



CHANCELLOR'S Notes



November 01, 2013

LSUHSC leaders share policy symposium with Clinton

The American Neurological Association invited Dr. Steve Nelson, Dean of LSUHSC's School of Medicine, and Dr. Larry Hollier, LSUHSC Chancellor, to participate on a panel that was part of the Health Care Policy: Implications of the Affordable Care Act on Neurology & Neurologists Symposium that also included a keynote address by President Bill Clinton.



Courtesy of Pat Garvin Photographer, LLC

The panel fielded questions from neurologists from around the country about how the changing health care landscape will affect the practice of medicine as well as medical education.

Dr. John England, the Grace Benson Professor and Head of Neurology at the LSUHSC New Orleans School of Medicine, played an important role in organizing the 2013 annual conference held in New Orleans.

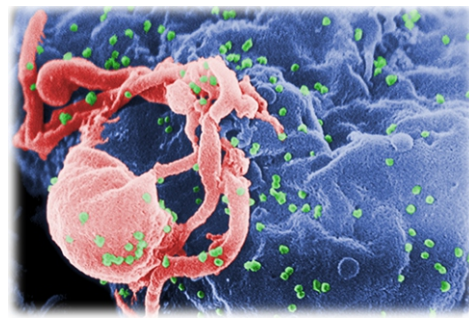


LSUHSC awarded \$3 million grant to study effect of HIV-related changes to oral bacteria

The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research awarded LSU Health Sciences Center a \$2.76 million grant over five years to study how HIV and antiretroviral therapy may change communities of bacteria in the mouth and what impact they might have on infections of the mouth in HIV disease. Dr. Paul Fidel, the Carl Baldrige Professor and Associate Dean for Research at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans' School of Dentistry, is the lead principal investigator.



Dr. Paul Fidel



The researchers think HIV and antiretroviral therapy may change bacteria in the mouth and that may influence the occurrence of thrush, oral cancer and other manifestations of HIV disease, as well as periodontal disease and cavities. These conditions can be painful, making it hard to swallow and lead to problems eating. If thrush, or candidiasis, spreads to the intestine, nutrient absorption can be affected, too.

Dr. Michael Hagensee, Professor of Medicine in the Section of Infectious Diseases at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, is a co-PI, along with scientists at Ohio State University and Georgia Regents University.

LSUHSC dental students presented mantle of patient care

Sixty-five second-year LSUHSC dental students received the symbol of clinical practice during the annual White Coat Ceremony at the School of Dentistry at



LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans. The ceremony, at the only dental school in Louisiana, publicly marked their passage from student to clinician.

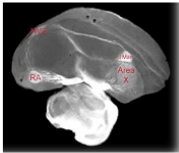
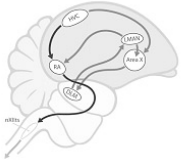
In front of a standing-room only crowd, Dean Henry Gremillion, DDS, welcomed the students, their families and friends before introducing Dr. Kristi Soileau, (DDS '85, Periodontics '88) President of our dental school's Alumni Association.

see Coat, page 2

LSUHSC bird study finds key info about human speech-language development

A study led by Xiaoching Li, PhD, at the LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans Neuroscience Center of Excellence, has shown for the first time how two tiny molecules regulate a gene implicated in speech and language impairments as well as autism disorders, and that social context of vocal behavior governs their function.

Speech and language impairments affect the lives of millions of people, but the underlying neural mechanisms are largely unknown and difficult to study in humans. Zebra finches learn to sing and use songs for social communications. Because the vocal learning process in birds has many similarities with speech and language development in humans, the zebra finch provides a useful model to study the neural mechanisms underlying speech and language in humans.



Mutations in the FOXP2 gene have been linked to speech and language deficits and in autism disorders. In this study, the research team identified two microRNAs, or miRNAs, – miR-9 and miR-140-5p – that regulate the levels of FOXP2. (MicroRNAs are a new class of small RNA molecules that play an

important regulatory role in cell biology. They prevent the production of a particular protein by binding to and destroying the messenger RNA that would have produced the protein.) The researchers showed that in the zebra finch brain, these miRNAs are expressed in a basal ganglia nucleus that is required for vocal learning, and their function is regulated during vocal learning. More intriguingly, the expression of these two miRNAs is also regulated by the social context of song behavior – in males singing undirected songs – insights highly relevant to speech and language in humans and related neural developmental disorders such as autism. ■

Coat, from page 1

Dr. Soileau spoke about what it means to wear the white coat in terms of honoring their patients' trust as well as other values by which to practice.

Following remarks by Noelle Carter, Class Vice President, Dr. John Gallo read names as the students came to the stage one by one to be "coated." They chose Drs. Toby C h e r a m i e, Kitrina Cordell, N i c h o l a s Miniotis, and Peter Oliver to do the honors.

W h i t n e y Walker, Class President presented a very spirited overview of student life at the dental school before leading the Class of 2016 in the recitation of the Professional

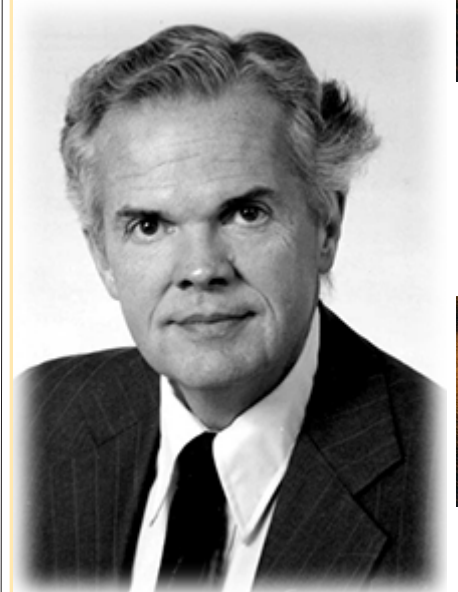
Anastatia Simien is coated by Dr. Peter Oliver.



In memoriam

Dr. Janis Letourneau, Associate Dean for Faculty & Institutional Affairs in our School of Medicine, sent the following email out this afternoon.

For those of you that may not have heard, Dr. Robert Daniels, former Dean of the School of Medicine (1986-1995), passed away this week after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease.



Bob had a long and rich career as an academician and medical school administrator. He was renowned for his patience, kindness, wisdom and good judgment; he was also known across the country for his longevity as a medical school dean (LSU was his second run at that post). While his commitment to the faculty, staff and learners at LSU was unparalleled, his commitment to his wife and his family was also exceptional.

His grandson, Zach, is a medical student with us and so his LSU legacy continues in a vital way. All of those who knew Bob will miss him very much.