

LOUISIANA FAMILY DOCTOR

Spring 2005

An Official Publication of the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians

Volume 18, Number 1

**58th Annual Assembly
July 21-24, 2005**

The Fairmont New Orleans
New Orleans, LA

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See page 10 for the preliminary meeting agenda.

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Louisiana's Family Doctor is the official quarterly publication of the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians (LAFP). It serves as the primary communication vehicle to LAFP members.

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To subscribe call 225-923-3313. Editorial deadlines:

Summer Issue (June 30th): Deadline is June 9, 2005

Fall Issue (September 30th): Deadline is August 9, 2005

Winter Issue (December 30th): Deadline is November 9, 2005

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From the **President**

“Making a Difference Matters”

Having recently returned from a successful Winter Conference in Steamboat Springs, Colorado put on by our Academy, I would like to encourage all members to inquire about and possibly attend next year. There is something for everyone to do!

As we approach March and the State Legislative Session, I strongly believe one of the main goals of our chapter should be to become more actively involved on the state level. Thus, taking the lead from and modeling ourselves after what the national chapter has done.

I look forward to visiting with legislators during the upcoming session. However, we cannot do this without our members input.

An example comes to mind of a physician in north Louisiana who inquired as to why the states Medicaid reimbursements for primary care providers were so minimal. Specifically, it was inquired as to who had negotiated the contracts and why we as an Academy were not involved in that process.

Hearing this concern from our academy member, our staff looked into it and it was determined that there was really not a contract negotiation. Prices were based on actuarial rates that come from a national level and luckily our national academy is ready to address these issues by advocating for increases in medicare reimbursement, a chronic care management fee, and possibly pay for exceptional performance reimbursement.



Derek J. Anderson, MD

Significant issues do come up on a state legislative level however, that we, as the largest single specialty physician group in the state, should be aware of. Taking care of these issues will then allow us to focus more on what we really do, taking care of our patients, and that is what really matters. I am concerned about these issues and that we have an active voice. I look forward to providing this voice on your behalf to the state legislatures in the upcoming future.

As always, this is proving to be an exciting and busy year. Keep up the good work.

Derek J. Anderson, MD

From the **Secretary**

Hello to all our members of the LAFP:

I am happy to inform the membership that all is well in the LAFP. Recent developments that have taken place since our last newsletter include appointments to the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners. We now have three LAFP members on the seven member board of the LSBOME. Dr. Kim LeBlanc was reappointed and serves as the President, Dr. Mel Bourgeois is in the middle of his term and I was appointed as a member representing rural Louisiana. It is important that our members contribute to the legislative process in Louisiana. If we do not do it, other medical specialists will and often they do not understand Family Medicine. We owe a great deal of gratitude to Dr. Trent James who served on the LSBOME for many years. His contributions will be missed.

Sincerely,
Mark Dawson, MD



Mark Dawson, MD

Membership Report

New Student Members

(November 1, 2004 – February 28, 2005)

LSU-New Orleans

Ms. Natasha Afonso
 Mr. Mohammed Ali
 Mr. Raymond Areaux
 Ms. Ann Azevy
 Ms. Elizabeth Baldwin
 Mr. Beau Black
 Mr. Nathan R. Bolden
 Ms. Allena Buchholz
 Ms. Caroline Champagne
 Ms. Amy Collinsworth
 Ms. Casey Daste
 Ms. Hina Dave
 Ms. Robyn Deranger
 Ms. Debbie Dixon
 Mr. Chad M. Dugas
 Ms. Laura Verkest Dwyer
 Mr. Parrish Eilers
 Ms. Lauren Epling
 Mr. Jared Fabre
 Mr. Corey Falcon
 Mr. Richard Andrew Flansbaum
 Ms. Rachel Foley
 Ms. Katy Glasscock
 Ms. Lacey M. Godeaux
 Ms. Leah Gonski

Mr. Richard Hines, Jr.
 Mr. Richard Imsais
 Mr. Jeremy James
 Mr. Logan Kosarek
 Ms. Beeramani Kumar
 Ms. Megan LaRose
 Mr. Andrew Larson
 Ms. Sarah K. Latiolais
 Ms. Kim Lavigre
 Ms. Kristen LeBleu
 Ms. Candice M. LeDuff
 Mr. Jed Leaf
 Mr. Brett J. Lewis
 Ms. Bridget Loehn
 Ms. Dana Mays
 Mr. Robert C. McMyer, Jr
 Ms. Angela Meredith
 Ms. Melanie Montgomery
 Mr. Charles J. Nunez
 Ms. Toria B. Obey
 Ms. Sadiat Olatunbosun
 Mr. Daniel Patten
 Mr. Thomas Pham
 Mr. Nathan Quir
 Ms. Caroline Raasch
 Mr. Shawn Ragbir

Mr. Greg Riggs
 Ms. Michele M. Salassi
 Ms. April Austin Sandifer
 Ms. Jennifer Schreiner
 Mr. Jason R. Schwartz
 Mr. Robert Brasfield Smith
 Mr. Nicholas Sorrel
 Mr. Michael Stumpf
 Ms. Karen Toribio
 Mr. Parker Velargo
 Ms. Jayaprabha Vijaykumar
 Mr. Jeff White
 Ms. Meghan Wilson
 Ms. Christie Yee

Tulane Medical School

Mr. Jeffrey Barrett
 Ms. Wendy Chang
 Ms. Angela Crimboli
 Ms. Lin Dang
 Mr. Christopher Federico
 Ms. Elisabeth Ferliz
 Ms. Alessandrina Freitas
 Mr. Thomas Gage
 Ms. Amanda Goertz
 Mr. John Gonsoulin

Mr. Daniel R. Herleth
 Mr. Wayne Homan
 Ms. Kristina Johansen
 Mr. Jonathan Joliat
 Ms. Kathryn Gallagher Kerisit
 Mr. Daniel Kravitz
 Mr. Calvin Alexander Lee
 Ms. Rachel Litrell
 Mr. Richard H. Marshall
 Ms. Mary McDonald
 Mr. Ronald McLendon, Jr.
 Mr. Brian J. Mikulla
 Mr. Peter V. Moulder, IV
 Mr. Torrence Nicholson
 Mr. Zakir Rangwala
 Ms. Torang Mansour Sepah
 Mr. Scott Simpson
 Ms. Catherine Stack
 Ms. Britt Themann
 Ms. Raleigh Todman
 Ms. Beryle Van Anda
 Ms. Amanda C. Winters
 Ms. Lisa M. Wu

Relocations to Louisiana	Transfers from Louisiana	New Members	Membership Recap
John Gordon Goddard, MD, US to Baton Rouge Michael Dale Hodgeson, MD, WV to Baton Rouge	Srinivasa Reddy Aaluri, MD, El Paso, TX Shamim Akhtar Ali, MD, Katy, TX Paul V. Bondy, MD, Nashville, NC Jonathan W. Butler, MD, Burns, TN Ouida Marcia Collins, MD, Franklin, TN Michael Damon Dupre, Pell City, AL Bo Tan Huynh, MD, Westminster, CA Richard Michael Jeansonne, Jr., MD, Natchez, MS Kevin Stasney, MD, Knoxville, TN	Dona Dunkin Alba, DO Kenner LA James H. Barnebee, MD Tampa, FL Jimmy Ray Coughran, MD Winnsboro, LA	<i>As of 2/28/05</i> Type Active719 Sustaining2 Inactive8 Life66 Resident153 Student401 Total Members1,349 Prospective Residents12 Pending Approval4 Eligible Nonmembers (108) Former Active Members269 Other Practicing FPs Not eligible for membership21 Total Nonmember FP/GPs108

Legislative Report

by Jo Rose, LAFP Legislative Consultant

The Louisiana Interagency Taskforce on the Future of Family Medicine has had two meetings since my report to you in the last issue of *Louisiana Family Doctor*. To read the minutes of the meetings, log onto www.dhh.state.la.us/pcrh.

During the November 30th meeting a long list of action items were generated. A survey was forwarded to each member to vote on four issues that he or she considered being of the “highest priority”. Those issues receiving the most votes were:

- Create preferential admissions practices for students who are more likely to practice in underserved areas.
- Explore and develop financial incentives for students to train in rural areas and for physicians to enter practice and remain in rural areas.
- Establish a permanent Commission on Family Medicine.
- Increase exposure to rural Family Medicine during medical school at each level (e.g., during each year).

Dr. Michael Fleming, past president of the AAFP and current chair of the AAFP Board spoke to the group during the January 26th meeting. He presented the AAFP Chartered Study to:

- Review prior physician workforce studies
- Characterize the current family medicine workforce
- Assess the supply, demand, and need for family physicians, 5-15 year time frame
- Propose some conclusions and possible recommendations for future policy

The primary question was: *How many family physicians are required to meet the needs and the demands of the US public?*

A key conclusion of the study: *There are good reasons and promising opportunities to prompt family medicine to reconsider its workforce policies that in the past emphasized:*

- increased production to replenish general practice and
- create a crucial supply of primary care physicians.

Other pertinent conclusions were:

- The population of the US is growing, becoming more diverse, and will include a larger cohort of older people, not only as the baby-boomers age, but continuing with a new cohort of in-migrants. A large need for medical care by an older population probably will continue for at least half a century.
- Targeting a specific number of people for whom family physicians can provide their full basket of services, on average, is a readily understandable way to estimate the need for family physicians. A reasonable ratio that can be tested is 1,200 patients per 1 family physician.
- The current stock and expected supply of family physicians is reasonable, given the current context that includes 1 primary care physician whose main professional activity is patient care for every 1,321 persons in the United States. There are also a large number of physician assistants and nurse practitioners with whom family physicians can work effectively to the benefit of people.
- Sustaining 3200 family medicine residency positions is sufficient to maintain the current family physician workforce.
- The basic workforce requirement of family medicine has shifted from production of more family physicians to their effective deployment. The key task of family physicians now is to implement new models of practice and effectively provide a basket of important, necessary services in collaboration with each of their patients and other members of the health care team.

Dr. Fleming also presented several “Selected Commentary” from the National Advisory Committee:

- The current trends of who gets into medical school do not auger well for an increasingly diverse society and rural populations.
- Unless or until the existing supply of physicians is used well, do not increase the physician workforce.
- More physicians may be worse than wasted.
- There is such a thing as too many physicians.
- PAs and NPs are well positioned to help family physicians actually be integrators of care as proposed in FFM.
- They are, however, increasingly working with specialist physicians and so may not continue to fill as big a role in primary care.
- Since the work of family physicians depends

on what goes into and remains outside of their basket of services, they must be drivers of policies that:

- support their basket of services and
- manage how the basket changes.

You can read the entire report by logging onto the AAFP website.

The Task Force Committee recommended that a permanent commission be created. This would assist in coordination of information and services. Pat Faxon, with DHH, stated that the **Health Works Commission** has already been created by a legislative act. The Louisiana Health Works Commission is part of the Louisiana Workforce Commission and serves as a collaborative working group to integrate and coordinate resources relative to health care workforce development within various state departments and key organizations.

The Act requires that the commission address the workforce issues in the health care industry in Louisiana, support the education of future health care workers, and work to improve the image of health care professions in Louisiana. It also requires reports periodically to the Senate and House committees on health and welfare and the Senate and House committees on labor and industrial relations on all accomplishments and recommendations of the commission, including an annual report.

In addition, it requires that the commission study and make recommendations on at least the following workforce issues:

- (1) Programs to recruit and retain health care professionals in the Louisiana workforce.
- (2) Models for predicting the supply and demand for health care workers in the state through 2005 and beyond.
- (3) Incentives for health care workers to practice in Louisiana’s medically underserved areas. Requires that the commission study and make recommendations on at least the following education issues:
 - (1) Increasing the capacity of existing education programs to maintain or increase the supply of health care professionals in Louisiana.
 - (2) Incentive programs for faculty retention.
 - (3) Strategies to increase access of individuals to appropriate entry level educational programs.

(4) Recruitment and retention models for students in the health care field.

And, it requires that the commission study and make recommendations on at least the following image issues:

- (1) Promotional activities for health careers throughout the Louisiana K-12 school systems.
- (2) Creative marketing strategies to improve the image of health care careers.

Prior to the next Task Force meeting, the Health Works Commission Chairman and staff will be meeting with members of the Task Force Commission to explain the advantages of membership in the Health Works Commission.

The next meeting of the Task Force will be on March 16th at the Alexandria Residency Program.

The Governor's Health Care Reform Panel is continuing to meet and make recommendations. You can read all their reports by logging onto www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/page and click on "Reform in Progress Report."

Next Legislative Session

Please remember to make an appointment with your local representative and senator and offer to serve as a resource to clarify any medical questions which may surface during the upcoming legislative session which will begin on April 25th, 2005. Please also let your legislators know that I will be assisting the Academy and will also be available to provide any information or support they may need.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me at jorose9@cox.net or 225-767-5391 (office); 225-335-0072 (cell); or 225-767-5432 (fax). I appreciate your support, assistance and recommendations.

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LAFP Family Physician of the Year Nominations

Who Can Submit Nominations?

Anyone can nominate a physician for the honor of Family Physician of the Year. Please confirm the physician's willingness to be honored and to serve.

Criteria

The nominee must:

- Be an "Active" member, in good standing, of the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians;
- Be active in his/her field and conform to the pledges made to the Academy;
- Be an active participant in his/her parish medical society and support all progress in the medical profession;
- Have made some outstanding contribution in his/her community in the social, religious or medical fields;
- Have high morals;
- Have worthy ideals and practice them;
- Be a leader in civic development;

- Favor good schools in the community and have an interest in his/her community affairs.

Documentation and Support

Complete a nomination form. (Note: You must complete the "Reason for Nomination" section of this form explaining why you feel your nominee is special to our state and to the specialty of family medicine.)

Please include:

- One letter from a colleague and two letters from patients should be attached to the nomination form. (Additional letters of endorsement and support materials are recommended.)
- Current CV of the nominee and an outline of the physician's activities and involvement in the community and the medical field. (Other outstanding contributions to civic or professional organizations should be included.)

Award Presentation

The LAFP Family Physician of the Year Award

will be presented at the Installation & Awards Luncheon, during our Annual Assembly.

Deadline

Nominations and supporting documents are due in the Academy office no later than April 18, 2005.

Special Note

The Louisiana Academy Family Physician of the Year will automatically become the LAFP's nominee for the AAFP Family Physician of the Year award in the following year.

Mail Your Entry To

Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians
919 Tara Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Need Additional Information

Contact Linda Foster at 225-923-3313, 800-375-5237, by fax 225-923-2909 or email academy@lafp.org

LAFP Family Physician of the Year Nomination Form

Nominee Information

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Office Address: _____

Phone - Home: _____ Office: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Medical School (if known): _____

Residency Program (if known): _____

Type of Practice (if known):

____ Solo ____ FP Group ____ Multi-specialty Group ____ HMO ____ Other _____

Total Years in Practice (if known): _____

Reasons for nomination: _____

Submitted By:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone - Home: _____ Office: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Please return by April 15, 2005, with all required documentation to:
LAFP, 919 Tara Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806 • Fax 225-923-2909

58th Annual Assembly & Exhibition

The Fairmont New Orleans • July 21-24, 2005 • New Orleans, LA
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Preliminary Agenda At-a-Glance

Thursday, July 21

6:00 am – 12:30 pm Registration Desk Open
6:00 – 6:30 am Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors
6:30 – 6:45 am Welcome & Introductions
6:45 – 11:45 am CME Sessions
7:30 – 8:30 am Guest Program - Social Meet & Greet
8:50 – 9:30 am Break with Exhibitors
11:45 am – 12:30 pm Break with Exhibitors (light refreshments)
5:00 – 8:00 pm Pool Party (Exhibitors are invited to attend.)

Friday, July 22

6:00 am – 12:30 pm Registration Desk Open
6:00 – 6:30 am Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors
6:30 – 6:45 am Faculty Introductions & Announcements
6:45 – 11:45 pm CME Sessions
8:50 – 9:30 am Break with Exhibitors
10:00 am – 4:00pm Guest Program - Antique Shopping or Zoo Trip
11:45 am – 12:30 pm Break with Exhibitors (light refreshments)
12:45 – 3:00 pm General Assembly & Committee Meeting
3:30 – 6:30 pm Foundation Tennis Tournament
7:00 – 10:00 pm President's Jazz Party (Dinner & Live Band)

Saturday, July 23

6:00 am – 12:30 pm Registration Desk Open
6:00 – 6:30 am Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors
6:45 – 11:45 pm CME Sessions
7:30 – 8:30 am Guest Program - Cooking Demo
8:50 – 9:30 am Break with Exhibitors
10:00 am – 4 pm Guest Program - Spa Package or Aquarium Trip
11:45 am – 12:30 pm Break with Exhibitors (light refreshments)
12:30 – 4:00 pm Exhibitor Move Out
12:30 – 2:00 pm Installation Luncheon
(Exhibiting Partners are invited to attend)

Sunday, July 24

6:00 am – 11:00 am Registration Desk Open
6:00 – 6:15 am Continental Breakfast
6:00 – 6:30 am Past Presidents Breakfast
6:20 – 10:30 am CME Sessions
7:30 – 8:30 am Guest Program - Social (Coffee & Snacks)
8:20 – 8:30 am Coffee Break
10:30 – 10:45 am Farewell & Closing Remarks

(Scheduled events are subject to change)

Brochure will be mailed soon... so watch your mail!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WINTER CONFERENCE

CME Sesions



(above) Dr. Janet Casey demonstrates during the Otitis Media workshop.



(left) Derek Anderson, MD, LAFP President, serving as moderator.



(above) Dr. Michelle May delivers a dynamic presentation on managing obesity.



(left) Sonora Thigpen, LAFP Executive Director, assists meeting attendees at the registration desk.

Mardi Gras



(above) Harold "Skip" Ishler, MD, LAFP Past President, and wife, Suzanne, enjoy the Mardi Gras Festivities.



Some of the best dressed....
(above) Drs. Gary & Mary Jewell of Colorado Springs, Colorado .



(left) Dr. Jim Hill and wife, Pam, of Boulder, Colorado.

Committee Appointments

If you are interested in serving on one of the following committees and are willing to attend two scheduled meetings per year, please contact Lenda Broussard at the LAFP office for additional information.

- Education Committee
- Operations Committee
- Membership & Legislative Issues Committee

General Assembly

CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

Any member can submit a resolution for vote by the General Assembly. If you wish to submit a resolution it must be submitted, in writing, to the Executive Vice President of the LAFP at least 30 days prior to the General Assembly.

Resolutions can not be submitted from the floor except by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the General Assembly present and voting. Any resolution submitted from the floor and accepted for presentation must be submitted in written form to the Speaker of the General Assembly.

BYLAWS AND AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

Any five or more members may propose bylaws or amendments of bylaws. Such proposals must be submitted to the Executive Vice President or the Secretary at least 60 days prior to any regular or special meeting of the General Assembly and notice shall be given to all members at least 30 days prior to the meeting at which the proposals are to be voted upon. An affirmative vote of a least two-thirds of the members present and voting shall constitute adoption. Amendments shall take effect immediately upon adoption unless otherwise specified.

Make your
plans now to
attend the
3rd Annual
L.A.F.P.
District V
President's
Luncheon
&
Spring C.M.E.
Meeting

April 23, 2005

U.L.M. Conference Center
(library - 7th floor)
Monroe, Louisiana
10:45am-3:30pm

*Contact Dr. Robert Parker at
rparke@lsuhsc.edu for more
details and to reserve your place.*

Residency Report

LSUHSC-N.O. at Lake Charles

by Brian Smith, MD

Joseph Nida, MD

Chief Residents

We have been quite busy here in Lake Charles since the last issue. From residency interviews to preparing for the RRC, our faculty and residents have worked hard to prepare for the last half of the year.

We face our RRC review in late March this year. Although these reviews are always nerve-racking, we are confident in our program and do not foresee any delinquencies on the part of our training environment. However, Dr. LeBato has mandated SSRI's for all residents and staff until April (and an increase in doses for those already on these meds).

Our sponsor hospital, Lake Charles Memorial Hospital, recently approved funding for a new electronic medical records system for our clinic. We have been working with IMed, an EMR company from Lafayette, on implementing this new system prior to the 2005-06 calendar year. We expect to have the system operational by April, which will benefit our graduating third-years who plan on having EMRs in their upcoming practices.

We are currently recruiting patients in a new research study sponsored by PMCT. It is a diabetes study for a new medication class, and we are honored and excited to be a part of this study opportunity. Dr. Errol Wilder has been busy gathering patient names from our medical records for chart review for inclusion in this study. I foresee many long hours by the study coordinator, Dr. Bryan Barootes, but I am sure that the interns will be happy to assist however he deems necessary.

Of special note, space has been made for a new chief residents' office here in our clinic. Finally, recognition for our hard work and leadership has been made. Interview season is finally over. We interviewed 20 prospective residents this year, and are excited to see how this year's

match turns out. I'm quite sure the interviewees are glad to be finished with the ethical questions Dr. Barootes so loves.

A new trend began in Lake Charles after the Christmas holidays: BodyWise 2005. Authored and pioneered by residents, this is a weight-loss and fitness program that fits almost any lifestyle. It is in its trial period at this point, with 4 residents participating. Thus far, in a mere 6 weeks, we have lost a combined 70 pounds among the four participants. Long-term data has yet to be collected, but preliminary findings are promising. Details can be obtained by contacting our residency coordinator. Surprisingly, no major medical associations have embraced our new program, but we are still hopeful.

Due to inclement fishing conditions, no fishing report is available for the past three months beyond here-say. However, we had an extraordinary hunting season in Southwest Louisiana. We had outstanding duck and goose hunting here this year, as well as our secondary location, Southwest Arkansas. Carter Benton had the best deer-hunting season of his life, filling his freezer and many of ours with the 4 deer he harvested. We are anxious for warmer days, as the redfish have rested long enough!

New for 2005 in Lake Charles is mountain biking. Drs. Heinen, Nguyen, and Smith have added this outdoor experience to the long line of hobbies enjoyed by residents here in our program. We have a challenging trail course at Sam Houston Jones State Park in Moss Bluff, which has already claimed bruises and sore muscles in the past few weeks. Kayaking the SW Louisiana waterways will also resume once the weather warms, and until the alligators begin to show themselves. (Both above activities encouraged on the BodyWise 2005 program).

Until next edition.

LSUHSC-Monroe

by Brian Krier, MD, FAAFP Program Director

Since the last edition we have welcomed a new PGY1 resident: Dr. Bhanu Wunnava and his family to Monroe, LA and our program. We also regrettably wish the best of success to three full-time faculties. Drs. Uma Rangaraj, Charles Mason, and Jyothi Mallepalli are all internists that have left our program to enter private practice over the last three months. The residents and staff held a farewell ceremony on January 31st to honor them. On the bright side, Dr. Rangaraj and Dr. Mason will be available to our residents for elective rotations in endocrinology and palliative medicine.

We have performed six Tar Wars presentations to four schools to date with two more schools planned in February. We continue to encourage and challenge other Louisiana Family Doctors and Residencies to participate in this very exciting educational program aimed at keeping 4th and 5th graders from starting to use tobacco.

I would personally like to thank all of our faculty and residents for their participation in this year's interview process. It is a lot of work and requires a huge amount of commitment from them beyond their usual clinical and teaching responsibilities. We have interviewed some highly qualified candidates and look forward to another successful "Match Day" in March.

Enough business, the annual Residency Canoe Trip is scheduled for the end of May among the Class II-III rapids of the Big Piney River in northwest Arkansas. This is always an exciting camping trip and lets the faculty really see how the residents function under a much different kind of pressure. We are also enthusiastic about the Regional Recruiting Fair that NLAHEC is sponsoring for our residents and staff on March 12th at Kiroli Park. Thanks NLAHEC!

Have a great year everyone and I hope you consider coming to the LAFP's Annual Assembly in New Orleans in July!

LSUHSC-S Family Medicine Residency in Alexandria

by Brian Elkins, M.D.

Associate Residency Director

This will be a year of many changes for us. The biggest change will be a change in program director. Dr. Michael Madden, who has served faithfully for the past four years, will be stepping down effective July 1, 2005. He successfully brought the program through a difficult transition and has earned the admiration of everyone around him as a tireless administrator and an expert clinician. He has been planning this transition for over a year, expressing his desire to "just teach and practice medicine." Dr. Madden will stay with us as a senior faculty member. Congratulations to Dr. Madden on a job well done!

The current Associate Program Director (that's me!) will become the Program Director. Dr. Madden and I have been discussing this transition for the past year and I am excited about what the future will bring. Many people have asked me, "do you plan any big changes when you become program director?" Since this is a gradual and not a sudden transition, most of the changes I hope to bring about are already in process. Our curriculum is now well-established and I do not foresee major changes. We will work hard to improve residency processes and complete our implementation of the Six General Competencies set forth by ACGME, and we'll do a complete program review as an early preparation to maintain our accreditation for the next scheduled ACGME site visit in 2007.

Dr. Bradley Touchet will become the Associate Program Director. Dr. Touchet formerly directed a primary care clinic in the Air Force and was also in private practice prior to joining the program in 2003. Dr. Touchet has been a great addition to our program and I am pleased to have him to work with!

Another change for us in 2005 will be clinical research. We are in the early stages of what we hope to be a long and prosperous relationship with Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton

Rouge. We will participate in at least two clinical trials this year with more anticipated to follow. Crystal Horn, LPN, who always shows such tireless enthusiasm for new projects, will be the research coordinator for these studies.

We will also be hosting an Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO) course on April 15-16, 2005. Dr. Stacy Zeller, faculty member and graduate of our residency program, will be the course director. Guest faculties from around the state are again participating, along with labor and delivery nurses from our host hospital, Rapides Regional Medical Center. Much appreciation goes to Robin Caplan, our residency coordinator, for coordinating the course, as well as to the Baton Rouge General residency program particularly for their willingness to assist, as always! We anticipate another popular and successful course. For more information about ALSO, contact Robin at (318) 441-1041.

Finally, we offer our congratulations to Dr. Heather Guillot, one of our chief residents, on the birth of her baby girl in December 2004!

University Medical Center - Lafayette

by David Reehlmann, LCSW

By the time this is printed, applicants and residency programs will have recently learned the results of this year's "Match", since March 17th is the date for the general announcement of 2005 Match results. This is always an exciting time, and we feel fortunate that we have been able to meet and interview many impressive candidates. Once again we wish all the state's programs success in this endeavor.

A notable recent event here in Lafayette was the retirement of Marsha Norton, LPN' on 9 December 2004 after 13 years with the Lafayette Family Practice Residency and a total of 33 years with University Medical Center. Those many years of service began for Marsha as an employee of Lafayette Charity Emergency Department from January

1972 until April 1991. In April '91 she began working with the Family Practice residency, where she remained until her recent retirement.

Marsha's loyalty and steadfastness were notable throughout her time here, and she will be missed. We wish her the best in her new journey and hope we can stay in touch.

Craig Lembo, MD finished his FP/OB Fellowship here at UMC and, apparently, liked it so much that he has considered seeking residency training in OB/GYN.

Recruitment is currently underway for new fellows for the FP/OB Fellowship. Several prospects have been in touch concerning the positions and interviews are underway now.

Effective December 11, 2004, Program Director Glen Mire, MD began a two-year term as president of the Louisiana Geriatrics Society.

Congratulations to faculty member Kent



focus

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and former graduate Stephanie Humble on the birth of their new baby boy. Daniel Wade Humble, 7 lbs, 3 oz at the time, was born on January 10th, which happened to be the same date as his father's birth. Weird, but nice... Kent informed me that Daniel has been "accepted to Harvard already." Somehow, I wouldn't be surprised!

Baton Rouge General Medical Center

by Robert C. Wood, M.D., Chief Resident

This winter brought us a very busy and exciting interview season. We have interviewed a record number of applicants, all who are very well qualified. We are very impressed with the caliber of students interested in Family Medicine and look forward to eight of them being future residents in our program.

We also had our 3rd Annual "Second Look" weekend. Many of our applicants and previously rotating medical students returned to visit with the residents, faculty, staff and General Health System administrators. They began in a relaxed atmosphere at a "resident's-only" function and at the end of the weekend they had shared plenty of laughs, eaten wonderful food and hopefully had an enhanced appreciation of our program.

On a different note, we recently participated in Tar Wars at our local Baton Rouge elementary schools. The residents, faculty, medical students and staff presented to over 755 5th grade students. The presenters discussed the dangers of using tobacco products, and the risk of second hand smoke. Both the teachers and students were very appreciative of the presentation, and all who participated were equally gratified to share in the experience.

The Baton Rouge General Medical Center is excited to announce our Community Health Celebration. The residents, faculty and nursing staff will participate in this endeavor. Several activities have been planned for

the entire family such as: Cholesterol Screening, Blood Pressure Screening, Health Risk Assessments, Kid's Art and Fingerprinting, a visit from "Flashy" the Fire Safety Robot and much, much more. The residents view this as an opportunity to educate the public on Disease Prevention and promote good health.

Our program has a national star in our midst. Dr. Margeaux Coleman Walker, PGY2 resident and a Tulane University graduate, has been featured in the Associate Press and the American Medical Association Newsletter. Dr. Walker has so graciously enlightened the nation about her aspiration of becoming a rural physician and its benefits. Upon graduating from our program, Dr. Walker plans to return to her hometown of Church Point to practice medicine. Dr. Walker is married to Thomas and they have a beautiful daughter, Marissa. We are very proud of Dr. Walker, and are equally pleased to be a part of a program that invests in the lives of future family physicians.

We are sad to announce that one our faculty members, Dr. Michael Meyer and his family have relocated to Wyoming. Dr. Meyer will be truly missed, as he was one of the nicest, most laid-back individuals I have ever met. Faculty and residents alike loved him. Each resident will carry a small piece of Dr. Meyer with them wherever they go. Good luck Dr. Meyer.

I guess that's all from Baton Rouge for now. I have a meeting with LSU Head Coach Les Miles to offer my expert tutelage on the fundamentals of football!

Until next time...

East Jefferson General Hospital Family Medicine Residency Program

by Julie Crawford, Staff Assistant

In January 2005 two of our Family Medicine residents, Dr. Jose Veras Pola and Dr. Katharine Judson, along with recent alumni Dr. Ajsa Nikolic joined Dr. Vincent Culotta in participating in a week-long mission trip to Granada, Nicaragua sponsored by the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Over thirty medical professionals from Louisiana treated indigent patients during the week providing medical, dental and eye exams. Working closely with Ammistad Hospital of Granada, an estimated 1200 patients were seen and treated. "It was a terrific experience and a pleasure to work closely with other caring physicians and the Christo Sana organization," said Dr. Judson. Dr. Pola added, "Helping those in need was truly a rewarding experience."

As interview season comes to a close we are delighted that we had the opportunity to interview so many brilliant applicants. We're looking forward to an enjoyable evening at our annual Family Medicine Residency Applicant Banquet on Friday February 11, 2005.

We are proud to announce that East Jefferson General Hospital is the medical sponsor for the Crescent City Classic. Dr. Robert Combel Ryan, one of our faculty physicians, is offering a series of free seminars to help those individuals interested in preparing for the 10K race regardless of your fitness level. If anyone is interested in participating in the seminars they can call Health Finder at 456-5000 to register.

In a continued zeal for promoting family medicine a representative from each residency level will be presenting at the Tulane and LSU FMIG meetings this month.

Also, Family Medicine will be participating in the EJGH Healthcare Career Fair on Saturday, February 19th from 9am - 3pm for middle and high school students.

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