When I reflect on this past year, adaptation comes to mind. Despite being in a global pandemic, we found ways to continue our vital educational and patient care activities without significant interruption. We adapted. And in that, we were unique among healthcare universities. We educated students and treated patients via telehealth. We created innovative PPE supplies. We helped produce a mobile coronavirus testing model, making tests accessible to our most vulnerable communities. We established a campus health clinic, making enormous contributions to the well-being of our community. We administered over 20,000 COVID-19 vaccinations to healthcare professionals, members of the public, adolescents ages 12 and up, and hundreds of city of New Orleans employees. We designed research, clinical trials, protocols, and resources for determining the most effective treatments and patient care approaches for COVID-19 that are being used around the world. As a health sciences center, we are the example, and people like you inspire us to strive for excellence every day. Thank you for choosing LSU Health New Orleans as your premier healthcare system.

Larry H. Hollier, MD, FACS
Chancellor, LSUHSC at New Orleans
A Message from the Director of Development, School of Medicine

The LSU Health Foundation, New Orleans, has embarked on a pivotal journey to build a culture of philanthropy and lay the groundwork for an exemplary, world-renowned institution. COVID-19 has not stopped our clinicians, faculty, students, or our team from promoting excellence on our campus, in our clinics, and hospitals across the city. This experience has offered us a chance to hone in on our strengths and grow from the challenges. Our clinicians have met them head-on, caring for patients during the pandemic with in-person visits and via telehealth.

While the clinicians have been on the frontlines, the Foundation has been hard at work creating a robust development model to support the resources that elevate your doctor’s care. We formed an Institutional Enhancement Campaign with donor naming rights to propel our institution to new heights from New Orleans to Baton Rouge. We have raised over $2 million for scholarships on campus, creating more opportunities for our most deserving future physicians. The Foundation spearheaded a web series highlighting our faculty physicians’ globally recognized research and expertise, some of which featured our incredibly resilient patients. We also launched a donor recognition program and our Inaugural “Royal Court” to celebrate our supporters that make this all possible. We have established philanthropic partnerships and funded vital chairs that provide patient care right at home. Finally, with your help, we came together to lift our doctors’ spirits by celebrating our “LSU Super Heroes” on Doctors’ Day with thoughtful gifts and note cards shared by you and other supportive patients.

None of this is possible without you and your support. Together, we prove time and time again that we belong to an incredibly caring and resilient community. As a health sciences center foundation, we are the example, and people like you inspire us to strive for excellence every day.

Katherine O’Hagan
Director of Development, School of Medicine
LSU Health Foundation, New Orleans

About the Gifts of Gratitude Program

The LSU Health Foundation supports LSU Health New Orleans and its fourfold mission of education, patient care, research, and community outreach. Our Gifts of Gratitude Program focuses on enhancing patient care in our community and offers our patients the opportunity to express their appreciation through philanthropic initiatives that make their caregivers, affiliated health institutions, and the greater New Orleans community stronger. These acts of kindness benefit lifesaving technologies, education for our dedicated caregivers, and innovative programs and therapies for patients.
The Kelsey Bradley Favrot Brain Tumor Initiative

The Kelsey Bradley Favrot Brain Tumor Initiative (KBFBTI) is a philanthropic partnership between the LSU Department of Neurosurgery and the Favrot family of New Orleans in loving memory of their wife and mother who died of brain cancer in 2009. KBFBTI’s mission is to bring the highest standard of brain cancer treatment to the New Orleans region, so patients do not have to travel out of state for treatment as Kelsey did. In 2016, the KBFBTI reached its first goal by recruiting a top neuro-oncologist, Dr. Aaron Mammoser, who has changed the lives of numerous local patients.

In December of 2017, LSU diagnosed Lisa Brener with the same malignant brain tumor that Kelsey battled. Unfortunately, Lisa succumbed to her brain cancer in January of 2019. Lisa’s children, Chelsea and Max Cusimano, developed a close bond with the Favrot children, Parker, McKell, Celeste, and Caroline. The group decided to join forces to further the Brain Tumor Initiative and its two annual events, The KBF Memorial 5K Run/Walk, held in October, and Gray Matters, held in May. KBFBTI’s newest goal is to fund a local pediatric neurosurgeon, and the Initiative is well on its way with over 80 percent of the funding secured. To learn more about the KBFBTI, please visit kelseysgoal.com.

The Brain Tumor Initiative supports the treatment and research of brain cancer in New Orleans so that patients do not have to leave town to receive care.
Thank you for supporting our LSU Healthcare Heroes!

"Thank you, LSU Healthcare superheroes, and especially to my care team at the Neuroendocrine Tumor Center. Sending my gratefulness to the best care team of doctors I’ve ever seen. To Dr. J. Philip Boudreaux, Dr. Eugene Woltering, and Dr. Mary Maluccio, thank you for your excellent treatment plan and also grateful for your friendly staff members."

"Thank you, Dr. Vinod Dasa and the LSU Health New Orleans Dept. of Orthopedics. I think of you each morning when I get out of bed and am able to walk. You replaced my knee (right) in October 2015!"
We often refer to our physicians as healthcare heroes. This term never resonated as much as it does after these past 15 months. We documented a series of surprise “drop-ins” with our clinicians to deliver gifts and notes of encouragement from their patients. Not all heroes wear capes, but our clinicians now have official t-shirts, masks, and other gear to show off their superhero status! Be sure to check out a video of their reactions on our social media channels. Thank you for all you do to support your healthcare hero!
Grateful Patient
Ambassador Spotlight

Lynn Naquin

I am a stage four ovarian cancer survivor. From the first time I met Dr. Nair, I knew I was in the best of hands. She is the most empathetic doctor I have ever met. Her knowledge of my disease saved my life! Dr. Nair, Dr. Jernigan, and Dr. Castellano made my journey hopeful of living my life to the fullest. I thank God every day that they are in my life.

Lynn, a 69-year-old ovarian cancer survivor, is an inspiration to all. While she was battling cancer, she lived and continues to live each day with courage and strength. “My courage and strength to fight is greater every day,” says Lynn.

Her drive is motivated by the care she has received at LSU Health and her desire to help save other women’s lives. Lynn is an advocate for ovarian cancer awareness, sharing her journey with Survivors Teaching Students and sharing her story at our Foundation’s Ovarian Cancer Webinar.

During the past year of COVID-19, Lynn and her husband devoted their time to making PPE masks benefitting the LSU Health Service Gynecologic Fund, and moving forward, Lynn’s mission is to continue to help other families battling cancer. To support families with stories similar to her own, Lynn is to host a luncheon and silent auction at The Club at Diamondhead in Bay St. Louis on September 30, 2021. Stay tuned for more details coming soon.
Thank you for caring for me and my family. We appreciate you!

Let your doctor know how much their care means to you by writing them a message of gratitude!
Email ecurole@lsuhealthfoundation.org your address, and we will mail you a card to send to your physician!

*LSU Health New Orleans is actively monitoring COVID-19 in our region. We are following guidance from local health departments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding large gatherings, including CDC recommendations on preventing the spread of COVID-19. Events are subject to be postponed or moved virtually in the event of regulations and advisories from governments and public health organizations banning large gatherings of people, various local, national and international events.*