



DR. LARRY HOLLIER

# CHANCELLOR'S *Notes*



January 13, 2012

## Program led by LSUHSC's Gee lauded nationally

**D**r. Rebekah Gee, Assistant Professor of Public Health and Obstetrics and Gynecology at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, participated in a press conference in Baton Rouge on Wednesday with DHH Secretary Bruce Greenstein.



March of Dimes President Dr. Jennifer L. Howse traveled to Louisiana to recognize its focus on fighting prematurity and improving birth outcomes. She congratulated our state for being one of the first to develop a coordinated, statewide initiative to reduce elective deliveries before 39 weeks. Dr. Gee directs the Louisiana Birth Outcomes Initiative which launched a program to curb non-medically indicated deliveries prior to 39 weeks. The reductions in the rates of admissions to neo-natal intensive care units are the proof that this Initiative program is working.

The Initiative is finding solutions to the state's historically poor birth outcomes. ■

## LSUHSC joins forces with White House to combat TBI/PTSD in Vets

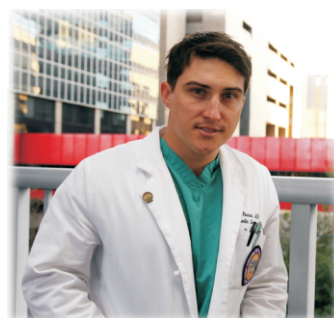
**A**s part of First Lady Michelle Obama's Joining Forces initiative, LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans joined the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) to commit to creating a new generation of doctors, medical schools, and research facilities that will make sure our heroes receive the care worthy of their service. Recognizing veterans and their families' sacrifice and commitment, LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans pledged to mobilize its uniquely integrated missions in education, research, and clinical care to train the nation's physicians to meet veterans and their families' unique health care needs, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).



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## LSUHSC research finds new "bath salts" danger

**A** study led by Russell R. Russo, MD, a third-year Orthopaedic Surgery resident at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans School of Medicine, has identified a new source of life-threatening necrotizing fasciitis – "bath salts." The study, describing the first known case of necrotizing fasciitis from an intramuscular injection of the street drug known as "bath salts," is published in the January 2012 issue of Orthopedics, now available online.



The LSUHSC team stresses as these innocuous sounding drugs gain popularity, medical professionals of all disciplines must be prepared to quickly identify not only the signs of intoxication, but the potential side effects. This deadly flesh-eating bacterial infection often masquerades as a less severe cellulitis or abscess while the damage rages beneath the surface of the skin. National media have helped get the word out about it because rapid recognition is essential to saving life and limb. ■



## Vets, from page 1

LSUHSC Clinical Associate Professor Dr. Paul Harch, who was with First Lady Michelle Obama in Richmond, published the preliminary results of the LSU Pilot Trial of hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) in blast-induced traumatic brain injury and PTSD in November 2011 in the prestigious *Journal of Neurotrauma*. The study demonstrated clinically and scientifically significant improvements in cognition and simultaneous reduction in symptoms of the post-concussion syndrome, PTSD, and depression. These results reinforced a successful animal model of HBOT in chronic TBI published in *Brain Research* in 2007. Dr. Harch was awarded a \$1.2 million government appropriation that will be used this year to further investigate HBOT in veteran TBI and PTSD.



Professor and Chairman of the LSUHSC Department of Psychiatry Dr. Howard Osofsky has developed a highly acclaimed and successful treatment program for PTSD. The program emanated from his work with post-Hurricane Katrina PTSD victims in New Orleans. Dr. Osofsky has refined and extended his treatment to veterans and their families and just completed a successful implementation of the program for PTSD-afflicted patients from the 2011 Japanese tsunami/nuclear disaster.

According to Dr. Harch, among the programs at the 100+ medical schools signing on to this initiative, it appears that LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans has the only treatment program for TBI/PCS (Post Concussion Syndrome), and we are one of the only ones with a PTSD Program and a Family Therapy Program. ■

## Thanks to the Foundation for the BCS Tailgate!



## LSUHSC's Bazan on BGR Board

Dr. Nicolas Bazan, Boyd Professor and Director of the Neuroscience Center of Excellence at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Bureau of Governmental Research.



The Bureau of Governmental Research is a private, non-profit, independent research organization dedicated to informed public policy making and the effective use of public resources for the improvement of government in the New Orleans metropolitan area.

BGR's research professionals analyze government policies, finance, management, and administration. They shed light on complex issues and facilitate productive debate, thereby encouraging excellence in the various governments serving the Greater New Orleans Metropolitan Area.

Dr. Bazan, whose appointment is effective immediately, will serve a four-year term. He has been appointed to the Education Committee. ■