



DR. LARRY HOLLIER

# CHANCELLOR'S *Notes*



June 15, 2012

## Dr. Noel goes to Washington

**D**r. R. Adam Noel, Associate Professor of Pediatrics at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, presented information about his recent cases and the cases he has collected nationally of injuries associated with children swallowing “rare earth” magnets to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission. He and his colleagues from the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (NASPGHAN) also visited Capitol Hill.



*Dr. Noel is in the front row, 3rd from the left*

Dr. Noel is also the principal investigator on a national study gathering detailed information about the prevalence and outcome of cases – numbers, geographic areas, ages, gender, medical condition, medical response and intervention, results, physician education and experience, and more. Data will be used to educate physicians, the public, and policy and lawmakers, and to construct treatment algorithms for prevention and treatment.

National media coverage got another warning out, too. ■

## LSUHSC Psychiatry holds disaster preparation conference

**A**bout 160 behavioral health, public health, and religious professionals, as well as disaster response workers, school personnel, and city, state, and federal employees, participated in a two-day conference organized and hosted by the Departments of Psychiatry and Pediatrics at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans this week.



Discussions during the conference included the importance of early recognition of mental health symptoms apparent soon after the disaster, potential future



*Drs. Joy and Howard Osofsky*

sequelae, and efforts to address current symptoms and build individual and community resilience. LSUHSC results to date show that the greatest effects on mental health relate to the extent of disruption on participants' lives, work, and relationships, including family and social engagement, with increased symptoms of anxiety, depression, and posttraumatic stress. Given the location of the oil spill affecting communities with prior devastation following Hurricane Katrina, results also revealed that losses from Hurricane Katrina, including property, jobs, and significant relationships with family, friends, and community, were associated with negative mental health outcomes. Enhanced understanding of mental health

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effects following the Gulf Oil Spill will help determine directions for mental health services, contribute to knowledge of complex traumatization during the lifespan, and factors, such as social support, that contribute to resilience and the ability to rebound following adversity.

LSUHSC's Dr. Howard Osofsky, Professor and Chair of Psychiatry, and Dr. Joy Osofsky, Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry, presented the opening plenary session along with DHH's Dr. Anthony Speier. It included an overview of the effects of disasters along the Gulf Coast, as well as how to incorporate lessons learned and LSUHSC data into improving disaster preparedness in the region.



*The emotional devastation following Hurricane Katrina*

Thanks also go to Drs. Tonya Cross Hansel and Erin Reuther for their hard work in organizing the conference. ■

### LSUHSC faculty captures historic event



David K. Lirette, PhD, Assistant Professor of Public Health, took this photo of Venus' transit across the sun from a front row seat in his front yard. For more than 100 years, astronomers used this rare alignment to measure the size of our solar system. Lasting more than 6 hours, it was the last transit of Venus in our lifetime. The next one won't be until 2117. ■