

DR. LARRY HOLLIER

CHANCELLOR'S Notes



March 2, 2012

LSUHSC nursing faculty recognized

Two members of the faculty of the LSUHSC School of Nursing were honored by the Louisiana State Nurses Association (LSNA) and two more were nominated for top Nightingale awards.



Dr. Gloria Giarratano

Dr. Gloria Giarratano, Professor of Nursing, was named Nurse Researcher of the Year. Her recent research has focused on mental health and disaster recovery.

The late Joyce Travelbee, who directed our Graduate Nursing Program, was posthumously inducted into the LSNA Hall of Fame.



Joyce Travelbee, MSN

Jacqueline Favret, MPH, Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing, received a nomination for Nurse Educator of the Year. Dr. Shelley Jeanfreau, Assistant Professor of Nursing was nominated for Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year.

The Louisiana State Board of Nursing, which our Dean Dr. Demetrius Porche leads, also celebrated 100 years of nursing regulation.

LSUSHC research discovers experimental drug for stroke

Research led by Nicolas Bazan, MD, PhD, Boyd Professor and Director of the Neuroscience Center of Excellence at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, has found that a synthetic molecule protected the brain in a model of experimental stroke. Dr. Bazan was issued a patent on the molecule called LAU-0901, a low molecular weight drug that crosses the blood-brain barrier. The findings are published in the March 2012 issue of *Translational Stroke Research*.



During an ischemic stroke, the most common kind, the body releases signals that cause neuroinflammation which leads to a buildup of chemicals that harm the brain. Platelet-activating factor (PAF) accumulates, and inhibition of this process plays a critical role in neuronal survival.

see *Stroke*, page 2

UMC hospital permanent construction underway

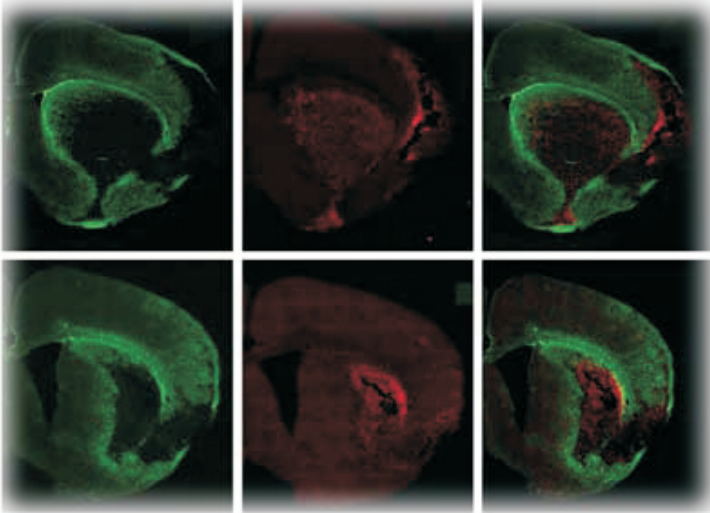


Citing the “great strides” that have been made on the construction of the new University Medical Center, Facilities Planning and Control project director Tom Rish reported to the UMC board yesterday that pile driving started on Monday. This marks the beginning of permanent construction.

see *UMC*, page 2

Stroke, from page 1

LAU-0901 was able to inhibit the PAF receptor, which reduces multiple neuroinflammatory signals and greatly lessens the severity of damage in experimental stroke



The research team used magnetic resonance imaging in conjunction with behavior and immunohistopathology to further study this novel therapeutic approach. The researchers report that LAU-0901, given two

hours after the onset of experimental stroke, lessened the severity of brain damage, significantly reduced lesions in the brain, and improved coordination and movement. LAU-0901 produced no discernible side effects. These findings suggest LAU-0901 is a promising neuroprotectant that provides the basis for future therapeutics in patients suffering ischemic stroke. ■

UMC, from page 1

Rish's presentation included an update on two key relocation projects – moving a 230kV transmission line and moving the former McDonough 11 school to a



staging area out of the footprint of the new hospital. With the successful completion of those two jobs, the project continues to move ahead, and is now farther along than the new VA Medical Center.

The project is about 50% under contract with 80% of the work going

to Louisiana contractors.

Construction remains on schedule for delivery of the final piece of the project by April of 2015. ■

You're invited!

Jennie Chin Hansen, Chief Executive Officer of the American Geriatrics Society, will speak on our campus on March 9, 2012 about baby boomers, health care reform, GME accountability and funding, and more. Her presentation will be from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in room 429 of the medical school building at 1542 Tulane Avenue.



The talk will be relevant for faculty, staff, and students in all of our schools.

The era of the growing baby boom patient population brings with it the complex patient with multiple and co-morbid illnesses. This presentation will contribute to understanding how the growing demographic of an older patient population will have important impact on how care, performance, collaboration and competencies in education can contribute to more meaningful and effective outcomes. ■