



# CHANCELLOR'S Notes



October 26, 2012

## PA Program application deadline November 1

Applications are pouring in for the new Physician Assistant Program in the LSUHSC School of Allied Health Professions. The application deadline for the inaugural class of 30 students is November 1, 2012.



Applicants must have earned a bachelor's degree and meet the additional entrance requirements. The intense, 29-month program will prepare students to practice as health care providers and assume leadership roles within the medical community. Admission to the program is highly competitive.

Interested applicants are urged to review the program's website for information about the prerequisites, curriculum, tuition, and the various learning opportunities offered at <http://alliedhealth.lsuhsu.edu/pa>. Information is also available at 568-4243 or 568-5232. Student registration is scheduled for January 7, 2013, with classes beginning on January 8, 2013.

## LSUHSC research reveals extent of growing danger to children

LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans partnered with the North American Society for the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (NASPGHAN) and the American Academy of Pediatrics to release the results of a study led by LSUHSC's Dr. R. Adam Noel about



Dr. Noel takes a question from a reporter at the press conference at the AAP annual meeting.

cases of children who swallowed industrial strength magnet toys. The results provide compelling evidence that the use of warning labels in marketing and packaging of high-powered magnet sets have not been effective in preventing the ingestion of *see Magnet, page 2*

## LSUHSC'S Molina named to NIH Advisory Council

Patricia Molina, MD, PhD, Professor and Chair of Physiology at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, is one of 15 members appointed to the National Advisory Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism by the Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS.)



Dr. Patricia Molina

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Advisory Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism advises and makes recommendations to the Secretary of HHS, the Director of the NIH, and the Director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) on research program and policy matters in the field of alcohol abuse and alcoholism. Of the 15 appointed members, 10 are required to be leaders

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these magnets by infants, children and teenagers.

In the past 10 years, there have been at least 480 cases of high-powered magnet ingestions, with 204 of those cases occurring in the past 12 months, according to the survey, which provides the first epidemiological evidence of the extent of magnet ingestion injuries in US children. Of the reported cases, 80% required endoscopic or surgical intervention. The study found that the majority of magnet ingestions (51%) occurred in children 1 to 6 years of age, although ingestions also occurred among adolescents and teenagers, who use the magnets to mimic tongue, lip and nose piercings.



*The toddler who spurred the national effort after magnets destroyed most of his intestines.*

NASPGHAN delivered the survey to 1,747 of its members in August 2012 and received reports of magnet ingestions from 354 pediatric gastroenterologists in response. Survey results may not capture the most severe magnet ingestion cases, which may be sent directly to surgery and are not initially seen or managed by a pediatric gastroenterologist.

Although some high-powered magnet sets have been labeled for ages 14 and up, the survey results confirm that magnet ingestions and resulting injuries to children continue despite labels and warnings. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has proposed a ban on certain high-powered magnet sets, a move strongly supported by NASPGHAN and the American Academy of Pediatrics. ■

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in health and scientific disciplines relevant to the activities of the NIAAA. At least 2 of these 10 individuals must be leaders in the fields of public health and the behavioral or social sciences. Additionally, the Secretary appoints five members from among the fields of public policy, law, health policy, economics, and management. A major responsibility is to review and make recommendations regarding grant applications to support biomedical research and research training activities. Another continuing and very important responsibility of the Council is the survey of the total research effort in the subject field and the recommendation of the action necessary to stimulate additional work.

Dr. Molina's research is focused on the interaction of alcohol and drug abuse on the behavioral, metabolic, and immune consequences of HIV/AIDS. In addition, work in her laboratory also focuses on the impact of alcohol and drug abuse on the cardiovascular, metabolic and immune consequences of acute traumatic brain injury and hemorrhagic shock.

Dr. Molina's term begins November 19, 2012 and ends October 31, 2016. ■



### LSUHSC benefits from Hi-Speed Fashion



The latest Al Copeland Foundation event benefitting cancer research at LSU Health Sciences Center was a tremendous success. Hi-Speed Fashion, held at the theater in Harrah's Casino, was a very well-attended event packed with entertainment. Participants were treated to the latest trends in fashion and hair with a runway fashion show after enjoying fabulous food and beverages, games, celebrities, and a silent auction filled with items for every interest and budget.



*LSUHSC Vice Chancellor Ron Gardner spoke to thunderous applause*

The Al Copeland Foundation and Al Copeland Investments, along with Cancer Crusaders, endowed the Al Copeland \$1 Million Chair in Neuroendocrine Cancer at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans last year. Since then, the Copeland family and their staff have dedicated their fundraising efforts to supporting LSUHSC cancer research and partnered with LSUHSC to "change the course of cancer." ■