



DR. LARRY HOLLIER

CHANCELLOR'S Notes



February 10, 2012

LSUHSC's Shields awarded top national honor

Jessica Shields, an MD/PhD student at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, has been selected by the American Academy of Neurology as the recipient of this year's Roland P. Mackay Award for the best medical student essay.



The Roland Mackay award is highly competitive. Essays are judged on the basis of the quality of the scholarship and on suitability for an audience of general neurologists. This award is given for the best essay about an historical aspect of neurology.

Jessica's essay focused on Native Americans in neurology. Although the Native Americans knew little about the nervous system, they were more
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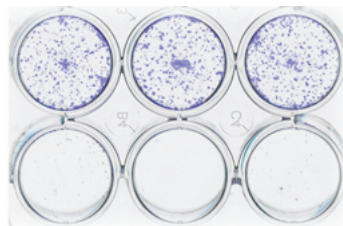
LSUHSC research identifies new prostate cancer drug target

Research led by Wanguo Liu, PhD, Associate Professor of Genetics at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, has identified a new protein critical to the development and growth of prostate cancer. The findings were published online this week in the Early Edition of *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.



Dr. Liu and his team discovered a protein called ARD1 which is involved with the male hormone, androgen, and its receptor. Prostate cancer is a hormone-regulated disease and the main hormone is androgen. Androgen activates its receptor - androgen receptor (AR) to play a critical role in the development and progression of prostate cancer.

To find an alternative strategy to treat prostate cancer, Dr. Liu's group is studying androgen receptor activators and increasing levels of these activators leading to prostate cancer. Following the discovery of this new protein, they determined that ARD1 is overproduced in the majority of prostate cancer samples, that it activates the androgen receptor, and that it is an essential component of



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Brush up on Dentistry draws big interest

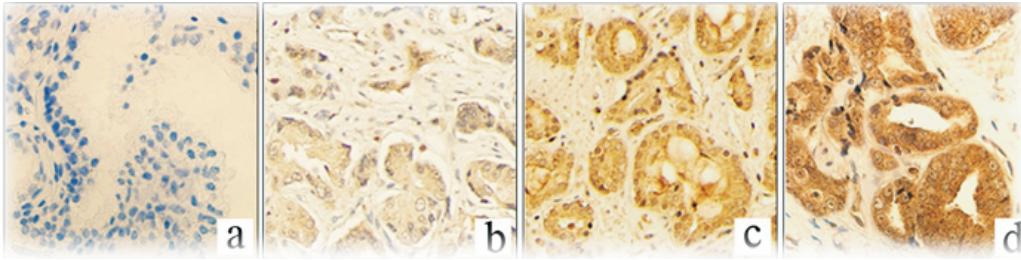
A collaboration between the LSUHSC School of Dentistry and the LSU Pre-Dental Society generated even more participants than the very successful inaugural Pre-Dental 101: A Brush Up on Dentistry event last year. About 200 undergraduate and high school students from throughout Louisiana spent Saturday at the dental school learning about the dental professions, dental school, and the admissions process, including how to get an interview and make the most of it.



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prostate cancer cell growth. In addition, they demonstrated that inactivation of ARD1 inhibits the function of androgen receptors resulting in complete suppression of prostate cancer cell growth in tissue culture and prostate tumor growth in mice. They also revealed that the role of ARD1 in the development of prostate cancer is to modify the androgen receptor to enhance its activity.



The study provides a novel avenue for controlling AR-mediated prostate tumor development by directly inhibiting the function of ARD1 or AR-ARD1 interaction. Developing an ARD1-specific inhibitor or an AR-ARD1 interaction-disrupting compound may be of therapeutic benefit in the treatment of prostate cancer. ■

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The event featured one track for Dental Hygiene and one for those interested in the DDS program. Offerings included hearing from a panel of current dental



Dean Henry Gremillion, DDS answers questions

students, chalk carving and dental waxing demonstrations, hands-on lab experience, overviews of dental specialties, and tours of the school.

The event was the brainchild of Sabrina Portwood and Brent Benoit, leaders of the LSU Pre-Dental Society last year.

Both

are now freshmen LSUHSC dental students. The LSU Pre-Dental Society puts in a great deal of effort inviting potential participants and helping to organize and staff the event.



Sabrina Portwood

As the only dental school in Louisiana, this outreach effort not only stimulates interest in the dental professions, but also helps prepare some of our state's brightest future dentists for our competitive admissions process.



Brent Benoit

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successful in treating many neurologic illnesses than other hunter-gatherer cultures of the time (epilepsy, neuromuscular and movement disorders, and headaches/pain). Some botanic extracts used by the Native Americans to treat neurologic disorders have clinical application today (i.e. narcotic effects of coca leaves, paralytic effects of curare, parasympathetic effects of atropine).



Jessica will present her abstract as a poster during the 64th American Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Her award presentation is scheduled during the same Poster Session on April 24 in the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. She will also be recognized at the AAN Awards Luncheon on April 25.

The award also includes a monetary prize, complimentary registration for the annual meeting and a complimentary subscription to *Neurology*. ■