

CHANCELLOR'S Notes

October 31, 2008



LSUHSC Gene Therapy gets glowing results

In order to create a model that can not only be used to preserve endangered species but could also translate into a powerful tool to combat human diseases, the LSUHSC Gene Therapy Program has been collaborating with the Audubon Center for Research of Endangered Species for the past three years. A transgenic cat dubbed Mr. Green Genes is the first result. LSUHSC Gene Therapy researchers Robert



Kutner and Jakob Reiser with graduate student David Ricks introduced a fluorescent gene via the vector-based targeted gene delivery system we developed. The marker gene causes the cat's tissues to glow green when exposed to ultraviolet light, providing a visible means of tracking cells.

The successful development of this new research model has opened a new pathway for research on devastating diseases that previously had no good models. Work is already underway on the next one and we're grateful to the Louisiana Board of Regents which has supported these efforts through ongoing funding to the Louisiana Gene Therapy Research Consortium.

LSUHSC public health faculty recognized

Elizabeth "Terry" Fontham, DrPH, Dean of our School of Public Health, was honored twice this month. She was one of two recipients of the prestigious 2008 Alton Ochsner Award Relating Smoking and Health. She was selected for this honor for her significant contributions in establishing the risk of lung cancer associated with involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke. Dr. Fontham received her award at the Annual Convocation of



Fontham at awards luncheon

the American College of Chest Physicians during its scientific sessions held in Philadelphia.

Yesterday, Dr. Fontham was honored among ten "New Orleans Best Volunteer Activists" by St. Elizabeth's Guild which supports Catholic Charities work with foster children.

Leonard Jack, Jr., PhD, the Jim Finks Endowed Chair of Health Promotion Professor of Public Health, is one of two individuals awarded a 2008 Presidential Citation by the President of the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE).



Jack

LSUHSC nursing faculty and students honored

Five LSUHSC nursing faculty were among Louisiana's 100 Great Nurses honored recently. They include Laura Bonanno, DNP, Nancy Buccola, Katherine Carter, Marjorie Geiz-Everson, and Sharon Kappel.

Twenty-three of our nursing students – the largest number from any school – participated in the 2008 Louisiana Association of Student Nurses Convention held in Alexandria. They took top honors including Student of the Year, Faculty Advisor of the Year, and leadership seats on the Board of Directors, as well as scholarships and

other awards.

Jennifer Hudgens was named Student of the Year and Mariorose Bernard, Faculty Advisor of the Year. Gina



Geiz-Everson, Bonanno, Buccola, Kappel, Carter

McCormick was elected Vice President of the LASN Board of Directors. Other members elected were Cassey Sartin, Region IV Director, Alexis Washington, Secretary, Justin Wooley, Breakthrough to Nursing Membership Director, Stephanie Worth, Elected Consultant, and Jennifer Hudgens, Historian. The academic scholarship was awarded to Callie Estes.