

# ON THE INSIDE

For staff, students, and faculty of LSU Health Shreveport

April - June 2021

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

**LSU Health**  
SHREVEPORT

## HONORS & APPOINTMENTS

**LSUHS Sports Medicine physicians** were recognized by Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser at the annual hospitality awards hosted by the Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau. Representing LSUHS at the awards ceremony were Dr. Peter Seidenberg, Chair of Family Medicine and Comprehensive Care and Dr. Charles Webb, Director of Family Medicines Sports Medicine. **LSU Health Shreveport** was recognized as Healthcare Provider of the Year.

**LSUHS School of Allied Health Professions** was recognized by the Foundation for Physical Therapy Research with the Marquette Challenge Award of Merit for raising over \$8,000. Funds raised will go towards physical therapy research.

The Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care awarded the **LSUHS Respiratory Therapy/Cardiopulmonary Science** Program with the 2021 Distinguished RRT Credentialing Success Award that denotes the measure of a program's success through rigorous criteria which include a credentialing success of 90% and to have met or exceeded CoARC thresholds.

**Javalkar Vijayakumar, MD, MCh**, Assistant Professor of Neurology and Associate Program Director of Neurology Residency Program, was named the Castle Connolly Regional Top Doctor.

**Janmaris Marin Fermin, MD**, with Otolaryngology - HNS Department was the first place poster awardee for the project entitled "Overexpression of CXCL17 is associated with Aggressive Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma," at the Triological Society section of the Combined Otolaryngology Spring Meetings (COSM) in April, 2021.

**Nicholas Goeders, PhD**, Chairman of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience; Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine; Executive Director of Louisiana Addiction Research Center, was appointed to the JanOne Scientific Advisory Board.

**R. Keith White, MD**, Chairman and Professor of Surgery, was appointed by Governor John Bel Edwards to the Louisiana Emergency Response Network (LERN) Board. Dr. White was also elected Secretary of Louisiana Chapter-American College of Surgeons.

**Navdeep Samra, MD, FICS, FACS**, Associate Professor of Surgery; General Surgery Residency Program Director, was appointed to serve as a member of the Louisiana, District 2, Committee on Applicants of the American College of Surgeons for a three year term. Dr. Samra was also elected as the October 2020 Oschner LSU Health Shreveport Provider of the Month.

**Rohit Ranganath, MD**, Assistant Professor of Neurology, received the 2020 Young Fellows Association Award at the Louisiana Chapter of American College of Surgeons meeting.

**John R. Mercke, MD, PGY-3** Family Medicine Resident in Alexandria, received the 2021 Louisiana Academy of Family Physician's foundation Resident Award of Excellence.

**Wanda Thomas, MD, FAAP**, Assistant Dean of School of Medicine Admissions, Associate Professor of Pediatrics was announced as one of the two new members of the seven-member Board of Directors for Community Foundation of North Louisiana.

**Dr. Celeste Yin Chieh Wu**, postgraduate fellow in Neurology, was awarded with the American Heart Career Development Award. Dr. Wu will be the principal investigator (PI) of a \$231,000 award funding investigation on the role of enzyme catalysts in age-induced vascular dementia.

**Lynn Harrison, PhD**, Professor of Molecular and Cellular Physiology was named the recipient of the 2021 Allen A. Copping Excellence in Teaching Award for Basic Science.

**James D. Morris, MD, FACP, FACP, AGAF**, Associate Professor of Gastroenterology and Program Director for the Gastroenterology Residency, was awarded the Allen A. Copping, DDS Excellence in Teaching Award for Clinical Medicine.

**Mansoureh Barzegar, PhD**, Graduate Assistant in the Alexander Laboratory in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Physiology, was the recipient of the 2021 Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Graduate Studies.

**Erin Ware, MLIS**, Reference Librarian for the Health Sciences Library, was selected Chair-Elect of the Subject Specialists Section of the Louisiana Library Association and will serve in this role through June 2022.

**Stephan N. Witt, PhD, FCSI**, Chairman of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, was invited to be a reviewer for the June 24-25th NIH study section meeting: *Cellular and Molecular Biology of Neurodegeneration (CMND)*.

**Cherie-Ann Nathan, MD, FACS**, Jack Pou Endowed Prof. & Chairman of the Dept. of Otolaryngology, Director of Head and Neck Surgical Oncology Feist-Weiller Cancer Center, was appointed the At-Large Academic Director for a four year term with the American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery.

**Arrigo DeBenedetti, PhD**, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, received the Spring 2021 Feist-Weiller Cancer Center (FWCC) Bridge Award in the amount of \$100,000 on the grant titled: TLK1-MK5 Signaling Axis in Prostate Cancer Cell Motility and Invasion.

**Pooja Jethani, OTD, LOTR**, Clinical Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy, was selected as the recipient of the 2021 Integrative Rehabilitation Research Mentoring & Career Development Fellowship from the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine.

**LSUHS School of Allied Health Professions** is the first in the world to acquire the new Bioness Integrated Therapy System (BITS), which will allow students to have simulation and hands on experience in real time.

## MEETINGS

**W. Christopher Newman, MD**, Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery, assisted in organizing the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) and the Society of Neuro Oncology's Virtual Brain Tumor Board, where physicians in the field of neurosurgery discussed anterior skull base tumors and their management from an interdisciplinary approach in collaboration with oncologists, surgeons, and radiologists.

**Navdeep Samra, MD, FICS, FACS**, Associate Professor of Surgery; General Surgery Residency Program Director, attended Mock Orals Examiner, LA-ACS Louisiana Chapter 2021 Annual Virtual Meeting in New Orleans, LA. Dr. Samra was also the Director of the 11th Annual Trauma Symposium.

**LSU Health Shreveport Department of Neurosurgery** hosted the 17th Annual Levy Conference and Visiting Professorship in Neurosurgery on June 11, at LSU Health Shreveport. This year's lecture featured Dr. Raymond Sawaya from MD Anderson Cancer Center as the keynote speaker and Dr. Prashant Chittiboina from the NIH



# GRADUATION 2021

## Congratulations to the 2021 LSU Health Shreveport graduates!

On Friday, May 21, 198 LSU Health Shreveport students celebrated the culmination of hundreds of hours of academic accomplishment by graduating with a Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctorate degree. Twelve students received a PhD or Master's degree from the School of Graduate Studies; 71 students received a Bachelor's, Master's or Doctorate degree from the School of Allied Health Professions; and 115 students graduated from the School of Medicine with a Doctor of Medicine degree. Graduation for all three of LSU Health Shreveport's professional schools took place in a combined ceremony held at Shreveport Convention Center located at 400 Caddo Street in Shreveport, Louisiana. Julia Letlow, PhD, US Representative, 5th Congressional District, gave the keynote commencement address.



serving as the inaugural alumnus speaker. Attendees consisted of Neurosurgery faculty, residents, PAs, NPs, and nurses; physicians and residents from relevant departments; and healthcare professionals from the local region. Exhibitors who supported the 2021 Levy Lecture were: Armamentarium, Zeiss, Zimmer Biomet, Mallard Medical, Zavation, Abbot, Aegis Spine, BrainLab, Boston Scientific, DePuy Synthes, Encompass Health, Globus Medical, Lifenet Health, Misonix, Mizuho, Nevro, Medtronic, Orthofix, and Stryker.

## PRESENTATIONS

**Shawn McNeil, MD**, Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine presented Episode 20 of his monthly podcast: *Addiction Medicine: Beyond the Abstract* on May 30 on Apple iTunes. The podcast was titled, "Patient-Centeredness of Addiction Treatment Intake," and discussed patient placement criteria for addiction treatment and multidimensional assessments.

**R. Keith White, MD**, Chairman and Professor of Surgery, presented to the virtual LA-ACS Meeting "Staged Excision of an Infected TVAR Endograft with Hemoptysis". Dr. White also presented, "Tracheal Injuries" at the 11th Annual Trauma Symposium.

**Navdeep Samra, MD, FICS, FACS**, Associate Professor of Surgery, General Surgery Residency Program Director, presented "Hemostatic Dressings" at the 11th Annual Trauma Symposium.

**Kevin Boykin, MD**, Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery, presented "Pediatric Trauma" at the 11th Annual Trauma Symposium.

**Stephanie Currie, MS, CCC-SLP**, Speech-Language Pathologist, Clinical Instructor of Communication Disorders, presented "Does Gratitude Impact Quality of Life Measures for People with Aphasia?" at the Louisiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association (LSHA) Virtual Convention on June 5th.

**Jane Sugar, MD**, Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery; Julian Arrieta, MD, PGY-2 General Surgery resident; et al. presented, "Seeking Treatment Outside of Health Service Area Affects Rate of Radiation Therapy Following Lumpectomy for Breast Cancer" to the American Society of Breast Surgeons at the 22nd Annual Meeting, April 28 – May 2.

**Will Olmstadt, MSLS, MPH**, Executive Director and Professor/Librarian of the Health Sciences Library, presented "Reflections on Online Teaching"

in a panelist presentation for the Leadership and Management Division of the Special Libraries Association on May 11.

**E.J. Mayeaux, Jr., MD, DABFM, FAAFP, DABPM-CI**, Professor of Family Medicine, Associate Vice Chancellor for Clinical Affairs, Senior Associate Dean for Population Health and Primary Care presented on "Abnormal Uterine Bleeding" and "HPV, Pap Test and Cervical Cancer" to the American Academy of Family Physicians Women's Health national livestreaming course.

**A. Wayne Orr, PhD**, Director for the Center for Cardiovascular Diseases and Sciences, Professor and Director, Division of Research, Department of Pathology and Translational Pathobiology presented his work on "EphA2 in atherosclerotic fibroproliferative remodeling" to the virtual Cardiovascular Metabolism Seminar Series in April, 2021.

## PUBLICATIONS

**James C. Patterson II, MD, PhD**, Professor and Chair of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, Professor of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience; **Amber Edinoff, MD**, PGY-4 Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine Resident; **Hormazd Minwalla, DO**, PGY-4 Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine Resident; **Peter Wrzesinski, MD**, PGY-2 Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine Resident; et. al.: "Paliperidone to Treat Psychotic Disorders," *Neurology International*, In Press, 2021.

**James C. Patterson II, MD, PhD; Amber Edinoff, MD**; et. al.: "Aripiprazole lauroxil, a novel injectable long-acting antipsychotic treatment for adults with schizophrenia: A comprehensive review," *Neurology International*, In Press, 2021.

**Amira Odisho, MD**, Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine; **Amber Edinoff, MD; Long Nguyen, MD**, PGY-3 Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine Resident; et. al.: "The Antisense Oligonucleotide Nusinersen for Treatment of Spinal Muscular Atrophy," *Orthopedic Reviews*, Vol. 13, No. 1, 2021.

**Amber Edinoff, MD; Sarah Kaufman, MD**, PGY-1 Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine Resident; et. al.: "Valbenazine for the Treatment of Adults with Tardive Dyskinesia," *Health Psychology Research*, Vol. 9, No. 1, 2021.

**Janice Hollier, MD**, Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine; **Amber**

## Publications continued

**Edinoff, MD;** et. al.: “Lumateperone tosylate, A Selective and Concurrent Modulator of Serotonin, Dopamine, and Glutamate, in the Treatment of Schizophrenia,” *Health Psychology Research*, Vol. 9, No. 1, 2021.

**Suresh Sabbenahalli, MD,** Gratis Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine; **Amber Edinoff MD,** et. al.: “Cenobamate to Treat Partial Onset Seizures in Adults,” *Neurology International*, Vol. 13, No. 2, Pgs. 252-265, 2021.

**Suresh Sabbenahalli, MD; Amber Edinoff, MD;** et. al.: “Cenobamate, a Sodium Channel Inhibitor and Positive Allosteric Modulator of GABAA Ion Channels, for Partial Onset Seizures in Adults: A Comprehensive Review and Clinical Implications,” *Neurology International*, 2021.

**Amber Edinoff MD;** et. al.: “Adjuvant Drugs for Peripheral Nerve Blocks: The Role of Alpha-2 Agonists, Dexamethasone, Midazolam, and Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs,” *Anesthesiology and Pain Management*, In Press, 2021.

**Amber Edinoff MD;** et. al.: “Adjuvant Drugs for Peripheral Nerve Blocks: The Role of NMDA Antagonists, Neostigmine, Epinephrine, and Sodium Bicarbonate,” *Anesthesiology and Pain Management*, In Press, 2021.

**Mark Cogburn, DNP, PhD, APRN, LMFT,** Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine; **Amber Edinoff MD; Natalie Wu, MD,** PGY-2 Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine Resident; et. al.: “Zolpidem: Efficacy and Side Effects for Insomnia,” *Health Psychology Research*, In Press, June 2021.

**Marc Colon, MD,** Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine; **Christopher Casey, MD,** PGY-2 Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine Resident; **Amber Edinoff, MD,** et. al.: “Ubrogepant to Treat Acute Migraine in Adults,” *Neurology International*, 2021 Jan. 28;13(1):32-45, doi: 10.3390/neurolint13010004, PMID: 33525313.

**Amira Odisho, MD,** Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine; **Amber Edinoff, MD; Natalie Wu, MD,** PGY-2 Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine Resident; et. al.: “Brexipiprazole for the Treatment of Schizophrenia and Major Depressive Disorder: A Comprehensive Review of Pharmacological Considerations in Clinical Practice,” *Psychopharmacology Bulletin*, Psychopharmacol Bull. 2021 Mar. 16;51(2):69-95. PMID: 34092824.

**Nancy Silverblatt, MD,** Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine; **Amber Edinoff MD;** et. al.: “Hyperprolactinemia, Clinical Considerations, and Infertility in Women on Antipsychotic Medications,” *Psychopharmacology Bulletin*, 2021 Mar 16;51(2):131-148, PMID: 34092827.

**Kevin Murnane, PhD,** Associate Professor of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience, and Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine; et. al.: “Formulation and Characterization of Microcapsules Encapsulating PC12 Cells as a Prospective Treatment Approach for Parkinson’s Disease,” *AAPS PharmSciTech*, 2021 May 7;22(4):149, doi: 10.1208/s12249-021-02007-9, PMID: 33961149.

**Kevin Murnane, PhD;** et. al.: “α-PPP and its Derivatives are Selective Partial Releasers at the Human Norepinephrine Transporter: A Pharmacological Characterization of Interactions Between Pyrrolidinopropiophenones and High and Low Affinity Monoamine Transporters,” *Neuropharmacology*, 2021 Jun 1;190:108570, doi: 10.1016/j.neuropharm.2021.108570, Epub 2021 Apr 20, PMID: 33864800.

**Kevin Murnane, PhD;** and **A. Wayne Orr, PhD,** Professor and Director of the Research Division for Pathology and Translational Pathobiology, and Director of the Center for Cardiovascular Diseases and Sciences: “Young at heart? Drugs of Abuse Cause Early-Onset Cardiovascular Disease in the Young Heart,” *Heart*. 2021 Apr.; 107(8):604-606, doi: 10.1136/heartjnl-2020-318856, Epub 2021 Feb. 15, PMID: 33589426.

**Kevin Murnane, PhD:** “The Endocannabinoid System and Alcohol Dependence: Will Cannabinoid Receptor 2 Agonism be More Fruitful than Cannabinoid Receptor 1 Antagonism?,” *CNS & Neurological Disorders - Drug Targets*, 2021 Feb. 10, doi: 10.2174/1871527320666210211115007, Online ahead of print, PMID: 33573565.

**Kevin Murnane, PhD:** “MDPV “high-responder” rats also self-administer more oxycodone than their “low-responder” counterparts under a fixed ratio schedule of reinforcement,” *Psychopharmacology*, 2021 April; 238(4):1183-1192, doi: 10.1007/s00213-021-05764-4, Epub 2021 Jan. 23, PMID: 33484299.

**Kevin Murnane, PhD:** “Examination of Xylene Exposure in the U.S. Population through biomonitoring: NHANES 2005-2006, 2011-2016,” *Biomarkers*, 2021 Feb.; 26(1):65-73, doi: 10.1080/1354750X.2020.1861100, Epub 2020 Dec. 17, PMID: 33284648.

**Navdeep Samra, MD, FICS, FACS,** Associate Professor of Surgery and General Surgery Residency Program Director; et. al.: “Appendectomy Hospital Stay: No Difference in Obese Adult or Pediatric Patient Length of Stay Compared to Nonobese Patients,” *Ochsner Journal*, 2021 Spring;21(1):14-18, doi: 10.31486/toj.19.0116, PMID: 33828421; PMID: PMC7993437.

**Quyên D. Chu, MD, MBA, FACS,** Professor of Surgery, Chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology; Li T, Hsieh MC, Yi Y, Gibbs JF, Lyons JM, Wu XC: “Positive impact of affordable care act (ACA) Medicaid expansion on Louisiana women with breast cancer.” *Cancer* 2020.

**Suzanne Tinsley, PhD, PT, NCS,** Assistant Vice Chancellor of Institutional Advancement, Assistant Dean in School of Allied Health Professions, Associate Professor of Physical Therapy, Board Certified Specialist in Neurologic Physical Therapy, published a perspective of the article, “42% of older adults have unmet need for assistive bathing, toileting devices,” on *Healio.com*, April 8, 2021.

**Rodney E. Shackelford, PhD;** et. al.: “Pure Large Cell Neuroendocrine Carcinoma of the Gallbladder: Case Report of a Rare Entity.” *Manuscript: CRO-2020-6-18*, March 2021.

**A. Wayne Orr, PhD;** et. al.: “Targeting the AnxA1/FPR2/ALX pathway regulates neutrophil function, promoting thromboinflammation resolution in sickle cell disease,” *Blood*, 137: 1538-1549.

**Connie L Arnold, PhD,** Professor of Medicine and Chief, Division of Healthcare Disparities; **Terry C Davis, PhD,** Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics Chief, Division of Healthcare Disparities; et. al.: “Effects of a 2-Year Primary Care Lifestyle Intervention on Cardiometabolic Risk Factors: A Cluster-Randomized Trial.” *Circulation*, 2021;143:00-00. DOI: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.120.051328

**Connie L Arnold, PhD; Terry C Davis, PhD;** et. al.: “Food Insecurity and Weight Loss in an Underserved Primary Care Population: A Post-hoc Analysis of a Cluster-Randomized Trial.” *Annals of Internal Medicine*. 2021 Mar 9. doi: 10.7326/M20-6326. Epub ahead of print.

**Nazih Khater, MD,** Assistant Professor of Urology; **Zachary M. Connelly, MS-2 Student; Ahmad Azzawe, MD,** LSUHS Alumni – Urology Residency graduate 2020; et. al.: “Prostate cancer metastatic to bilateral testicles: case report and literature review,” *American Journal of Clinical and Experimental Urology*, 2021; 9(2): 182-188.

## RESEARCH RECAP

**Vinita Batra, PhD,** Postdoctoral Fellow in Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, secured an intramural grant to investigate the risk factors associated with methamphetamine use. Her current research employs a multimodal approach that examines the relationship between brain (neuroimaging), behavior (impulse control) and genetics (gene polymorphisms regulating dopamine) to understand the biological basis of substance use. She has a particular interest in understanding the association between genetics, neural networks and impulse control in healthy individuals and how it relates to dependence in substance use disorders.

**A. Wayne Orr, PhD,** Professor and Director of the Research Division for Pathology and Translational Pathobiology, Director of the Center for Cardiovascular Diseases and Sciences; and Karen Stokes, PhD, Professor of Molecular and Cellular Physiology, Assistant Director of the CCDS in Scientific Excellence, were awarded an NIH-funded T32 grant to establish the Multidisciplinary Training in Cardiovascular Pathophysiology (MTCP) training program. The MTCP training program is only the sixth current NIH-funded T32 training program in Louisiana, and the only one in the state focused on cardiovascular disease research.

**LSU Health Shreveport,** along with the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has been deemed a U.S. Regional Accelerator for Genomic Surveillance. LSUHS acquired \$340,000 in funding from The Rockefeller Foundation to provide strategic coordination and operational support towards improved and diversified regional surveillance efforts. The grant award was made possible through collaboration with Louisiana Tech University and Grambling State University.

**Chris Kevil, PhD,** Vice Chancellor of Research and Professor in the Department of Pathology, was awarded a \$730,000 supplemental grant to his existing NIH CoBRE grant for the Center for Redox Biology and Cardiovascular Disease to support “SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Sequencing Surveillance in North Louisiana.” This is the fourth supplement to Dr. Kevil’s CoBRE grant.

**Kevin Murnane, PhD,** Associate Professor of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience; Associate Professor of Psychiatry; and Director of Basic Science Research for Louisiana Addiction Research Center (LARC) was awarded a 5-year, \$2.6 million grant from the NIH’s National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for the research project, “Exploring the Role of Oxytocin in the Regulation of Neuronal Excitability.” This collaborative extramural research brings together experts from LSU Health Shreveport, Emory University, Mercer University and Morehouse School of Medicine to study a form of catastrophic childhood epilepsy called Dravet syndrome.

## GOLD HUMANISM HONORS SOCIETY

### STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

April - Zachary Palowsky, MSIII

May - Gregor Dierks, MSIII

## ALPHA ETA SOCIETY

*The Alpha Eta Society is a national scholastic honor society that serves to promote and recognize significant scholarship, leadership, and contributions to the Allied Health Professions. Students have been nominated by their respective program faculty based on scholastic and leadership abilities reflected in their chosen professions. Faculty nominees are chosen by the Alpha Eta Advisory Committee.*

### STUDENT NOMINEES

Allison DeLatin  
Jonathon Tyler Bloxom  
Ernesto Antonio Peña Tejada  
Bayleigh Elizabeth Anders  
Mary Catherine Bergeron  
Naomi Hill Peters  
Haley McKenzie Hoffer  
Sarah Ann Jolly  
Grace Elizabeth Monger  
Anna Catherine Ortego  
Erin Elizabeth Picou  
Brooke Durr Brown  
Lauren Kay Potts  
Robyn Denise Bradley  
Emily Grace Burley, CKTP  
Hallie Dodge, CKTP  
Madison Edmonston  
Elena DiMattia  
Alyssa Jackson Dyer  
Dominic Michael Engolia  
Kellie Gotangco  
Lindsey Mouton  
Jacqueline DiLane Rushford  
Sadie Lane West

### FACULTY NOMINEE 2020

Elizabeth Guice, PhD, LMFT  
Faculty Nominee 2021:  
Heather Anderson, EdD, CCC-SLP

## SAGE Honor Society STAR

*SAGE is an honorary and service organization composed of medical students from all four years, each selected by members of the Curriculum Evaluation Committee. Each month, SAGE honors the teaching excellence of LSUHS faculty, residents and interns with the Superior Teaching Award and Recognition (STAR).*

April - Zachary Palowsky, MSIII  
May - Gregor Dierks, MSIII