



DR. LARRY HOLLIER

# CHANCELLOR'S Notes



March 7, 2014

## LSUHSC MD/PhD Student awarded AMA grant

The American Medical Association Foundation has awarded Vincent Maffei, one of our L1 MD/PhD students, an AMA Foundation 2014 Seed Grant.

Maffei is investigating the role of intestinal microbes in wasting syndrome associated with lung cancer.



Vincent Maffei

His grant application garnered high marks as evidenced by the reviewers comments: "Very solid proposal. Excellent job. Very clear aims. The sequencing results in aim 2 can certainly help to understand the pattern of different microbiota between lung cancer patients and control groups. Experimental designs are well explained. Very novel topic."

Maffei himself earned equally high praise from the reviewers: "Very clear. Good potential to be an excellent physician-scientist. Excellent student. Already a very good researcher."

This research is particularly significant because it will explore an under-studied yet serious problem associated with a cancer with both very high incidence and death rates in Louisiana.

Congratulations!

## LSUHSC'S Molina 1st Hispanic woman elected to lead APS

Patricia E. Molina, MD, PhD, the Richard Ashman Professor and Head of Physiology, and Director of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans' School of Medicine, has been elected president-elect of the American Physiological Society (APS). She will be the first Hispanic female to lead the oldest US society in the biomedical sciences. Dr. Molina will take office on April 30, 2014, at the Experimental Biology Meeting. She will serve a one-year term as president-elect before assuming the presidency of the 11,000-member society dedicated to fostering education, scientific research and the dissemination of information in the physiological sciences.

Dr. Molina also currently serves as Chair of the National Hispanic Science Network on Drug Abuse and as a member of National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) Council.

She earned her PhD in Physiology at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans under the mentorship of Dr. John J. Spitzer.



Dr. Patricia Molina

## LSUHSC physicians named to prestigious 2014 Best Doctors In America® list

Two hundred twenty-five physicians affiliated with LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans appear on the Best Doctors in America® List for 2014. Only five percent of doctors in America earn this prestigious honor, decided by impartial peer review.



The experts who are part of the Best Doctors in America® database provide the most advanced medical expertise and knowledge to patients with serious conditions – often saving lives in the process by finding the right diagnosis and right treatment. LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans' group of experts listed in

the database includes world-class specialists in surgical specialties, internal medicine specialties, and pediatric specialties, who practice in 46 of the Louisiana hospitals and medical centers included in the database.

## LSUHSC nursing faculty earn top honors at Nightingale Gala

**D**enise Danna, RN, DNS, NEA, BC, FACHE, Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Professional Practice, Community Service and Advanced Nursing Practice at the LSUHSC School of Nursing, has been inducted into the Louisiana Nurses Foundation Hall of Fame.

Dr. Danna is a true servant leader. She practiced in the areas of nursing, nursing administration, and nursing education for 38 years, and her practice and service are ongoing. Her contributions to nursing are substantial and enduring. They will last beyond her career as a nursing leader through the numerous nurses she has mentored and motivated to lead change in nursing and the healthcare system. Her introduction provoked a sustained standing ovation.

Then her colleague, Marirose Bernard, MN, APRN, NE-BC, Instructor of Nursing at the LSUHSC School of Nursing, was named the 2014 Nursing Educator of the Year by the Louisiana State Nurses Association.



*Dr. Denis Danna, Dean Dr. Demetrius Porche, Marirose Bernard*

Held in the highest esteem by her leaders, colleagues, patients, perhaps her students value her most. Not only a superb educator and mentor, Ms. Bernard has served in multiple roles as student advisor. She has served as advisor for individual nursing classes; LSUHSC Student Nurses Association, LSUHSC Student Government Association, and continually serves on the Student Affairs/Student Life Committee as both a member and chair.

It would be impossible to list all of the qualifications of these faculty members – Dr. Danna's nomination filled 16 pages and Ms. Bernard's ten. ■

## LSUHSC's Barsley awarded top AAFS Odontology honor

**T**he Odontology Section of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences presented Robert Barsley, DDS, JD, Professor, Division Head of Diagnostic Sciences, and Director of Oral Health Services at the LSUHSC School of Dentistry, with the Reidar Sognnaes Award for Excellence in Forensic Dentistry.

This is another member of the LSUHSC faculty whose credentials are extensive. The program read, "It would take several days to recite the C. V. of our honoree" so they published a long list of highlights.

The award is named for a giant in forensic dentistry—the late Dr. Reidar Sognnaes – who was probably best known for disproving the theory that America's first president wore wooden teeth. He is also credited with verifying the remains of Adolf Hitler and Martin Bormann, through examination of classified American and Soviet dental records.

The group noted that many of Dr. Sognnaes' finest traits are shared by Dr. Barsley. ■



*Dr. Robert Barsley*

## LSUHSC's Schiavo chosen for MLA honor

**T**he Board of Directors of the Medical Library Association has selected Julie Schiavo, MLIS, AHIP, Head Dental Librarian, as the recipient of the 2014 David A. Kronick Traveling Fellowship.



*Julie Schiavo*

The award covers the expenses involved in traveling to 3 or more medical libraries in the United States or Canada, via a \$2,000 fellowship for the purpose of studying a specific aspect of health information management.. Honoring research, instruction, outstanding service, and leadership, MLA's professional recognition programs support and encourage the best and brightest in the field.

Her project is to be "embedded" in libraries in the northeast that have dental libraries with a formal program to work with dental clinicians. She will be funded to go to Rochester, NY, Buffalo, NY and the University of Toronto. A summer trip is planned.

Schiavo will be honored at the Awards Luncheon at the 2014 Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL scheduled for Monday, May 19. ■