

ISO February Newsletter

LSU Health
NEW ORLEANS

A monthly newsletter brought to you
by the LSUHSC International Services Office
January/February 2020

What's in the Headlines?

Mardi Gras

Experience the culture of New Orleans by checking-out a Mardi Gras parade. Mardi Gras is a holiday unique to Louisiana, and this year's season begins with the first major parade rolling on February 8, 2020. Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) day is February 25, 2020. Revel in the celebration and enjoy the music, food, colorful beads and throws, and creative floats and costumes. For more information on parade routes and schedules, please visit: <https://www.mardigrasneworleans.com/parades/>

Novel Coronavirus

The 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people and can spread from person to person. This virus was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

At this time, however, this virus is NOT currently spreading in communities in the United States. Right now, the greatest risk of infection is for people in China or people who have traveled to China. Risk of infection is dependent on exposure.

Patients with 2019-nCoV have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

Preventative actions include:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

There are currently no vaccinations or antiviral treatment to protect against 2019-nCoV

Information provided by: CDC

Immigration Updates

Travel Ban Expansion

In a January 31, 2020, Presidential Proclamation, the Trump administration expanded its Executive Order to place visa and entry restrictions on travelers from six additional countries.

What You Need to Know:

- The six countries added to the existing travel ban are: Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Nigeria, Sudan, and Tanzania.
- The ban contains restrictions on immigrants, but **not for nonimmigrants**, so it **will not** affect acquisition of nonimmigrant visas like **F-1 student, J-1 exchange visitor, H-1B worker**, etc., or of admission to the United States in those categories.

Public Charge Inadmissibility

Among other changes the new DHS and DOS regulations govern three principal areas, in different ways:

1. Nonimmigrants applying for change or extension of status must demonstrate that "since obtaining the nonimmigrant status" they seek to extend or change, until the date USCIS adjudicates the COS or EOS application, they have not received one or more of the listed public benefits for an aggregate of more than 12 months over the course of 3 years.
2. Applicants for admission to the United States as well as applicants for adjustment of status must show that they are not likely at any time in the future to become a public charge, a more burdensome standard.
3. Applicants for nonimmigrant or immigrant visas must show that they are not likely at any time in the future to become a public charge, a more burdensome standard.

Information provided by: NAFSA

CONTEST ALERT!

Name Our Newsletter Contest: E-mail Ashley (aidiaq@lsuhsc.edu) a creative name for our office newsletter by **February 21, 2020**. ISO & VCAA staff will vote on the title submissions. The creator of the winning title will win 2 tickets for the 7:00 p.m., February 28, 2020 basketball game to see New Orleans Pelicans v. Cleveland Cavaliers.



International Tiger of the Month

Dr. Lucas Albrechet-Souza

Physiology Department

From: São Paulo, Brazil

Dr. Albrechet-Souza is an Instructor working in the Department of Physiology. His research focuses on understanding how alcohol and stress promote changes in brain mechanisms to drive the adverse behavioral outcomes associated with alcohol use disorders and stress-related neuropsychiatric diseases using rodent models.

He received his B.S. in Biology and his Ph.D. in Psychobiology from the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil. After completing post-doctoral training at the same University, he was awarded a two-year postdoctoral fellowship to work at Tufts University in Boston-MA. Afterward, he earned a Brazilian grant designed to attract young researchers living abroad and establish a cooperation between Brazil and the United States.

He later decided to apply for a position at LSUHSC-New Orleans because of Brazil's political crisis affecting science funding. His career goal is to become a Principal Investigator and start his own lab. Outside academia, he enjoys traveling, cooking and exploring new places. He is also a wine and food enthusiast.

LEARN MORE ABOUT LUCAS:

What made you choose LSUHSC?

I chose LSUHSC because of the quality of the work developed here. My PI is an internationally renowned researcher and the Department of Physiology offers excellent mentoring and networking opportunities. As an early career scientist, I believe that LSUHSC is the perfect environment to help me to achieve my professional goals. Besides, LSUHSC is located in New Orleans, a city like no other.

What is your favorite place or activity in New Orleans? Why?

I love to bike around New Orleans and explore the neighborhoods. There is always something new to see and try, from charming unique houses to delicious food and cocktails. For nightlife, Frenchmen Street is my favorite destination to enjoy excellent live music and great bars.

What are some cultural shocks or funny surprising moments that you have experienced so far?

A good surprise about New Orleans was the sense of community that we have here, very different from my experience in Boston. Another surprise was some clear similarities between New Orleans and Brazil: both have strong African cultural influence, which is reflected in the music, gastronomy and religious traditions. Climate is also similar (although winters are cooler in Louisiana and there are no hurricanes in Brazil). Finally, the people of New Orleans are probably the closest any American can be to being Brazilian. They are mostly friendly, welcoming and they sure can throw a good party!

Did you know?

February is Black History Month. Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of blacks in U.S. history. The Black History Month 2020 theme is "African Americans and the Vote".

"The good thing about science is that it's true whether or not you believe in it." — Neil deGrasse Tyson