LSUHSC named first MDA/ALS Clinic in LA

The Muscular Dystrophy Association has designated LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans as the first MDA/ALS clinic in Louisiana. The designation recognizes the high standard of care offered by the LSUHSC team of specialized physicians and therapists for people in the Southeast living with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS.

Dr. Amy Gutierrez will direct the new clinic, which will allow us to provide specialty care to patients in the greater New Orleans area, as well as other parts of Louisiana and nearby states. The clinic will continue to provide patients access to care regardless of their economic background.

LSUHSC is the 44th MDA/ALS center in the country, joining a national network of MDA/ALS centers that provide a multidisciplinary team of medical professionals skilled in the diagnosis and treatment of ALS. LSUHSC has built a comprehensive medical team of clinicians, including a board-certified neurologist, a pulmonologist, and respiratory, physical and speech therapists.

The clinics also collaborate on ALS research, helping patients access the very latest treatments and moving us closer to an eventual answer for this devastating condition.

LSUHSC's Camp Tiger theme - Calling All Heroes - apropos

Camp Tiger 2013 gave more than 100 special needs kids an experience of a lifetime last week. Now in its 28th year, LSUHSC's Camp Tiger is a week-long summer day camp for children who most other camps are not equipped to take. It's the class project of LSUHSC's first-year medical students who plan and organize, raise the necessary funds so participation is free to campers, and then volunteer as counselors to make this magical week happen. About 300 LSUHSC medical students participated this year, including Camp Tiger Director Peter Casey and faculty advisor Dr. Joseph Delcarpio.

Early Monday morning, large Hotard coach buses lined the 500 block of Gravier while campers and counselors fueled up for the day with a hearty breakfast in the MEB. Counselors shepherded
About 150 fourth-graders from Benjamin Banneker Elementary School, St. Peter Claver School, and Langston Hughes Academy Charter School spent last Monday morning at LSUHSC getting a variety of hands-on science experiences. The kids conducted experiments to learn about genetics, physiology, anatomy, wound healing, and how caffeine, alcohol, and cigarette smoke affect the body.

The field trip ended another successful year of the LSU Health Sciences Center/New Orleans Schools Science Partnership Program. During the school year, LSUHSC faculty and students teach science to 4th grade students in their classrooms at partner schools. The program was designed to make science more interesting, easier to understand, and more accessible; improve 4th grade science standardized Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) test scores; and introduce students to positive and diverse role models in the science professions.

The closing awards luncheon celebrated the year’s achievements. Teachers were recognized and each child got to pick out their own new books. Books were also donated to the libraries at each school. LSUHSC faculty, staff, and students generously donated 530 books for this purpose during the recent book drive.