Dr. Juzar Ali, Professor of Medicine in the Section of Pulmonary Critical Care, and Director of the Interim LSU Public Hospital, has been appointed Governor of Louisiana for the American College of Chest Physicians by the ACCP Council of Governors. The Council serves as an important portal with other leadership positions throughout the ACCP and strives to enhance the overall mission of the ACCP. As Governor of Louisiana, Dr. Ali will inform ACCP constituents in the state of ACCP efforts.

The American College of Chest Physicians is a not-for-profit medical society representing 17,800 members in more than 100 countries. Members include specialist physicians and allied health professionals focusing on diseases of the chest. The ACCP has set the standard in clinical chest medicine since 1935.

LSUHSC faculty published in New England Journal of Medicine

LSU oncologist Vince D. Cataldo, MD, is the lead author of a review article reporting two chemotherapy drugs now indicated for second and third-line therapy in patients with advanced non-small-cell lung cancer are remarkably effective in treating a certain subset of these patients. Dr. Cataldo, a Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine based in Baton Rouge at Earl K. Long Medical Center and Hematology-Oncology Clinic, and his colleagues say these drugs should be considered as a first-line treatment in people who are known to carry an Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR) mutation. The paper is published in this week’s New England Journal of Medicine.

The drugs, Erlotinib and Gefitinib, which are in a class of highly-specific small molecule tyrosine kinase inhibitors, work by blocking the activation of EGFR which is involved in cell survival and growth, as well as the development of a nourishing blood supply and metastasis.

Targeting the genetic mutation contributing to the development of the cancer, this class of drugs produced a response rate that exceeded 70% in these patients.

LSUHN staffer a member of carnival royalty

Chanel Howard Barker, a Patient Services Representative at the LSU Healthcare Network, had a whirlwind week as Queen Zulu 2011.

Reigning alongside her husband, Tony, Chanel told the mayor as he toasted her at Gallier Hall, how proud she was to represent the Zulu organization and the City of New Orleans. The once-in-a-lifetime experience was a dream come true for this longtime member of the LSU family.