LSUHSC Medicine faculty honored

Dr. Arthur Haas, LSUHSC Professor and Chair of Biochemistry, is one of nine scientists worldwide named a 2011 Distinguished Scientist by the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine.

The 1,000+ member Society, founded in 1903, was formed to promote investigation in the biomedical sciences by encouraging and facilitating interchange of scientific information among disciplines.

Dr. Lala Dunbar, LSUHSC Director of Emergency Medicine Research, was honored for her “devotion to care of and research for patients” at the annual AOA LSU Beta Chapter Banquet.

World-renowned toxicologist Dr. Lewis Goldfrank presented the award, noting Dr. Dunbar’s work at the oldest public hospitals in the US—Charity Hospital and Bellevue Hospital as well as her medical missions to Central America.

UMC breaks ground

Scores of LSUHSC faculty, staff, and students looked on as Commissioner of Administration Paul Rainwater, DHH Secretary Bruce Greenstein, Mayor Mitch Landrieu and a host of elected officials joined LSU Health leadership and the UMC Board last week to break ground for LSU’s new teaching hospital – University Medical Center in New Orleans. Secretary Greenstein noted, “This is an important day for Louisiana. On this site, we will develop a world-class academic medical center that will train future generations of health care professionals and serve as a destination hospital, not only for the New Orleans region, but for the entire state and beyond.”

Dr. Fred Cerise, LSU System Vice President for Health Affairs and Medical Education said, “With the largest healthcare training program in Louisiana, LSU is happy to see the construction of University Medical Center begin. This world-class institution will allow us to retain and attract top students to train in an environment of the first magnitude which will ensure a stable production of high quality healthcare providers to care for all Louisiana citizens.”

The 424-bed, $1.2 billion project will be the cornerstone of a biomedical district that will attract the world’s top medical
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professionals while delivering high quality health care, advanced research and Level One trauma care. In addition to the inpatient services and trauma care, the center will host a cancer program including radiation therapy and a chemotherapy clinic; outpatient surgery; outpatient imaging; and rehabilitation services. Treatment areas are being designed to maximize collaboration with the adjacent Veterans Affairs Medical Center by creating efficiencies through the location of adjacent diagnostic services and parallel outpatient services.

The UMC is sized to meet projected patient volumes and reasonable growth that accommodates the clinical needs as well as the medical education needs of the state.

Mayor Landrieu summed up the impact of this project. “This particular project will dwarf the consequences of both the Superdome and the Convention Center, and has the potential of transforming the city of New Orleans from not only being a great city, but being a world-class city.”

Diversity series kicks off with international panel of experts

Derek Rovaris, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic and Multicultural Affairs, presented the first in a Diversity and Leadership Series: “Leadership and Diversity in a Global World” on Thursday.

Also carried live at the Dental School and UMC, Lafayette, Dr. Hellicy C. Ngambi, Executive Dean of the College of Economic & Management Sciences at the University of South Africa, Dr. Risa E. Dickson, Associate Provost for Academic Personnel at California State University – Bernardino, and Angela M. Espada, JD, Associate Assistant Chancellor for Diversity Equity & Inclusion at Indiana University, Purdue University at Indianapolis spoke on leadership, diversity, health care, and the global community as well as their own insights as women in leadership. It will be available soon on the Academic & Multicultural Affairs web page.

Health careers come alive for Ascension seniors

Seniors from St. Amant High School’s Allied Health Program spent a day immersed in basic science and LSUHSC’s unparalleled resources in simulation-based medical education.

Drs. Angela Amedee, Ben Kelly, and Jeff Hobden in Microbiology, Parasitology, and Immunology taught the students about how microbes affect people’s everyday lives and health. The highlight was participating in hands-on demonstrations and getting an up close and personal look at live parasites.

With Daryl Lofaso in the Learning Center, the kids got the same firsthand lesson in distinguishing normal and abnormal heart and lung sounds as first-year medical students. They tried their hands at laparoscopic surgery and resuscitated a “patient” in a simulated ER.

The visit wrapped up with a Q & A session with Dr. Joe Delcarpio and a group of second and fourth year medical students where the high school students had the chance to learn more about medical school and the health professions.