

CHANCELLOR'S Notes



March 25, 2011

LSUHSC's Cefalu named best geriatrician

Dr. Charles Cefalu, Professor of Medicine, won the Geriatric Physician category of the 2011 Dorland Health Silver Crown Awards.



Dr. Charles Cefalu

An article on Dr. Cefalu in *Case in Point*

Magazine lauds Dr. Cefalu's dedication as Chief of the LSUHSC Section of Geriatric Medicine and his distinguished service as the executive director of the Louisiana Geriatrics Society, where he champions the needs of the elderly.

It continues, "Through his diligent efforts in training and unsurpassed passion for elderly care, Cefalu has created a program through which senior caretakers will be well advised and ready to tackle the pressing issues of the geriatric population. Through his devout stewardship at LSU, the training program has grown and through its growth, the region and the healthcare system will be blessed with ardent Cefalu proteges."



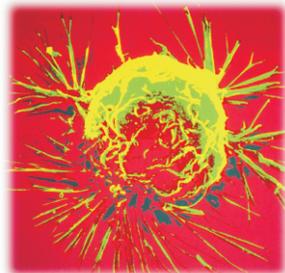
LSUHSC research finds protein that protects cancer cells from chemo & radiation therapy and what blocks it

Research led by Daitoku Sakamuro, PhD, Assistant Professor of Pathology at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans and the LSUHSC Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center, has identified a protein that enables the activation of a DNA-repair enzyme that protects cancer cells from catastrophic damage caused by chemo and radiation therapy. This protein, called c-MYC oncoprotein, can initiate and promote almost all human cancers and discovering the role it plays in cancer treatment resistance may lead to advances that save lives. The work is published in the March 29, 2011 issue of *Science Signaling*, a publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Although scientists have known that cancer cells can acquire resistance to DNA-damaging therapeutic agents, the genetic mechanisms through which this occurs have remained unclear until now.



Dr. Daitoku Sakamuro

Using the chemotherapy drug, cisplatin (which is commonly used as a first-line therapy for various cancers) to design a set of experiments, the research team found that the c-MYC oncoprotein increases cisplatin resistance by decreasing production of a c-MYC inhibitor called BIN1. BIN1 suppressed an enzyme essential for DNA repair, and the sensitivity of cancer cells to cisplatin depended upon BIN1 abundance. Overproducing the c-MYC oncoprotein repressed BIN1, blocking its life-saving action.



"Our study provides a potent and novel mechanism through which cancer acquires resistance to DNA damage," notes Dr. Sakamuro. "Inhibition of oncogenic c-MYC may provide an attractive strategy for cancer therapy in combination with DNA-damaging agents."

Students, faculty, alumni elected to AOA

Please congratulate the following individuals who have been elected to the Beta of Louisiana Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha, the national medical honor society: Kevin Bray, Emily Burgin, Juan Carlos de Rivero Vaccari, Patricia Gallagher, Kimberly Hoffpauir, Sophia Mai, Kyle McMullen, Jerry Miller, III, Stephen Spindel, James Steves, Dr. Rebekah Godeaux, Dr. Tathagat "Tiger" Narula, Dr. Robert "Field" Smith, Dr. Erich Conrad, Dr. Madeleine "Midge" Heck, Dr. William Davis, and Dr. Evelyn Kluka.



LSUHSC hosts area's 1st West Point STEM workshop

Officers and cadets from the United States Military Academy at West Point helped students from Andrew Wilson Charter School learn more about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics last Friday evening on the LSU Health Sciences Center campus. A partnership of West Point, Congressman Cedric Richmond (LA-2), and our public health and medical school brought the Academy's Center for Leadership and Diversity in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Mobile Workshop to New Orleans for the first time.



After a brief presentation on bridge engineering by LTC Donald A. Outing, PhD, Director of the Center for Leadership and Diversity in STEM at West Point, 6th, 7th and 8th graders from Andrew Wilson Charter Schools were split into teams and challenged to design and build a K'NEX bridge with physical building apparatuses. With officers and cadets available for questions, the exercise allowed the students the opportunity for independent creative thought and to work as a team to solve problems. The bridges' structural integrity was tested using a model humvee

weighed down with blackberries and smart phones. Not only did each team complete the project (also a first), they all built sound bridges. The project is meant to be fun and thought provoking for young students and to prepare the next generations for a world where creativity and innovation will be needed more than ever to solve problems and succeed.



Xtend Barre raises funds for LSUHSC Outreach Program



The Grand Opening of the Xtend Barre studio at 3225 Danny Park, Suite 201 in Metairie raised nearly \$1,200 for the LA Breast & Cervical Health Program at the LSUHSC School of Public Health. Owner Kim Munoz, RN wanted to extend the health benefits of the workouts by partnering with LSUHSC to make them count toward helping the breast and cervical cancer cause.

Coming Up

The 26th Annual Camp Tiger Benefit Auction

Please join us for a night of entertainment with food and beverages generously provided by numerous local establishments, and live music featuring Dr. Jazz.



Friday, March 25th
7-11pm

New Orleans Museum of Art
1 Collins Diboll Circle
(City Park at Esplanade)

\$10 Silent Auction
\$25 Live & Silent Auction
\$25 LSU HSC Students & Faculty

Camp Tiger is a week long day camp for special needs children, run free of charge by first year students at LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans. The camp is made possible by generous donations from the community, alumni, friends and family of LSUHSC, and fundations including the Annual Camp Tiger Benefit Auction. Camp Tiger strives to help campers "let their hair down" and give them time with freedom to play, socialize, and express themselves as healthy, vibrant children.

To purchase tickets in advance or donate to Camp Tiger, please visit our website at www.lsuhsoc.edu/camptiger.

*Tickets will be available to purchase at the door

Questions?

Please contact Anne Kane at akane@lsuhsc.edu.



LSU School of Allied Health Professions
ALUMNI DAY
Presentation
Bruce D. Greenstein
Secretary, Department of Health and Hospitals
The Future of Louisiana Healthcare
Saturday, March 26, 2011
9:00 am – 11:00 pm
2nd Floor MEB Lecture Room B

Sponsored by SAHP Alumni Association, Student Ambassadors and Alumni Connections

**Nicole Murphy Memorial
Tiger Run**
5k Run/Walk To Benefit The
LSU Student Run Homeless Clinics
**April 3rd, 2011
8:30 am
Audubon Park**
Register online at www.active.com
Race day registration at 7:30am
Refreshments and prizes to follow
www.medschool.lsuhsoc.edu/tigerun

Please join
Chancellor Larry Hollier, MD
at a
TOWN HALL MEETING
April 4, 2011
5:00 p.m.
Medical Education Building
Lecture Room A