

July - October 2020

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

## RECOGNITIONS

### HONORS & APPOINTMENTS



**Shreedhar Kulkarni, MD** featured in the documentary “A Pandemic - Away from the Motherland” which sheds light on the lives of five doctors in the US treating COVID-19 patients.

**Dr. Kulkarni** also is one of the investigators of “LUNG SAFE” trial which assesses epidemiology, patterns of care and mortality for patients with ARDS among ICU patients in 50 countries across 5 continents. The movie was released on Apple TV/iTunes on October 10th and on Google Play/ YouTube Movies on October 18th.

**James D. Morris, MD, FACP, FAGC, AGAF**, Associate Professor of Medicine and Program Director for the Division of Gastroenterology was elected President of the General Faculty for 2020-2021. Dr. Morris led his first meeting on September 15, 2020 and presented the Gavel of Recognition to outgoing President **Kenneth McMartin, PhD**, Professor of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience.



**Sharon Dunn, PT, PhD, OCS**; Dean, School of Allied Health Professions and APTA President delivered the closing remarks for the APTA Celebration of Diversity on October 17, 2020. The event highlighted health care professionals experience



surrounding diversity, equity and inclusion.

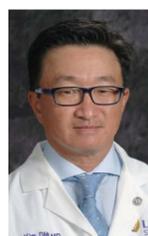
**Suzanne Tinsley, PT, PhD, NCS** Honoree for the 30th Annual ATHENA Leadership and Award Program.



**Nicholas E. Goeders, PhD**, Professor and Head of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience; Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine; Executive Director of Louisiana Addiction Research Center received the Wayne Drewry Award from Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse of Northwest Louisiana on October 7, 2020 at the CADA Annual Meeting. The award is for outstanding and distinguished contributions in the field of addictions.



**Dongsoo Kim, DMD, MD, FACS** Professor and Vice-Chairman of Oral & Maxillofacial



## TECH Innovations

### IN EDUCATION

In the midst of a global pandemic, LSUHS students, residents and faculty have found innovative ways to adapt to an ever-changing landscape. While many were already well acquainted with virtual learning and digital modalities of instruction, the Institution has made investments in technology to lessen the limitations brought on by COVID-19. The Offices of Medical Communication and IT created two professional spaces on the ground floor of the library for faculty and students to utilize for presentations, recording podcasts and resident interviews. These “Zoom

Rooms” have been outfitted with proper lighting, branded LSUHS backgrounds and superior sound solutions to provide an optimal virtual platform. To access — enter the library from the Core Lab and follow the signs to Rooms 435-A and 435-B. Faculty can request their departmental room reservation coordinator book a room which can be found under Library Small Groups in the room reservations system located on the Inside/Intranet. Students can determine if a room is available by following the same instructions.

To reserve a room, medical students may email [lmacko@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:lmacko@lsuhsc.edu), graduate students should email [llacha@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:llacha@lsuhsc.edu) and SAHP students should email [vlurry@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:vlurry@lsuhsc.edu).

The INSIDE, formerly known as MyHSC offers the ability to share information among interest groups, streamline department activities and coordinate virtual events across campus. To access, go to [inside.lsuhs.edu](http://inside.lsuhs.edu)

Surgery, Director of Head & Neck Oncologic / Microvascular Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship, Division Chief Head & Neck Oncologic Surgery was awarded funding from the AOCMF North America Board in recognition of his Fellowship Program. The Fellowship Program was recognized by the AOCMF North America Board for its excellent program structure and educational content and, as a result, AONA committed to a one-year award for the academic term August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021. The award provided financial support of \$20,000.00 for the fellowship program, along with educational support for all fellows.



**Stephan N. Witt, PhD** was invited to a second 5-year term on the Journal of Biological Chemistry editorial board. In the fall of 2014, Dr. Witt was asked by the Editor of the Journal of Biological Chemistry, which is a highly respected scientific journals, to be a member of the JBC editorial board for a 5-year term (2015-2020). Because of excellent service in reviewing manuscripts during the first term, the Editor and Associate Editors of JBC invited Dr. Witt to a second 5-year term (2021-2025).

**Stephan N. Witt, PhD** was invited to participate in the upcoming NIH’s Center for Scientific Review (CSR) Fellowship study

section F03B; Biophysical, Physiological, Pharmacological and Bioengineering Neuroscience, on October 22-23rd.

**Stephan N. Witt, PhD** was invited to be a Review Editor on the Editorial Board of Aging, Metabolism and Redox Biology (specialty section of Frontiers in Aging).



**Arun Pramanik, MD** was nominated in July 2020 to three committees of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) which deal with improving care of newborn infants based on evidence-based medicine.

Policy statements made by the AAP define the standard of care for Newborn infants which are followed by practicing Neonatologists in the USA and Canada. The committees are: (1) Committee of Fetus and Newborn, (2) Neonatal Resuscitation Program Steering Committee, (3) Society of Advances in Therapeutics and Technology.



**Cindy Rives, MPA** was appointed to the position of Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance for LSU Health Shreveport effective January 1.



**Hugo Cuellar, MD, PhD, MBA, DABR** was named Chairman of the Department of Radiology. Dr. Cuellar is an Associate Professor of Radiology, Neurosurgery and Neurology with tenure and serves as

Director of Neuroendovascular Surgery and Neuroimaging and Co-Director of the Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Center.

**Krystle Trosclair, MS, PhD** was appointed Director of Neurosurgical Research in the Department of Neurosurgery.



**Wanda Thomas, MD** was selected as the new Assistant Dean of Admissions.



**Maroun J. Mhanna MD, MPH** was named Chairman and Professor of the Department of Pediatrics.





**Michael Sewell, MD**, Clinical Associate Professor, Section Chief for Division of Internal Medicine / Hospitalist Program was recognized as the October STAR Teacher of the Month awarded by the SAGE Honorary Service Organization.

**Lester Johnson, MD**, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Professor of Surgery in Monroe was appointed by the LSU Board of Supervisors to the search committee responsible for selecting the new President of LSU.



**Maburka Alfaidi, PhD**, a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Orr Lab won the 2020 British Atherosclerosis Society Young Investigator Award. Sponsored by the British Heart Foundation, the award recognizes young scientists who have brought distinction by their research and publications contributing to the knowledge of atherosclerosis. Dr. Alfaidi is also a finalist for the first annual ATVB Elaine Raines Early Career Investigator award.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Alex Gomelsky, MD**, Professor and Chair of Urology; **Nazih Khater, MD**, Assistant Professor of Urology; et. al.: “Perioperative acute kidney injury: Stratification and risk reduction strategies. Best Practice and Research Clinical Anesthesiology 2020,” 34: 167-182.

**Alex Gomelsky, MD**, Professor and Chair of Urology, “Voiding Dynamics in Women with Urinary Incontinence but Without Voiding Symptoms.”, PracticeUpdate website. Available at: <https://www.practiceupdate.com/content/voiding-dynamics-in-women-with-urinary-incontinence-but-without-voiding-symptoms/105227/65/3/1>. September 18, 2020.

**Librado Valadez, MD**, PGY-5 Urology Resident; **Clifton F Fritel II, PhD**, Associate Dean of Business, Technology and Research; Professor of Physical Therapy; **Alex Gomelsky, MD**, Professor and Chair of Urology, “Long-term outcomes and complications of transobturator midurethral slings: a critical evaluation of a real-world population.” *Neurourology and Urodynamics* 2020 Sep 22. [Online ahead of print].

**Marie Vazquez-Morgan, PT, PhD**, Associate Professor, Program in Physical Therapy, School of Allied Health Professions, “Functional Electrical Stimulation as a Promising Intervention for Polymyositis-Related Weakness: A Case Study,” *International Journal of Therapy and Rehabilitation*.

**Mary Jo Fitz-Gerald, MD, MBA, DLFAPA, FACP, FACLP**, Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Takeshita J, editors: *Models of Emergency Psychiatric Care That Work*. Springer International Publishers, publication date 08-28-2020. ISBN: 978-3-030-50807-4. Fitz-Gerald M; **Mark Colon, MD**, Associate Professor of Psychiatry; **Anand Bosmia, MD**, “Special Populations in Psychiatric Emergency Care: The Forensic Patient.” **Gene T. Robichaux, MD**, PGY-5, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Resident; Fitz-Gerald C, Fitz-Gerald M. “Special Populations in Psychiatric Emergency Care: The Geriatric Patient.”

**Yuping Wang, MD** and **David F. Lewis, MD** stated the impact of vitamin D in regulating immune tolerance and foetal development in pregnancy. Scholarly article, “Vitamin D and immune tolerance in pregnancy and beyond,” in the online publication [OpenAccessGovernment.org](http://OpenAccessGovernment.org)

**Kim Jackson, MD** Allergy and Immunology Fellow; and **Sami Bahna, MD, DrPh**, Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine, Chief of Allergy and Immunology Section; “Hypersensitivity and other adverse reactions to biologics for asthma and allergic diseases.” *Expert Review of Clinical Immunology* 16:311-319, 2020.

## PRESENTATIONS

**Alex Gomelsky, MD**, Professor and Chair of Urology, presented 3 talks at the Innovations in Urologic Practice Virtual Meeting entitled “Male Incontinence: Best treatment for male incontinence: AUS”, “Current Diagnosis and Management of Female Stress Incontinence”, “Optimizing Outcomes for Refractory Urge Incontinence”. His presentation was sponsored by the Baylor College of Medicine, September 26, 2020..

**Alex Gomelsky, MD**, Professor and Chair of Urology, et. al.: “Telemedicine optimizes early post-operative follow up after synthetic mid-urethral sling (MUS): a randomized multi-institutional control trial,” *AUA Virtual Experience*: presented on June 27, 2020.

**Kabiul Haque, MD** House Staff, Family Medicine & Comprehensive Care; **William Olmstadt, MSLS, MPH, AHIP**, Executive Director, Health Sciences Library; and **Marc Chaudoir, MD**, Assistant Professor of Clinical Family Medicine, Director of Family Medicine Faculty Clinic, presented on “Family Medicine Clinic and Librarian Collaboration to Improve Patient Access to MyChart and Reduce Inappropriate Polypharmacy”, poster presentation at the virtual Annual Meeting of the Medical Library Association, July 24 2020

**Julia M. Esparza, MLS, AHIP**, Associate Director for the Health Sciences Library; **Kathleen A. Bloomingdale**, Coordinator of Academic Area; **Montie Dobbins, MLIS**, Assistant Director of Technical Services for the Health Sciences Library; **David C. Duggar, MLIS, AHIP**, Head, Liaison Program for the Health Sciences Library; **Sarah Jackson**, Education Librarian; **Theresa L B Nail**, Library Associate; **William Olmstadt**, Executive Director, Health Sciences Library presented “Bringing It into Focus: Finding an Organization’s Intellectual Capital Using a Research Approach”, Poster Presentation at the virtual Annual Meeting of the Medical Library Association, July 24 2020.

**Marie A. Vazquez-Morgan, PT, PhD**; Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, Keynote Speaker at APTA Celebration of Diversity, spoke on diversity, equity, and inclusion. **Dr. Vazquez-Morgan** also reached a fundraising goal for the Eat Right and Move Community program, which is now eligible for a 50,000 grant from USA Today.

**Julia M. Esparza, MLS, AHIP**, Associate Director for the Health Sciences Library, Co-Presenter, Opening Session, virtual Annual Conference of the Medical Library Association, July 24 2020.

**Cherie-Ann O. Nathan, MD, FACS**, Jack Pou Endowed Professor and Chair of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, presented at Johns Hopkins Medicine Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery: “All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Otorhinolaryngology”, September 29, 2020.

**Pamela McPherson, MD, FAPA** Gratis Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine has three national presentations: “Managing Burnout: Moving Forward from Corona”, The American Society of Interventional Pain Physician’s Annual Meeting Keynote Address on September 4, 2020; “Whistleblowing and Ethics: An Investigation of ICE Detention Centers”, Southern Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting on September 22, 2020; “Advocating for Children in Immigrant Detention: Subject Matter Expert to Whistleblower”, Massachusetts General Hospital for Children 2020 Pediatric Global Health Summit, Grand Rounds on October 20, 2020.

**E.J. Mayeaux, Jr., MD, DABFP, FAAFP, DABPM-CI** made 5 educational presentations at this year’s virtual Family Medicine Experience. Family Medicine Experience (FMX) is the American Academy of Family Physicians’ (AAFP) largest annual meeting and provides five days of education, networking, inspiration, and patient-centered solutions for thousands of family physicians. Dr. Mayeaux has been an invited speaker at this national event since 1992.

## INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

**Richard Shane Barton, MD**, Chairman of Orthopaedic Surgery and Thomas Norris MD Endowed Professor gave two International virtual presentations, one of which will be broadcast live on television: Keynote Speaker at the CONIITI international conference

hosted by the Universidad Católica de Colombia with the technical supervision of the IEEE for the presentation “Adaptive leadership applied to the management of an orthopaedic department: the challenge represented by the COVID19 pandemic”; Special Speaker for the Universidad Privada San Juan Bautista for a symposium in artificial intelligence presenting “Engineering behind orthopaedics: the emerging trend of patient specific solutions” on October 1, 2020.

**Sami Bahna, MD, DrPh**, Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine, Chief of Allergy and Immunology Section was invited to present “Food Allergies Without Eating” at the World International Scientific Conference by the World Allergy Organization and the Italian Society of Allergology, Asthma & Clinical Immunology, Rome, Italy, July 16-18, 2020.

## RESEARCH RECAP

**Xiaohong Lu, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience was awarded a NIH R21 grant for \$219,000 from the National Institute of Environmental Health for his project, “Single-cell genetic analysis of the pathogenic role of neuronal genomic instability in environmental toxicant exposure.”

**Sushil K. Jain, PhD**, Professor of Pediatrics, was awarded a 3-year NIH R33 grant for \$507,204 from the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health for his project, “Optimization of Blood Levels of 25(OH)-vitamin D in African Americans.”

**David Gross, PhD**, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology was awarded a 4-year NIH grant for \$1,200,000 for his project entitled, “Genome Architecture and Gene Control in Response to Stress. The goal of Dr. Gross’s project is to understand how the structure and three-dimensional arrangement of stress-responsive ‘HSP’ genes help to protect cells from the damaging, and occasionally lethal effects of exposure to high temperature, chemicals, oxidants or heavy metals. Insights obtained from this project will inform therapeutic efforts aimed broadly at 3D genome regulation and may suggest novel drugs with which to modulate HSF1 to treat cancer and neurodegenerative diseases.

# AOA Inductees for Class of 2021

The following students, house officers and faculty were inducted into AOA.

### STUDENTS

**Claire Stowers**  
President  
**Manon Doucet**  
Vice President  
**Adam Xiao**  
NRMP Chairman  
**Laura Perilloux**  
Community Service Chairman

**Eleni Mijalis**  
**Audrey Demand**  
**James Ferrer**  
**Cole Bergeron**  
**Adam Vandenlangenberg**  
**Meghan Smith**  
**Elizabeth Person**  
**Rosemary Prejean**  
**Kristina Gambino**  
**Allison Rogers**  
**Katie Frith**  
**Haley Harrington**  
**Christian Bergeron**  
**William Terraciano**  
**Rhett Reynolds**

### RESIDENTS/FELLOWS

**Loveita Raymond, MD**  
**Caleb Dupre, MD**  
**Kelli H. Morgan, MD**  
**David Sommerhalder, MD**

### FACULTY

**Paul A. Jordan, MD**  
**John A. Vanchiere, MD, PhD**  
**Brent Chang, MD**

### ALUMNI

**Vinh Nguyen, MD**  
**Adrian Abreo, MD**