

INSIDE **LSU HEALTH SHREVEPORT**

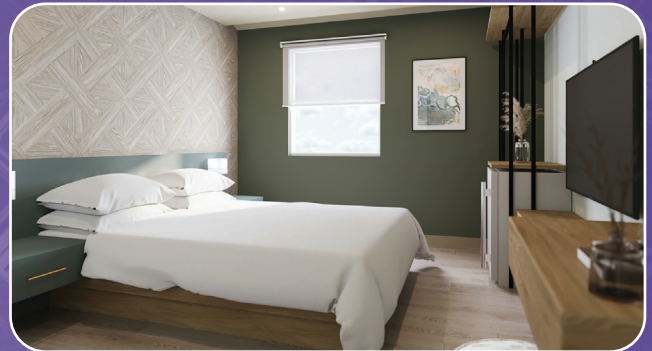
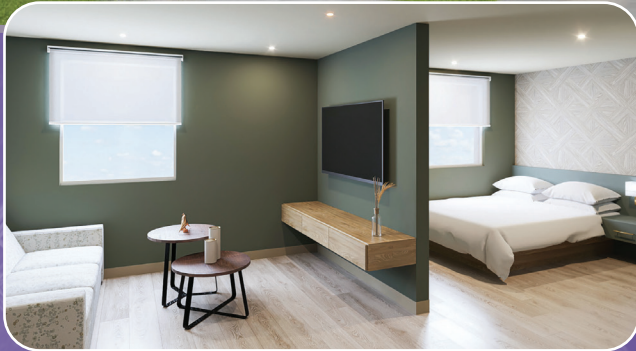
2024 VOLUME 2

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the McDade Hospitality House

LSU Health Sciences Foundation

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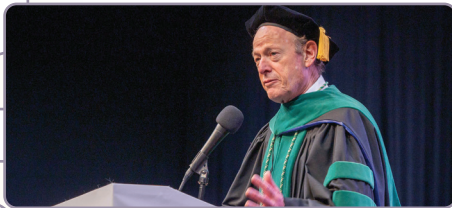
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Inside LSU Health Shreveport is published by the Office of Communications and Public Affairs and funded by the LSU Health Sciences Foundation Shreveport.





Letter from the **CHANCELLOR**

What an exciting time on the LSU Health Shreveport campus as we conferred 204 degrees to newly minted physicians, allied health professionals, and scientists. We were thrilled to have our medical school alumnus, Dr. Ralph Abraham, Secretary for the Louisiana Department of Health, as our commencement speaker. He praised LSU Health Shreveport for our vital role in educating the medical and scientific professionals needed to meet the demand for health care services and biomedical research in the region.

Just two days after commencement, we welcomed 119 new allied health students, which will be followed in July with 150 new medical students, 175 new residents and fellows and our largest classes ever in the medical masters and doctoral programs in the basic sciences.

Our Center for Medical Education is being used extensively as students have embraced the light-filled study and classroom spaces along with the Fitness Zone, counseling services and student support services. We recently held our first regional symposium and pre-commencement reception for all three schools in the facility, exemplifying the need and value of having this space on the LSU Health Shreveport campus.

LSU Health Shreveport had another outstanding Match for our fourth-year medical students. Our faculty, staff and students continue to receive national honors, reflecting the ability of LSU Health Shreveport to compete with the best of the best. We have also formed new partnerships with local organizations to better serve the Shreveport-Bossier community and beyond. I hope you will take time to read about these accomplishments and partnerships in the pages ahead.

Research continues to achieve important milestones such as increasing the number of patents filed by 23%, increasing the intramural grant submissions by over 49%, enrolling over 2,000 individuals in 126 open clinical trials and being selected by the American Heart Association as one of only 19 sites in the US to offer the Supporting Undergraduate Research Experiences (SURE) program which provides a nine week scientific research opportunity. Other academic medical centers selected for the SURE program include Stanford, Duke and Vanderbilt.

As efforts continue to strengthen LSU Health Shreveport, we have moved to an alignment of the School of Medicine and the School of Graduate Studies, mirroring our sister institution, LSU Health New Orleans. Basic science faculty previously reporting to the Dean of Graduate Studies will now report to the Dean of the School of Medicine. This realignment reflects the organizational structure that was in place from 1969-2017 and delivers full compliance with the Liaison for Medical Education (LCME) standard requiring the dean of the medical school to have full authority over all medical education. As of June 10, I began serving as the Dean of the School of Medicine. Having served as the Dean of the Schools of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Rochester for 7 years and as the Senior Vice President for Health Affairs at the University of Florida with close oversight of the Dean of the College of Medicine for 9 years, I possess the experience and training to take on this important role.

In closing, thank you to all those who have contributed to a successful 2023-2024 fiscal year. It is through our collective efforts to “Aim High” that LSU Health Shreveport will continue to grow and prosper.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David S. Guzik". The signature is fluid and cursive.

David S. Guzik, MD, PhD
Chancellor, LSU Health Shreveport
Dean, School of Medicine

Partners in RESILIENCE



Laura Baxter,
LPC-S, LMFT, NCC

The Institute for Childhood Resilience at LSU Health Shreveport was founded in December 2020 after Director and licensed counselor, Laura Alderman Baxter saw a need to foster a safe, stable and nurturing community for Northwest Louisiana by enabling children and families to build resilience and thrive. After working with children and families for a number of years in different professional capacities, Laura saw the evidence-based common denominator that inhibits resilience when left unaddressed: Adverse Childhood Experiences.

The original Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study, conducted more than 25 years ago, revealed that ACEs are common and corrosive. ACEs can include abuse, witnessing violence in the home or community, food insecurity and more. When children experience the harsh conditions of too many ACEs, the resulting toxic stress can derail healthy development. As the number of ACEs increases, so does the risk for a multitude of chronic health and life problems.

The Institute for Childhood Resilience’s solution to helping children and adults thrive, despite the number of ACEs they’ve encountered, is building resilience. Resilience is a collection of attributes and experiences that protect someone from the overactivation of the stress response that happens when we have traumatic experiences in our lives. “None of us are immune from trauma; we will all experience trauma at some point in our lives. It’s important that we, as children and adults, know how to disrupt the stress response. We have scientific-based strategies that can help us do that, and it is incumbent upon us as healthcare professionals to share that information, especially in a community with such great needs,” states Laura Baxter.

With the support of LSU Health Shreveport’s Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine, the Institute’s goals to help build resilience and combat ACEs are to: 1) Educate the community about the science of resilience; 2) Evaluate data to identify where needs and gaps in resilience building services exist; 3) Develop solutions that support the implementation of evidence-based strategies to build resilience; and 4) Research and identify effective resilience practices and disseminate findings.

As a part of their work, the Institute for Childhood Resilience has partnered with Caddo Parish Schools since 2023 to assist in their effort to be a trauma-responsive district by 2026, meaning the adults who work with children know how to respond in an appropriate way that will be beneficial and supportive to the children’s positive growth. Children who are experiencing ACEs need

There are many indicators that ACEs are high in Northwest Louisiana (NwLA):

38%

of Northwest Louisiana children under five live in poverty

64%

of Louisiana children do not meet the criteria for flourishing.



50%+ of 8th and 10th grade students in Caddo Parish reported feeling sad or depressed most of the time.*

*2020 Caring Communities Youth Survey



Laura Baxter leading “The Science of Resilience” at Summer Grove Elementary School.

support to build resilience, and the teachers and school staff who aid in their development need a toolbox to help provide that support. A team from the Institute came together to develop a training, “The Science

of Resilience,” that not only helps with the identification and understanding of ACEs but provides a framework for supporting children and protecting them from the poor health and social outcomes of experiencing ACEs.

“Everyone in a school setting impacts a child in some way. Having this information, regardless of your role, helps you to implement simple, accessible and effective practices that can build resilience in yourself as an educator or staff member, in the children you serve and in the school as a whole. The eight hours of a child’s day that are spent at school create a wonderful opportunity for them to feel like they’re in a safe space where they can relax, focus and practice executive function skills that they will need for life success,” stated Laura Baxter.

“The Science of Resilience” focuses on the building blocks of nurturing safe relationships, practicing coping skills and interest-driven activities. The intention of the training is to help a school and an individual build an action plan for resilience. Every plan is different, but schools are equipped with evidence-based strategies, such as mindfulness and athletic activities, to create a plan that works for their campus.

The training is led by LSU Health Shreveport faculty, residents and students from the three professional schools. Volunteers go to Caddo Parish Schools to deliver the one-hour training to schools’ teachers, staff and administration. Behind the scenes, ongoing review and research is conducted to always ensure the most up-to-date information is shared.



The first “The Science of Resilience” training was a combined training held at Summer Grove Elementary School in January 2024 serving six elementary and middle schools. Twenty-one LSU Health Shreveport faculty members, residents and students presented the training to approximately 300 staff and administration. “Thank you all for coming to our schools to remind us to be conscious of how we can help our children and ourselves,” stated one teacher after the training.

The Institute for Childhood Resilience plans to administer the “The Science of Resilience” training to all 55 Caddo Parish Schools by 2026. “Our goal is for every child to feel welcomed and wanted at school regardless of their background, socio-economic status or behavior. We can only do this if teachers and leaders have the tools needed to teach our children positive behaviors, respond to dysregulation appropriately and know how to build resilience in our students. We appreciate our partnership with LSU Health Shreveport and look forward to the education they will continue to provide to our staff across the schools,” stated Kasie Mainiero, Child Well-Being Specialist for Caddo Parish Schools.

The training isn’t just beneficial for Caddo Parish Schools employees and students, but LSU Health Shreveport volunteers, too. Students, residents and faculty members are able to participate in facilitating the training which exposes them to research, the understanding of what is needed to build resilience in themselves and an opportunity to give back to their community. For some, however, being a part of the team that facilitates the training holds a personal weight.

If you can make the life of a child a little bit easier, you

How

RESILIENCE

Changed the Trajectory for One Medical Student



Shaun Hayden, an LSU Health Shreveport and Caddo Parish Schools student, grew up with many ACEs of his own. Shaun grew up in a single-parent household with his mom and older brother in the Cedar Grove neighborhood in Shreveport. He remembers seeing poverty, substance abuse and related crime and neighborhood violence while growing up and not realizing that this wasn't everyone's "normal" until he was in upper elementary school. For much of his youth, he thought what he was witnessing modeled the way that life should and would be.



Shaun with his older brother, Corey, and mom, Jeanetta.

Having attended an affluent elementary magnet school, Shaun began to see that his home experiences were different than his peers and, because of those differences, he felt the need to put up a façade. "I was living somewhat of a double life," he recalls. He remembers noticing that he was often the only child with a single parent at school events and the only child whose siblings were not around due to their own life struggles. "During my time in elementary school, I don't feel like I was ever taught how to build resilience; I'm not sure my teachers knew it was something that was needed," Shaun shared.

As Shaun entered middle school, he began to contemplate the type of life he wanted to live. He remembers paying attention to his family members' lives and the negative impact of the choices they were making. He saw them develop substance use disorders, struggling to maintain jobs and even ending up in jail. Shaun decided that he wanted to do the opposite. He credits his cousin MeKisha, for showing him another way and setting an example for him to follow as she completed college and graduate school and became a social worker with the mission to help others.

can change the whole direction of their life. — Shaun Hayden

Choosing to go in a different direction didn't guarantee that Shaun would become a doctor, however. The number of ACEs Shaun experienced predicts that he had an increased chance of having long-lasting effects on his health, behavioral and educational outcomes, meaning that graduating high school, let alone medical school, is a major accomplishment and testament to resilience.

It was one of those resilience building blocks that made all the difference for Shaun. In eleventh grade, Shaun met who he considers the most influential person in his life, Caddo Magnet High School teacher, Susan Keith. He loved her and her eleventh-grade history class so much that he also took psychology and sociology from her during his senior year. "She cultivated my love for psychology and sociology. More so, she made it clear to me that I can pursue anything that I want to pursue in life and that I should never let anything hold me back. This is a teacher that understood the art of building resilience in a child. To be honest, I don't know where I'd be if I haven't met her," shares Shaun. "She understood that just having a conversation and showing a child that an adult outside of their family truly cares can make the world of difference, and that's what she did for me. I've taken that with me throughout the rest of my life thus far. I went on to medical school because she showed me that I could do it. When I look back at my life, that one teacher and experience meant everything."

Shaun and Ms. Keith have stayed in touch over the years. She's been with Shaun through every graduation and continued to encourage him throughout medical school. "I recently sent her a long message to tell her how important she was in my decision to become who I've become, how my experiences with her have changed how I saw the world and how I see myself," says Shaun.

Shaun believes "The Science of Resilience" training could have made a difference for him and kids like him growing up. "I feel like if my teachers had this training throughout my time in school, I would have known how to cope with my life experiences significantly better than I did. If you can make the life of a child a little bit easier, you can change the whole direction of their life. If there's someone who can start that now with a child in elementary and middle school, I believe we'll see more kids with high ACE scores achieve what they want to achieve in life. Everyone needs a little help."

Shaun, a first-generation college student and graduate and the first in his family to attend medical school, matched to his first-choice residency program, Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine at LSU Health Shreveport. He shares that his cousin MeKisha's dedication to social work and Ms. Keith's classes inspired him to go into the field, although without the resilience Ms. Keith instilled in him, he says wouldn't be here today. He's excited to make an impact on the people who are living in the same community that he grew up in and to help others build resilience in children like him through continuing to work with the Institute for Childhood Resilience. "I'm living proof that helping a child build resilience can help them achieve their dreams. Having the opportunity to go into these schools to help them develop the tools they need to build resilience in others, improving the lives of those who are coming up behind me, it feels like I've come full circle."



Shaun (center) celebrating Match Day with his family including his mother, Jeanetta (left of Shaun), and his cousin, MeKisha (right of Shaun).



RESTORING *Patient Hospitality* in Shreveport-Bossier

Supporters of the Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport – Feist-Weiller Cancer Center (Feist-Weiller) gathered at the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum on Thursday, February 8 for the annual Life Savers Gala, a celebration and opportunity to raise vital funds for North Louisiana’s only academic cancer center. At the event, Feist-Weiller Interim Director, Dr. Richard Mansour, and Life Saver’s event chairs, Drs. Lauren and Sanjay Juneja shared a major announcement: proceeds from Life Savers 2024 would be directed to renovate the McDade Hospitality House to serve Feist-Weiller patients undergoing treatment. Patients and their families will be able to stay in the hospitality house while receiving treatment. Fees will be assessed on a sliding scale.

“This home will address a need for all of North Louisiana,” said Dr. Mansour at the Life Savers Gala. “I invite all of North Louisiana to get behind this effort to support those

with serious cancers who need the unique treatments we provide at Feist-Weiller.” Feist-Weiller serves an area with immense need and some of the highest incidences of cancer in the nation. 48% of Feist-Weiller patients travel more than 20 miles for their care. The McDade Hospitality House aims to ease patient housing stress, letting patients concentrate on healing and offering a comforting home away from home.



The McDade House originally opened in 1985 as the tenth hospital hospitality house in the nation. By its one-year anniversary, the McDade House had offered free lodging to 1,060 guests from 27 states and four countries with the average stay being roughly eight days and some guests relying on lodging for close to six months. By its second year of operation, over 2,100 people and 1,800 families had stayed in the McDade House, demonstrating a high need

for the home then, a need that still exists today.

When the McDade Hospitality House reopens, patients will be able to stay in one of seven bedrooms or one of the



ABOVE:
Feist-Weiller Interim Director,
Dr. Richard Mansour, having
his head shaved in support of
Geaux Bald's Shave Day.



Students support Geaux Bald's Shave Day.



Dr. Richard Mansour, and **Drs. Lauren and Sanjay Juneja**
sharing the McDade Hospitality House announcement.
Read more about Dr. Sanjay Juneja on page 25.



Members of the McDade Family, **Christy & Taunton Melville**,
and **Gary Moore** pictured with **Dr. Richard Mansour**.

larger suites. The facility also includes communal spaces such as a community room and kitchen, on-site laundry, a patient learning center, a teaching kitchen and a patient resource room which will serve to support patients with a variety of needs as they receive treatment.

Life Savers 2024 Chairs, Drs. Sanjay and Lauren Juneja, are alumni of LSU Health Shreveport's School of Medicine and Feist-Weiller's Hematology/Oncology Fellowship. "As oncologists appreciating first-hand the challenges of everything surrounding a cancer diagnosis, we're thrilled that funds raised through Life Savers 2024 will provide a housing facility for cancer patients receiving treatment at Feist-Weiller," said Dr. Sanjay Juneja. "A cancer diagnosis is hard enough. I am proud of my LSU Health Shreveport & Feist-Weiller Cancer Center community taking the initiative to make that journey a little less difficult."

LSU Health Shreveport's Geaux Bald student organization also made an exciting announcement during Life Savers sharing that they have elected to fundraise for the McDade

Hospitality House moving forward. Initial funding will support the renovations and in future years will be vital in the maintenance of the facility that will impact innumerable patients.

Geaux Bald held their annual fundraiser, Shave Day, on March 14. Each year students and faculty from the School of Medicine are invited to cut or shave their hair in solidarity with cancer patients while raising money for their support as well. Many students name friends, family members or even themselves as a cancer patient or survivor they are honoring. This year, 26 students and faculty members cut their hair or shaved their heads in support, including Feist-Weiller's Dr. Mansour and Dr. Tharwat Ghattas, raising over \$34,000.

Thanks to the generosity of sponsors and patrons of Life Savers and Geaux Bald, the Northwest Louisiana community raised over \$170,000 for the restoration of the McDade Hospitality House.

To learn more information about supporting the McDade Hospitality House, contact Margo Holland at 318-861-0855 or visit lsuhsfoundation.org/fwcc-mcdade.



LSU Day at the Capitol 2024

LSU Health Shreveport had an impressive presence at LSU Day at the Capitol held on Wednesday, April 24. Students, residents and faculty were kept busy at the Speaker's Health Fair providing screenings and information on vision, balance, body composition and sleep apnea. In the rotunda, the Office for External Affairs provided an excellent display focusing on aiming high at LSU Health Shreveport. The Louisiana Legislature also recognized School of Allied Health Professions Psychologist, Dr. Michelle Yetman and fourth-year medical student, Tanner Ward, for their service to our community.

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Michelle Yetman, PhD

Dr. Michelle Yetman is a Clinical Associate Professor and Psychologist in the School of Allied Health Professions, primarily serving patients in the Children's Center. She is a part of the 1% of clinical allied health professionals who work in academic roles involving teaching and research. Through Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Therapy, Dr. Yetman provides an evidence-based approach for individuals with autism to learn and develop behaviors providing skills that will enhance their lives through adulthood. Invested in the adulthood of her patients, Dr. Yetman created a training for first responders who frequently deal with individuals with autism and trained the Shreveport Police force on how to interact with these individuals. Further, Dr. Yetman partnered with the Shreveport Police Department to establish an opportunity for individuals with autism and other disabilities to practice interacting with police in an effort

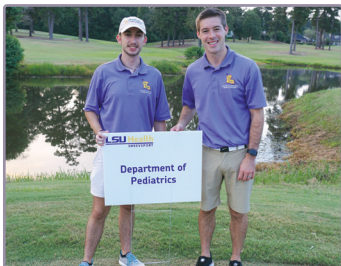


to build trust between these individuals and first responders. At the police-demonstration event, attendees were able to practice a routine traffic stop, interact with and ask questions to police officers in a comfortable environment. Dr. Yetman frequently goes above and beyond for the patients she serves and all people with disabilities in the Shreveport-Bossier community through not only her clinical work, but community outreach efforts as well.



Tanner Ward, MD

Dr. Tanner Ward, a 2024 School of Medicine graduate, leaves a philanthropic legacy at LSU Health Shreveport. While he was a medical student, Tanner and fellow student, Landon Waites, recognized a need for spaces in the Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport – St. Mary Medical Center hospital for pediatric patients to relax and take their mind off of their illness and treatment. He co-founded the annual Pars for Peds Golf Tournament in 2021 with a goal of raising funds to create a teen-friendly space in the hospital. The inaugural fundraiser was able to provide a lounge space for teenage patients featuring video and arcade games. Pars for Peds is currently fundraising to renovate another pediatric space in the hospital- the atrium. Renovations are already underway with benefits from 2022 and 2023 fundraisers, with the atrium to house a putting green, lounge furniture and a movie screen to help patients get exercise, feel like they are outdoors and have another place to relax during their stays.



In 2021, Tanner organized a Cancer Survivor Walking Group which meets weekly with cancer patients and survivors for "Survivor Saturdays" at a local park. Together, medical students, Feist-Weiller Cancer Center support staff, patients and survivors walk together, providing camaraderie and a morning of exercise. Soon after, Tanner went even further by establishing the annual Cancer Survivorship Walkathon, which honors cancer patients and survivors in the Shreveport-Bossier community and raises funds for the Wellness and Integrative Medicine Fund at Feist-Weiller Cancer Center, a fund that provides mental health coaching, meal prep and nutritional guidance, massage therapy, membership at the YMCA Thriver's Program and wellness coaching for Feist-Weiller Cancer Center survivors.



Tanner's philanthropic spirit made a monumental impact on patients in the Shreveport-Bossier community during his time in medical school. His efforts will continue to give back through the annual fundraisers that will stay with LSU Health Shreveport for years to come.

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY



Family Days at LSU Health Shreveport

Over two Saturdays in March, over 400 students and loved ones arrived at the new Center for Medical Education for the School of Allied Health Professions and School of Medicine Family Days.

School of Allied Health Professions families were welcomed by Dr. Sharon Dunn, Dean for the School of Allied Health Professions, who spoke of the outstanding students and programs in the school. Student Government Association President, Ryan Campbell, followed, sharing student involvement opportunities and thanking families for supporting students who are enrolled in the rigorous programs. After hearing from University Police Department leadership, students and families dispersed into program-specific groups to learn more about what a day in the life of a student entails.



School of Medicine students and families also enjoyed learning more about their students' daily educational schedule and supports available to them at LSU



Health Shreveport. Their day began with opening remarks from School of Medicine leadership. Afterwards, students and families enjoyed a four-stop tour featuring the University Police Department, Student Counseling Center, Library and Clinical Skill and Simulation Center.

Inspiring Women Orthopaedic Surgeons and Engineers on the LSU Health Shreveport Campus

LSU Health Shreveport hosted and sponsored a The Perry Initiative Perry Outreach Program in April. Twenty high school girls arrived on campus for a free, day-long event that allows high school girls to perform mock orthopaedic surgeries and conduct biomechanical engineering experiments while also hearing from prominent women engineers and surgeons in the field. Fifteen LSU Health Shreveport faculty and orthopaedic surgery residents helped facilitate the event which included workshops on casting and suturing, fracture plating and more.



Cultural Festival Returns

On Friday, April 26, LSU Health Shreveport's Office for Diversity Affairs hosted the campus's annual Cultural Festival. A beloved campus tradition, the festival was created to provide an opportunity for faculty, staff and students to share and celebrate their cultural customs, beliefs, apparel, arts and values. After a brief hiatus, this year's event was well-attended with participants enjoying the opportunity to share and learn more about the 50+ diverse cultures represented on the LSU Health Shreveport campus.

This year's Cultural Festival included numerous cultural display tables, a "Culture on the Runway" Fashion Show featuring ten faculty and student models, henna painting, a line dancing session, a musical component and featured an exhibit entitled "Opening Doors: Contemporary African American Academic Surgeons Display."

Arm Wrestling for Addiction Research

School of Medicine student organization, Medical Students for Addiction Awareness, held their annual Arm-Wrestling Tournament fundraiser in support of addiction research in the community. Students nominated their peers and faculty members for a fun competition and afternoon of good. Money raised from this annual event benefits the LSU Health Shreveport Louisiana Addiction Research Center, which serves to develop a continuum of care in Louisiana that will leverage potential therapeutic models through basic and clinical research collaborations, ultimately resulting in advancing care delivery abilities to improve outcomes in those who suffer from Substance Use Disorders.



CAMPUS & COMMUNITY

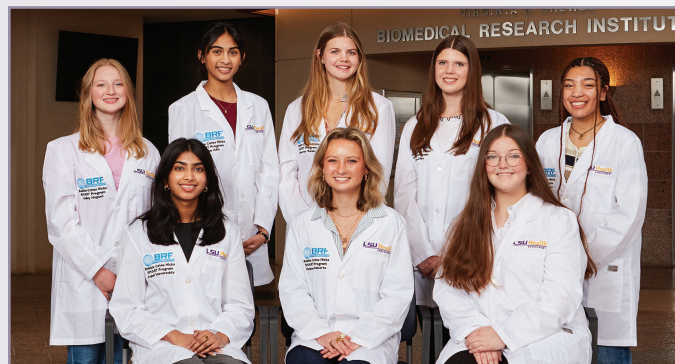
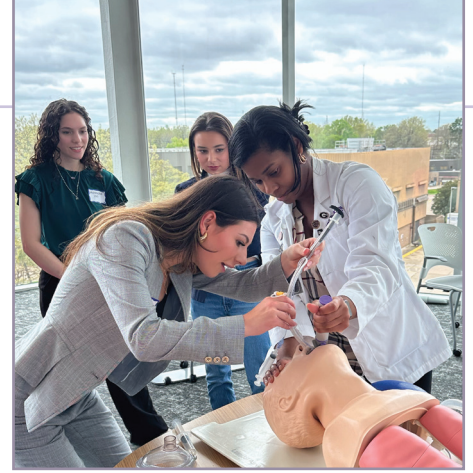
Campus Preview Days Engage Potential Students

The Schools of Allied Health Professions, Medicine and Graduate Studies welcome middle school, high school and college students to LSU Health Shreveport throughout the year. Through different engagement events, visiting students are able to learn more about the program offerings at LSU Health Shreveport and are exposed to different science and healthcare disciplines. During the 2023-2024 school year, over 275 students visited the campus through preview days.

The School of Allied Health Professions partnered with Junior Achievement of North Louisiana to bring local Caddo Parish schools to LSU Health Shreveport to participate in multi-disciplinary career fairs featuring booths from the three professional schools. Eighty-five students from Walnut Hill Middle School and Caddo Magnet and Southwood High Schools attended the two career fairs, enjoying the chance to discuss future career options with students and faculty.

School of Medicine students in the Support for Humanitarianism through International Projects (SHIP) student organization hosted two pre-med days in March, one for high school students and one for undergraduate students. Sixty-six students representing 11 colleges and 14 high schools were in attendance for a day full of educational interaction. Attendees were given a tour of the LSU Health Shreveport campus, received insight to the application process, participated in hands-on clinics in suturing and intubation and had lunch with a medical student Q&A panel.

The School of Medicine's Office for Admissions also hosted two First Look days for college students who have been accepted into the Class of 2028. This is an opportunity for potential incoming students to receive a tour of the campus, speak with current medical students and faculty and get a glimpse of a day in the life as a medical student. At the two events held in January and April, 110 students were present.



SMART Program Celebrates First All-Female Cohort

The 2023-2024 cohort of Bobbie Cates Hicks Science and Medicine Academic Research Training (SMART) Program was its first ever all-female class. The SMART Program, supported by the Biomedical Research Foundation in Shreveport, provides academically advanced high school seniors who are interested in careers related to medicine, scientific research, and biomedical engineering opportunities to engage in intensive research with medical clinicians, researchers, and academic staff. The young women in this year's class represented Caddo Parish Magnet, Airline, C. E. Byrd, and Loyola College Prep High Schools.

- ▶ **Anika Alla**
MENTOR: Christina Ledbetter, PhD, Neurosurgery Fellow
- ▶ **Hannah Fry**
MENTOR: Monica Gestal, PhD, Assistant Professor of Microbiology & Immunology
- ▶ **Hailey Huguet**
MENTOR: Karen Stokes, PhD, Professor of Molecular & Cellular Physiology
- ▶ **Chloe Liles**
MENTOR: Diana Cruz-Topete, PhD, Assistant Professor of Molecular & Cellular Physiology
- ▶ **Hudson Roberts**
MENTOR: Giovanni Solitro, PhD, Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
- ▶ **Cameron Tucker**
MENTOR: Manikandan Panchatcharam, PhD, Associate Professor of Cellular Biology & Anatomy
- ▶ **Anjali Veerareddy**
MENTOR: Andrew Yurochko, PhD, Professor of Microbiology & Immunology, Director of Center of Excellence for Emerging Viral Threats

The IMPORTANCE of Allied Health Professionals



Allied health encompasses a diverse range of disciplines, such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, respiratory therapy, medical laboratory science and many more. These professionals are dedicated to preventing and treating diseases and disorders, restoring function and overall quality of life, empowering patients to lead healthy lives, managing and supporting healthcare systems and conducting research to advance population health. Working hand-in-hand with physicians, nurses and other healthcare providers, allied health practitioners play a critical role in meeting the increasing demands of the healthcare industry through interprofessional teamwork.

Reflecting on the importance of collaborative practice, Mandy Porter, MPAS, PA-C, Program Director of the Physician Assistant Program, said, “As a provider, I am never alone in my goal of caring for patients. There is a team of professionals whose sole job is to improve the health and wellbeing of others, and these professionals stand ready to assist each other in changing the lives of those we serve.”

The landscape of health care is shifting due to various factors, such as the aging population, advancements in medical technology and the prevalence of chronic diseases. As a result, the need for allied health professionals is expected to continue rising. Currently constituting 60% of the U.S. healthcare workforce, these professionals bring distinct skills and valuable expertise to the healthcare team. Their focus on prevention, early intervention, health education, individualized treatment plans and rehabilitation leads to improved patient outcomes. This integrated approach not only benefits patients and their communities but also reduces the cost and burden on the healthcare system.

Emily Dennis, MOT, LOTR, Instructor of Occupational Therapy, indicates the unique impact of allied health stating, “I believe our society is continually gaining a better understanding of the benefits of holistic treatment in healthcare. A team of professionals working within their own scope of practice, while cohesively coordinating care with one another, produces a more complete model of care that exponentially benefits the patients we serve in all aspects of their lives.”

The School of Allied Health Professions at LSU Health Shreveport embodies the expansive scope of practice

within the various fields of allied health, aiming to advance health professions through excellence in education, research, and service.

Education is a cornerstone of the School, offering ten academic programs in clinical and rehabilitation sciences, three post-professional residency programs in physical therapy and a doctoral program in health service psychology. These programs train allied health professionals for practice across multiple healthcare settings, preparing them to make a meaningful impact on individuals’ health and wellbeing.

In terms of clinical service, the School demonstrates its commitment to patient care through three faculty outpatient clinics. The Children’s Center provides developmental and psychological testing and treatment for children with autism and other learning disabilities, and the Mollie E. Webb Speech and Hearing Center and Rehabilitation Clinic offer occupational, physical and speech-language therapy services.

Research is also a vital component of the School’s mission, exemplified by the research-focused PhD in Rehabilitation Science Program and the recruitment of faculty dedicated to advancing knowledge and improving outcomes in the field. Demonstrating the crucial role of allied health in research, Deborah Smith, BSN, MPH, PhD, Assistant Professor of Public Health, recently received the prestigious LA CaTS Roadmap Scholar Award to research disparities among Black and Hispanic women related to cervical cancer prevention. Dr. Smith’s project serves as a noteworthy example of the School’s ongoing efforts to develop strategies that improve health outcomes and reduce disparities in care.

Overall, allied health professionals represent a diverse array of disciplines that are integral healthcare team members, collaborating with physicians, nurses and other providers to ensure comprehensive care for individuals in various healthcare settings. The School of Allied Health Professions at LSU Health Shreveport is proud to contribute to the growing need for allied health clinicians and researchers by fostering a multidisciplinary approach to education, research and service.



3rd ANNUAL CANCER SURVIVORSHIP WALKATHON

The Third Annual Cancer Survivorship Walkathon was the largest yet as over 225 participants walked the path at Betty Virginia Park on Saturday, April 13, in support of survivors and cancer patients. The fundraiser has tripled in size since its first year, with this year's participants comprising 87 survivors and patients, 57 students, 76 community supporters and over 20 day-of registrants.

The fundraiser began in 2022 as a medical student organization that met weekly to walk with cancer patients and survivors to help promote a healthy lifestyle and to provide companionship for those individuals. These meetups lovingly became known as Survivor Saturdays. By the end of the school year, the group founder and medical student, Tanner Ward, also established the annual walkathon with the goal of raising money for cancer survivors at Feist-Weiller Cancer Center. Each year, proceeds from the walkathon, made possible by sponsors and the non-survivor walking registration fee, benefit the Wellness & Integrative Medicine Program at Feist-Weiller Cancer Center. The program includes extensive support for Feist-Weiller Cancer Center survivors, including resources on mind, menu and movement to improve patient outcomes as they transition from treatment to a healthy lifestyle after cancer. The 2024 Cancer Survivorship Walkathon raised \$25,000.

At this year's event, Dr. Mansour, Interim Director of Feist-Weiller Cancer Center, kicked off the event by welcoming and thanking the community and students for supporting survivors and patients. Medical students Huy Nguyen, President, and Trevor Blackstock, Volunteer Chair, echoed Dr. Mansour's sentiments and praised the survivors and patients in attendance, admiring their strength and resilience in their recovery and treatment before announcing it was time for the walk to begin. The

Claire Perkins, MSI (left) rings survivorship bell during the Cancer Survivorship Walkathon.

To sign up for
SURVIVOR SATURDAY
walks, text @cancerwg
to 81010

walkathon begins each year with survivors and patients walking the first lap while students and community supporters line the path and cheer them on. After each survivor and patient has completed their lap, the students and supporters fall in and walk alongside them, just as they do on Survivor Saturdays.

Survivor Saturdays and the annual Walkathon have a profound impact not only on the patients and survivors in our community, but medical students as well. These events have become a staple part of the week for medical students and give them a true sense of purpose as they make a substantial impact on their community. “The most meaningful part of participating in the Cancer Walking Group is creating a healthy exercising habit with the survivors and patients in treatment within our community that we all know and love! Every Saturday that we get together and walk a couple laps at Betty Virginia Park fuels my energy for the day and eases my mind after a long week. I especially enjoy every moment chatting and sharing stories with the survivors, who have also been looking forward to meeting us and each other all week long,” states Huy Nguyen, President for this year’s Cancer Survivorship Walkathon. “Leading the third annual fundraiser this year really opened my eyes in terms of all of the details that go into planning and coordinating the event, but I know that our utmost intention is to keep the smile on our survivors’ and patients’ faces as they enjoy the Walkathon and all activities that its fundraising effort provide.”

For some students, the walkathon is personal in other ways. Claire Perkins, a first-year medical student and childhood cancer survivor, decided to become physician after her treatment experience. Now that she’s in medical school, her classmates’ and School’s support of cancer survivors and patients has been impactful. “I was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s Lymphoma when I was 16. After that experience, I really valued the importance of community when you’re going through something like that. Being able to come together with the survivors here is really special to me. When I was finishing my treatment, it was lonely not having other survivors to go through that with me. Most people don’t understand what it’s like, but other survivors do. That’s why I come walk, to be that person for other survivors,” Claire shares.

The Cancer Survivorship Walkathon and Survivor Saturdays have made a true difference in the Shreveport-Bossier community and at Feist-Weiller Cancer Center. When asked why one survivor participates in the annual event and weekly walks, Helen Mazier stated, “I’ve had cancer three times. I do this walk to let people know that there’s life after cancer. Cancer does not define who you are. The Saturday walks give us so much camaraderie. To see each other on Saturday mornings and then here at this event, it’s like a celebration.”

1. Walkathon President, **Huy Nguyen, MSII**, (right) with survivors and student volunteers.
2. **Dr. Richard Mansour**, Interim Director of Feist-Weiller Cancer Center
3. **Helen Mazier** (left) with fellow survivor, cheered on by Walkathon supporters.
4. **Claire Perkins, MSI** (center) pictured with Walkathon participants and volunteers.





2024 COMMENCEMENT



"I graduated from this institution 30 years ago, and it is an honor to be on this stage with you. For our graduates here, as you go to your residencies and your jobs, remember that your training, your intellect and your compassion is something that Louisiana needs on a daily basis."

—Dr. Ralph Abraham
Keynote Speaker

LSU Health Shreveport Alumnus
Secretary for the Louisiana Department of Health

The Schools of Allied Health Professions, Graduate Studies and Medicine gathered for a combined commencement celebration on Saturday, May 18. The 204 students beamed with pride as they walked across the stage to receive their bachelor, master or doctorate degrees, celebrating the culmination of hundreds of hours of work.

Of the graduates, 134 received their Doctor of Medicine degrees and six earned a Doctor of Philosophy in a basic science. Nine students graduated with a Master of Medical Science, and of allied health students, six earned a bachelor's degree in medical laboratory science or cardiopulmonary science, 15 received a master's degree in communication disorders or public health, and 34 students earned their Doctor of Physical Therapy. With many of the graduates staying to train, practice and continue their research in Louisiana, these doctors, scientists and allied health professionals are supporting and enhancing Louisiana's healthcare and research workforce.

At commencement, Dr. Ralph Abraham, LSU Health Shreveport alumnus and newly appointed Secretary for the Louisiana Department of Health, was the keynote speaker. He shared his earned wisdom and advice with the graduates, wishing them the best in their futures.

"This is an exciting time in the lives of our graduates, and I wish each of them success in their future endeavors. I commend our dedicated faculty and staff for their role in making today possible for our graduates as each student is uniquely impacted by those encountered in their educational journeys. LSU Health Shreveport remains focused on aiming high in the delivery of exemplary education and is grateful for the new \$79M Center for Medical Education positively impacting our educational goals and the student experience," shared David S. Guzick, MD PhD, LSU Health Shreveport Chancellor

LSU Board Supervisors Member, Randy Morris assisted in the conferring of degrees to the 204 graduates.



LSU Health Shreveport Celebrates Graduates with Pre-Commencement Reception

Graduates from the Schools of Allied Health Professions, Graduate Studies and Medicine and their invited guests gathered in the Center for Medical Education for a celebratory afternoon in honor of their achievements. The reception featured a champagne bar, sweet and savory treats and photo booths.

MATCH DAY 2024



On Friday, March 15, LSU Health Shreveport's BRI Atrium was filled with family and friends as 131 LSU Health Shreveport School of Medicine students learned where they will go to complete their residency training during the annual Match Day celebration. The ceremony consists of fourth-year medical students receiving an envelope with their match which they announce from the stage, often joined by their significant others or families.



Before the ceremony begins, students receive an email from the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP®), that reveals their residency match. Some students, anxious to know where they will spend the next three to five years, open the email immediately, privately or surrounded by their loved ones. But for others, the surprise enhances their excitement, and they participate in the LSU Health Shreveport tradition of discovering their match on stage during the ceremony. For everyone, it is a day full of excitement and gratitude as they celebrate the culmination of years of hard work. "My four years here have been amazing," shared Tanner Ward, fourth-year medical student who matched in



Family Medicine at the University of Florida-Shands Hospital. "I love LSU Health Shreveport; I love Shreveport. I think I speak for all of us in our class that we have been so blessed to be here, to serve these patients."

LSU Health Shreveport was proud to announce at the Match Day ceremony that 99.2% of the School of Medicine's applicants matched through the NRMP®, along with a 100% match rate for students entering military service, proving that the School of Medicine remains a strong competitor at the national level. Of the 2024 class, 28.9% will be staying at LSU Health Shreveport for their residency and 51% of

the graduates will be staying in Louisiana, a critical number given Louisiana's physician shortage to meet the growing healthcare demands of the state based on the number of physicians projected to retire as well as an increase in the number of residents over the age of 75, increasing healthcare needs.

Many students were thrilled to discover they matched their first-choice residency program, an impressive feat. Tanisha Fleming, who matched in General Surgery at Houston Methodist Hospital said, "I am so excited. I ranked 17 programs, and this was my number one choice. I'm thrilled." A more difficult triumph to earn is a couple's match. Many couples hope to at least match in the same regional area, let alone at the same site, and may not even expect to get their number one choice due to the factors in play. For Ross Dies and Sarah Lauve, newlyweds who tied the knot before graduation, finding out they not only matched in the same city, but at the same medical center, was a dream come true. "Our match was the number one choice for us both. We each ranked LSU Health New Orleans as number one," shared Ross. "We both applied to 30 places, so it worked out. If we weren't going to be at the same place, we at least wanted to be in the same city, but this is even better."

LSU Health Shreveport medical students matched to highly competitive residencies and will train in prestigious programs around the country including Mass General/Harvard, Wake Forest, Emory, University of Alabama-Birmingham, Baylor, UT Southwestern and several others. The NRMP® reported that the 2024 Residency Match is the largest in NRMP's 71-year history. There were 44,853 applicants searching for a match with only 41,503 available positions leaving over 3,300 individuals who did not match.

Match Day also reveals the number of newly minted physicians coming into the Shreveport-Bossier area to begin their post graduate training. LSU Health Shreveport School of Medicine successfully filled all 138 residency positions. The new group of trainees (residents and fellows) will be welcomed to Shreveport in July, where they will train at Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport - Academic Medical Center, -St. Mary Medical Center or -Monroe Medical Center, and Rapides Medical Center along with other partner hospitals.

School of Allied Health Professions Offers New Bachelor of Cardiovascular Technology

The LSU Health Shreveport School of Allied Health Professions' first cohort of eight students for the Bachelor of Cardiovascular Technology (CVT) program began classes in May. Cardiovascular technologists use ultrasound equipment to create images that are used by physicians in the management of patients with heart and circulatory.



The need for the Cardiovascular Technology program was determined through public health data, a national employer interest survey, projected employment rates for cardiovascular technologists and survey data from cardiac catheterization laboratory and echocardiography directors in Louisiana. Heart disease is the number one cause of death in Louisiana, and hospitals are expanding cardiovascular care services. LSU Health Shreveport is poised to support the growing, in-demand workforce of Cardiovascular Technologists.

To learn more about the Cardiovascular Technology program, visit lsuhs.edu/cvt.



Physician Assistant Students Receive White Coat

The School of Allied Health Professions Physician Assistant (PA) Class of 2025 celebrated their White Coat Ceremony on March 1 with a wonderful turnout of friends and family on campus. Thirty-nine students walked across the auditorium stage to receive their white coat from a faculty member, a milestone representing their entry into the PA profession. The class began their clinical rotations in June.

9th Annual Redstone Residency Poster Competition

LSU Health Shreveport's Graduate Medical Education program held its 9th Annual Regional Poster Competition in May, where residents and fellows are invited to present their research and compete for prizes sponsored by Redstone Agency. This year's theme was "Medicine 2024: Innovations and Solutions in the Future of Healthcare."

Congratulations to the following winners!

1st PLACE: Paul Ndunda, MD, Cardiology Fellow

2nd PLACE: Emily Adams, MD, PGY-5, Surgery

3rd PLACE: Laura Handal Abularach, MD, PGY-4, Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine



Inaugural Oglesby-Redstone Resident of the Year

The Oglesby-Redstone Resident of the Year Endowed Award was created by a generous gift from Robert Redstone, III. Robert wanted to create a permanent endowment that would support LSU Health Shreveport Graduate Medical Education. He named the award in honor of former Graduate Medical Education Executive Director for Medical Services and Designated Institutional Officer, Lesia Oglesby, who served in this capacity for 23 years.

Congratulations to the Inaugural 2024 Oglesby-Redstone Resident of the Year, **Christopher Foster, MD**. Dr. Foster is a fifth-year resident in the Department of Surgery.



Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery Residency Program Ranks Nationally in Training Exam Scores

The School of Medicine's Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery Residency Program ranked in the **top five programs** in the country on the annual Otolaryngology

Training Exam. Each year, all Otolaryngology residents take this exam, and this year, LSU Health Shreveport's outstanding residents were top performers, an incredible accomplishment and evidence of the robust training program.



Anesthesiology Residents Win Second Consecutive State Jeopardy Competition

Anesthesiology residents, **Zachary Lee, MD, CA-2**, and **Matthew Sharpe, MD, CA-2**, attended the Louisiana Society of Anesthesiologists Annual

Meeting in April. They participated in the Resident Jeopardy Competition against residents from throughout the state and won first place for the department's second year in a row. The Resident Jeopardy Competition was started in 2013, which was the first and last year for LSU Health Shreveport to win the competition until 2023 and 2024.

School of Medicine Students Celebrate at White Coat Ceremony

On Saturday, March 2, 149 LSU Health Shreveport School of Medicine students participated in a traditional rite of passage known as the “White Coat Ceremony” which signifies their entrance into the medical profession. During the ceremony, medical students receive a short white coat from faculty members that symbolizes their journey to the long white coat they will wear once they are a physician, ending the event with the Hippocratic Oath. The 2024 LSU Health Shreveport White Coat Ceremony was held at a packed Strand Theatre with Michael Sewell, MD, Interim Chair of Medicine at LSU Health Shreveport, serving as the keynote speaker. Dr. Sewell left the students with some advice to hold close in their next few years, “Don’t be scared. You are at the top, or you wouldn’t be here. Be humble, quick to listen and slow to speak. Learn from your mistakes and then let them go. Treat every patient like they are your mom because they are someone’s mom.”



LSU Health Shreveport & Volunteers of America North Louisiana Launch Mental Health Program, EpiCenter

LSU Health Shreveport and Volunteers of America North Louisiana (VOANLA) have partnered together to create a mental health program, EpiCenter. EpiCenter provides assessment and treatment for youth and adults who have recently begun experiencing psychosis. The new program is operated by VOANLA’s behavioral health division and supported by LSU Health Shreveport’s Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine.



EPICENTER
EARLY INTERVENTION IS PREVENTION

EpiCenter’s treatment team consists of LSU Health Shreveport psychiatry and behavioral medicine physicians and VOANLA behavioral health clinicians and counselors. The team utilizes evidence-based models for early intervention and first-episode psychosis treatment, including services such as psychotherapy, psychiatric medication management/primary care, individual, group and family education, case management and supported employment and education. The EpiCenter also aims to address the

unique needs and individual preferences of each client to enhance the outcome of treatment. The multi-disciplinary team works with patients and their families to determine goals and navigate the path towards long lasting recovery and wellness.



Women in Medicine: A Panel for Gender Equity

The Internal Medicine Residency Curriculum Committee hosted a panel discussion on “Women in Medicine” on February 8.

The six-person panel included female physicians and surgeons who brought their wealth of experience, wisdom and knowledge to discuss issues such as pay gap, parental support at work, microaggressions in the workplace, achieving gender equity and the crossover of intersectionality and gender. The event was attended by medical students and residents who thoroughly enjoyed the session and found it very informative.



LSU Health Shreveport Welcomes LSU President to Campus

LSU Health Shreveport was honored to have LSU

President Dr. William F. Tate IV and members of his leadership team on campus on April 10. President Tate was enthused to share LSU’s Strategic Framework for maximizing a statewide enterprise aligned for excellence. Dr. Tate invested a full day meeting with community leaders, donors, campus leadership and faculty and Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport leadership. He also toured the new Center for Emerging Viral Threats BSL-3 Laboratory in the Center for Medical Education which is scheduled to open later this year.



2024 Graduate Research Day

The School of Graduate Studies held their annual Graduate Research Day on May 3. Graduate students and post-doctoral fellows began the day with presentations from a representative of

each of the five basic science departments followed by a school-wide poster presentation competition. 2020 graduate, Dr. Madison El-Saadi, was the keynote speaker who gave a Post-Graduation Career Talk, “A Career in High Finance & Wall Street’s Perspective on the Biotech Sector,” and provided encouragement to our students.

Congratulations to the poster competition award recipients!

Cover Image Winner – Adesewa Akande, PhD Candidate

Best Oral Presentation – Student: Ashley Wilkins, PhD, 2024 Graduate

Best Oral Presentation – Postdoctoral Fellow: Siyuan Cheng, PhD

Best Poster Presentation – Junior Category:

1st Place – Analila Garza

2nd Place – Nibedita Aich

Best Poster Presentation – Senior Category:

1st Place – Clifton Haacker

2nd Place – Nirjhar Aloy

Best Poster Presentation – Postdoctoral Fellow:

1st Place – Ramandeep Kaur, PhD

2nd Place – Masood Sepehrmanesh, PhD

Your loved one helped enhance
Knowledge of anatomy and medicine and
the way that I will care for future patients.
It was an honor and privilege to be able
from them as I begin my
physician.



MEDICAL STUDENTS

FOR DONATED BODIES

In a medical student's first year of school, they take an anatomy course, a critical component of their learning experience that sets the foundation for their next three years of medical school. This is a hands-on class that utilizes donated bodies to enhance the knowledge of students. Medical students, who have long recognized the importance of these donations, take a moment each year at the end of their anatomy course to honor the bodies and the deceased's families with a memorial service. "The memorial is our way of reflecting, acknowledging and appreciating the impact and experience that we have that is only available to us because of the gift and sacrifice that the donor and donor families give to us," shared Class of 2027 President, Aubert Waguespack.

At the memorial, students are joined by faculty members to honor those who donated their bodies with a short presentation and moment of silence. "These donors are considered our first patients as first-year medical students. We spend months with them learning about the parts of the body, so this memorial is to commemorate them and the time we spent with them. It's also a moment to be thankful for everything that they gave to us in terms of knowledge because what we learned in class is so much more than we could have learned from a textbook or PowerPoint presentation," stated Brooke Scardino, Class of 2027 Vice President.

Students also hand-write notes that are sent to the body donor's family. Waguespack shares, "The letters are extremely important. Each student writes one individually. They are a physical and tangible way that we can connect to the donor families to show them how much their contribution, sacrifice and generosity means to us."

Dr. Chris Kevil

Receives Distinguished Career Honor from American Association for the Advancement of Science

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) announced its 2023 class of Fellows earlier this year. This new group of AAAS Fellows elected across the organization's 24 disciplinary Sections for their respective scientifically and socially distinguished career achievements includes LSU Health Shreveport professor, Chris Kevil, PhD. Dr. Kevil was elected in the Medical Sciences section for his outstanding contributions to the field of redox biology and cardiovascular disease, particularly with nitric oxide and hydrogen sulfide regulation of oxidative stress.

Dr. Kevil's research is globally known for discovering how reduced tissue blood flow results in nitrite conversion to nitric oxide and increases hydrogen sulfide formation, both of which are necessary for regulating oxidative stress and maintaining vascular function and health. His laboratory has pioneered novel biochemical measurement of these metabolites in clinical samples revealing new pathological concepts of various disorders and diseases. These discoveries have been translated into clinical studies, new intellectual property for biomarkers and therapeutics including many U.S. and international patents, and the foundation of two biotechnology startup companies and collaborations with other biopharma companies. His research has been funded by grant awards from the American Heart Association and the American Diabetes Association, and the National Institutes of Health.

"Cardiovascular disease in its various forms continues to be the leading cause of death and disability for all humans across the globe. Our work has uncovered new biochemical redox biology 'salvage' pathways regulating nitric oxide and hydrogen sulfide during ischemia that stimulate increased



blood vessel growth and function, which are defective during diseases such as peripheral artery disease and diabetes," shared Kevil. "Our continued study of these pathways and metabolites is revealing novel approaches for therapeutic intervention that hold promise for future cardiovascular and inflammatory disease treatments."

Dr. Kevil is only the second faculty member in the history of LSU Health Shreveport to receive this lifetime honor, following former Chair of Microbiology and Immunology and Boyd Professor Emeritus, Dennis O'Callaghan, PhD.

"I am deeply honored to join the esteemed fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and appreciate LSU Health Shreveport for the supportive environment that allows research to take place and important discoveries to be made," said Kevil about his reaction to being elected an AAAS Fellow.

A total of 502 scientists, engineers and innovators from across the globe were elected 2023 Fellows by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of the Science family of journals. The AAAS will honor this cohort of Fellows and celebrate the program's 150th anniversary at a forum held in Washington, D.C. this fall.



Dr. Dennis O'Callaghan and Dr. Chris Kevil

Dennis J. O'Callaghan, PhD 2002 AAAS Fellow

Dr. Dennis O'Callaghan, LSU Boyd Professor, Willis-Knighton Chair of Molecular Biology Emeritus, and former Chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology from 1984 until his retirement in 2018, was the first LSU Health Shreveport faculty member to be elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, also in the section of Medical Sciences. Dr. O'Callaghan is an internationally recognized expert on the molecular biology of equine herpesviruses. His research focused on the mechanism by which viral regulatory proteins determine the viral genome's expression and whether the outcome of infection is a productive cytocidal infection or a persistent infection. During his career that spanned more than 50 years, Dr. O'Callaghan was awarded \$39.5 million in external research funding, including the first NIH Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) grant at LSU Health Shreveport that established the Center for Molecular and Tumor Virology which was funded for 15 years for a total of \$22 million.

Outstanding Achievements of LSU Health Shreveport Scientists Recognized at 6th Annual Research Celebration

The people behind the research taking place at LSU Health Shreveport took center stage at the annual Research Celebration held on February 20.

Our institution is fortunate to have so many brilliant scientists and physicians who are dedicated to better understanding various diseases and disease mechanisms in order to develop more effective prevention, diagnosis and treatment strategies. Their hard work and contributions do not go unnoticed. This event is a way to recognize them for their notable accomplishments and share with our supporters and community members the importance and impact of their work.

The program opened with a welcome from Chancellor Dr. David Guzick followed by research updates including metrics for the fiscal year to date, notable growth of clinical trials, and new collaborations and grants awarded to LSU Health Shreveport faculty.

The event culminated with the presentation of the Research Excellence, Career Service and Community Champion awards.

2024 Research Excellence Award Winners



Excellence in Extramural Funding
Quanguang Zhang, PhD
Professor of Neurology



Excellence in Translational Research
Elizabeth Disbrow, PhD
Professor of Neurology
Director of the Center for Brain Health



Excellence in Innovation
Arrigo De Benedetti, PhD
Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology



Research Rising Star
Krista Rodgers, PhD
Assistant Professor of Cellular Biology and Anatomy
Assistant Director of the Center for Brain Health



Career Service Award for 42+ years of service at LSU Health Shreveport
Sushil Jain, PhD
Professor of Pediatrics



Community Champion
Mr. W. Clinton "Bubba" Rasberry, Jr.



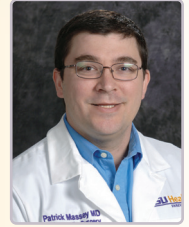
LSU Health Shreveport Hosts 2024 Society for Redox Biology and Medicine Regional Redox Symposium: Redox Pathophysiology in Health and Disease

LSU Health Shreveport served as the host for the Society for Redox Biology and Medicine's (SfRBM) 2024 Regional Redox Symposium March 7-8. More than 90 attendees from Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, Oklahoma, Texas, West Virginia, Illinois, Pennsylvania and the NIH National Cancer Institute in Maryland traveled to Shreveport for the two-day event held in the new Center for Medical Education building on the LSU Health Shreveport campus. The symposium featured talks from invited speakers, trainee pitch talks selected from abstract submissions, and a poster session. Serpil Erzurum, MD, Chief Research and Academic Officer and Alfred Lerner Memorial Chair in Innovative Biomedical Research at the Cleveland Clinic, and Cristina Furdui, PhD, Professor of Molecular Medicine and Co-Director of the Center for Redox Biology and Medicine at Wake Forest University, were the keynote speakers.

Thank you to the 2024 SfRBM Regional Redox Symposium sponsors!

- ▶ Society for Redox Biology and Medicine (SfRBM)
- ▶ Elsevier
- ▶ Chesapeake Energy
- ▶ Center for Redox Biology and Cardiovascular Disease CoBRE at LSUHS

STUDY SPOTLIGHT



Patrick Massey, MD



Brad Chauvin, MD



Daniel Flowers, PT, DPT, PhD

LSU Health Shreveport Leads Enrollment in North America for STaR Trial for Multiple Ligament Knee Injuries

Multiple ligament knee injuries (MLKIs) refer to major injuries that involve two, three or all four major ligaments of the knee being torn at the same time. LSU Health Shreveport is one of 27 sites collaborating on the STaR (Surgical Timing and Rehabilitation) Trial for Multiple Ligament Knee Injuries study, a clinical trial and funded by the U.S. Department of Defense and sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh, that is investigating the effects of timing of surgery and the timing of post-operative rehabilitation for the treatment of military personnel and civilians that sustain a MLKI. LSU Health Shreveport was the **Number 1 site** in North America for patient enrollment in the STaR trial in 2023.

Other collaborators on the study include military-affiliated hospitals San Antonio Military Medical Center, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and William Beaumont Army Medical Center, as well as Yale University, Duke University, Mayo Clinic and New York University.

The goal of STaR Trial for Multiple Ligament Knee Injuries study is to better understand the effects of the timing of surgery (early vs. delayed) and the timing of rehabilitation (early vs. delayed) after surgery for the treatment of military personnel and civilians who have a multiple ligament knee injury. Higher demand activities such as military training,

physical labor and sports are limited for individuals following a multi-ligament knee injury, which can affect when they are able to return to work and if they can perform at the same extent they could before the injury. Findings from this study can help optimize the return to military duty, work and sports for these patients.

Patrick Massey, MD, Associate Clinical Professor and Director of Clinical Research in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, is the Principal Investigator for the LSU Health Shreveport trial site. The collaborative efforts taking place to conduct this study extend across the LSU Health Shreveport campus. Dr. Massey is working with Brad Chauvin, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and the Orthopaedic Surgery trauma team, as well as Daniel Flowers, PT, DPT, PhD, Board Certified Specialist in Orthopaedic Physical Therapy and Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy in the School of Allied Health Professions. Physical therapy is an important part in the study since patients are randomized into early or delayed physical therapy after their surgery.

To learn more about the STaR (Surgical Timing and Rehabilitation) Trial for Multiple Ligament Knee Injuries study, visit clinicaltrials.gov/study/NCT03543098.

LSU Health Shreveport and Air Force Global Strike Command Sign Cooperative Research and Development Agreement to Study Stress of B-52 Aircrews During Deployment

LSU Health Shreveport and Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC), headquartered at Barksdale Air Force Base, have signed a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) to study the physiological and cognitive stress that B-52 Aircrews experience on long-duration deployments.

The research that will be conducted under the CRADA aims to better understand the physiological and cognitive stress that B-52 Aircrews experience on long-duration deployments, also known as sorties. Findings from the project will be used to develop evidence-based training protocols to further optimize the capability and capacity of B-52 Aircrews for sustained and dynamic operations under increased cognitive, emotional and physical stress conditions.

Dr. Johannes Raabe, a contractor with AFGSC, will serve as the Principal Investigator for the Project. Dr. Tucker Readdy and Ms. Mandy Enlore, both contractors with AFGSC, will serve as Co-Investigators. Cory Coehoorn, PhD, Program Director of Rehabilitation Science Program and Associate Professor of Rehabilitation Science and Family Medicine, will serve as Principal Investigator from LSU Health Shreveport. Dr. Coehoorn's research is focused on the impact of heat stress on various occupational groups, including firefighters and the military. His research group uses electroencephalography, salivary analysis, and near-infrared spectroscopy, among many other techniques in their research.

“The Cooperative Research and Development Agreement between LSU Health Shreveport and the United States Air Force Global Strike Command is an incredible honor. I am

thrilled that the United States Air Force trusts us with this important project.

The research will discover the physiological and cognitive impact of B-52 sorties providing important findings and open doors for future research and collaborations that benefit both organizations,” shared Dr. Coehoorn.

“This agreement will further the command’s understanding of aircrew fatigue, durability and safety which is vital in maximizing the capacity of the B-52 serving on bomber task force and long duration single sorties,” said Brig. Gen. Michael Miller, Director of Operations and Communications for Air Force Global Strike Command. “What we learn here will improve Air Force Global Strike’s ability to provide strategic deterrence anytime...anywhere.”

LSU Health Shreveport and Air Force Global Strike Command share a common goal to advance scientific discovery and ensure the well-being of military personnel serving our country. CRADAs facilitate research collaboration and allow each partner to leverage their complementary strengths and share expertise, facilities, technologies and other resources that enhance their ability to complete project objectives and gain valuable insights they would not be able to achieve individually. Successful completion of this project is possible with both the technology and expertise provided by LSU Health Shreveport along with the technical expertise and access provided by the Air Force.



LSU HEALTH SHREVEPORT has been selected by the National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health (NCDMPH) as one of the first partners to join the recently established Joint Disaster Medicine and Public Health (JDMPH) Ecosystem. This Ecosystem is a network of leading organizations, research centers and academic institutions across the country that have demonstrated excellence in disaster medicine and public health. Ecosystem partners will collaborate with the NCDMPH and federal agencies to conduct science, carry out operational research and develop training and education for advancing the practice of medicine and public health in disasters. Most importantly, the JDMPH Ecosystem allows for quick mobilization of resources following a disaster or in the event of a public health emergency. The Joint Disaster Medicine and Public Health Ecosystem selected 18 partners at the time of its launch including Brown University, the MIT Lincoln Laboratory, Yale University, The Ohio State University and the University of Hawaii. LSU Health Shreveport is the only Ecosystem partner in Louisiana.

LSU Health Shreveport’s early response to the COVID-19 pandemic and continued efforts to support public health needs while also rapidly expanding scientific understanding of the SARS-CoV-2 virus demonstrated the institution’s ability to rapidly mobilize and adapt when faced with a public health emergency situation. LSU Health Shreveport’s robust science, technology, operational research and educational capabilities, along with expert faculty and staff and established relationships with partners throughout the state, makes the institution well-positioned as a partner that can support the NCDMPH in achieving the Ecosystem’s objectives.

Heart Health Day

FREE Community Health Fair

Saturday, September 28, 2024
9 am to 12 pm at

Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport – St. Mary Medical Center
915 Margaret Place, Shreveport

PRESENTED BY



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **FREE** Health Screenings (EKG, echocardiography, cholesterol profile, peripheral vascular health screening)
- Group exercise activities
- Physician consultations
- Nutrition guidance
- Children's activities
- AHA Hands-Only CPR training
- Goodie Bags
- Door Prizes

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HONORS & APPOINTMENTS



2024 Allen A. Copping Excellence in Teaching Awards

The Allen A. Copping Excellence in Teaching Awards are given each year to selected individuals who are “uniquely gifted in imparting knowledge, possess a lifelong quest for discovery, lead by example, foster a sense of caring and compassion and inspire

the young men and women in whose capable hands will rest the health and well-being of the people of Louisiana.” Recipients are nominated by students and peers and are selected by a committee of their leaders, colleagues and students based strictly on their academic teaching. The Allen A. Copping Excellence in Teaching Awards are given at both LSU system health science centers in Shreveport and New Orleans and are the highest teaching awards. The award is named in honor of the late Dr. Allen A. Copping, former Chancellor of the LSU Medical Center and President of the LSU system.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Michael Yim, MD, Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery and Neurosurgery

SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Kristin Butler, MPH, MLS, (ASCP)CM, Clinical Assistant Professor of Medical Laboratory Science

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

David McGee, PhD, Associate Professor of Microbiology & Immunology

Alpha Omega Alpha–Gamma Chapter Louisiana Inductees

Congratulations to the following students, residents and faculty who were inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Society Gamma Chapter of Louisiana, a chapter of the national medical honor society founded in 1902.

STUDENTS

Ivan Alan Alvarez
LeighAnn Vincik Boothe
Hannah Noel Cowart
Thomas Ford
Michael Scott Hebert
Ryan Mackay
Kyle Maher
Sarah Elizabeth Martin
Liam Ordoyne
Cameron Robicheaux
Aaron James Sheppard
Gaelen Forest Shimkus
Christopher Stevens
Tyler Dinh Tran
Maxwell Joseph Wagner

RESIDENTS

Oluwadamilola Adisa, MD, PGY-3
Ayesha Kattubadi, MD, PGY-3
Rachaita Lakra, MD, PGY-3
Karan Sachdeva, MBBS, PGY-2
Rahul Vyas, MBBS, PGY-2

FELLOWS

Warda Maqsood, MD
Frankie Powell, MD

FACULTY

Paul Cooper, MD, FAAP
Samina Hayat, MD
Phani Morisetti, MD
Mila Shah-Bruce, MD
Andrew Zhang, MD

School of Allied Health Professions Faculty Awards

Congratulations to the 2023 recipients of the annual School of Allied Health Professions Faculty Awards. These awards are peer-nominated and are an effort to recognize the outstanding faculty members on the LSU Health Shreveport campus.

CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Traynee Rash, BCBA, Clinical Instructor of Communication Disorders

EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AWARD

Jillian Danzy, MPH, RRT, CPFT, Instructor of Cardiopulmonary Science

EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE AWARD

Rebecca Clawson, MAT, PA-C, Clinical Assistant Professor of Physician Assistant Studies

OUTSTANDING NEW FACULTY MEMBER

Michon Revader, DHA, RRT, RRT-NPS, RCS, Clinical Assistant Professor of Cardiopulmonary Science

School of Allied Health Professions Celebrates Alpha Eta Society Inductees

Congratulations to the 18 School of Allied Health Professions students and faculty who were inducted into the Alpha Eta Society in March. 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.

FACULTY INDUCTEE

Kristin Butler,
MPH, MLS, (ASCP)CM

STUDENT INDUCTEES

Khaled Algothim	Abby Miller	Jada Poche	Caroline Summersgill
Noelle Dunn	Hamilton Mills	Reese Robinson	Kristen Wood
Claire Floyd	Ali Neck	Kailyn Schexnayder	
Brianna Green	M’Lee Newton	Tori Spraggins	
Allie Haymon	Colyn Petry	John Spustek III	





Zonara Asghar was named Chief Human Resource Officer as of January 1, 2024. As Chief Human Resources Officer, Asghar maintains the mission, vision and values of the HR department, ensuring alignment with goals and objectives of LSU and LSU Health Shreveport. She brings valued experience from her past HR leadership roles in the healthcare and university sectors.



Ramey Benfield, PhD, MBA, MS, was named Chief Financial Officer as of June 1, 2024. As Chief Financial Officer, Dr. Benfield oversees finance and fiscal operations and serves as a key partner in strategic decision making by providing financial analysis, strategy and business plans to university leadership. Dr. Benfield brings valued experience having most recently served as Associate Vice President for Business Affairs and Operations and the Assistant Vice President for Administrative Services at UT Health/UTRGV School of Medicine in Edinburg, Texas.

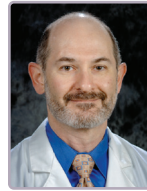


Jason Comer, PhD, began his tenure at LSU Health Shreveport on March 1 as Director of the BSL-3 Research Facility. Dr. Comer brings extensive knowledge and a proven track record of successful research and leadership positions relating to infectious disease research with a focus on evaluating the effectiveness of treatments targeted at bacterial and viral agents. As Director of the BSL-3 Research Facility, Dr. Comer will be responsible for identifying and implementing the research direction of the lab to support growth in research activity, educating internal and external audiences about the BSL-3 lab and promoting its capabilities and research impact, and working to ensure the highest level of safety and compliance with institutional, state and federal regulations and standards.



Michael Folsie, MSII, received the 2024 Alpha Omega Alpha Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship. This fellowship is designed to foster the development of the next generation of medical researchers, awarding financial support for research focused on clinical investigation, basic laboratory research, epidemiology, social science/health services, leadership

or professionalism. Only one student per medical school is eligible to be nominated and Michael is the first LSU Health Shreveport student to receive this honor.



Alexander Gomelsky, MD, Chair, Professor and Residency Program Director for Urology, was appointed as Secretary for the Society of Urodynamics, Female Pelvic Medicine, and Urogenital Reconstruction which serves to optimize the care of women, men, and children with lower urinary tract dysfunction and/or pelvic floor disorders through education, research and involvement in health care policy.



Kenneth McMartin, PhD, Emeritus Professor of Pharmacology, Toxicology & Neuroscience, received the Career Achievement Award from the Clinical and Translational Toxicology Specialty Section of the Society of Toxicology. Award recipients are chosen for an individual's substantial scientific contributions to the translation of theories at the bench to treatments at the bedside throughout one's career. Specifically, Dr. McMartin was awarded for his studies on the mechanism of methanol and ethylene glycol poisonings and for the development of fomepizole as the primary antidote for treatment of these poisonings.



Mandy Porter, MPAS, PA-C, was named the Program Director for the School of Allied Health Professions Physician Assistant Program in April. As a 2015 graduate of the program, Mandy is prepared to demonstrate a strong commitment to student advocacy, innovative clinical education and collaboration. Her clinical experience includes rheumatology, acute care, emergency medicine and family medicine.



Natalie Wu, MD, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Fellow, was selected as an American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Resident Advocacy Scholar for 2024. As a scholar, Dr. Wu will experience firsthand the political, legislative and regulatory factors that affect the delivery of patient care as she authors briefs, helps create policy statements and interacts with elected officials on Capitol Hill.

ALUMNI *notes*



Jerry Brunson, PhD
School of Graduate Studies
Class of 2014

Dr. Jerry Brunson received his Bachelor of Science in Biology/Spanish from the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM). He went on to obtain his master's degree in biology from the same university, where he studied *Campylobacter jejuni*. Dr. Brunson became an Instructor of Biology at ULM, before moving to Shreveport to join the Department of Molecular & Cellular Physiology at LSU Health Shreveport School of Graduate Studies. He worked in Dr. Karen Stokes' lab and graduated with his doctorate degree in 2014. While in Dr. Stokes' lab, he published one first-author paper, co-authored a second paper and was the recipient of a Malcolm Feist Predoctoral Fellowship from the Center for Cardiovascular Diseases and Sciences. Dr. Brunson returned to ULM as faculty, followed by becoming an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology and Microbiology at Northwestern State University of Louisiana. There, he has risen through the ranks and is currently Chair of his department and an associate professor.



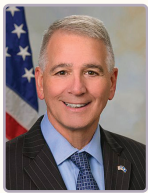
Sanjay Juneja, MD
School of Medicine
Class of 2013

Dr. Sanjay Juneja completed his entire education at LSU and LSU Health Shreveport. He graduated from the School of Medicine in 2013, followed by an internal medicine residency and fellowship at Feist-Weiller Cancer Center. He and his wife Lauren, also a hematologist/oncologist and LSU Health Shreveport alumnus, practice together in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. They served as Co-Chairs for Feist-Weiller Cancer Center's 2024 Lifesavers fundraising gala. Dr. Juneja hosts the "Target: Cancer" Podcast which has received over one million downloads. He is nationally recognized for his social media following as @TheOncDoc through which he has amassed over 700,000 subscribers. In 2024, Dr. Juneja was honored as the first recipient of *Targeted Oncology's* "Oncology Icon" award for his unwavering dedication to advancing cancer care, fostering collaboration and empowering patients and healthcare professionals alike.



David Vines, PhD, MHS, RRT, FAARC, FCCP
School of Allied Health Professions
Class of 1991 and 1998

Dr. David Vines graduated from the School of Allied Health Professions in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science in Cardiopulmonary Science. While pursuing his degree, he received the Dean's award and simultaneously completed his undergraduate degree in biology at Centenary College, all while working as a Registered Respiratory Therapist at the then LSU Medical Center. Dr. Vines went on to earn a Master of Health Sciences degree from LSU Health Shreveport and a PhD degree from Rush University in Chicago, Illinois where he became Program Director and Department Chair, and now Professor and Associate Dean. His career spans over 30 years in respiratory care and academia during which he has won numerous national and international awards. Dr. Vines has over 100 publications including multiple abstracts, journal articles, book chapters and textbooks. He is a fellow of the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) and American College of Chest Physicians and has served as the President for the National Board for Respiratory Care. His many distinguished honors and awards include a variety thereof for teaching and clinical care recognition including the AARC Apex award in two categories.



Ralph Abraham, MD
School of Medicine
Class of 1994

Dr. Ralph Abraham graduated from the School of Medicine in 1994 after completing a veterinary medicine doctorate and ten years of practice as a veterinarian. After a residency in Family Medicine, Dr. Abraham practiced in rural Northeast Louisiana for over 30 years. He was a First Lieutenant in the Army National Guard and currently serves as a fixed-wing and helicopter pilot for the Coast Guard Auxiliary and Air Force Civil Air Patrol Green Flag Program. He served as a U.S. Congressman from 2015-2021. Most recently, Dr. Abraham was named Secretary for the Louisiana Department of Health by Governor Jeff Landry in December 2023. He now leads the state's largest agency that delivers medical, preventative and rehabilitative services to millions of Louisianians. He was also the LSU Health Shreveport 2024 Commencement Speaker.



Madison El-Saadi, PhD
School of Graduate Studies
Class of 2020

Dr. Madison El-Saadi received his Bachelor of Science degree from University of Louisiana at Monroe and received his Master of Sciences from LSU Shreveport. He joined the Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology & Neuroscience at the School of Graduate Studies in 2015. Dr. El-Saadi worked under the mentorship of Dr. Xiaohong

Lu where he published a first-author paper and was the recipient of the Ike Muslow Fellowship. After graduating, Dr. El-Saadi joined Raymond James as a BioTech Equity Research Associate. He now serves as a Senior Research Associate at B. Riley Securities and was the guest speaker at this year's Graduate Research Day in May.



Megan Lerchie, MCD, CCC-SLP
School of Allied Health Professions
Class of 2008

Megan Lerchie graduated from the School of Allied Health Professions in 2008 with a Master of Communication Disorders degree. She is the owner of Speech Bubble Pediatric Therapy, where she and her employees provide in-home and private, school-based speech therapy sessions for clients 18 and under. Through Speech Bubble, she is able to serve several specialized areas such as Louisiana Key Academy - Caddo for children with dyslexia. She also provides speech therapy evaluations at Shriners Childrens Hospital as part of their cleft lip and palate team and works closely with oral maxillofacial surgeons to make "speech surgery" decisions. Megan has also been an EarlySteps provider for the past 15 years. One perk of therapy sessions with Megan is that her clients get to meet her furry sidekick, Flower. Flower and Megan are a certified animal assisted therapy team through Alliance for Therapy Dogs.



Layne Shawn Lockwood, PT, DPT
School of Allied Health Professions
Class of 2020

Dr. Layne Lockwood graduated from the School of Allied Health Professions in 2020 with a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. He stayed at LSU Health Shreveport for an additional year, completing his orthopaedic physical therapy residency. Since graduating from LSU Health Shreveport, Dr. Lockwood has practiced in the outpatient setting, primarily focused on treating those with musculoskeletal pathologies. In December 2023, Dr. Lockwood was commissioned as a captain in the United States Army. He now serves overseas in South Korea treating service men and women and their families.



Meagan Tinsley, MD
School of Medicine
Class of 2021

Dr. Meagan Tinsley, who graduated from the School of Medicine 2021, is approaching the end of her third year of residency at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans. She currently holds the position of Recruitment Chair. Recently, she was honored with the title of Southeast Louisiana Veterans Healthcare System Resident of the Year for the Department of Psychiatry. For the upcoming 2024-25 Academic Year, she will be assuming the role of Co-chief Resident of the Tulane Adult Psychiatry Program.

IN MEMORIAM



Christine Almazan, MD

Dr. Christine Long Almazan, a first-year surgery resident and 2023 graduate of the LSU Health Shreveport School of Medicine, lost her valiant battle with cancer on February 9, 2024. She was deeply beloved by her fellow residents, attendings and staff in the Department of Surgery. Dr. Almazan is survived by her husband Arthur, her father Ken Long, brother and sister-in-law Kenny and Brandi Long and a special niece, Stevie Long.



Rozelle Hahn, MD

Dr. Rozelle Hahn passed away on April 1, 2024, at the age of 100. Dr. Hahn was one of four women in her medical school class at the University of Virginia Medical School and became a doctor during a time when there were not many women physicians. She began a private practice in Shreveport in 1970 as the only oncologist/hematologist at the time and went on to become the Medical Director of Schumpert Hospital and Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at LSU Health Shreveport during her career. She retired in 1996 after many years of successful and rewarding practice.



Jay Marion, MD

Dr. Jay Marion passed away on March 13, 2024. After joining the LSU Health Shreveport faculty in 2004 at Feist-Weiller Cancer Center, Dr. Marion retired in 2020 due to health challenges but remained engaged with LSU Health Shreveport until his health no longer allowed. At the time of his retirement, he was serving as Professor of Medicine and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. He was bestowed the title of Professor Emeritus of Medicine. Dr. Marion received numerous awards celebrating his clinical service, teaching and more throughout his career. He will be remembered in perpetuity with the annual Jay M. Marion Compassion and Spirit of Osler Award for senior medical students.



Joe Penny, PhD

Dr. Joe Penny passed away in May 2024. He was one of the first faculty members in LSU Health Shreveport's Department of Cellular Biology & Anatomy, joining in the early 1970s. Dr. Penny worked his way up from an instructor to full professor over his 45 years of service to the institution and retired in 2018. He had significant expertise in anatomical sciences, and his research was focused on seizure disorders and cochlear function and ototoxicity. Dr. Penny is remembered as a colorful individual who loved the outdoors and woodworking.



Thomas Perry, MD

Dr. Thomas Perry passed away on March 18, 2024, at the age of 49. Dr. Thomas graduated from the School of Medicine in 2002 and completed his orthopaedic surgery residency at LSU Health New Orleans. He went on to complete an orthopaedic sports medicine fellowship in San Antonio before landing in Lafayette, LA and establishing Louisiana Orthopaedic Specialists in 2008. The practice grew to 16 physicians and surgeons with multiple locations. Dr. Thomas volunteered as the Head of Sports Medicine for Teurlings Catholic High School, where his sons went to school, and never missed a Friday night on the sidelines.



Robert Schwendimann, MD

Dr. Robert Schwendimann passed away in March 2024 at the age of 79. He served on the LSU Health Shreveport faculty from 1979 until his retirement in 2018. He was the Director of the Electromyography Laboratory and Medical Director of the Muscular Dystrophy Clinic for 20 years and served as Interim Chair of Neurology from 2010-2014. Dr. Schwendimann also served in the armed forces as Lieutenant Commander for the U.S. Naval Reserve Medical Corps from 1975-1977.



Charles William "Bill" Tanner, Jr., MD

Dr. Bill Tanner passed away in March 2024. After graduating from the School of Medicine in 1984, Dr. Tanner completed his urology residency at LSU Health Shreveport. He began his practice at Green Clinic of Ruston, LA, where he practiced for the last 35-plus years. Dr. Tanner was married to his wife, Donna, for 41 years and they had two children together, Holly and Heather.



Storment Technology Center Opens at Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport – Feist-Weiller Cancer Center

The Storment Technology Center at Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport – Feist-Weiller Cancer Center officially opened on February 9, 2024. The new technology center provides patients with online access to important information related to their cancer diagnosis and treatment.

A generous gift from LSU Health Shreveport alumnus Dr. John Storment helped establish the technology center. The donation honors his father, the late Lt. Col. John Worrell Storment, who was a patient of the cancer center’s Blood and Marrow Transplant Program.

“My father always took time to explain difficult things in a simple way,” said Dr. Storment. This center exemplifies his life by helping cancer patients better understand their disease and help in their journey.”



The technology center is located on the main floor of Feist-Weiller Cancer Center. The new center is equipped with permanently mounted iPads, which patients can use to research their cancer treatment and other information related to their cancer diagnosis. Patients will find apps on the tablets, such as the MyOchsner app to help them track their appointments, view their test results and request their prescription refills.

“The Storment Technology Center is an innovative addition that will help our cancer patients to discover more about their diagnoses and treatment,” said Corwin Harper, Chief Executive Officer for Ochsner LSU Health System of North Louisiana. “Many of the patients served at Ochsner LSU Health – Feist-Weiller Cancer Center do not have access to this type of technology to help them research important aspects of their care. We are grateful to the Storment family for their generosity that will help so many of our patients.”

Dr. John Storment is a 1992 graduate of LSU Health Shreveport. He is a fertility specialist with clinics in Lafayette, Baton Rouge and Covington.

Donors Made a Difference for LSU Giving Day

LSU Health Shreveport and the LSU Health Sciences Foundation in Shreveport participated in the second annual LSU Giving Day, 24 hours of impactful philanthropy across all seven LSU campuses.

The LSU Health Sciences Foundation raised \$58,000 from 74 donors in support of the School of Medicine, School of Allied Health Professions, and School of Graduate Studies.

During Giving Day, donors were challenged to unlock two special \$10,000 gifts. The first challenge gift was donated by former Dallas Cowboys linebacker Bradie James. The gift was unlocked when donations reached \$20,000.

James was also an All-American linebacker at LSU and is a Northwest Louisiana native.

The second challenge gift was generously donated by Ochsner LSU Health System of North Louisiana’s CEO, Corwin Harper. Donors unlocked this \$10,000 gift after 75 donations.

Thank you to all the alumni, faculty, staff and community supporters who donated during LSU Giving Day! Your generosity helps LSU Health Shreveport educate and train the next generation of healthcare professionals and scientists who will continue the legacy of innovative and lifesaving healthcare and cutting-edge medical research.

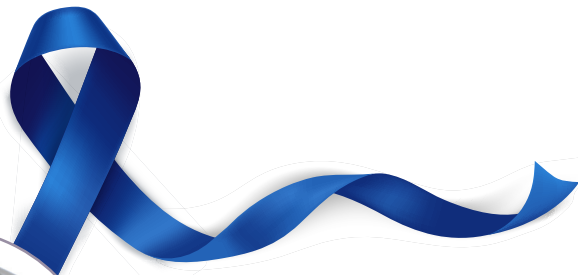
\$58,000 RAISED



74 UNIQUE DONORS

14 STATES

25 ALUMNI DONORS



Partners In Wellness Receives Gift from Dak Prescott's Foundation

PARTNERS IN WELLNESS NOW ABLE TO PROVIDE COLON CANCER SCREENINGS

On March 7, 2024, LSU Health Shreveport's Partners in Wellness program held a colon cancer screening event at the MLK Health Center & Pharmacy. At the event, Feist-Weiller Cancer Center announced that the Cologuard® screening kits on the Partners in Wellness vans and related services were made possible thanks to a grant from Dallas Cowboys quarterback, Dak Prescott and his Faith, Fight, Finish Foundation.

"Louisiana, and especially North Louisiana, experiences significantly higher occurrence and mortality rates from colorectal cancer than in other parts of the United States," said Dr. Richard Mansour, Interim Director of Feist-Weiller Cancer Center. "Catching cancer as early as possible is key in surviving a cancer diagnosis, so making sure that you get screened is one of the most important things you can do."



North Louisiana has a significantly high colorectal cancer rate, 7 of the 11 highest areas in the state are in northern Louisiana. The cancer is also more common in African American populations, which represent 59% of Partners in Wellness patients. Nationwide, colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer, only behind lung cancer.



LSU Health Sciences Foundation HOSTS SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

Students from the School of Allied Health Professions and School of Medicine, donors, campus leadership and select faculty attended the LSU Health Sciences Foundation's scholarship luncheon on February 29, 2024.

Sydney Seastrunk, a second-year medical student, spoke on behalf of the students in attendance, saying, "This scholarship is so important to me because I was so concerned

when I started my first year, but I met a professor who was not only a dream-maker, but a way-maker. She encouraged me to apply for this scholarship, and I'm so appreciative to her and you all for this opportunity."

Dr. Keith White, LSU Health Shreveport Surgery Chair and scholarship donor, also spoke, emphasizing, "The White Coat Scholarship is just the beginning. Think about why we do this – it's not just for the tax deduction, it's not just for this good feeling we get. It's an investment in our health and our future."

Medical Center Clinics



MEDICAL CENTER CLINICS FOUNDERS HONORED WITH LEGACY WALL



On Friday, April 19, faculty, staff and distinguished guests gathered in the Center for Medical Education for a special event – the unveiling of the Medical Center Clinics legacy wall. Families of the original 11 founders were invited to attend.

Guests heard remarks from leadership of the School of Medicine and Medical Center Clinics president, Dr. Jerry Martin.

The Medical Center Clinics was formed in 1968 by a group of 11 leading local physicians, all members of the visiting staff of Confederate Memorial Medical Center, later known as LSU Medical Center. Its sole purpose was to receive and donate funds to support resident training programs at LSU Health Shreveport.

The Medical Center Clinics has funded nine Professorships, each in the specialty areas of the Medical Center Clinics' original board members, and the Medical Center Clinics Endowment for Graduate Medical Education (GME). Having contributed more than \$2 million, the Medical Center Clinics is the single largest benefactor of the GME program. This group of physicians' foresight and philanthropy have impacted the institution in unprecedented ways, and we are eternally grateful for their investments in LSU Health Shreveport.



An Evening for Healers Video Receives Storytelling Award

Each year at An Evening for Healers, the signature fundraiser for LSU Health Shreveport, the LSU Health Sciences Foundation honors healthcare professionals through the retelling of compelling patient stories through videos. Each patient story is meticulously recreated after interviews with patients, doctors, staff, family members and other sources. The 2023 Evening for Healers patient story about Kerrington Jones story was entered into The American Advertising Awards competition and won two awards. The video won a Bronze Honorable Mention and a Special Judges' Award for Most Engaging Storytelling. The judges all agreed that the "Kerrington" video was worthy of special recognition resulting in the creation of a special judge's award to honor the impressive storytelling in the video.

The American Advertising Awards is a national competition recognizing and rewarding the creative spirit of excellence. The competition begins with local clubs, with high-scoring entries advancing to the next level of competition. The judges for the competition deliberate after scoring all entries and

are given the opportunity to talk about the pieces that stood out to them. Recognition for Kerrington's story was especially meaningful as it was the first time in the twelve-year history of An Evening for Healers that a featured patient story ended in loss.



Kerrington Jones was a kind and talented high school junior when she took her own life. Her mother, Shanna Jones, is an LSU Health Shreveport employee and wanted to share Kerrington's story at An Evening for Healers to honor the incredible team who cared for Kerrington before her death with compassion and professionalism. The decision to feature Kerrington's story was based on the inspiration of positively impacting the mental health crisis among teenagers by empowering the community to have hard, but meaningful, conversations with struggling youth.

The video was produced by CRM Studios. Credits go to: Greg Lawrence, producer; Kevin Alexander, videographer and editor; and Colby Doler, videographer.

You can watch Kerrington's video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wZiPz_bvVO

Reunions



1974



1979



1984

Classes of 1974, 1979 and 1984 Gathered for Reunion

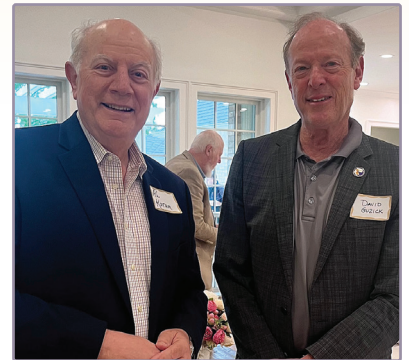
The classes of 1974, 1979, and 1984 gathered in Shreveport on April 19 and 20 for their 50-, 45-, and 40-year class reunions. Attendees were invited to a welcome reception at the Shreveport Club on Friday night. On Saturday, they were given a tour of the new Center for Medical Education and ended the weekend with a dinner at Superior's Steakhouse.

Thank you to everyone who joined us!

ALUMNI NEWS DALLAS ALUMNI GATHERED FOR RECEPTION

LSU Health Shreveport alumni living in the Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX metroplex were invited to a reception hosted by Dr. John & Elissa Knight, Dr. Tom and Deborah Deas, Dr. Jay and Bonny Haynes, Dr. Al and Mary Emma Karam, and Dr. Rebecca Vigen and Dr. Sasan Mirfakhraee.

Guests heard updates on LSU Health Shreveport from Chancellor Dr. David Guzick and had the opportunity to network with other area alumni in attendance.



Classes of 1994, 2004, and 2014 Mark your calendars for October 4 and 5!

We'll be celebrating your 30-, 20-, and 10-year reunions here in Shreveport. Look out for a **Save the Date** card coming to your mailbox soon.

Make sure we've got your contact info! You can update your information at lsuhsfoundation.org/alumniupdate/ or scan the QR code.





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Graduate Medical Education
Research

An Evening for
HEALERS

CELEBRATING HEROES, HEALING, AND HOPE

September 12, 2024

BENEFITTING LSU HEALTH SHREVEPORT

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