

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

### LSU Health's Coronavirus Response Effort and How You Can Help

8

Letter from the CEO .....	2
Letter from the CDO .....	4
Meet Robert Laughlin, DDS .....	5
Getting to Know Jessica Rivera .....	12
Advocating for a Safe Zone .....	14
"Planning" to Pay it Forward .....	16
Donor Spotlight .....	17
Gifts of Gratitude .....	18
Investing in the Future .....	20
Education Empowers Students .....	21
Inaugural Tiger Ball .....	22

**LSU Health**  
**FOUNDATION**  
NEW ORLEANS



6

### Remembering Dean Gremillion

A dedicated doctor and nationally recognized educator, Dr. Gremillion inspired countless dental students and his loss is immeasurable.



10

### Get in on the Ground Floor of Something Big

Naming opportunities abound for the beautiful new student housing complex to be built at LSU Health, New Orleans.



11

### March with the Second Line

Be a part of the initiative honoring philanthropic alumni and friends through recognition in the new Student Living Center.

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# Letter from the CEO

The LSU Health Foundation, New Orleans has never been more “Fierce for the Future,” with innovation at the forefront of our mission. We continue to support LSU Health through philanthropic partnerships, fundraising, research funding, and other campus services needed to enhance our world-renowned institution.

- For the first time in almost 60 years, we spearheaded a public/private partnership that will create modern, state-of-the-art **campus apartments** for students, faculty, and staff, making a better LSU Health campus experience.
- The foundation has added **new restaurants** to our campus, creating more nutritious options for our campus community.
- After receiving a generous 29-acre land donation from Al Copeland Jr., we are developing, through private partnerships, an LSU Health affiliated **55 year-and-older retirement community** named Mariner’s Village. Revenue produced through its operation will provide much needed funding for cancer research.

With education as a top pillar of our organization, our students will be hired to provide in-home healthcare at Mariner’s Village and receive real-world geriatric training.

- In a recent partnership with Synergy Physical Therapy & Performance at the LSU Health Fitness Center, we now provide **rehabilitation services and comprehensive care of orthopedic & sports-related injuries** using evidence-based practice techniques.



Matt Altier, President and Chief Executive Officer,  
LSU Health Foundation, New Orleans

As we continue to push for innovation, we know that to be successful in meeting our goals, we need our partners – the people and organizations that work tirelessly every day to strengthen LSU Health. **We need you.**

Together, we can have a meaningful and lasting impact on the members of the LSU Health's six outstanding professional schools and eight centers of excellence. I am excited by what we can all accomplish in the years to come.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Altier".

Matthew Altier, CEO & President  
LSU Health Foundation, New Orleans

The LSU Health Foundation Team





# Feeling Grateful: A Letter from the CDO



Krystal Oliveira and Dr. Gremillion at the New Orleans Museum of Art

Dear LSU Health Family,

We were all faced with a grave loss when our beloved dean of the dental school passed unexpectedly. **Dr. Henry Gremillion** was a friend and made me feel welcome from my first day in 2015. He was kind, thoughtful, and invested in the aspiring dentists at our dental school. I will never forget my first tour of our dental school with Dean Gremillion. As we walked the floors, he knew everyone's name—the janitors we ran into, the students zipping in and out of the elevator, and the faculty we stopped to observe. He knew details about them and inquired about family members, aspirations, and needs. We toured the unfinished preclinical simulation labs, which have since been renovated to the Advanced Clinical Care and Research Building, for which Dr. Gremillion had great enthusiasm and excitement.

The passion and hard work he dedicated to the dental school and the dental community was remarkable. Dr. Gremillion left a wonderful mark on my profession, and I will never forget him. I hope many of you will join me in honoring his legacy by giving to the H. Gremillion Scholarship in Orofacial Pain. Supporting our dental students is a marvelous way to honor the tireless efforts of Dr. Gremillion and ensures his work lives on for generations to come.

In spite of COVID-19, we broke ground on our new student housing complex and have officially launched The LSU Health New Orleans Student Living Center Campaign! This campaign provides a unique opportunity for you to leave your legacy on our campus and support the projects that you care about most. Thanks to the efforts of our CEO, **Matt Altier**, who pulled various groups together to fully fund this most needed advancement, 100 percent of your gift goes to the areas of most interest to you. Naming opportunities start at \$1,500 and extend to naming the entire Student Living Center complex. We are so very excited about this project, and we hope you are too!

With the holidays upon us, we have much to be grateful for. I am very grateful for the faculty and staff here at LSU Health New Orleans, who have remained committed to our mission to discover, teach, heal, and serve. We look forward to finding more innovative ways to connect with you in the future, and we hope you will continue to support LSU Health New Orleans.

Wishing you and yours a very merry holiday season,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "K Oliveira".

Krystal Oliveira, Chief Development Officer, LSU Health Foundation, New Orleans

# Meet Robert Laughlin, DDS

*Interim Dean, School of Dentistry*

**LSU Health**  
NEW ORLEANS

**School of Dentistry**

**Dr. Larry Hollier**, LSU Health Chancellor, named **Robert M. Laughlin, DM.D.** as the LSU Health School of Dentistry (LSUSD) Interim Dean on May 19 following the death of **Dr. Henry Gremillion**. “Although we are all still in shock and reeling from the sudden loss of Dr. Gremillion, our dental school needs leadership at this crucial time when decisions must be made to move forward during the pandemic,” wrote Dr. Hollier on the day of Dr. Laughlin’s appointment.

Dr. Gremillion recruited Dr. Laughlin as chair of the LSUSD Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery a year ago. He is working with the school’s current leadership to sustain and grow the academic, patient care, and research missions.

Dr. Laughlin earned his DM.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine in 2002 and completed his residency at LSU Health New Orleans School of Dentistry and Charity Hospital in 2006. He received fellowship training in head and neck surgery and microvascular surgery at the University of Michigan and Shanghai Jiao Tong University in China.

Dr. Laughlin served with the U.S. Air Force from 1990-1998 before joining the U.S. Navy in 1998. After completing his training in 2007, he was assigned to the Naval Medical Center in San Diego, where he served as an attending surgeon, residency program director, and department chair. In 2008, he received the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Award, and in 2014, he became the first oral and maxillofacial surgeon in the Navy to receive the Master Clinician Award.

Dr. Laughlin is committed to continuing Dr. Gremillion’s vision of making the LSU Health School of Dentistry the best program in the country. ■

## LSU Health School of Dentistry Clinic is accepting new patients

If you are interested in becoming a patient at the LSU Health School of Dentistry, please call (504) 619-8700 to schedule a screening appointment. Visit [www.lsusd.lsuhsd.edu/Patients.html](http://www.lsusd.lsuhsd.edu/Patients.html) for more information.



# Remembering Henry A. Gremillion, DDS, MAGD

*Dean, LSU School of Dentistry, 1951-2020*

The sudden death of **Dr. Henry Gremillion** on May 18, 2020, stunned the faculty, staff and students of LSU Health, especially in the School of Dentistry community, as well as the dental community at-large. His loss is immeasurable and the support and sympathies from around the world continue to flood in through phone calls, emails, cards, and donations. In the midst of such a devastating loss, his wife, Karleen “Mackey” Gremillion, and their four children have faced the tragedy with courage and strength. Dr. Gremillion, a member of the dental class of 1977, was the only LSUSD alumnus to hold the position.

This month, Mrs. Gremillion received two awards to honor his life’s work as an educator and leader. On July 10, the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) paid tribute to Dr. Gremillion at the annual ADEA Honors and Symposia. Each year, the Chair of the ADEA Board of Directors recognizes a select group of individuals for their extraordinary service to the Association and the dental education community. This year, the awards took on greater meaning as they paid tribute to our friend and colleague who was the immediate past-president of the ADEA Board. Equally meaningful, the LSUSD DDS Class of 2021 presented

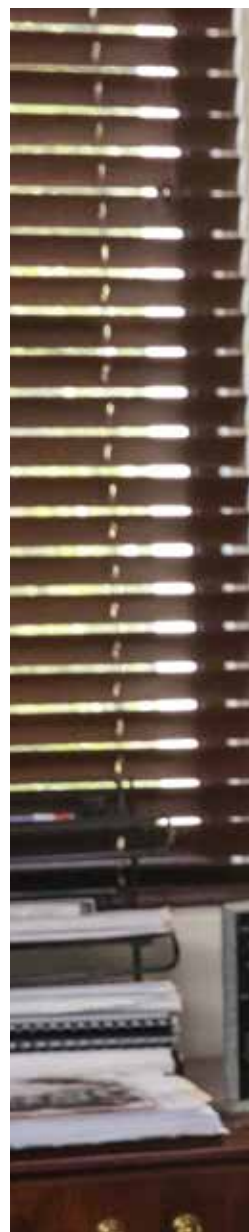
Mrs. Gremillion with the coveted “Golden Apple” award in July to remember Dr. Gremillion’s devotion to teaching and his students. Golden Apples for Teaching Excellence awards are a proud tradition at LSUSD to recognize, encourage, and document superior teaching.

Mrs. Gremillion also received the LSUSD Lifetime Achievement Award in his memory on September 26, during the school’s virtual Alumni Day. Established in 2016, only four individuals have received the award—all longtime educators at LSUSD.

*“A Louisiana native, dedicated doctor and nationally recognized educator, Dr. Gremillion inspired countless dental students throughout his time as dean of the state’s only dental school,”*

Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards said. “His vision steered the school through expansions and renovations so that students can practice their skills in the most advanced preclinical labs in America.”

Dr. Gremillion is survived by his wife of 45 years, Karleen “Mackey” Gremillion; daughters Erin G. Jackson (Brad) of Tampa, FL and Lindsay G. Maples (Andy) of Ponte Vedra, FL; and sons Alan Gremillion (Sarah) of Jupiter, FL and Scott Gremillion (Wendy) of South Carolina; as well as 10 grandchildren. ■







***“He was not only extremely kind, but he was a true visionary who was not afraid to explore new concepts with the LSU Health Foundation. He was a great supporter of the Foundation, of his students, his faculty and staff and the entire community. It is a shock to the system to lose such a wonderful person.”***

**– MATTHEW ALTIER, LSU HEALTH FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND CEO**

# LSU Coronavirus Response Effort

*Opportunities for everyone to help beat COVID-19 in our community*

In response to this global pandemic, the LSU Health Foundation has identified **the most critical campus initiatives in need of support** now more than ever. Traditional funding sources can be slow, and accelerating the financial support for this pandemic is crucial.

## Support Innovative COVID-19 Research

### LEAD COVID-19 TRIAL

**Dr. Frank Lau**, Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery, and his team are applying their expertise to the LEAD COVID-19 Trial, testing if aspirin and vitamin D can spearhead our fight against COVID-19. This gold-standard trial will enroll 1,080 patients across seven hospitals around the country. Financial support is being gathered to fund the trial.

### COVID RESEARCH LAB

The COVID Biorepository was established as a centralized resource that collects bio-specimens from COVID-19 patients and uninfected control samples. The biorepository functions under standard operating procedures, quality control for sample collection, and a common database to track consent, samples, and manage requests to dispense



LSU staff from across Louisiana are fighting every day on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic.

biological samples and data. The biorepository is important to foster a broad array of research projects, and will be used not only for acute but also for longer-term studies and to create an infrastructure to help LSU Health better prepare to respond to the next epidemic or pandemic.

### RESEARCH INFECTIOUS DISEASES FUND

**Paul Fidel, Ph.D.** and **Michael Hagensee, M.D.** are securing funding to study the administration of an unrelated live attenuated vaccine, such as MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) and how it could serve as a preventive measure against the worst conditions of COVID-19. There is mounting evidence that these vaccines may protect against subsequent lethal infections, such as progressive lung inflammation and eventual sepsis.

## Support Recovery and Resilience

### RECOVERY & COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FUND

Research has shown that traumatic events exacerbate mental health problems. **Dr. Benjamin Springgate** believes that the pandemic represents not only a public health crisis but is



Dr. Frank Lau (center) and his team





*To support the initiatives of the Coronavirus Response Effort visit [lsuhealthfoundation.org](https://lsuhealthfoundation.org) or call (504) 568-3712.*

LSU Health family medicine residency staff in Lafayette, Louisiana fight the coronavirus pandemic by wearing masks.

giving rise to a mental health crisis. LSU Health is moving to target this concern with funding from a new Recovery and Community Resilience Fund earmarked for making high-quality treatment accessible to at-risk populations.

### MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT HOTLINE

Firefighters, EMTs, and law officers protect the public often at a great personal cost. In response to this concern, the LSU Health Department of Psychiatry has created a Mental Health Support Hotline, providing first responders and other crisis support personnel with helpful counseling and behavioral health professional interventions.

## Support the Manufacturing of Critical PPE

### DENTAL INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY FUND

**Dr. Robert Laughlin** and **Dr. Karen Bruggers** have produced a reusable and easy-to-clean N95 mask. Their team created the crucial PPE using the school's 3-D printer. The masks are made of a complex polymer and a filter that when applied prevents the transmission of 99.99% of bacteria and viruses. The team is also able to print reusable visors of the same polymers that are easily disinfected and provide a barrier against aerosol and respiratory droplets.

## Support LSU Health Professionals and Students on the Front Line

### LSU HEALTH RESIDENT WELLNESS FUND

Hundreds of LSU Health professionals have been on the front lines of healthcare since the outbreak of COVID-19. In an effort to help these residents, a group of medical health professionals called the NOLA Doc Project is fundraising to cover the cost of meals to feed them. Their goal is to support as many resident teams as possible with a daily meal from a local business.

### LSU HEALTH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND

LSU Health, New Orleans' School of Medicine Parent's Council works closely with the LSU Health Foundation, New Orleans to raise critical funding in support of medical students. The School of Medicine Student Emergency Fund assists students with financial hardships associated with the coronavirus pandemic and other unforeseen circumstances. This initiative responds directly to the needs of medical students, from access to educational resources to housing support. ■

Principle Naming Opportunity:  
The Student Living Center



# Get in on the Ground Floor

*LSU Health New Orleans and the LSU Health Foundation are working together to build a state-of-the-art Student Living Center to serve the six schools of LSU Health New Orleans.*

Student housing is more than just a place to stay. It is a comfortable and welcoming space where our students can live, study, learn and grow while enjoying the advantage of a dynamic and diverse university setting right at their doorstep. This is the first housing to be built on campus in 50 years and will be offered to all students, faculty, staff and residents of LSU Health. The project is 100% funded and allows for meaningful philanthropy that will directly support our students, faculty and community.

## Truly see the impact of your donation.

We have identified naming opportunities that allow you to direct your gift to the area of most interest to you, including the name of the building, pool deck, meeting rooms, tree groves and more. Please contact Krystal Oliveira, Chief Development Officer, at (504) 568-2422 or [koliveira@lsuhealthfoundation.org](mailto:koliveira@lsuhealthfoundation.org) to learn more. ■



***“A comfortable and budget-friendly living situation is crucial for students who spend the majority of their time studying and have to take out loans just to make ends meet.”***

— ERIC, FOURTH-YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT







**To join the Second Line Bead Campaign, contact Elise Curole, Director of Annual Giving & Marketing at (504) 568-2433,**

***ecurole@lsuhealthfoundation.org or visit [give.lsuhealthfoundation.org/bead](https://give.lsuhealthfoundation.org/bead).***



# March with the Second Line



LSU Health Foundation, New Orleans is proud to introduce the Second Line Bead Campaign. Recognizing our premier leadership annual giving society, this initiative honors our philanthropic

alumni and friends through a cascading bead centerpiece and digital recognition in common areas of the new Student Living Center. These beads are hand-blown purple and gold variegated glass spheres embossed with LSU Health New Orleans Second Line signage, allowing members to leave their permanent mark in the home of current students.

Contributing to the Second Line Bead Campaign is a meaningful way to celebrate enduring loyalty and support of the LSU Health mission while also contributing to our LSU Health Excellence Fund to ensure success for generations to come. ■





# Getting to Know Jessica Rivera

*Only 4% of board certified orthopedic surgeons are female, and LSU Health just got one.*

**Jessica Rivera, M.D.**, knew that she was going to be an orthopedic surgeon as a 7-year-old. Her mother was a pharmacist, and her father was in construction. Their marriage not only brought together two professions that symmetrically compose the practice of orthopedic medicine, but also produced an actual orthopedic.

The LSU Health Orthopedic Department proudly welcomed Dr. Rivera, who specializes in complex limb reconstruction for pediatrics and adults, as new faculty in January—just in time for a pandemic. She joins the LSU Health family by way of the University of Tennessee School of Medicine and The United States Army, stationed in San Antonio for 11 years working and completing a residency.

Working with the injured military is where Dr. Rivera honed her skills in trauma reconstruction. In addition to helping those with serious limb injuries, she specializes in treating leg length discrepancy, deformity, and poorly healed fractures with the possibility of infection. As a researcher, Dr. Rivera studies the history of regenerative medicine and plans to continue in lab and clinical research settings at LSU Health.

When asked how she became a specialist in complex limb reconstruction, Dr. Rivera explained that it was probably the opportunities presented to her in the army, where few orthopedists want to work with such traumatic injury. “It’s a demanding specialty, and it’s rare to find orthopedists who want to do it because these are difficult problems that often don’t go well.” She says the most gratifying part of her job is giving hope to patients who have experienced



Dr. Jessica Rivera (center) performs orthopedic surgery.

severe injury and whose healing and recovery was difficult. “Sometimes these folks have already had a ton of surgery, and sometimes the last conversation they’ve had with their surgeon is about amputation of their limb. It’s gratifying to me to be able to have a conversation with them that gives them another option because sometimes that’s the hope that they need. I think that’s good,” she says.

Dr. Rivera does not take the difficulties of her practice lightly. She works knowing that she is tackling cases that other doctors have surrendered, often with patients that

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***“These folks have already had a ton of surgery, and sometimes the last conversation they’ve had with their surgeon is about amputation. It’s gratifying to give them another option because sometimes that’s the hope that they need.”***

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will never have function completely restored. Still, she strives to provide her patients with the absolute best of outcomes. “You want to get them as close [to perfect] as they can possibly get. Even if it’s hard, the fact of the matter is it can’t really be done as much as you want and as much as the patient wants,” she says.

When not saving the world, Dr. Rivera enjoys spending time with her three mutts rescued from the streets of San Antonio and her husband, who is also in medicine and retired military. While they haven’t had much of a chance to get to know New Orleans as residents because of coronavirus, Jessica said she had some trips to New Orleans when she was a short 5 hours away at med school in Memphis. She says New Orleans reminds her of Memphis—a cultured city known for its food and music and a community whose underserved population “needs a little love.” It is for this reason, and the fact that LSU Health champions research, that Dr. Rivera chose to move to New Orleans. She and her husband have had some good times at Muriel’s, and when she has more time, looks forward to investigating all the New Orleans restaurants. ■



# Advocating for a Safe Zone

*A difficult experience for one doctor has lead to culturally sensitive training for LSU Health nursing students and others across the country.*

**Jessica Landry, DNP, FNP-BC**, Program Coordinator of LSU Health BSN-DNP Primary Care, is a nurse practitioner and faculty member at LSU Health New Orleans. While working in the emergency room one day, her nurses notified her that there was a 12-year-old boy admitted who tried to commit suicide. He placed a belt around his neck to asphyxiate. Dr. Landry did an investigation, looking into the boy's medical record for common indicators for suicidal behavior but found nothing out of the ordinary. The boy had no history of mental illness, nor did his family. His parents were married, and the family lived together. There was no evidence of abuse or bullying.

Concerned and perplexed by the boy's motivation to end his life, Dr. Landry visited with him often. While preparing for his transfer to the mandatory 72-hour psychiatric evaluation, she asked his parents and social worker to leave his hospital room. She then took the boy's hand and said, "I don't understand. Tell me, why did you do this? Why did you try to hurt yourself? The boy looked her squarely in the face and said, "Because I'm a girl and nobody understands that."

At that moment, Dr. Landry did not know what to say. Her patient chose to come out to her, and she did not know how to respond. She wanted him to understand that he was going to a psychiatric facility not because of his gender identity but because of trying to inflict self-harm. She stumbled over her explanation and watched the child retreat into himself and not want to speak to her. She lost an opportunity to help her patient.

Dr. Landry took this story to **Dr. Demetrius Porche**, Dean of the LSU Health School of Nursing, and explained that not only did she not know how to communicate in this situation, but the nursing school was not educating their students on how to communicate with patients in similar situations. Dr. Porche charged her with recruiting twenty-five other faculty members for gender identity sensitivity training, a number she exceeded within twenty minutes of speaking with Dr. Porche. They hired an expert from Rochester, NY to train faculty in a program called Safe Zone.

Safe Zone training is an opportunity to learn about LGBTQ+ identities, gender, and sexuality; and examine prejudice, assumptions, and privilege. Internally, faculty have made proactive changes to the School of Nursing, such as making gender-neutral bathroom signs and posting Safe Zone certification stickers in highly visible and populated spaces to promote inclusion for both students and faculty.

As a result of practices and principles learned from Safe Zone training, Dr. Landry and **Todd Tartavouille, DNS, APRN, CNS-BC**, Program Director for Traditional BSN Program, have created Advocacy™ training. This unique and interactive program partners with Safe Zone to train health care providers. Participants learn patient communication skills concerning cultural sensitivity, such as how to engage a person if you do not know their gender identity, asking for preferred gender pronouns, learning terminology used among the LGBTQ+ community, and overcoming common





assumptions based on gender. They also teach the Coming Out Model, where trainees learn how to tailor care to patients who reveal their gender identity for the first time.

In Safe Zone training, participants learn about health disparities facing the LGBTQ+ community. They are more likely to have cancer later in life, abuse alcohol, drugs and tobacco, commit suicide, become victims of sexual assault, and suffer from anxiety. In Advocacy training, the goal is to not only train health care professionals regarding communication, but also to improve health outcomes for the LGBTQ+ community. The idea is that if a patient is comfortable in their environment, the more likely they will be to disclose necessary personal health information, resulting in better patient care. It is crucial for health care providers to know the biological anatomy of the patient they are treating, especially with biological anatomy no longer characterized in binary gender terms. “We should be able to care for anybody who walks through our doors, regardless of culture,” says Landry.

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***“We should be able to care for anybody who walks through our doors, regardless of culture.”***

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Advocacy is the first training program of its kind, recognized both locally and nationally, with articles published as an example of best practices in the *National League of Nursing Journal* (NLN), affective research results in the *Journal of Nurse Practitioners*, and implementation in medical facilities across Louisiana and Massachusetts. ■



Dr. Jessica Landry

***The end goal for Advocacy is not only to train health care professionals regarding communication, but also to improve health care outcomes for the LGBTQ+ community.***



# “Planning” to Pay it Forward

*Call it serendipity or a blessing: Charles H. Packman, M.D. reflects on a life well-lived and a promise to pay it forward with a Planned Gift.*

Hematologist/Oncologist **Dr. Charles H. “Hank” Packman ’67** is using his IRA to endow a student scholarship as well as designate a portion of the IRA proceeds in his estate to go to the LSU Health School of Medicine. When asked what inspired him to make this generous gift, he said, “When I started medical school, LSU charged no tuition. The people of Louisiana paid tuition. I remember at that time other schools were charging \$2,000 a year and there was no way I could afford it. My family was middle-class, and I know how hard it is nowadays to afford a medical school education. I want to help a student not have to borrow as much.”

Dr. Packman never dreamed that he would go into medicine and end up loving his career, which currently places him at the Levine Cancer Center in Mooreshead, North Carolina. When asked what drew him to the field of hematology, he is quick to acknowledge the role that serendipity played in his career.

Hank, as his friends call him, was home from Louisiana Tech University, where he was studying physics and thinking about pursuing a career in engineering. His father’s friend had a deep-sea fishing charter boat business. He, his father, and a group of

LSU surgery residents who worked at the nearby Charity Memorial Hospital chartered the boat for the day, and after a day of sun, good conversation, and at the encouragement of his father, Hank accepted the residents’ invitation to visit Memorial to learn more about the life of a physician. Days later, he found himself in the OR observing, of all things, a hemorrhoidectomy.

Upon returning to college, Hank changed his major to biological sciences. He completed his pre-med requirements in 3 years and entered LSU Medical School at the age of 20. “I can’t claim that I had any altruistic motives for going to medical school. I was mostly interested in the science. If it wasn’t for that seemingly insignificant [fishing] incident and my later conversations with the same residents, I might have gravitated to biological engineering.”

Working in New Orleans’ Charity Hospital as an intern, Dr. Packman recalls how his experience inspired a love for the profession and his commitment to the specialty of hematology. “At that time, there was no oncology specialty. I remember being especially inspired by the late Dr. John Bickers who gave hematology lectures in clinical pathology. I was



*“I know how hard it is to afford a medical school education. I want to help a student not have to borrow as much.”*

fascinated by hemolytic anemia. I finally decided on internal medicine rather than surgery so I could be a hematologist, and I never looked back.”

Dr. Packman never forgot being the recipient of a free medical school education and recognizes the importance of giving. At this stage in his life, he believes it is the perfect time to pay it forward. “I have more money than I need and I’m very grateful that I was able to attend. It’s also a good way to pay back the people of Louisiana.” ■

# Donor Spotlight: Giving for Good

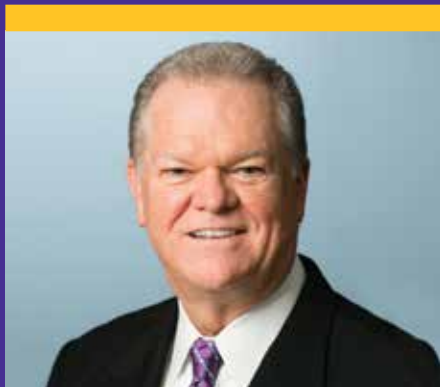
*A gift to the LSU Health Foundation makes an immediate impact and changes lives. Whether the gift benefits life-saving research or our future health care providers' education, your gift leaves a legacy of hope and health.*



the David &  
Lucile Packard  
FOUNDATION

## The Packard Foundation

The Packard Foundation has generously awarded the LSU Center for Adolescent, Sexual and Reproductive Health with a \$100,000 grant to ensure young people's access to sexual and reproductive health. "We are grateful for the dynamic team at LSU Center for Adolescent, Sexual and Reproductive Health for ensuring that the SRHR needs of young people continue to be met during the COVID-19 pandemic. The team pivoted quickly to incorporate new practices to keep their patients and staff safe while not compromising on quality," says Elizabeth Arndorfer, Program Officer, Reproductive Health Program, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation.



## Arnold Auvenshine, DDS

Dr. Ronald Auvenshine, a longtime friend and mentor of the late LSU Health School of Dentistry Dean Henry Gremillion, has been the lead volunteer in the fundraising effort to establish an orofacial pain postgraduate program at the dental school. Dr. Auvenshine was the first to pledge a major gift to the effort and has fulfilled that obligation through his IRA. In recent years, he has encouraged others interested in the field to give in a similar way. To date, over \$1.2 million has been committed to the initiative and efforts are underway to prepare for the approval required to establish the new degree program.



## Kathy Bishop

Kathy Bishop delivered a pledge of \$80,000 in 2018 to establish the Dr. George Bishop Endowed Professorship of Public Psychiatry in memory of her late husband. Dr. Bishop was responsible for the development of programs to aid the underserved, low income, and marginalized patients throughout Louisiana. The fund supports a faculty member noted for dedication to public psychiatry, and who has or plans to devote a career to working with people who have complex health needs and underserved populations who receive health care in the public sector. In 2019, **Kathleen A. Crapanzano, M.D.**, was named the first recipient of this professorship.





*The Gifts of Gratitude program offers our patients a meaningful way to thank the caregivers who treated them, and through charitable gifts, make it possible to help us care for others.*

## Dr. Eugene Woltering: More Than a Physician, a Friend

Much of the reason for my good health is the caring and individual treatment that I have received over the past six-plus years from my good friend and Oncologist, **Dr. Eugene Woltering**. I first met him at the worst moment of my life, when making a friend was the last thing I cared about. But a mutual friend sent me to meet this man in the early weeks after I was treated surgically for a stage IV neuroendocrine carcinoid tumor of the ilium that had spread to the omentum, paraaortic and thoracic nodes in an unexpectedly complex procedure. You see, I also had a Stage III Renal Cell Carcinoma which was thought to be the source

of these metastatic masses. Only at surgery, they discovered them to originate in the carcinoid tumor. Thus Stage IV!

Dr. Woltering was inviting and optimistic while being frank and too honest as only a Buckeye can to a dreaded Longhorn. He failed only in not recognizing our superior manhood in Texas! Nonetheless, he took the time and the care to comfort my wife and me, and to explain our situation in a way that gave us confidence in both his knowledge and ability to apply it to my unique problems. We have since come to know each other, to be in touch even when he is traveling or off-call (which has never occurred), or when he has been involved with his own health problems.

Gene is a special gem of a person and the real definition of a doctor as I learned it decades ago. Without his embracing arms, we would have never reached this point in life. We came to him feeling like we were living out my death; he gave me back my life... He embraced me, my family, and my illness as personally and as involved in our lives as anyone could. I love him as a brother.

– Bruce Leipzig, M.D., Grateful Patient Ambassador



***“Gene is a special gem of a person and the real definition of a doctor.”***

# Honoring a Healthcare Hero

Under Dr. Eugene Woltering's visionary leadership, his Neuroendocrine Tumor Clinic has grown to become the only multi-disciplinary clinic of its kind in the region. His team has worked together to save thousands through the relentless pursuit of innovation, discovery, and team building; which has resulted in success at tackling a rather complex disease.

Beyond having the best outcomes for patients in the nation, what resonates so deeply with his patients is his undivided attention, personal care, and hope provided to patients and families like your own.

## Doctors' Day

March 30th was National Doctors' Day—a special occasion dedicated to the outstanding medical professionals who humbly nurture the health and wellbeing of our loved ones and greater community. At LSU Health Foundation, we have embraced this as an annual tradition by gathering with our physicians to raise a glass in honor of their service and dedication. Due to COVID-19, we canceled this year's celebration out of safety and concern for all involved. This was a disappointment for many, especially our guests that were to travel from around the country to honor our featured Health Care Hero, Dr. Eugene Woltering.

While our options were limited, we knew we could not let an entire year go by without recognizing Dr. Woltering for all his contributions to LSU Health and to the New Orleans community. This is when the idea of "Doctors' Day 2.0" was born—a car parade to "let the good times roll" for all our local friends eager to celebrate Dr. Woltering in a safe and socially distant way. On the morning of August 22nd, a procession of cars that spanned several blocks convened in the parking lot of the clinic in Kenner, where the cars were decked out with LSU pride and zebra print.

At 10 am, the car parade drove by Dr. Woltering's home to greet him, his wife, and his grandchildren on their lawn. The procession consisted of colleagues from his neuroendocrine



Dr. Woltering waves to his own personal parade from his front lawn.



tumor clinic, LSU Health coworkers as well as his biggest fans—his patients. The parade went live on Facebook to let everyone join in who was unable to attend.

This parade was a welcomed moment of joy not only for the Woltering Family, but the LSU Health community who have proven time and time again that we can rise to any challenge and become stronger and even more supportive because of it. ■

# Investing in the Future

## Eleusis Makes Investment to Support Prevention and Treatment of Inflammatory Eye Disease

The LSU Health Foundation and Board of Directors are pleased to announce a \$250,000 investment in the New York and London-based biomedical firm Eleusis. Despite being an international company, Eleusis has strong ties to the New Orleans area through both its leadership team and licensing of LSU Health technologies.

**Dr. Charles Nichols**, a professor at LSU Health, made the groundbreaking discovery that a class of serotonin 2A receptor agonists (psychedelics) can have powerful anti-inflammatory activity. **Dr. Timothy Foster**, also a professor at LSU Health, further discovered that certain psychedelics have potent protective effects against inflammation and viral infection in models of ocular disease. Together, they have several U.S. and international patents issued and pending and have partnered with Eleusis to advance this technology for clinical therapies. Dr. Foster and Dr. Nichols are currently studying mechanisms underlying these protective effects to



further develop this technology and expand its potential to other disease indications. “This investment will help translate the research breakthroughs made by LSU Health faculty into treatment advances that benefit those diagnosed with chronic eye diseases,” said **Larry Hollier, M.D.**, Chancellor. “It is yet another example of the innovative solutions LSU Health New Orleans faculty are discovering to improve health.” To learn more about the work being done at LSU Health in psychedelic medicines, visit [www.medschool.lsuhsu.edu/pharmacology](http://www.medschool.lsuhsu.edu/pharmacology). ■

## Louisiana Board of Regents Matches Endowed Funds

In March, distinguished external review panels held virtual meetings to discuss, rate, and rank submissions for recommendation to The Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF) for matching the competitive Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarship and Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars subprograms. These subprograms enable campuses to enhance support for chairs and graduate students through permanent endowments. LSU Health was successful in securing \$400,000 in matching funds for the Henry A. Gremillion, DDS Chair in Oral and Maxillofacial Pain, which ranked 1st among all proposals submitted. LSU Health placed 2nd for the Carl and Beulah Baldrige Rural Scholars Track Scholarship, receiving a \$160,000 match.

Endowed Professorships established through the Board of Regents’ Enhancement Program are designed to help campuses recruit or retain faculty whose research, teaching, and/or public service uniquely contribute to the mission of their institutions. The policy guarantees two matches to each eligible campus. In April, The Board of Regents granted LSU Health matching funds totaling \$240,000 benefiting the Duna Penn Professorship of Neonatal Perinatal Medicine, the George Bishop Endowed Professorship in Psychiatry, the Jim Lowenstein Professorship of Medicine, the Margie Villere Professorship for Childhood Development in Psychiatry, the Horatio Reily Professorship in Urology, and the Emeril J. Lagasse, III Professorship of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.



# Education Empowers LSU Health Students

*Support of our Education Empowers initiative is crucial to our students, who in turn support our community in essential ways.*

With the challenge of coronavirus at the forefront of healthcare and education, it is crucial to ensure the health and wellbeing of the LSU Health community, especially our students. “As Louisiana’s flagship health sciences university, LSU Health New Orleans has always been committed to the health of Louisiana,” says **Dr. Larry Hollier**, Chancellor. “In crises like this, our faculty, staff, and students never shine brighter. The value of their contributions is incalculable as they lead response efforts and plan for recovery.”

Our students embody our Chancellor’s words. During this crisis, they have volunteered to care for COVID-19 patients, print face shields, and collect PPE to support their future colleagues on the front line, all while adjusting to remote and virtual learning environments. Now it’s time to take care of them. LSU Health New Orleans is committed to empowering our students through scholarship opportunities on campus.

Join us in making a difference in their lives. By contributing to the Education Empowers initiative, you are supporting our ability to provide the best educational experience to our students for years to come. Help us empower students by making a gift in support of scholarships at LSU Health New Orleans today!

If you are interested in establishing a named endowed fund in support of scholarships at LSU Health New Orleans, please contact Elise Curole at [ecurole@lsuhealthfoundation.org](mailto:ecurole@lsuhealthfoundation.org) or (504) 568-2433. A minimum gift of \$25,000 is required. ■



***“The Rural Scholars Track has given me the chance to improve the oral health of people who have limited access to dental care. I’m so grateful for this scholarship, and I’m excited about the experiences I’ll have served in dental shortage areas.”***

– HANNAH BROUSSARD, SECOND-YEAR  
DENTAL STUDENT & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT (LEFT)

LET'S PUT A PROHIBITION ON CANCER  
WITH THE INAUGURAL

# TIGER BALL



SAVE  
THE  
DATE

Saturday, June 5, 2021\*  
The Castine Center  
Mandeville, LA

*Set in the ROARing 20's, this event will raise crucial support and awareness for cancer research at LSU Health New Orleans. Revel in the finest cuisine and cocktails, music, special guests and 1920's themed activities. Dust off you finest attire for this must-attend party the likes of which Louisiana has never seen!*

TICKETS & MORE INFO: [ONE.BIDPAL.NET/LSUTIGERBALL](https://one.biddal.net/lsutigerball)



*\*LSU Health New Orleans is committed to the safety of our patients and employees during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. The Tiger Ball will only happen if our healthcare experts deem it safe to hold such an event and may be rescheduled to a later date.*

# WE NEED YOUR HELP!

CALLING FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND  
VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR FIRST ANNUAL

## TIGER BALL

JUNE 2021

A fundraiser benefiting cancer research and  
treatment at LSU Health Sciences Center.

The LSU Health Foundation and  
Al Copeland Foundation need your talent  
to make it a success and raise  
the most money to fight cancer.

### SIGN UP TODAY!!!

Contact Sam Cusimano with LSU Health Foundation

[scusimano@lsuhealthfoundation.org](mailto:scusimano@lsuhealthfoundation.org)

504.568.5717





**LSU Health**  
**FOUNDATION**  
NEW ORLEANS

2000 TULANE AVE FL4  
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70112-9806



**Let's keep in touch!**

**(504) 568-3712**

**[www.lsuhealthfoundation.org](http://www.lsuhealthfoundation.org)**

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