



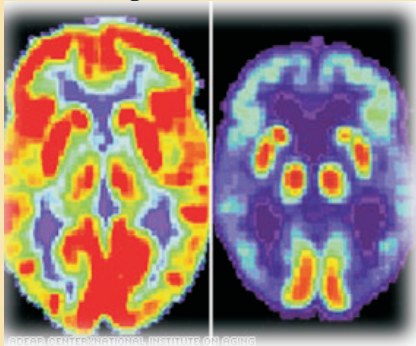
# CHANCELLOR'S Notes



January 20, 2012

## LSUHSC's Lukiw on leading edge of new national priority

The US government issued a draft framework this week for a strategic plan for Alzheimer's Disease by 2020. Research goals include discovering the means to slow the progression, delay the onset, and ultimately prevent this devastating disease.



Research right here at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans is making major contributions. Dr. Walter Lukiw, of the Neuroscience Center and Department of Ophthalmology, is hard at work with recent NIH funding of \$1.46 million over five years to study the epigenetics of Alzheimer's disease. This represents the largest grant of its kind in the state and follows his \$1.27 million grant.

Dr. Lukiw's research focuses on a newly discovered genetic mechanism involved in regulating cell signaling in the brain. Changes in the brain's inflammatory signaling systems, along with aging, appear to underlie both the initiation and progression of Alzheimer's. ■

## LSUHSC medical students, faculty help Haitian people

A group of LSUHSC medical students and faculty spent a week over the holiday break on a medical mission to Jacsonville, Haiti. They were part of



a team of medical volunteers from around the US, sponsored by the Sante Total organization. L2s Carl Mickman, Jennifer Bouso, Nick Bodor and Rhea Vidrine, along with L1s Holly Martin, Bavana Ketha, and Blake Jones, as well as Emergency Medicine faculty Dr. Andrew Shannon took care of patients every day during clinic held in what they called the "community center."



With the help of a Haitian translator, the LSUHSC students took vitals, history of present illness, medical history, and family history before examining the patient. They performed urinalysis, blood smears, pregnancy tests, prostate exams, eye exams and much more. They then presented

see *Haiti*, page 2



## Haiti, from page 1

the patient to a physician and discussed a treatment plan.



to know its people a little better.

They were so moved by their experience, the LSUHSC medical students are now making plans to continue to support the Jacsonville community from afar. Their goal is to establish a general scholarship fund to help the Haitian youth who have a strong desire to continue their education but lack the means. The first person our students would like to help is the young man who served as their translator and whose dream is to go to medical school.

## His 15 minutes of fame lasts much longer & could save lives

A study led by Russell R. Russo, MD, a third-year Orthopaedic Surgery resident at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans School of Medicine, has generated hundreds of media and social media stories worldwide over the past week, including CNN, ABC News, Fox News, NPR, HealthDay, and the UK's Daily Mail. The study identified a new source of life-threatening flesh-eating bacterial infection. The paper, describing the first known case of necrotizing fasciitis from an intramuscular injection of the street drug known as "bath salts," is published in the January 2012 issue of Orthopedics, now available online. The goal of Dr. Russo and his colleagues was to make the public and medical community aware of this new danger, in time



to save lives from this rapidly advancing infection that often initially masquerades as something else.

They treated patients for hypertension, diabetes, anemia, otitis media, benign prostatic hypertrophy, and gonorrhea, as well as a host of other conditions.

When they weren't taking care of their patients during clinic, our students were able to explore the community and get



## LSUHSC alumnus & faculty takes reins at UNO

Dr. Peter Fos, a 1976 graduate of the LSUHSC School of Dentistry and former Professor and Program Director of Health Policy and Systems Management at the LSUHSC School of Public Health, began his tenure as President of the University of New Orleans this week.



Dr. Fos was the unanimous choice of the governing board of the University of Louisiana System to lead UNO through the next chapter of its history.

Dr. Fos is an internationally recognized decision scientist and health care administration educator. Recruited by our School of Public Health in April 2011, he previously served as Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at The University of Texas at Tyler, Dean of the College of Health at The University of Southern Mississippi, and Senior Deputy and Chief Science Officer at the Mississippi State Department of Health, among other academic leadership posts.

We wish him the best on his new endeavor.