



CHANCELLOR'S Notes



November 2, 2012

DR. LARRY HOLLIER

LSUHSC's Johnson honored by City Council

Dr. Denise Roubion-Johnson, Clinical Director of the New Orleans site of the LSUHSC Louisiana Breast and Cervical Health Program, was recognized by the New Orleans City Council at their meeting yesterday.



Dr. Johnson with Councilmember Bajoie

District B Councilmember, Diana Bajoie presented Dr. Johnson with two proclamations recognizing her outstanding work with uninsured low income women with breast cancer.

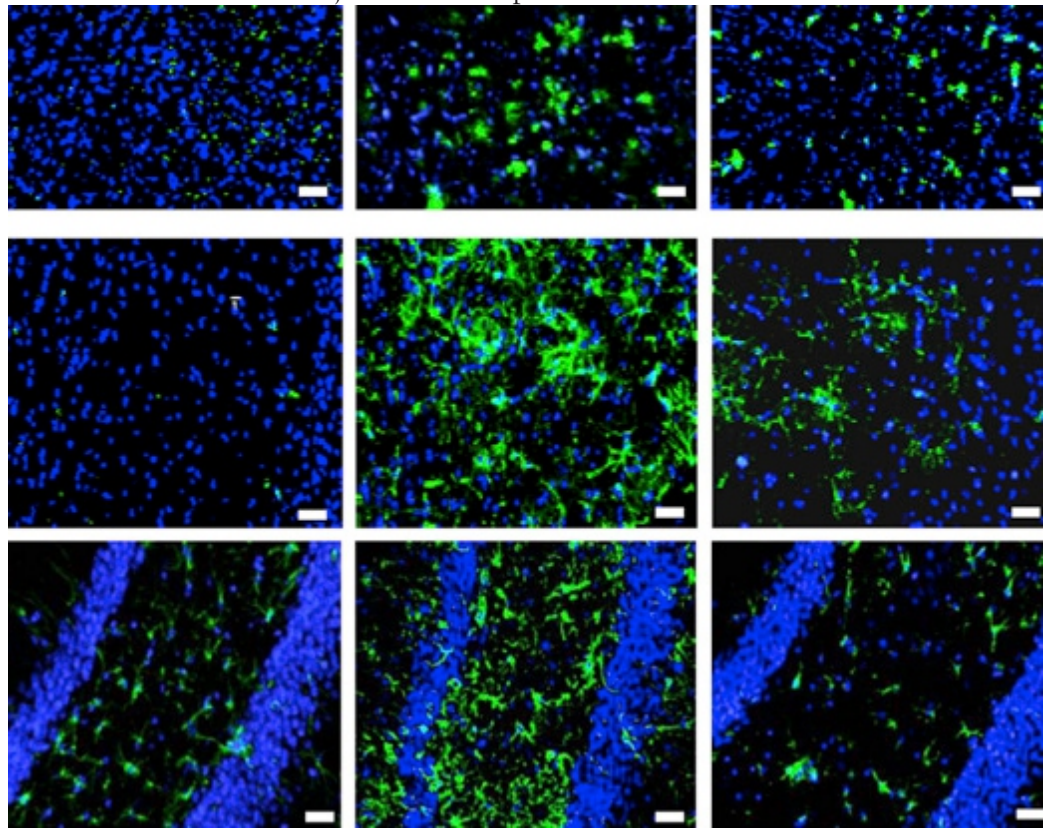
The Health Sciences Center was

recognized, too, for the Beauty is Really Skin Deep Black Out Breast Cancer Campaign.



LSUHSC research identifies new therapeutic target for Alzheimer's disease

Research led by Chu Chen, PhD, Associate Professor of Neuroscience at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, has identified an enzyme called Monoacylglycerol lipase (MAGL) as a new therapeutic target to treat or prevent Alzheimer's disease. The study was published online November 1, 2012 in the Online Now section of the journal Cell Reports.



The results suggest that MAGL contributes to the cause and development of Alzheimer's disease and that blocking MAGL represents a promising therapeutic target.

see Alzheimer's, page 2

Health Sciences Center holds Thanksgiving Food Drive

In the spirit of giving thanks by giving back, LSU Health Sciences Center is holding a Thanksgiving Food Drive benefitting the Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana. The drive, organized by Telecommunications Manager Jo Ann Puccia, runs through November 16.



Non-perishable items like canned tuna, canned chicken, dry beans, peanut butter, canned soup, canned stew, cereal, pasta, rice, crackers, apple sauce, spaghetti sauce

see Food, page 2

Alzheimer's, from page 1

The researchers blocked MAGL with a highly selective and potent inhibitor in mice using different dosing regimens and found that inactivation of MAGL for eight weeks was sufficient to decrease production and deposition of beta amyloid plaques and the function of a gene involved in making beta amyloid toxic to brain cells. They also measured indicators of neuroinflammation and neurodegeneration and found them suppressed when MAGL was inhibited. The team discovered that not only did the integrity of the structure and function of synapses associated with cognition remain intact in treated mice, but MAGL inactivation appeared to promote spatial learning and memory, measured with



Dr. Chu Chen

behavioral testing.

Alzheimer's disease is a neurodegenerative disorder characterized by accumulation and deposition of amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles, neuroinflammation, synaptic dysfunction, progressive deterioration of cognitive function and loss of memory in association with widespread nerve cell death. The most common cause of dementia among older people, more than 5.4 million people in the United States and 36 million people worldwide suffer with Alzheimer's disease in its various stages. Unfortunately, the few drugs that are currently approved by the Food and Drug Administration have demonstrated only modest effects in modifying the clinical symptoms for relatively short periods, and none has shown a clear effect on disease progression or prevention.

The research was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health. In addition to scientists from LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, the research team also included investigators from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Food, from page 1

without meat, canned baked beans and pork, canned chili, nuts, canned fruits in juices, canned vegetables, shelf-stable juices, dried fruit, shelf-stable milk, evaporated milk, or dry milk are among the most needed items. There are collection boxes in common areas in the Resource Center.



much different.

According to Second Harvest, one in eight people in Louisiana is struggling with hunger. Many people believe that the problems associated with hunger are confined to small pockets in a community, certain areas of our state, or even certain neighborhoods, but the reality is

Coming up

The 6th Annual LSUHSC Health & Wellness Event organized by the Doctor of Physical Therapy Class of 2014 is on Wednesday, November 7th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on the 3rd floor of the Medical Education Building. Come find out what's hot in health and take one of the many health challenges. The Wellness Center will be offering 30 minute fitness class sessions. Participants are also eligible to win door prizes like signed Saints photos, gift cards, and more!



Abby Comeaux and Jessica Verrett at last year's event

Join us for a day of holiday shopping with friends. You will find gifts for everyone on your list and maybe even something for yourself!

TIGERS & TINSEL
A HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Sponsored by the
LSUHSC SAHP Alumni Association
For more information:
Contact Michelle Willis at mwil16@lsuhsc.edu

LSU Health New Orleans
MEDICAL EDUCATION CENTER

Saturday,
November 10, 2012
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

John Calvin Presbyterian
Fellowship Hall
4201 Transcontinental Drive
Metairie, LA

The School of Allied Health Professions Alumni Association hosts the first annual Tigers & Tinsel Holiday Bazaar on November 10th from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Get your holiday shopping done while supporting Allied Health student scholarships and equipment donations. Contact Michelle Willis at mwil16@lsuhsc.edu for details.