

DR. LARRY HOLLIER

CHANCELLOR'S Notes



January 6, 2012

LSUHSC's Porche leads state nursing licensing board

Demetrius Porche, DNS, PhD, APRN, FNP, CS, FAANP, FAAN, Dean of the LSUHSC School of Nursing, has been elected President of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing.



Dr. Demetrius Porche

The mission of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing is to safeguard the life and health of the citizens of Louisiana by assuring persons practicing as Registered Nurses and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses are competent and safe.

The board establishes curriculum requirements and standards for individuals seeking to be licensed, approves nursing education programs whose graduates meet the licensing requirements of the board, establishes standards of nursing practice, examines, approves, renews, and reinstates licenses of duly qualified applicants and establishes examination procedures for such purposes.

Dr. Porche will serve a two-year term (2012 and 2013) as the board's president. ■

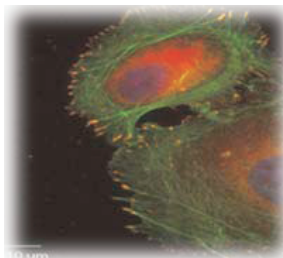
LSUHSC research finds trigger for breast cancer spread

Research led by Shyamal Desai, PhD, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, has discovered a key change in the body's defense system that increases the potential for breast cancer to spread to other parts of the body. The results, reported for the first time, are featured in the January 2012 issue of *Experimental Biology and Medicine*.



Dr. Shyamal Desai

For cancer cells shape matters. All cells contain a protein cytoskeleton that acts as a scaffold determining overall shape and function, the position of the cell within an organ or tissue, and the ability of the cell to communicate with its neighbors to prevent the uncontrolled growth typical of cancer cells. However, cell transformations that result in cancer disrupt the genetic programs of the cell and alter the cytoskeleton, leading to changes in shape, function, and cell communication that produce uncontrolled growth and metastatic spreading of the tumor. Understanding these changes to the normal genetic program of a cell and the consequences that ultimately lead to cancer have been major challenges to cancer biologists.



This research, funded by the National Institutes of Health, found that a cellular defense system called the ISG15 pathway, which is normally involved in fighting bacterial and viral infection, is triggered in breast cancer to disrupt normal cytoskeletal function and increase the possibility that the cancer cells will metastasize, or spread. The findings, for the first time, causally link an alteration in the ISG15 pathway during transformation with metastatic potential, providing a novel therapeutic target for future drug discovery. ■

Human Development Center building underway



Work has begun on the new home of Allied Health's Human Development Center, on Tulane Avenue between S. Prieur and S. Johnson streets. The estimated construction completion date is December 2013. ■