



# CHANCELLOR'S Notes

December 6, 2013

DR. LARRY HOLLIER

## Ceremony promotes professionalism, ethics

First-year LSUHSC students in dentistry, dental hygiene and dental laboratory technology participated in the annual F. Harold Wirth Ceremony at the LSUHSC School of Dentistry last week. Students from each program worked together to develop their professional honor code pledging their commitment to personal responsibility, teamwork and service.



Martin Duplantier, DDS Class of 2017, with Bruce LeBlanc, DDS '77

Dr. Bruce LeBlanc, F. Harold Wirth Committee Chairman, presented the keynote address. Each student received a pin during the ceremony, and afterwards, they recited the Class of 2017's pledge.

F. Harold Wirth, DDS, taught at the dental school from 1974-1987. His philosophy of life and dentistry centered on balancing areas of work, play, love and worship. Shortly after his death in 1987, a group of former students created the F. Harold Wirth Committee to raise funds with which to continue Dr. Wirth's legacy.

## Groundbreaking LSUHSC research finds inflammation linked to obesity in adults may be protective in young children

The first study of its kind, led by Dr. Melinda Sothern, Professor and Director of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences at the LSUHSC School of Public Health, reveals that the same pro-inflammatory proteins linked to obesity and the metabolic syndrome in adults appear to protect children prior to puberty. The findings are published online in the *International Journal of Obesity* in the Accepted Article Preview. Dr. Jovanny Zabaleta, Assistant Professor-Research in the Department of Pediatrics and the Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center, was the paper's lead author.

The researchers studied a group of healthy obese and non-obese African-American and Caucasian children, 7-9 years old



Dr. Jovanny Zabaleta

who had not yet entered puberty. They looked at circulating pro and anti-inflammatory molecules, abdominal fat, BMI, insulin resistance, fatty tissue beneath the skin, fat in the liver, and total fat in order to better understand the role inflammation plays in the development of obesity and insulin resistance.

They found that relationships between pro-inflammatory and metabolic markers commonly observed in adults were reversed in



Dr. Melinda Sothern

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## Israeli delegation of medical & emergency responders experience LSUHSC simulation training environment firsthand

A delegation of Israeli medical and emergency experts were thrown into a large-scale disaster scenario yesterday in one of the most sophisticated simulation-based medical training environments in the US. As part of the New Orleans/Israel Partnership on Emergency Response and Medicine meeting, Emeritus Professor and Surgery Chair, Dr. Isidore Cohn invited them to our campus to see how we train.



Drs. Nachman Ash and Gideon Shoval look on while Dr. Zeev Rotstein intubates the "patient"

After a relatively tame introduction to the simulated operating room in the Isidore Cohn, Jr., MD Student Learning Center, the group gowned up for an exercise in response to a major disaster with patients of all ages. Just after they had begun treating the injured, a gurney with

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in healthy, African-American and Caucasian obese and non-obese children who had not yet entered puberty. Although the pro-inflammatory proteins associated with obesity may cause damage to the heart, blood vessels and insulin function in adults, in this group of young children, they appear to be helpful. This is a groundbreaking discovery and it is published in one of the most prestigious obesity journals in the world.

Further studies will determine how these inverse relationships modify chronic disease risk later in life, as these unexpected findings provide compelling evidence important for clinical practice, especially in severely obese young children with related inflammatory conditions such as asthma, fatty liver disease, and insulin resistance.

The LSUHSC research team also included Cruz Velasco-Gonzalez, PhD, John Estrada, MD, Nicole Pelligrino, MPH, Maura C. Mohler, MPH, Hamid Boulares, PhD, Kyle Happel, MD, William Cefalu, MD, Richard Scribner, MD, MPH, and Tung-Sung Tseng, PhD, from the LSUHSC schools of public health and medicine. Researchers from LSU's Pennington Biomedical Research Center, Dillard University, the Louisiana Department of Public Health, and the University of Wyoming also participated. ■

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*Professor Avraham Rivkind, Dr. Yossi Weiss, & Dr. Nachman Ash work on the "patient"*

LSUHSC's Dr. Matthew Carlisle doing chest compressions atop another severely injured human patient simulator, came screaming into the room. The delegation proclaimed their visit to LSU the best part of the conference and left expressing strong interest in exploring collaboration opportunities. ■