



DR. LARRY HOLLIER

# CHANCELLOR'S Notes

February 21, 2014

## LSUHSC faculty recognized

**M**elinda Sothern, PhD, CEP, Professor and Director of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences at LSU Health Sciences Center School of Public Health, was selected as a Distinguished Alumna of the Human Performance and Health Promotion Department for the 50th anniversary of the College of Education and Human Development at the University of New Orleans (UNO). Dr. Sothern completed her postgraduate education at UNO. She earned a Master of Education in Exercise Physiology in 1991 and a PhD in Exercise Physiology, Curriculum & Instruction in 1997.



Dr. Melinda Sothern

Murtuza J. Ali, MD, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine is one of only 16 fellows in this year's class of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) program. Dr. Ali was selected through a rigorous peer review process. LEAD recently became part of the AAMC's national leadership development programming.



Dr. Zee Ali

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## LSUHSC vascular surgery faculty developing 1st skill exam to train US surgeons

**T**he skill exam LSUHSC faculty are helping to develop to better train vascular surgeons in the United States was tested in the Klein Center for Advanced Practice during the Second Annual Fundamentals of Vascular Surgery



Dr. Malachi Sheahan assesses vascular surgery residents' performance on skill exam

Symposium. Residents from more than half of the 40 Vascular Surgery Residency programs in the nation participated in the symposium developed and hosted by Dr. Malachi Sheahan, Vascular Surgery Program Director and Associate Professor of Surgery and Radiology at LSU Health Sciences Center's School of Medicine. Dr. Malachi Sheahan and Dr. Claudie Sheahan are members of the Association of Program Directors in Vascular Surgery's task force to develop by the end of the year a skill exam as required training for US vascular surgeons. *See Surgeons, page 2*

## LSUHSC, NODA & Saints team up to Give Kids a Smile

**T**he LSUHSC School of Dentistry, the New Orleans Dental Association, and the New Orleans Saints partnered to improve children's health on Give Kids a Smile Day. About 100 children from Esperanza Charter School visited the dental school where Sir Saint, the Tooth Fairy, Toothie, and Hot Dog! helped them learn valuable lessons about staying healthy. The focus of the day was Healthy Body, Healthy Teeth, and Healthy Lifestyle.



The 2nd and 3rd-graders rotated through stations inside and out including NFL Play 60

*See Smile, page 2*

### Surgeons, from Page 1

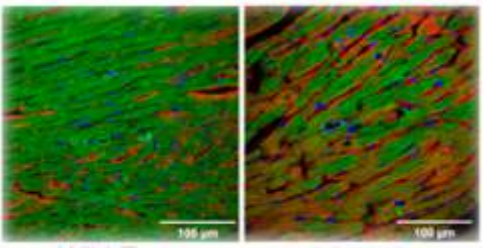
The skill exam will provide the ability to test US surgeons' technical skills during training for the first time; the ability to continue training may be contingent upon passing this exam. This is the first step toward adding a skill exam to the oral and written exams currently taken by physicians seeking to be certified in Vascular Surgery by the American Board of Surgery.

This symposium is unique in that it provides technical instruction to vascular surgeons still in training while also providing outside feedback to their respective residency programs regarding their surgical skill level. The hope is to catch and fix technical deficiencies away from the stress-filled environment of the operating room to improve patient safety and surgical outcomes.



### LSUHSC research discovers new treatment target for heart attacks

Research led by David Lefer, PhD, Professor and Director of the LSUHSC Cardiovascular Center of Excellence, demonstrates for the first time cross-talk between two protective signaling molecules during a heart attack. By providing new and important information about the mechanisms involved in heart attacks and organ transplantation, the research identifies a potential new treatment target for heart disease.



Previous studies found that hydrogen sulfide protects cells from damage caused by a number of diseases, including cardiovascular, in a similar manner to that reported for another protective gas, nitric oxide. Though hydrogen sulfide and nitric oxide are biologically similar, it was thought that they protected cells via distinctly different mechanisms. The LSUHSC research team found that, instead, they interact and “talk” to each other, and it is this



Dr. David Lefer

interaction that produces the protective effect during heart attacks. They found that hydrogen sulfide regulates the body's production of nitric oxide which, in turn, protects the heart muscle against cell death.

### Smile, from Page 1

football fitness activities, choosing healthy foods, the right way to brush and floss, and all about careers in the dental professions. There were pictures to be colored, puppet shows, and hands-on how-tos.



NODA and LSUHSC dentists, dental students and residents, along with dental hygienists and students, gave each child a dental screening and a dental cleaning.

Tooth decay is the single most common chronic childhood disease, according to the US Surgeon General. It is five times more common than asthma and seven times more common than hay fever. More than 50% of children ages 5-9 have at least one cavity or filling, and that proportion



increases to 78% among 17-year-olds.

The NFL Play 60 initiative addresses the childhood obesity epidemic by encouraging kids to become physically fit by being physically active. It's now also tackling tobacco to keep children smoke-free.