



CHANCELLOR'S Notes



August 26, 2011

DR. LARRY HOLLIER

LSUHSC's Marix earns professional distinction

Reference librarian and School of Nursing liaison, Mary Marix, has been approved for membership in the Academy of Health Information Professionals of the Medical Library Association.



Mary Marix, MLS, AHIP

Admission to and the level of academy membership (Provisional, Member, Senior, Distinguished and Emeritus) are based on three areas of achievement: academic preparation, professional experience, and professional accomplishment. Marix was approved at the highest active level - Distinguished.

The Academy of Health Information Professionals is MLA's peer-reviewed professional development and career recognition program. The academy recognizes the personal investment of time and effort required for exemplary professional performance and for contributions to the association and to the profession. ■

LSUHSC research identifies differences in metabolic disease markers in healthy & obese 7-9-year-olds

Research led by Dr. Melinda Sothorn, Professor of Public Health and Jim Finks Endowed Chair in Health Promotion at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, has found that obese 7-9-year-old children had nearly three times the liver fat and almost double the belly fat of their nonobese counterparts and that insulin resistance was more than double and insulin sensitivity less than half respectively. The study is the first to use a combination of advanced measurements in healthy obese and nonobese children in this age group prior to entering puberty. The findings are detailed in the journal, *Obesity*, online August 25, 2011.



Dr. Melinda Sothorn

"The amount of body fat as well as its location, particularly in the liver, appears to play a critical role in disease development," notes LSUHSC's Dr. Melinda Sothorn. "The substantial variation in biomarkers we observed in these young children suggests that obesity in this age group may disrupt normal metabolism, impairing glucose tolerance and increasing the risk for Type 2 diabetes later in life."

The researchers studied 123 children, ages 7-9, recruited from southeast Louisiana. By BMI z-score thresholds, 23.6% of the children were obese. Although a clear definition for the metabolic syndrome in children and adolescents has not yet been established, by one set of proposed criteria, 16% of participants met the definition, and 8% met the criteria by another definition.

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LSUHSC dental resident wins national service award



Drs. Don Brown, & Raj Diwan

Raj Diwan, DDS, a resident in the LSU Health Sciences Center School of Dentistry General Practice Residency Program, is one of four recipients nationally of a service award for work he did as a dental student. Dr. Diwan, a 2011 graduate of the LSUHSC School of Dentistry, was honored with the inaugural Student Servant Leadership Award presented

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“Our data confirm that healthy obese young children may already be predisposed to the development of metabolic disease as has been demonstrated in adult populations,” said Dr. Sothern. “Our findings highlight the importance of interventions to prevent and manage obesity very early in life and suggest this is a possible means of reducing metabolic disease risk and combating the increasing prevalence of Type 2 diabetes.”

Over the past 30 years, the prevalence of obesity has increased considerably. Although a recent national report indicates a leveling off of this trend, a significant portion of the pediatric population remains obese and at risk for developing metabolic diseases, particularly those related to carbohydrate metabolism. Some regions, especially areas with traditionally higher obesity prevalence rates, however, may not mirror national estimates.

The LSUHSC research team also included Drs. Julia Volaufova, William Cefalu, Stuart Chalew, Stewart Gordon, and Arlette Soros as well as Brian Bennett.

The research was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health’s Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disorders. ■

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by the Academy of Dentistry International (ADI). The award includes a \$500 stipend.

The purpose of the award is to recognize senior dental students who have excelled in volunteerism and student leadership. As a dental student, Dr. Diwan founded the student service organization called “Making Impressions.” He recruited a leadership team and network of dental students and hygienists that helped more than 1,000 people through oral health screenings, provision of dental supplies, and one-on-one education. The student volunteers helped the homeless population in the inner city, unwed mothers, and HIV/AIDS patients living in a hospice.

The ADI is the international honor society for dentists dedicated to sharing knowledge in order to serve the dental-health needs and to improve the quality of life of people throughout the world. Through the development of fellowship and understanding, the Academy endeavors to create opportunities for service in order to assist in the establishment of a world at peace. ■



Anderson completes GME leadership course

Kristi Anderson, MS, LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans School of Medicine’s Director of Graduate Medical Education (GME) at University Medical Center in Lafayette, La., has completed the Graduate Medical Education Leadership Development Course of the Association of American Medical Colleges.



Kristi Anderson, MS

The Association of American Medical College GME Leadership Development Course addresses the core competencies for institutional leaders who manage graduate medical education. The course is designed for GME deans, directors and other academic leaders who are responsible for institutional oversight of GME and the educational environment for residents and fellows.

Prior to her current appointment, Anderson served as UMC Clinical Trials Coordinator. She has taught at LSU, Southeastern State University and San Francisco State University. ■