

DR. LARRY HOLLIER

# CHANCELLOR'S Notes



September 14, 2012

## LSUHSC's Hammill honored by BGR

Nicole Hammill, MBA, Coordinator of Grants and Development in the LSUHSC Office of Research



Nicole Hammill, MBA

Services, will be honored by the Bureau of Governmental Research at its 2012 Excellence in Government Awards luncheon on September 27.

Established in 1994, this annual program recognizes government employees for outstanding performance and creative problem-solving.

The only 2012 honoree from higher education, Nicole is one of three people chosen as this year's recipients of the BGR Merit Award. The Merit Award recognizes outstanding performance by public sector employees. The award comes with a cash prize of \$500. ■



## LSUHSC research finds Ginkgo biloba doesn't improve cognitive function in MS

A research study conducted by Dr. Jesus Lovera, Assistant Professor of Neurology at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, and colleagues has found that the herbal supplement Ginkgo biloba does not improve cognitive function in patients with Multiple Sclerosis (MS.) Cognitive impairment affects 40-60% of people with MS, most commonly affecting their processing speed, memory, and executive skills. The research findings were published online ahead of print in *Neurology* on September 5, 2012.

Ginkgo biloba supplements are frequently used by people with MS. Ginkgo appeared beneficial in a prior small pilot study they had done.

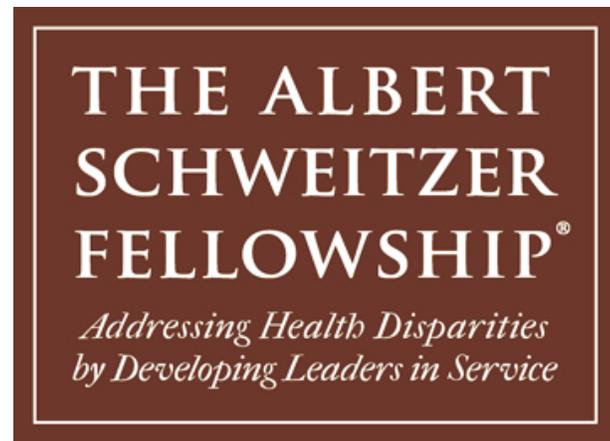
The research team wanted to conduct a larger more robust study to determine the validity of the preliminary results. One hundred twenty people with MS were randomized to either the group treated with 120 mg of Ginkgo biloba twice a day, or to the group taking matching placebo tablets. Participants were treated for 12 weeks and then underwent a battery of cognitive tests. Participants and their families see *Ginkgo*, page 2



Dr. Jesus Lovera

## LSUHSC students named Schweitzer Fellows

Three LSUHSC students are members of the 2012-13 New Orleans class of Albert Schweitzer Fellows. They will spend the next year carrying out innovative service projects that address the social factors that impact health, developing lifelong leadership skills, and living famed physician-humanitarian Albert Schweitzer's message of service.



Joining approximately 230 additional 2012-13 Schweitzer Fellows at 12 other program sites throughout the U.S., the newly selected New Orleans Schweitzer Fellows will partner

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## Ginkgo, from page 1



also answered standardized questionnaires about their cognitive function and social integration. The tests found that there were no statistically significant improvements in cognitive function between the two groups.

Several drugs such as Namenda and Aricept that work for people with Alzheimer's have been tested without success in people with MS. Unfortunately now Ginkgo is added to the list of therapies thought to be effective in Alzheimer's disease that failed to improve

cognitive performance in MS. ■

## Schweitzer, from page 1

with local community-based organizations to develop and implement service projects that improve the health and well-being of underserved people—all on top of their regular academic responsibilities.

Jahangeer Khan, a student in the Health Policy & Systems Management master's degree program in Public Health, will work to improve the quality of life of both children and seniors by creating and implementing a shared-site, intergenerational program with Adult Day Health Care seniors and Head Start children at Kingsley House.



Jahangeer Khan

Jarratt Pytell, a third-year student at the LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans School of Medicine, will implement a sexual and reproductive health program focusing on access to health care, positive sexual behaviors, and disease and pregnancy prevention at the New Orleans Charter Science and Math Academy.



Jarratt Pytell

Amir Shahien, a second-year LSUHSC medical student, will collaborate with a healthy foods vendor to implement a complementary, sustainable nutrition education series taught by medical student volunteers at elementary schools in New Orleans at the Batiste Cultural Arts Academy.



Amir Shahien

## Ophthalmology Open House for Referring Physicians

Thursday, September 20 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

LSU Healthcare Network, 3700 St. Charles Avenue

Please RSVP to Nicole Dicks at [ndicks@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:ndicks@lsuhsc.edu) or 504-568-3438 by Monday, September 17th



## LSUHSC offers seasonal flu shots

The Health Sciences Center is once again offering seasonal flu shots for faculty, staff, and students on the downtown campus. A valid LSUHSC ID will be required.



While supplies last, the immunizations will be offered on October 10, 11, 12, 17 and 18. Nursing students under faculty supervision will give the shots from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the School of Nursing 5th floor room 5 B 12.

There will be no charge for students, but faculty and staff should be prepared with a check or money order for \$10.00. The check or money order should be made payable to LSUHSC. No cash please.

The CDC recommends that most people over the age of 6 months get an annual flu shot, particularly those in health care. Information about who should be vaccinated for influenza, and who should not, is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protection/whoshouldvax.htm>.

A flu vaccine is needed every year because flu viruses are constantly changing. ■