LSUHSC’s Farrar awarded top honor

The Louisiana Dental Hygienists Association has chosen Suzanne K. Farrar, RDH, MSHCM, Director of Clinical Staff and Patient Services at the LSUHSC School of Dentistry, as the recipient of its Outstanding Dental Hygienist Award for 2010. The award recognizes excellence in service and outstanding contribution to the art and science of dental hygiene.

Farrar worked with Dr. Michael O’Brien, LSUHSC Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, on a bill permitting dental hygienists who meet educational requirements to administer nitrous oxide to patients. She was also recently appointed by the Governor to serve on the Fluoridation Advisory Board.

LSUHSC only university & US participant in international cancer effort

Through Dr. Edward Trapido, Associate Dean for Research in the LSUHSC School of Public Health, LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans is the only university involved in the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT), a program of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is part of the UN System of Agencies. Collaborating with the World Health Organization, PACT has worked to develop comprehensive cancer control programs in low-resource settings in countries around the world.

Dr. Trapido and Dr. Donna Williams, LSUHSC Assistant Professor of Public Health and Director of the Louisiana Comprehensive Cancer Control Programs, were the only US participants in the PACT Scientific Forum, Cancer in Developing Countries: Facing the Challenge, in Vienna. The PACT leadership asked Dr. Trapido to lead the evaluation of the programs he helped to design in each of the UN’s seven regions when he was working for the National Cancer Institute. With her experience in cancer control and program evaluation in Louisiana, Dr. Williams also served as a valuable resource.

Children’s Health Study awarded to RTI/LSUHSC Academic Consortium

The Centers for Disease Control awarded the contract for the eight-year, four-state Children’s Health Study to the RTI/LSUHSC Academic Consortium. The study will investigate the health outcomes of living in FEMA-temporary housing units after Katrina and Rita. This $1 million per year contract for LSUHSC will begin with a two-year pilot study. Dr. James Diaz, Professor of Public Health and Director of Environmental/Occupational Health Sciences, will serve as the P.I. and Medical Director. LSUHSC will lead local efforts to coordinate community-based mobile medical units and clinical assessments and provide clinical laboratory support to analyze samples and medical records.
Nursing & Student Health team up for health outreach

School of Nursing faculty and students, along with Student Health, teamed up this week to vaccinate LSUHSC faculty, staff, and students against the influenza virus.

Nearly 1,000 flu shots were given – at low-cost to faculty and staff and no cost to students. Getting a flu shot is the most important step in protecting not only individuals, but the community as well.

Special thanks to Stephanie Pierce, RN, Dr. Angela McLean, Drs. Joseph Moerschbaecher, Demetrious Porche, Steve Nelson, Henry Gremillion, Elizabeth Fontham, and J. M. Cairo.

A fitting send-off

After 26 years of service to LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, Dr. Ronald Luftig, Professor and Chair of Microbiology, Immunology, and Parasitology, is retiring. To honor his mark on the field of Virology, distinguished speakers including his son, Dr. Micah Luftig, a virologist at Duke, and Dr. Ken Berns, of the University of Florida, spoke at a scientific symposium yesterday, followed by a reception. Dr. Luftig will become Professor Emeritus and is succeeded by Dr. Alistair Ramsay.

Can you hear me now?

The Department of Communication Disorders in our School of Allied Health Professions is sponsoring a free hearing screening for LSUHSC faculty staff and students on October 13th from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., in the Audiology Clinic, Nursing/Allied Health Building 9th floor. No appointment is necessary.

Doctor of Audiology students will conduct the screening. There will be four stations – the greeting table/information on hearing loss station, the hearing screening station, the musician earplugs/HPDs station (earmold impression taking) for those who are interested, and the video otoscopy station (see your own ear drums!)

October is not only Audiology Awareness month, but it’s also National Protect Your Hearing month!