LSUHSC School of Nursing celebrates milestone - 80 years of nursing education

The School of Nursing at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans marks a milestone in 2013 – its 80th anniversary. Louisiana State University approved a program leading to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Education degree in 1933. In 1935, three students graduated in the first class. Today, with an enrollment of 1,064 students among 12 undergraduate and graduate programs, the School of Nursing is the largest of LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans’ schools. Graduates of the school now number 8,203.

Louisiana’s flagship nursing school, the LSUHSC School of Nursing is the only nursing school within an academic health center in Louisiana. This position provides significant educational advantages and opportunities to LSUHSC nursing students. Although the school has the distinction of having alumni who represent four levels of nursing education – associate, baccalaureate, masters and doctoral – the LSUHSC School of Nursing was well ahead of the trend of advanced education and training in nursing. In addition to the RN to BSN program, the LSUHSC School of Nursing established the first doctoral nursing degree in the state in 1985 – the Doctor of Nursing Science – and now offers two Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees as well. The LSUHSC nursing school also developed innovative programs to help address special needs like nurse anesthesia and nursing shortages, including the Career Alternative RN Education, or CARE, program. As the health care landscape continues to evolve, the value of nurses’ contributions and capabilities is being increasingly recognized. The LSUHSC School of Nursing has been and remains uniquely positioned to anticipate and meet advanced practice health care needs.

A study conducted by an inter-professional team of LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans faculty found that simulation-based operating room team training of medical and nursing students resulted in more effective teamwork by improving attitudes, behaviors, interaction and overall performance leading to potential increased patient safety and better clinical outcomes. The study, whose lead author is Dr. John Paige, is published online this month in the Journal of the American College of Surgeons.

Frequently, failed communication, ineffective inter-personal skills, inter-professional tension, poor team interaction and divergent inter-professional interpretations of the quality of collaboration combine to impact both patient care processes and outcomes.
Nursing, from page 1

The School of Nursing at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans is a leader, preparing leaders. Its dean, faculty, students and alumni hold leadership positions at every level including the New Orleans District Nurses Association, the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, the American Assembly for Men in Nursing, the American Public Health Association, and the Louisiana Association of Student Nurses.

The quality of the school’s educational programs is evidenced by a first-time pass rate on the NCLEX-RN by LSUHSC grads exceeding 98%. Named the 2013 Nursing School of the Year by the Louisiana State Nurses Association, the LSUHSC School of Nursing has also earned national recognition for its excellence. In addition to receiving 10-year accreditation – the maximum awarded by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education – the National Student Nurses’ Association bestowed the prestigious Stellar School Chapter Award upon LSUHSC’s nursing school.

Basic science research showcased
Congratulations to all who participated in Graduate Studies Research Day!

Here are the winners:

Oral Presentations – 1st place, Felix Nau, Jr.; 2nd Place, Patrick Raber; 3rd Place, Manqi Wang

Posters – 1st Place, Hannah Albritton; 2nd Place, Lu Zhang; 3rd Place, Kayla Fuselier

Post Docs – 1st Place, Annie Whitaker; 2nd Place, Lyndsey Buckner; 3rd Place, Emily Roltsch

Dr. Fern Tsien was awarded this year’s Jack Hines, Jr. Award for contributions to the School of Graduate Studies.

Team, from page 1

In this study, a single session of high fidelity simulation-based inter-professional OR team training resulted in immediate improvement of students’ team-based attitudes and behaviors.

The LSUHSC research team also included Deborah D. Garbee, PhD, Laura Bonanno, DNP, Lyubov Kozmenko, BSN, Valeriy Kozmenko, MD, Tong Yang, MD, William Swartz, PhD, and Qingzhao Yu.

LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans became the country’s 18th Level I Comprehensive Education Institute designated by the American College of Surgeons in June 2007. Since then, it has successfully undergone re-accreditation as a Comprehensive Education Institute in June 2010 and June 2013.

Rodriguez receives SITC Presidential Award

Paulo C. Rodriguez, PhD, at LSUHSC’s Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center, was selected as the 2013 recipient of the Presidential Award by the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC). Established in 1991, the SITC Presidential Award is the most prestigious of the young investigator awards in immunotherapy, which are based upon excellence in quality of research and presentation, the strength of results and methods, and whether the reported research significantly advances the field of cancer immunotherapy. The SITC leadership selected him for the most outstanding oral presentation at the SITC 28th Annual Meeting.

Dr. Rodriguez’s award-winning research identified a potential new therapeutic approach to make T cells, key cells of the immune system, resistant to the suppressive effect caused by tumors as well as to dramatically enhance their anti-tumor activity.

In addition to two NIH grants, Dr. Rodriguez’s research is also supported by the Copeland/LSUHSC Partnership in Viruses, Cancer and Immunotherapy.