150th Commencement
May 16, 2024

Lakefront Arena
6801 Franklin Avenue
New Orleans, LA
The Commencement Ceremony

The audience is requested to stand during the Academic Procession, the singing of the National Anthem, and the Benediction, and to remain in place until the Recessional has left the Arena.

The Academic Procession

Chief Marshal ................................................................. Andrew Pellett, PhD
Department Head of Cardiopulmonary Science
Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
School of Allied Health Professions

Music ........................................................................ The Uptown Brass Ensemble

Bearer of the Mace .................................................. Janet H. Southerland, DDS, MPH, PhD
Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Interim Dean, School of Dentistry

Procession of the Platform Party ......................... Ryan F. Garrity, MLA, MA
University Registrar

Faculty Marshals .................................................. John Zamjahn, PhD, RRT
Professor of Clinical Cardiopulmonary Science
School of Allied Health Professions
Todd Tartavoule, DNS, APRN, CNS-BC
Assistant Dean for Student Services
School of Nursing

Procession of the Faculty

Student Marshal .......................................................... Jason “Jay” Mussell, PhD
Professor of Research for Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy
School of Medicine

Procession of the Students

Procession of the Candidates in Allied Health Professions
Gonfalonier ........................................................... Katie Marie Charrier
Master of Occupational Therapy Candidate

Procession of the Candidates in Nursing
Gonfalonier ........................................................... Colin Hayes Niselman
Bachelor of Science in Nursing Candidate

Procession of the Candidates in Public Health
Gonfalonier ........................................................... Pratibha Shrestha
Master of Public Health Candidate

Procession of the Candidates in Graduate Studies
Gonfalonier ........................................................... Caleb Matthew Ardizzone
Doctor of Philosophy Candidate

Procession of the Candidates in Dentistry
Gonfalonier ........................................................... Brent Charles Alexander, Jr.
Doctor of Dental Surgery Candidate

Procession of the Candidates in Medicine
Gonfalonier ........................................................... Hayden John Guidry
Doctor of Medicine Candidate
The Commencement Ceremony

Opening Proclamation.......................................................... Janet H. Southerland, DDS, MPH, PhD
Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Interim Dean, School of Dentistry

National Anthem........................................................................... Yen Thi My Vo
Associate of Science Candidate

Invocation..................................................................................... Micquel Dachelle Downs
Doctor of Philosophy Candidate

Welcome and Opening Remarks.................................................. Steve Nelson, MD
Chancellor

Introduction of Commencement Speaker........................................ Steve Nelson, MD

Commencement Address ............................................................. Ralph L. Abraham, MD
Secretary, Louisiana Department of Health

Conferring of Degrees ................................................................. Jimmie M. Woods, Sr.
Chair, LSU Board of Supervisors

Benediction.................................................................................. Tiffany Marie Morgan
Doctor of Dental Surgery Candidate

Closing Proclamation................................................................. Janet H. Southerland, DDS, MPH, PhD

The Recessional
National Anthem

O say can you see by the dawn’s early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight’s last gleaming

Whose broad stripes and bright stars
Through the perilous fight

O’er the ramparts we watched
Were so gallantly streaming

And the rocket’s red glare
The bombs bursting in air

Gave proof through the night
That our flag was still there

O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave

Francis Scott Key

Appearance of a name in the Commencement program is presumptive evidence of graduation, but is not regarded as conclusive. The official Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans transcript, sealed and signed by the Registrar, is conclusive testimony of the student’s academic record and possession of degree(s) awarded by this institution.

Professional photographers will record each graduate as the diploma is presented and color portraits will be available for purchase, if desired.
Commencement Speaker

Ralph L. Abraham, MD
Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health
As secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, Ralph L. Abraham, MD leads the state’s largest agency with a budget of $19.8 billion and a team responsible for delivering services to millions of Louisianans. LDH protects and promotes health for Louisiana residents through services provided by Medicaid and the Offices of Public Health, Behavioral Health, Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, Aging and Adult Services, Women’s Health and Community Health, and Emergency Preparedness. These programs work to ensure access to medical, preventative, and rehabilitative services for Louisiana’s most vulnerable residents. Doc is a practicing family medicine physician in Richland Parish and a former three term Congressman for Louisiana’s 5th Congressional District. Throughout his almost 30 year career in medicine, Dr. Abraham has seen firsthand the many healthcare challenges facing Louisiana. Dr. Abraham graduated from Mangham High School before earning his degree at Louisiana State University. He graduated from the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine and practiced for 10 years before eventually seeking his Medical Doctor degree, which he earned at the LSU School of Medicine in Shreveport. Dr. Abraham was a First Lieutenant in the Army National Guard. He has served on missions for the Free Burma Rangers in Burma, Syria, Iraq and Ukraine. He has also volunteered on humanitarian missions in Afghanistan, Haiti, Africa and the Amazon rainforest. Additionally, he is a fixed-wing and helicopter pilot who currently flies missions for the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the Air Force’s Civil Air Patrol Green Flag Program. He’s a certified flight instructor, a graduate of the Army Flight Surgeon School at Fort Novosel in Alabama, and actively works with Pilots for Patients – an organization that provides free air transportation to patients needing medical treatment not available to them locally. He’s flown with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Hurricane Hunters during reconnaissance missions through Hurricanes Harvey and Michael. He has also climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. Doc has been married to his wife Dianne for 46 years and they reside in Richland Parish. They have three children and ten grandchildren.
School of Allied Health Professions
Presented by Erin Dugan, PhD, Interim Dean

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

CARDIOPULMONARY SCIENCE

Brenda Kathryn Alice Bowes*
Madison Breann Broussard
Gabrielle Mckenna Colley
My Duc Do*
Kylie Alexis Duffy
Nedda Abdulla Iweinat
Vinh Hoang Ly
Hoang Huy Nguyen

Riley Thanh Mai Nguyen*
Margaret Ann Romano
Casey Nguyen Tran
Jenny Ngoc Tran
Kellie Lien Tran
Brian Hoang Vu
Alexandria Tranell Joyce Witherspoon

MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

Ashley Christina Anthony
Olivia Grace Barnes
Mason Paul Carter
Davis Mitchell Covington
Christopher Kyle Do
Daison Seth Faciane
Jatavia Shanae Fontenette
Hannah Christine Higgins
Megan Renee King
Hailey Elizabeth Lataxes
Brianna Lorena Martinez
Lauren Nicole Montgomery

Samantha Ann Morales
Inez Juanita Morton
Victoria Marie Moss
Rebecca Elaine Prysock
Caleb Michael Richard
Destiny Renee Riley
Raven Alexandra Stagg
Mallory Blair Steele
Todd John Thibodaux
Mike Duc Tran
Lily Van

* In Absentia
MASTER OF COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

Suzanne Grace Barone
Mary Elizabeth Baumer
Chloe Callerame
Hannah Marie Comeaux
Reygan Elaine Coxe
Caitlin Cherie Haik
Thomas Hebert Huval
Emily Rene LaFontaine
Valerie Anne LeBlanc

Emma Isabelle Miller
Madeline Alice Monteleone
Kathleen Rose Perrot
Alexandra Elizabeth Rosenbohm
Abby Nicole Samaha
Ava Eugenie Schexnayder
Paige Ellen Van Matre
Caroline Marie Zimmermann

MASTER OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Allison Elizabeth Alario
Peyton Elise Babin
Jessica Lee Bigness
Sabrina Marie Boyd
Claire Elizabeth Brown
Abigail Lynn Caffey
Katie Marie Charrier
Bailey Yarbrough Decoteau
Katelyn Michelle Engolia
Kristina Linch Ferrer
Katherine Elizabeth Gioe
Jessica Elizabeth Hart
Bailey Marie Hemphill
Sarah Grace Hendrickson
Gabrielle Aline Hodson
Emma Jewel Hurley
Imani Ma’at Johnson*

Meredith Rae McCullough
Aubrie Miller O’Regan
Rachel Ai Vi Pham
Julia Michelle Reggio
Sydney Claire Remont
Grace Elizabeth Richoux
Courtney Marie Roberts
Olivia Hurst Ruch
Sadie Kate Spring
Kirsten Marie Steger
Megan Therese Talamo
John To
John Brenner Toups
Drew Elizabeth Tran
Rebecca Grace Wannamaker
Emma Kathleen Williamson

* In Absentia
Degree Candidates

Master of Physician Assistant Studies

- Makayla Elizabeth Barber
- Clayton Elizabeth Black
- Kimberly Ann Bonvillian
- Mallory Renee Borel
- Blaze L. Burkenstock
- Katrina Eusté Co*
- Mandie Elizabeth Dimarco
- Savannah Clare Ennis
- Beatriz Fernandes-Coelho
- Sydney Nicole Forsythe
- Dayana Brillith Frazer
- Ciara Raina Gilbert
- Joy Renae Jackson
- Marshall Joseph Kellerman
- Olivia Valenti Kerth
- Evelyn Frances Klein
- Aliese Alexandra Lemoine
- Daniela Patricia Lopez
- Nicole Champagne Morcos
- Bailey McNallan Murry
- Jordyn Maddie Neal
- Natalie Kate Neubig
- Macey Danielle Ortiz
- Kyla Elizabeth Reed
- Lindsey Ann Rhodes
- Tejah Raymoni Scott
- Meredith Summer Shapland
- Areen Sittichot
- Marc Stylman
- Joi Alaya Turner

Master of Health Sciences

- Lindsey Katherine Bennett
- Scott Charles King
- Sophie Knickerbocker
- Mackenzie McComas

* In Absentia
Degree Candidates

Doctor of Audiology
Emily Faucheux Andrush
Jennifer Claire Arnoult
Neely Elizabeth Brown
Caroline Elizabeth Clayton
Rachel Marino Deshotel
Sam Anthony Ducote
Abigail Elizabeth Landry
Meghan Lyn Newman
Sara Elizabeth Pohlman
Kelli Nicole Whitley

Doctor of Physical Therapy
Claire Amelia Andries
Malik Terrell Bailey
Olivia Rose Bernstein
Joshua Michael Bienvenu
Justin Dakota Brogdon
Paige Margaret Dublin
Zachary Eli Dubois
Cody Blaine Fontenot
Justin Zachary Gulizo
Laurie James Gundlach
Peyton Jenae Haynes
Claire Elizabeth Herwehe
Zachary Pate Ingram
William Ryan Jones
Victoria Elizabeth Lacour
Mallory Elizabeth Lightfoot
Najah Jamal Mousa
Emily Ann Ransom
Joseph Ellsworth Reese
Halie Elizabeth Robin
Karli Nicole Sassone
Kaitlyn Marie Scheurich
Therese Marie Schiro
Adam Matthew Schmidt
Kolby Scott John Sculthorp
Pooja Mihir Shah
Trae Michael Simoneaux
Mikayla Loreen Sonneborn
Elise Margaret St Pe
Chloe Elizabeth Struble
Leah Claire Wilson
Dawson Tyler Windsor

* In Absentia
Degree Candidates

School of Nursing

Presented by
Demetrius Porche, DNS, PhD, ANEF, FACHE, FAANP, FAAN, Dean

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Alexandra Elizabeth Abide
Mariah Nkechi Amugo
Lilian Christina Andry
Neha Jayant Angal
Rachel D Applebaum
Taylor Dominique Archie
Hailey Alexis Babin
Fatimah Babu
Virginia Baker
Ian Ross Bancroft
Breonn Jonittria Banks
Sydney Begnaud
Allison Sherri Blanchard
Emily Brennman Blau
Layla Bonano
Bethany Nicole Bradshaw
Yugenia Nikcollette Briley
Adam Joseph Brown
Caitlin Richelle Brumfield
Gina Marie Bryan
Nicholas Gene Buchert
Dung Thi Kim Bui
Mackenzie Lee Buller
Mitchell Aaron Burks
Dominique Casey Ann Carr
Ahja Denise Charles
Cameron Michelle Cizik
David Adam Clause
Madeline Dianna Cloud
Mary Cloud*
Abigail Clara Cohen
Sarah Elayne Cohen
Dacia Michael Coleman
Chelsea Nicole Collins
Andrea Madelaine Convit
Caroline Autumn Cooke
Marco Antonio Cortez
Cameron Layne Curtis
Emily Elizabeth Derbes
Kara Deutch
Camille Elaine Doran
Erin Marie Dudenhefer
David Simon Duplechain
Gabrielle Elizabeth Dupuy
Abigail Ruth Edwards
Maximillian Joseph Egan
Katie Elizabeth Elam
Gretchen Clair Falgoust
Julien Scott Farges
Justin Lee James Fontenot
Erica Alexis Foster
Jessica Leigh Gholston
Madison Elizabeth Graefenstein
Randall Keith Grafe
Kelsey Alaine Griffin
Kelsi Ann Guerra
Mary Elizabeth Harden*
Lauren Elizabeth Hava
Saidy Xiao Na Andrea Hebert
Samantha Maria-May Henderson
Gabrielle Marie Herman
Jake Hermo
Macy Rayne Hornosky
Madison Elizabeth Ivy
Brittney Rena Jackson
Kentrel Smith Johnson
Anna Kathryn Jones
Madison Mary Jones
Kandice Cowles Kirby
Hope Elizabeth Koppeis
Ellie Victoria Lavie
Tommy Phong Le
Madison Hope LeBlanc
Remi Gabrielle LeBlanc
Morgan Mary Lindsey
Megan Lo
Meredith Llaine Long
Sara Ann Lonigro
Sophie Luketich

* In Absentia
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Madaline Audra Maestri</td>
<td>Kai Monêt Relf</td>
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<td>Miguel Angel Ortiz Castro</td>
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<td>Uchechi Damaris Owunna*</td>
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<td>Quynh Nhu Quach</td>
<td>Reagan Claire Woulfe</td>
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* In Absentia
**Degree Candidates**

**DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Specialty</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sean Adcock</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kyle Anthony Arocha</td>
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<td>Callan Stricker Babco</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rajan Banjara</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keesha Marie Bellamy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taylor Victoria Bensel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunter Boyd</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connie Sanders Brider</td>
<td>Executive Nurse Leader</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audrey Joan Britsch</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia</td>
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<td>Taylor Marie Burdick</td>
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<td>Laura Carlson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Rebecca Collins</td>
<td>Adult Gerontology Acute Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ken’Ja Monique Copper</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Elizabeth Corless</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Tyler Creamer</td>
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<td>Jardín Domino</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lauren Alexis Flettrich</td>
<td>Pediatric Primary Care</td>
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<td>Blake Joseph Freeman</td>
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<td>Raquel Renee Gautreaux</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lillian Mae Guttuso</td>
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<tr>
<td>Courtney Lee Herbst</td>
<td>Neonatal Nurse Practitioner</td>
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<td>Cynthia Renee’ Hodnett</td>
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<td>Angele Therese Hoppe</td>
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<td>Amanda Grace Keller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julienne Koehler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexandra Taylor Landry</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia</td>
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<td>Jake Bradley Lipps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lakeisha Mack Long</td>
<td>Post Masters Primary Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gabrielle Martin</td>
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<td>Malayne Elizabeth Mascaro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haley Matlock</td>
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<td>Natalie Paige McLaughlin</td>
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<td>Hayley Nicole Messonnier</td>
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<td>Allyson Miller</td>
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<td>Colt James Neyrey</td>
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<td>Thien-Phuong Ashley Nguyen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brittani Sanchez Pfister</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Elise Pick</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* In Absentia
Degree Candidates

Hunter Patrick Porter  
Nurse Anesthesia

Victoria Powell  
Nurse Anesthesia

Jessica Danaé Prest  
Nurse Anesthesia

Morgan Radosta  
Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Kristen Curtis Ramsey  
Post Masters Nurse Practitioner

Adrienne Marie Reeks  
Nurse Anesthesia

Lyric Elizabeth Roberts  
Nurse Anesthesia

Lili Salas  
Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Christopher Savoie  
Nurse Anesthesia

Brielle Josephine Saylor  
Nurse Anesthesia

Christian Denae Sherrod  
Nurse Anesthesia

Terika Smith  
Pediatric Acute Care

Jeffrey Ryan Soyez  
Nurse Anesthesia

Kelsi Stephens  
Nurse Anesthesia

Gabriel Michael Sullivan  
Nurse Anesthesia

Audrey Louise Tallis  
Pediatric Primary Care

Danielle Elizabeth Theriot  
Nurse Anesthesia

Alexandria Christine Toepfer  
Nurse Anesthesia

Chelsea Melerine Tramel  
Nurse Anesthesia

Oghenemaro Cecilia Ugbeme  
Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Janelle Anne Urbano  
Nurse Anesthesia

Kelly Marie Walker  
Primary Care Family Adult Gerontology Acute Care

Emily Rebecca Wells  
Nurse Anesthesia

Zachery Young  
Nurse Anesthesia

David Michael Zaffuto Jr.  
Nurse Anesthesia

* In Absentia

Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing

Colette Daigle Baudoin  
Major Professor: Gloria Giarratano, PhD, APRN, CNS, FAAN

Dissertation Title: The Lived Experience of Body Image in Women Undergoing Active Treatment of Head and Neck Cancer: A Hermeneutical Phenomenological Inquiry
School of Public Health

Presented by Edward Trapido, MSPH, ScM, ScD, FACE, Interim Dean

Bachelor of Science in Public Health

Quincy Malcolm Bailey*  Caitlin Elizabeth Toregano
Nicole Danielle Coleman  Logan Marie Walker
Kennedy Caryn Green

Master of Science

Leah Vaidya
Major Professor: Qingzhao Yu, PhD
Department: Biostatistics
Dissertation Title: Racial Disparities in COVID-19 Deaths amongst Cancer Patients and Possible Mediators for This Relationship

Master of Public Health

Zachary Michael Araki*  Haley Anne McCall*
Lauren Elizabeth Bagneris  Kyle Michael Mistretta
Adriyan Semaj Blue  Anna Ayomikun Omojola
Jacob Charles Cambre  Melissa Sablan
Nicole Theresa Catalano  Nicollette Sage
Kelly Ngoc Chau  Hebah Shaikh
Nicole Erin Cohen  Jessica Stein
Hannah Elizabeth Doran  Gabrielle Shoshana Stone
Heather Marie Duplessis  Miya Cicely Tate
Casey Lee Franklin  Lekha Thangada
Hayden John Guidry  Shanna Yen Tran
Conrad Alexander Leonik  Olivia N Wells*
Corisandra Leyton-High*  Kobe Williams
Thomas Paul Luke  Simon Zulu

Doctor of Philosophy

Indrani Sarkar
Department: Biostatistics
Major Professor: Hui-Yi Lin, PhD
Dissertation Title: Developing SNP Interaction Polygenic Risk Scores (PRS-int Scores)

* In Absentia
Degree Candidates

School of Graduate Studies
Presented by Angela M. Amedee, PhD, Interim Dean

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Caleb Matthew Ardizzone
Department: Microbiology, Immunology, & Parasitology
Major Professor: Alison Quayle, PhD
Dissertation Title: Modulation of Humoral Immunity to Chlamydia Trachomatis by Bacterial Vaginosis and its Treatment

Jonothan Andrew Rosario Colón*
Department: Microbiology, Immunology, & Parasitology
Major Professor: Hong Xin, MD, PhD
Dissertation Title: Universal Cell Surface Glycan and Peptide-Specific Monoclonal Antibodies Protect Against Disseminated Candida Auris Infections

Jake Edward Randall Doiron*
Department: Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
Major Professor: David Lefer, PhD
Dissertation Title: Hydrogen Sulfide Dysregulation in Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction

Micquel Dachelle Downs
Department: Biochemistry
Major Professor: Edward Wojcik, PhD
Dissertation Title: Cellular and Molecular Interactions That Underlie Kinesin-5 Function

Jacob Hameed Elnaggar
Department: Microbiology, Immunology, & Parasitology
Major Professor: Christopher Taylor, PhD
Dissertation Title: Investigating the Temporal Dynamics of the Vaginal Microbiome Prior to Incident Bacterial Vaginosis

Clinton Andrew Grand Pre*
Department: Cell Bio & Anatomy
Major Professor: Emma Schachner, PhD
Dissertation Title: The Hepatic Piston Mechanism in Crocodylomorpha: Functional Anatomical Reconstructions in Terrestrial and Aquatic Taxa

David Adeiza Otohinoyi
Department: Human Genetics
Major Professor: Chindo Hicks, PhD
Dissertation Title: Deciphering the Immune Landscape of Triple Negative Breast Cancer Using Multiomics Data

Steven D. Scahill*
Department: Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
Major Professor: Dennis Paul, PhD
Dissertation Title: Inflammatory-mediated Coregulation of Voltage-gated Sodium Channels and NA,K-ATPase and its Effect on Metastasis in Breast Cancer

* In Absentia
Degree Candidates

Jared James Sheehan
Department: Microbiology, Immunology, & Parasitology
Major Professor: Alistair Ramsay, PhD
Dissertation Title: Characterization of Neutralizing Antibody Responses in Covid-19 Following Vaccination and Infection

Carol Marie Upchurch
Department: Cell Biology & Anatomy
Major Professor: Carmen Canavier, PhD
Dissertation Title: Computational Modeling of CA1 Place Cells and PV+ Interneurons

Mousa Vatanmakanian*
Department: Biochemistry
Major Professor: Hari K. Koul, MSc, PhD, FACN, FASN
Dissertation Title: Epigenetic Insights into SPDEF Regulation and Functional Significance in Prostate Cancer Progression

* In Absentia
School of Dentistry
Presented by Janet Southerland, DDS, MPH, PhD, Interim Dean

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE

DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY

Gabrielle Elise Aucoin
Breanna Marie Blount
Lauren Elise Boquet
Allie Elizabeth Briscoe
Gueslee Marie Brownell
Katheryn Leslie Carroll
Abrinna Leigh Clemens
Phoebe Jean Conners
Madeline Elise Darda
Edie Anne Delaune
Mi Thi Thao Doan
Kami Renee Dufresne
RaeAnn Marie Ebbert
Kacey Marie Giordano
Brooke Lauren Hunt
Arielle Irene Huotari
Lanie Marie LaCoste
Torie Renee Laiche
Brittany Tuyet Le

Bachelor of Science

DENTAL HYGIENE

Gabrielle Elise Aucoin
Breanna Marie Blount
Lauren Elise Boquet
Allie Elizabeth Briscoe
Gueslee Marie Brownell
Katheryn Leslie Carroll
Abrinna Leigh Clemens
Phoebe Jean Conners
Madeline Elise Darda
Edie Anne Delaune
Mi Thi Thao Doan
Kami Renee Dufresne
RaeAnn Marie Ebbert
Kacey Marie Giordano
Brooke Lauren Hunt
Arielle Irene Huotari
Lanie Marie LaCoste
Torie Renee Laiche
Brittany Tuyet Le

Master of Science in Dentistry

Joseph Clay Adams*
Ahmad Reza Edalati Sharbaf*
Dijana Elmejdoubi*
Evangelia Gkoulitou*
Andrew Russell Hawks*
Tyce Alexander Hebert*
Jillian Marie Huffman*
Kirby Moore Jones*
Lamprini Ioannis Leotsakou*
Trisha Nguyen-Luu*
Katherin Lynn O’Friel*
Gabrielle Ingram Roberts*
John Christopher Schmidt, Jr.*
Erin Nicole Schwoepl*
Brook Teresa Thibodeaux*
Michael Austin White*
Iryna Korniienko Yelisetty*

Pediatric Dentistry
Prosthodontics
Endodontics
Prosthodontics
Orthodontics
Endodontics
Orthodontics
Pediatric Dentistry
Prosthodontics
Periodontics
Orthodontics
Pediatric Dentistry
Periodontics
Endodontics
Endodontics

* In Absentia
Degree Candidates

Doctor of Dental Surgery

Brent Charles Alexander, Jr.
Jacob Paul Alexander
Brianna Marie Anderson
Matthew Joseph Birdsall
Hannah Gabrielle Bourque
Alexa Elizabeth Breaux
Sophia Olivia Cacioppo
Lucia del Carmen Calderon Tenorio
Masyn Inell Cameron
Elizabeth Ashley Cerniglia
Shanzay Shahid Chaudhry
Austin Tyler Chautin
Bradley Michael Clawson
Jacob Gus Cochran
Kaede Jacob Collette
Caitlyn BreAnne Corley
Cameron Paul Daniel
Sarah Elizabeth Davis
Matthew Stephen Decell*
Georgii Nikolaevich Deryabin
Aashka Umesh Desai
Chad Edward Diminick
Ian Charles Elliott
Austin Francis Falcon
Brendan Wade Frazier
Kyle Philip Gaudet
Jamie Lynn Granier
Matthew Louis Guillot
Tamim Tanjim Haq
Emily June Hardie
Thomas Dale Jahde
Margydale Jimenez Paz
Joshua David Johnson
Logan Noah Johnson
Dana Karkoutli
Christopher Landen Kirby
Logan Reid Kleman
David Logan Labbe
Grayson David Lambert
Blaire Laiche Land

Logan Ray Louque
Vibhuti Luther
Nam Thanh Ly
Alejandro Javier Madruga*
Lauren Elise Maisano
Chase Anthony Mascaro
Hannah Fay Meadors
Mason Daniel Melancon
Brennan Michael Mercola
Timothy Andrew Mixson
Tiffany Marie Morgan
Catherine Wethey Neusetzer
Mary Han Nguyen
Victoria Elizabeth Nielsen
James Skylar O’Brien
Vincent Tien Pham
Mary Elizabeth Phillips
Claudio Luismiguel Pinero
Siddesh Palani Ponnapakkam
Jyoti Nilesh Prajapati
Lucy Elizabeth Raborn
Katherine Elaine Reece
Rachel Katherine Rispone
Jorge Alejandro Rodriguez
John Harrison Shea
Catherine Louise Shirley
Anthony Vincent Sperduto
Christian Blake St. Romain
Charles Emmanuel Stamitoles, Jr.
Matthew Charles Stumpff
Reeves Bienvenu Texada
Helen Bao-Quyen Tran
Tiffany Thaome Tran
Taylor Bryant Trawick
Katherine Hotard Walk
Sarah Kathryn Weiss
Ali Zaini
Daniela Raquel Zavala
Brittany Rochelle Zenz

* In Absentia
School of Medicine
Presented by Richard DiCarlo, MD, Interim Dean

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

Bethany Suzanne Acosta
Giacomo Adonecchi
Norris Isang Akpan
Jeffery Carl Anderson
Jessica Angela Anderson
Taylor Prudhomme Anthony
Alise Jeanne Aucoin
Caroline Paige Babin
Christopher Eli Bacilla
James William Baker Jr.
Kelly Tram Banh
Brooke Elizabeth Barbay
Gregory Alex Benes
Jonathan Taylor Bergeron
Sara Elizabeth Birdsell
Chandler Elizabeth Black
James Collins Blake
Jessica Florence Blanchard
William Russell Boles
Benjamin Pryor Bonner
Erin Nicole Boudoin
Julia Ann Boullt
Jordan Michael Bourg
Elizabeth Maria Bozner
Natalie Marie Bush
Hallie Elaine Byrd
Jacob Charles Cambre
Alex Duc Cao
Theresa Lan Thao Cao
Mitchel Joseph Capella
Nicole Theresa Catalano
Kelly Ngoc Chau
Bradley J. Chauvin
Dennes Chen
Jack Haojing Cheng
Frederick Culpepper Clark
Ashley Blair Clement

Kevin Michael Conrad
Benjamin Caldwell Creel
Jose’ Andre’ Cruz Ayala
Brandon Sieu Dang
Hannah Christine DellaCroce
Alexandra Denys
Tierra Tenay DeRusha
Hannah Elizabeth Doran
Huyen My Duong
Heather Marie Duplessis
Sanjana Easwar
Daniel Richard Edmund Jr.
Ethan James Eilers
Madeline Elizabeth Erwin
Nabil Mansur Essajee
Muhammad Ali Farooq
Anne Francis Faulk
Ahmed Fazal-ur-rehman
Ashley Ann Foret
Margaret Frances Forshag
Sarah Corley Forsythe*
Toliver Stevenson Freeman
Elizabeth Fenner French
Nicholas Dean Fried
Jackson Max Fritz
Shannon Joan Glennon
Logan Caroline Gold
Hayden John Guidry
Lauren Grace Guillot
Hardy Hang
McKenzie Claire Hargis
Amelia Grace Haydel
Emily Jane Hebert
Abigail Elizabeth Hess
Leigh Christine Hickham
Iris Elizabeth Hunt
Chad Pierre Issa

* In Absentia
Yasmeen Kawji
Tabitha Ann Kearns
Caitlyn Ann Kelly
Shahrukh Tariq Khan
Stacey Marie Knowles
Eleanor Marie Koonce
Kashyap Koul
Luke C. Labat*
John Michael Lacey
Cameron Lafleur
Taylor Suzanne Lambert
Kyle Brian LaPenna
Caroline Elizabeth Lawless
Theresa Thao Le
Cayley Elizabeth LeBlanc
Hannah Murphy LeBlanc
Danielle Nicole Ledet
Conrad Alexander Leonik
Mirandy Schiphen Li
Karen Liao
Molly Eve Litten
Andrew Cole Longanecker
Thomas Paul Luke
Eva Marie Mace
Connor Michael Maginnis
Mark Anthony Maier II
Hannah Rose Malinosky
Taylor Jade Marks
Ardenne Sarah Martin
Kyla Lorraine Maupin
Meghan Louise McCord
Morgan Taylor McCoy
Jacob Kenneth Meariman
Shelby Heath Meckstroth
Chance Michael Melancon
Drew Patrick Melancon
William Mitchell Melito
Andrew Wayne Mercante
Claire Rebecca Mersereau
Harrison Hill Millar
Ellen Ingram Mire
Kyle Michael Mistretta
Kaylee Alexis Moore*
Branden Michael Munster
Carlee Elizabeth Myers
Mallory Elizabeth Myers
Ashleigh Carolyn Nave
Tram Bao Ngo
David Do Nguyen
Aniko Alicia Nowakowski
Hanna Lindsey Ott
Christopher Douglas Oubre*
Kade Passman*
Nathan Zachary Pearl
Mary Wayne Peltier
Carrie Nhuy Pham
Phaethon Philbrook
Aliyah Brishonn Pierre
Julia Maeve Power
Eric William Prestenburg
Austin Paul Primeaux
Virginia Mcguinness Quinlan
Dylan Gerald Racha
Tanner Drew Reed
Noah Blackstone Reeves Jr.
Ian J. Richardson
Mallory Paige Robichaux
Kaleb Jude Robin
Melody Salmanian
Jeremy William Scheffler
Hebah Shaikh
Kierany Breyana Shelvin
Hannah Lauren Sibley
Nicole Marie Sigda
Linsey Ann St. Pierre
Whitney Claire Sternfels
Gabrielle Shoshana Stone
Mary Laura Teeler
Lana Faisal Thaljeh
Lekha Thangada

* In Absentia
Degree Candidates

Natalie Choplin Touchet
Kim Le Tran
Elizabeth Carolyn Upp
Leland Matthews Van Deventer *
Mallory Knight Varnado
James Timothy Vegrzyn
Megan Marie Waguespack
Logan Taylor Wareham
Victoria Rene Way
Kathryn Emily Weidner

Allison Kathryn Willard
Kristen Lynn Williams
Kristen Ashley Wolaver
Evan Thomas Wolff
Kaylee Theresa Woodard
Kayla Joi Woods
Cassidy Margaret Wookie
David Michael Yancey
Alexander Christian Yount

* In Absentia
The celebration of commencement is a rich tapestry of tradition. Each tradition adds to the pageantry and the majesty of one of the Health Sciences Center’s most solemn, yet joyous occasions. The conferring of degrees is formal recognition that our graduates have attained mastery of the healing arts and sciences and are fully prepared to accept the sacred trust, which will soon be bestowed upon them by their patients and clients. This is a very special day for the entire LSU Health Sciences Center family, and so that the meaning of this ceremony will be deepened and the celebration more fitting the magnitude of accomplishment of our faculty and students, the Health Sciences Center has woven a number of time-honored traditions into our commencement tapestry.

Academic Regalia

The origins of academic regalia date back to the 12th and 13th centuries. The long robe and hood were borrowed from clerical dress with a nod toward practicality for the warmth the costume provided in unheated and drafty halls. While proper academic dress was defined for the first time during the reign of Henry VIII at Oxford and Cambridge, it was not until the 19th century and, then only in the United States, that it was standardized. Colors were assigned to signify the various areas of scholarly pursuit. Green, the color of medieval herbs, was chosen for medicine, and golden yellow, representing the wealth produced by scientific research, was selected for the sciences. In 1932, the American Council on Education approved an academic costume code which, with few changes, is still used today. The principle features of academic dress are three: the gown, the cap and the hood.

The Gown. The flowing black gown comes from the twelfth century. It has become symbolic of the democracy of scholarship, for it completely covers dress of rank or social standing beneath. Gowns with pointed sleeves designate the Associate and Bachelor’s degree; long, closed sleeves are used for the Master’s degree, with a slit for the arm; and round, open sleeves indicate the Doctor’s degree. The gown worn for Associate, Bachelor’s or Master’s degree has no trimmings. The gown for the Doctor’s degree is faced down the front with velvet and has three bars of velvet across the sleeves, in the color distinctive of the faculty or discipline to which the degree pertains. For certain institutions, the official colors of the college or university may appear on the gown or its decorations.

The Cap. The freed slave in Ancient Rome won the privilege of wearing a cap, and so the academic cap is a sign of the freedom of scholarship and the responsibility and dignity with which scholarship endows the wearer. Old poetry records the cap of scholarship as a square to symbolize the book, although some authorities claim the mortar board is a symbol of the masons, a privileged guild. The color of the tassel on the cap denotes the discipline, although a gold tassel may be worn with any Doctor’s gown.

The Hood. Heraldically, the hood is an inverted shield with one or more chevrons of a secondary color on the ground of the primary color of the college or university. The color of the face of the hood denotes the discipline represented by the degree; the color of the lining of the hood designates the university or college from which the degree was granted.

The academic colors used in LSU Health Sciences Center’s commencement ceremony are green for medicine, lilac for dentistry, apricot for nursing, gold for allied health professions, dark blue for graduate studies, and salmon for public health.
The academic mace comes from a heritage imbued with tradition and symbolism. Long held as a symbol of strength and authority, there are a number of theories about its origin. Although some say the word mace is derived from the French word masse, meaning club, one of the earliest references to a mace was an ebony-black effigy discovered in King Tut’s tomb of “a King, gold-sandalled, bearing staff and mace.” During medieval times, the mace of arms was cast as a weapon— a heavy staff or club often made of iron with a spiked end used by knights to penetrate and break armor. Bodyguards carried maces to protect clergy and royalty in processions.

By the 14th century, the use of maces was becoming more ceremonial, sometimes carried in processions of civil ceremonies with mayors and other dignitaries. The mace began to lose its warlike appearance, instead being adorned with jewels and precious metals. Maces were not used as weapons after the 16th century. The first dated record of the mace’s transition to academia was in 1385, when a mace was carried at the University of Vienna.

Today, the British Parliament, the Congress of the United States, and many other governmental bodies use ceremonial maces. In the academic setting, the mace is traditionally carried before the university leadership in processions and is present at the conferring of degrees as an ensign of authority, dignity, succession, and the rich symbolism unique to each institution.

The current mace of the LSU Health Sciences Center at New Orleans was designed to define the University and to reflect its mission and heritage. Mirroring the caduceus found on the University Seal, the overall form of the mace honors the Health Sciences Center’s roots in medical education. The shaft is made of walnut adorned with gold and is topped with a stylized lantern, symbolizing the search for knowledge. The lantern is ornamented with enameled medallions bearing the University Seal and is itself topped with a gold flame, a symbol of learning, wisdom, and enlightenment since antiquity.
The Chain of Office

A symbol of authority whose origins may lie in chains bearing portraits of monarchs given to scholars as signs of honor and favor, or in the badge of office said to date back to the age of chivalry when officials were more readily identifiable by their badges of rank, the chain of office is steeped in ceremonial significance.

The Chain of Office of LSU Health Sciences Center at New Orleans, fashioned in bronze, represents the authority and great responsibility of the Chancellor as head of the university. A medallion encircling the seal of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center engraved with the year of its founding is suspended by a chain incorporating symbols of the Center’s fourfold mission. Education is represented by the books upon which the names of the six schools of the center are engraved. Patient care is represented by the stethoscopes, used in clinical disciplines spanning our schools. Research is represented by the microscopes. Outreach is depicted by the hands reaching out to each other. The oak leaf clusters symbolize strength and longevity.

The continuity of leadership is expressed by the plaques engraved with each Chancellor’s name and years in office, as well as each Chancellor passing the medallion and chain on to the next.
Academic Traditions

The University Gonfalons

A gonfalon is a flag that hangs from a crosspiece or frame. The first gonfalons were displayed in medieval Italy as an ensign of state or office as well as in ecclesiastical processions. From the Germanic compound gund-fanon (battle flag), gonfalons were also used as flags of battle. They are frequently seen at the heads of religious or military processions, always accompanied by “valets” or “honor guards”. Many universities around the world have adopted them to lead academic processions as they comprise a unique and colorful ceremonial display. The gonfalons are made in the appropriate academic color for each school, and contain a visual element representing the academic discipline of the school, as well as the university seal.

Da Vinci’s Vitruvian Man is the symbol on allied health’s golden gonfalon. Vitruvius, a Roman engineer of the first century B.C., influenced da Vinci’s drawings of the human body. The drawing is based upon a model of ideal proportions which Vitruvius established and is the symbol most frequently representative of the specialties of the allied health professions.

The nursing gonfalon is apricot and its symbol is the burning lamp of Florence Nightingale. Florence Nightingale was called “the lady with the lamp” because she used a lamp in her selfless duty in the Crimean War, although hers was a collapsible paper cylinder which protected the flame and diffused more light. The lamp has come to symbolize nursing to honor Florence Nightingale’s enormous dedication and contributions to the nursing profession, as well as to represent the lamp of knowledge.

The dentistry gonfalon is lilac with the official emblem for dentistry adopted in 1965. The design uses as its central figure a serpent entwined about an ancient Arabian cautery. The Greek letter (delta), for dentistry, and (omicron) for odont (tooth) form the periphery of the design. In the background of the design are 32 leaves and 20 berries, representing the permanent and temporary teeth.

The graduate studies gonfalon is dark blue and its symbol is DNA, the building blocks of life. These building blocks are essential in the research done in the doctoral programs of Cell Biology and Anatomy, Biochemistry, Human Genetics, Microbiology, Neuroscience, Pharmacology, and Physiology.

The medicine gonfalon is green, and its symbol is the caduceus, the staff with winding serpents topped by a pair of wings from Greek mythology that has come to represent the medical profession in the United States. In Greek and Roman mythology, the caduceus, like the staff of Aesculapius, was associated with healing and immortality. Both were used as printer’s marks from the 16th century on, especially as frontispieces to pharmacopoeias in the 17th and 18th centuries. One theory postulates that as printers saw themselves as messengers of the printed word and thus disseminators of knowledge, they chose the symbol of the messenger of the ancient gods, Hermes. The United States Army adopted the caduceus as the official emblem of its medical department in 1902, cementing its use as such in this country.

Hygieia, the Greek goddess of health, adorns the public health gonfalon. The granddaughter of Apollo and the most important of Asclepius’ five daughters, Hygieia personifies physical and psychic health. She was said to relieve illness in humans as well as animals through diet and medication. Often depicted feeding a snake wrapped around her body, Hygieia was sometimes called “The Health.” Derived from the Greek word, hygieinos, meaning healthful, Hygieia survives today in the word hygiene—a basic preventive discipline in public health.