS**, Medical Laboratory Sciences Program Director; **Lee Ellen Brunson-Sicilia, MHS**, Medical Laboratory Sciences Instructor; and **Lynda Britton, PhD**, Professor and Clinical Coordinator of Medical Laboratory Sciences, attended the ASCLS & AGT Joint Annual Meeting in Charlotte, NC, June 23-27. Audra received the Beckman Coulter Travel Grant.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> **Southern Intensive Care and Emergency Medicine Symposium** held April 5-6 in Shreveport was attended by 120 medical professionals and six medical students. Dr. Michael R. Pinsky (University of Pittsburgh) delivered the keynote Guthikonda Endowed Lecture.

The 16<sup>th</sup> **Annual Levy Conference** was held on April 5. The annual Levy Conference Visiting Professorship in Neurosurgery was instituted by Ben Levy, Jr. and his wife, Mary Louise Levy, to help ensure the department's continued academic success. School of Medicine alumnus, Dr. Robert H. Rosenwasser (Thomas Jefferson University Hospital) was this year's keynote speaker.

**David Duggar, MLIS, AHIP**, was a moderator for lightning talks at the Annual Meeting of the Medical Library Association in Chicago, IL, May 5.

**Cherie-Ann Nathan, MD, FACS**, Professor and Jack W. Pou, MD Endowed Chair of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery, was the Moderator for Best of Clinical Trials 2018 (American Head and Neck Society) and Moderator for Optimizing Survival and Quality of Life through Basic, Clinical, and Translational Research at the AACR-AHNS Head and Neck Cancer Conference, Austin, TX, April 29-30.

## International Outreach

**Sami Bahna, MD, DrPH**, was an invited speaker at the 2019 World International Scientific Allergy Conference, Beirut, Lebanon, April 4-6. Dr. Bahna gave three presentations: "Total IgE level is valuable but neglected in practice," "Food allergy pearls and pitfalls," and "The gluten puzzle - Sorting the chaff from the wheat." He also chaired a special session in the program by the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology.