

# Capsules

Volume 30 Number 3 • May/June 2007



## Summit 21: Positioning the LSMS in the 21st Century

On Saturday, March 24, 2007, over 80 physician-members, key staff and medical executives gathered at the Baton Rouge Marriott to discuss the future of the Louisiana State Medical Society. Governance issues took center stage, as attendees debated the efficiency of the procedures of the House of Delegates (HOD), Board of Governors, as well as ways to improve the structure of volunteer work groups.



Dr. Broussard makes her point during the Summit.

Matt J. Nelson, CPA, served as facilitator for the event. Even with 32 years of experience in the healthcare industry, Mr. Nelson was challenged by the complexity and nuances of the LSMS organizational structure. The Summit began with the question: "Does the LSMS need the House of Delegates?"

Predictably, this opened the floor to much debate and many ideas for improving the efficiency of the LSMS' policymaking body. Votes taken reflected the consensus of the meeting:

- 65% agreed the LSMS needs an HOD to establish corporate structure and major policies;
- 72% believed the HOD should be changed to be more efficient in its use of time and the kind of business it addresses.

The use of electronic voting equipment was introduced at this event, with the hope the new technology would improve the accuracy of the opinions expressed by Summit attendees. By all

*Continued on page 2*

## UPDATE: CRNA Scope of Practice Issue

On March 16, 2007, the Louisiana Supreme Court upheld a ruling of the First Circuit Court of Appeals which concluded the Louisiana State Nursing Board (LSBN) was not authorized to simply assert the scope of practice of certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) includes the performance of procedures "involving the injection of local anesthetics, steroids and analgesics for pain management purposes, peripheral nerve blocks, epidural injections and spinal facet joint injections."

The Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (LSBME) previously posted an Interventional Pain Management Position Statement (See: [www.lsbme.org](http://www.lsbme.org)) which definitely declared these procedures are "the practice of medicine" and cannot be performed by anyone other than a licensed physician. The LSBME, further, affirmed such interventional pain management procedures include diagnostic and interpretive functions which CRNAs are

*Continued on page 3*

## Important Dates to Remember

- **Community Service Award Nominations**  
Due July 31, 2007
- **Hall of Fame Awards**  
Due July 31, 2007
- **HOD Resolutions**  
Due August 14, 2007
- **Committee Annual Reports**  
Due August 14, 2007
- **LSMS HOD and Annual Meeting**  
September 27-29, 2007  
Details coming in next issue of *Capsules*.

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## Capsuled News and Events

### Member NPI Numbers Available Through LSMS Direct Online Directory

LSMS Membership Services is now collecting National Provider Identifier (NPI) numbers from LSMS members. Members should have received a profile form requesting their NPI numbers.

This new database will allow members to access other members' NPI numbers from the LSMS Direct online database in an effort to alleviate some legwork on behalf of physicians looking for NPI numbers.

This new NPI number is required by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and replaces numbers used in the past for the billing of patient services for any health plan. Physicians must apply for an NPI number to continue to bill for patient related services. The deadline to obtain an NPI number has been extended through advocacy efforts by the AMA to May 23, 2008, in lieu of the original date of May 23, 2007. Call Membership Services at 1.800.465.3203 if you have any questions.

For more information regarding the NPI, access the enrollment page on the CMS website at [www.cms.hhs.gov/](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/).

If you need further assistance, contact your Medicare contractor. Toll free phone numbers for Medicare contractors can be found at the CMS website. Medicare contractors are in the best positions to discuss providers' questions relating to claims status, provider enrollment and contractor Local Coverage Decisions (LCDs). Providers should contact their Medicare contractor with questions about these areas prior to contacting the Dallas Regional Office.

### Summit 21: Positioning the LSMS in the 21st Century continued from page 1...

accounts, the "test run" of the electronic voting equipment seemed to make voting quicker and more reliable, as well as preserve the anonymity of the voter. This technology may be considered for use during future HOD meetings.

The afternoon session was devoted to the current work group structure of the LSMS. The free exchange of ideas brought forth many practical solutions for changing the way the LSMS conducts business, with the discussion centering on how to best utilize the member-volunteers who devote so much of their time to the Society. The group also made recommendations for eliminating or combining committees to better accomplish the goals of the LSMS.

With the assistance of meeting data provided by the facilitator, a comprehensive report to implement recommendations from the Summit is being prepared. The report will be presented at the June Board of Governors meeting on Wednesday, June 6, 2007. Interesting facts about those in attendance:



Drs. Watkins, Klein and Kleinpeter listen to comments of Summit 21 participants.

#### Age of Attendees

24-29	0%
30-39	16%
40-49	20%
50-59	33%
60+	31%

#### Length of Membership in LSMS

< 1 year	0%
1-4 years	9%
5-9 years	20%
10-14 years	9%
15-20 years	16%
20+ years	45%

#### Served as Delegate to LSMS HOD

Yes	85%
No	15%

#### Number of Times Attendees Served as Delegate to LSMS HOD

1 Time	3%
2-5 Times	33%
>5 Times	63%

#### *O*n a personal note,

I want to express my gratitude to each person who attended Summit 21. Your time is valuable, and your dedication to the organization is greatly appreciated. We want you to know your input and ideas have been heard.

- W. Juan Watkins, MD  
LSMS President

### Summary of Actions of the Board of Governors

The Board of Governors met on March 23, 2007, and took the following actions:

1. Approved extending the application time for LSMS physicians requesting grants from the LSMS Physician Hurricane Relief Fund to the second anniversaries of both Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Also, requested staff determine whether any funds remaining after the anniversaries can be transferred to the LSMS ERF and report back to the Board in June.
2. Reviewed and approved a press release containing key results from the 2007 LSMS membership survey and included LSMS policy on the need for LSU to have a teaching hospital.
3. Approved LSMS continuing participation in discussions of the Coalition of Leaders of Louisiana Healthcare (COLLAH) to promote the adoption of key components of the proposal for healthcare reform developed by the Louisiana Healthcare Redesign Collaborative.
4. Approved adoption of an LSMS Anti-trust Statement and directed the Board of Governors and all LSMS Committee members sign the agreement which will be kept on file at the LSMS.
5. Approved notifying the membership that the LSMS will begin collecting a database of National Provider Identifier Numbers (NPI) for use in a new members only benefit.
6. Received a report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Medical Malpractice Statutes and approved the Committee's recommendation not to introduce any legislation concerning medical malpractice during the 2007 legislative general session.
7. Voted to note and file the 2006 audit of the LSMS as presented by L.A. Champagne and Company, LLC.
8. Received an update from the AMA concerning its efforts to assist the Gulf Coast in its recovery of the delivery of health care system following the hurricanes of 2005.
9. Recommended a letter be sent to those organizations that responded to the LSMS invitation to participate in an amicus brief regarding the Arrington and Taylor cases explaining the preparation of the brief would be postponed following the recent ruling by the Louisiana State Supreme Court. Also, give those organizations that sent donations to defray the cost of preparing the brief the opportunity to request return of those funds or to leave them in a separate LSMS account established specifically for funds earmarked for the future preparation of a brief on the same cases.
10. Following review of a letter received from the ACCME, the Board of Governors approved reversing its decision to accept the LSMS Educational and Research Foundation Accreditation Program under LSMS direction following the previous notification the ERF program no longer met ACCME qualifications.

### CRNA Scope of Practice Issue continued from page 1...

not authorized to perform. Accordingly, these procedures are not delegable to a CRNA by a physician prescription through prescription, direction or supervision.

The Louisiana Supreme Court upheld the preliminary injunction prohibiting CRNAs from performing such pain management procedures under any circumstances (See *Spine Diagnostics Center of Baton Rouge, Inc. v. Louisiana State Board of Nursing*, through the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals and August J. Rantz, III, 2006 WL 3804630 (La.App. 1 Cir. 12/28/06)).

Having lost in their effort in the Louisiana Judiciary, CRNAs are now attempting to enact legislation (House Bill 684 by Rep. Taylor Townsend and Senate Bill 322 by Senator Joel Chaisson) amending the Louisiana Nurse Practice Act authorizing them to perform procedures "involving the injection of local anesthetics, steroids and analgesics for pain management purposes, peripheral nerve blocks, epidural injections and spinal facet joint injections." These bills will be scheduled, debated and voted upon by both the House and Senate Committees on Health and Welfare during the month of May. Successful passage of either, or both, of these bills would be a legislative usurpation of the "practice of medicine" as defined by the LSBME.

If you have any questions, please contact Kerry Cooley, LSMS Assistant Director, Department of Governmental Affairs, at 800.375.9508 or email [kerry@lsms.org](mailto:kerry@lsms.org).

## Member Profiles

*Dr. O'Neill L. Pollingue* of New Orleans was featured in the Consumers' Research Council of America's 2007 edition of the publication, "Guide to America's Top Orthopedists." The selection process is based on a point value system that awards points for education, years in practice, and affiliations with professional associations.

*Dr. B. Forrest Dugas* of Hammond has been selected as North Oaks Health System's 2006 Physician of the Year. His award was based on the exceptional dedication to people, service leadership, continuous improvement in patient care, and community involvement.

*Dr. Brian Webb* of Baton Rouge has received a three-year appointment as Cancer Liaison Physician for the cancer program at Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center. Cancer Liaison Physicians are an integral part of cancer programs approved by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC).

*Dr. Phillip A. Rozeman* of Shreveport was the recipient of the United Way's Clyde Fant Memorial Award for Outstanding Community Service Award. This award is given annually to individuals who have shown a long term record of service to communities in northwest Louisiana.

*Dr. Leon "Chip" LaHaye* of Lafayette joined 13 other surgeons from eight countries in the surgery session at the Hygeia Hospital in February at the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ESCRS) and the Hellenic Society of Intraocular Implant and Refractive Surgery (HSIOIRS) in Athens, Greece. Dr. LaHaye demonstrated the use of the LAHayeSIK™ surgical system via live LASIK surgery at Athens' Hygeia Hospital.



Pictured, Dr. Leon "Chip" LaHaye.

## In Memory

The LSMS notes with sadness the passing of the following members. If there is a member not listed, please send obituary information to Cathy Thompson, LSMS Membership Development Coordinator.

*Merlin H. Allen, MD*

*Buell C. Buchtel, MD*

*Anthony Collett, Jr., MD*

*Paul M. Davis, Jr., MD*

*Thomas W. Davis, MD*

*Maurice J. Duplantis, Jr., MD*

*Jerome Epstein, MD*

*Bernard Fruge, Sr., MD*

*Myles Gaupp, Sr., MD*

*Manuel Gutierrez, MD*

*John Davies Jackson, MD*

*Irving A. Levin, MD*

*James C. McDonald, MD*

*Eula L.W. Palmer, MD*

*Edith W. Rigsby, MD*

*James E. Toups, MD*

## New Members Welcome to the LSMS

*Mary Ellon Allen, MD*

*Tracie Manuel Bellanger, MD*

*Roy Berkowitz, MD*

*Richard Caro, MD*

*Michael Charles Casadaban, MD*

*Steven Cavalier, MD*

*Matthew Bruce Chamberlain, MD*

*Mark Barton Charbonnet, MD*

*John T. Couvillion, MD*

*Degan J. Dansereau, MD*

*John Allen Davis, Jr., MD*

*Lucius Doucet, III, MD*

*Dominique Halim El-Khawand, MD*

*Robyn Brehm Germany, MD*

*William Anthony Gregoire, MD*

*Owen Matthew Grossman, MD*

*Pamela Renata Haraszti Guoth, MD*

*Nina Keith Hall, MD*

*Leslie R. Hightower, MD*

*Carl Hines, MD*

*Lester Wayne Johnson, MD*

*Sharon K. Joiner, MD*

*Susan N. McNamara, MD*

*Horace Mitchell, MD*

*Godwin C. Ogbuokiri, MD*

*Jaime Palomino, MD*

*Jyoti Sharma Pham, MD*

*Katbarine Cady Rathbun, MD*

*Thomas Ryan, MD*

*Jerry L. Sanders, MD*

*James Sehon, Jr., MD*

*Charles S. Simmons, MD*

*Anna Robichaux Smithers, MD*

*Agustin Joaquin Suarez, MD*

*Johnny William Swiger, MD*

*Christopher M. Voigt, MD*

*Benjamin Walton, MD*

*Leonard Weather, Jr., MD*

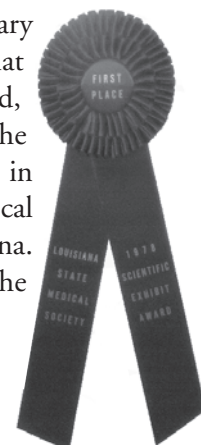
*Jacques S. Whitecloud, MD*

*Michael D. Williams, MD*

*Romel Christopher Wrenn, MD*

*Alaa Younes, MD*

Next year, 2008, will be the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a First Place Scientific Exhibit, an exhibit that *Drs. Burks* and *George A. Farber, Sr.* exhibited, for the Annual LSMS Meeting in 1978. The ribbon (pictured right) is proudly displayed in the Waiting Room of the Gulf South Medical & Surgical Institute, Inc., in Kenner, Louisiana. Unfortunately, Dr. Burks did not live to see the actual exhibit in place.



# Survey: The 2005 Hurricane Disasters - KATRINA and RITA

Louisiana State Medical Society Educational and Research Foundation (LSMS ERF)  
6767 Perkins Rd ♦ Baton Rouge, LA 70808

As discussed in the January/February 2007 issue of *Capsules*, the LSMS ERF received a grant from the Physicians' Foundation for Health Systems Excellence (PFHSE) through its 2006 Excellence in Practice grant program. The grant provides the resources necessary to conduct an analysis and develop recommendations based on the health care lessons learned in Louisiana prior to and following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Please take part in this analysis by taking a few minutes to complete this brief survey and return it via fax to 225.763.6122 or mail to the LSMS at your earliest convenience. Thank you very much for your input.

## Section 1: Medical Records

1. Which hurricane were you affected by?
  - Katrina
  - Rita
2. How were your patients' medical records stored prior to the hurricanes?
  - Paper
  - Electronically
3. Were your medical records damaged during the hurricanes?
  - Yes
  - No (please skip to question 5)
4. If yes, were you able to salvage any portion of your patients' medical records?
  - No
  - If yes, what percentage?
5. Did you have immediate access to your medical records?
  - Yes (please skip to question 7)
  - No
6. If no, how long were your records inaccessible?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. If your records were stored electronically, where were they stored?
  - Onsite
  - Offsite
  - Out of State
8. What are your future plans for storing patient medical records?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Section 2: Communications

9. Which of the following communication devices were you able to use during and immediately after the hurricane? (Please check all that apply.)
  - Land-based telephone
  - Cellular telephone
  - Satellite phone
  - Internet or e-mail
  - Radio controlled device
  - Snail mail
  - Other (please specify \_\_\_\_\_)
10. For you, what was the most effective form of communication during and immediately after the storm? (Please rank 1-7 with 1 being the most effective and 7 being the least effective).

Land-based telephone	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cellular telephone	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Satellite phone	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Internet or e-mail	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Radio-controlled device	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Snail mail	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Other	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11. Do you have any best practices or recommendations related to how communication could have been more effective following the hurricanes?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Section 3: Non-Hospital Volunteer Efforts*

12. Did you volunteer medical services at an emergency medical triage center during or after the hurricanes?
- Yes
  - No (please skip to question 22)
13. If yes, how were your credentials verified as a health care volunteer?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
14. Where were you assigned as a volunteer?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
15. Who assigned you to your volunteer location?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
16. How many health care volunteers were at your location?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
17. Were there too many or too few health care volunteers at your location?
- Too many
  - Too few
18. Were you able to meet all patient needs, such as x-rays, basic lab work, and performing minor procedures?
- Yes
  - No
19. If no, please explain.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
20. In your opinion, were health care volunteer efforts a success or failure?
- Success
  - Failure

21. Why were efforts successful or a failure?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
22. Did you participate in any community or hospital-based disaster drills or exercises during the twelve months prior to the hurricanes?
- Yes
  - No
23. Did you receive any special disaster response training prior to the hurricanes? (In addition to #22)
- Yes
  - No
24. If yes, please describe the type of special training and who provided it.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
25. Do you have any recommendations related to how volunteer efforts could have been more effective and/or efficient during the hurricanes?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

*Section 4: Emergency Medical Triage Centers*

26. Did it appear to you that the center was able to handle the number of patients present at your location?
- Yes
  - No
27. Were emergency medical centers located in appropriate areas where needs were greater?
- Yes (Please skip to question 29)
  - No
28. If no, please explain.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

29. Who was in charge of the emergency medical center?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
30. Did the emergency medical center have utilities such as power, phones, etc.?  
 Yes  
 No
31. Did the emergency medical center have backup power sources?  
 Yes  
 No
32. If yes, were they used during the disasters?  
 Yes  
 No
33. How long did the emergency medical center remain functional?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
34. Do you have any best practices or recommendations related to how emergency medical triage centers could have been more effective and/or efficient during the hurricanes?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

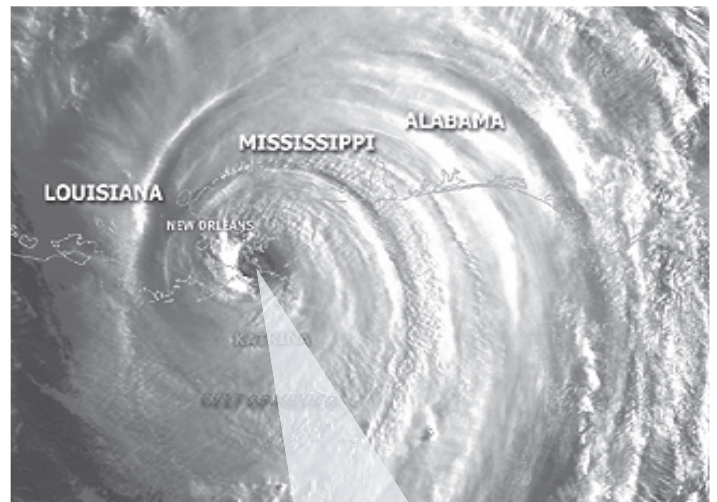
**Section 5: Medical Supplies**

35. Were medications and equipment available in a timely manner to meet patient needs?  
 Yes  
 No
36. How were medications and equipment supplied during the disaster?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
37. Did it appear medication and equipment levels were adequate to treat patient needs?  
 Yes  
 No
38. Were backup plans in place if the flow of supplies was disrupted during the disaster?  
 Yes  
 No

39. If yes, please explain.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
40. Do you have any best practices or recommendations related to how procuring medical supplies could have been more effective during the hurricanes?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
41. Can we contact you in the future to provide more in-depth details to these or other topics related to the hurricanes?  
 Yes  
 No (Thank you for participating.)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

If you would like more information from the LSMS ERF, please see the contact information below.



LOUISIANA STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY  
 EDUCATIONAL & RESEARCH FOUNDATION

6767 Perkins Road, Suite 100  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70808

(800) 375-9508

(225) 763-8500

Fax (225) 763-6122

www.lsms.org

administration@lsms.org

## LSMS Alliance Held 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Leadership Conference



Shari Ferrara, LSMS Alliance President-Elect and Margaret Green, LSMS Alliance President.

The 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Alliance Meeting and Leadership Conference was held, April 25-27, in Avoyelles Parish at Marksville. Special guests were Dr. Juan Watkins, LSMS President; Carolyn Plested, AMA Alliance Director, Nominated Treasurer, and spouse of William G. Plested, III, AMA President; Keith DeSonier, Chairman of LAMPAC Board; Dave Tarver, LSMS Executive Vice President; and Karen Morris, President of Mississippi Medical Association Alliance.

A CME session (4 credits) was offered to physicians, with speakers John LeMoine, MD, of LAMMICO; and Christie Scott, a motivational speaker and certified life coach with specialized training geared toward

coaching physicians. Participants also enjoyed the golf tournament held on Friday.

The AMA Foundation Scholars' Fund Medical School Scholarship awards were presented. The Parish Alliances that contributed to these medical student scholarships were Avoyelles, Calcasieu, East Baton Rouge Parish, Lafayette, Morehouse, Rapides, and Shreveport.

Dr. Scott Kennedy accepted the award of \$1,494.88 for the LSU School of Medicine - Shreveport. LSU School of Medicine – New Orleans received an award of \$4,420.00.

### 2007-2008 LSMS Alliance Officers

Margaret Green (Shreveport)  
President

Teresa Pouw (St. Tammany)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President

Shari Ferrara (E. Baton Rouge)  
President-Elect

Cindy Leopard (Shreveport)  
Treasurer

Marci Freeman (Lafayette)  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Angela Ryder (Calcasieu)  
Secretary

Lisa Broussard (E. Baton Rouge)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

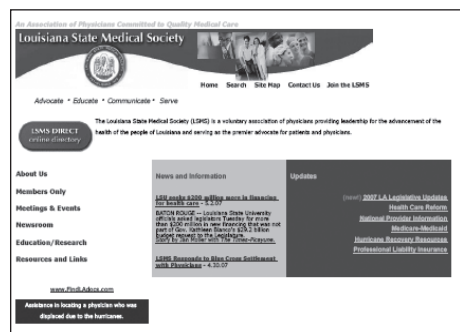


On behalf of the LSMS, President Juan W. Watkins, MD presented outgoing LSMS Alliance President Rose Kuplesky with the annual Alliance stipend at the spring BOG meeting on March 23, 2007.



Dr. Scott Kennedy accepting the AMA Foundation Medical Student Scholarships Award for LSU School of Medicine-Shreveport; and Gail Wilt, AMA Foundation State Chair.

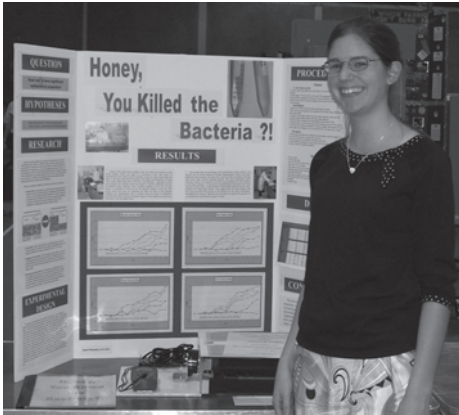
## LSMS Website Updated: Features 2007 LA Legislative Updates



Keep abreast of issues affecting organized medicine during the 2007 Regular Session of the Louisiana State Legislature. Beginning with the opening of Session on Monday, April 30, the Department of Governmental Affairs will publish a "Weekly Legislative Update," designed to keep you informed about important issues facing Louisiana physicians today.

Please visit our recently renovated web site at [www.lsms.org](http://www.lsms.org), and click on 2007 Legislative Updates. You can find out the latest information on legislative bills, from committee meetings and floor debates to votes and enactment. The LSMS welcomes your participation.

# LSMS Judges Select Winners at LSU Science and Engineering Fair



Annette Luther pictured beside her project, "Honey, You Killed the Bacteria."

On April 13, 2007, members of the Retired Physicians Section (RPS) of the Louisiana State Medical Society (LSMS), Drs. Hypolite T. Landry, Donald A. Dreyer, Bibb V. Saye, and RPS President, Bill Dimattia, represented the LSMS as volunteer judges at the Louisiana Science and Engineering Fair held annually on the Louisiana State University



Pictured from left to right, LSMS volunteer judges and LSMS members, Drs. Hypolite T. Landry, Jr., Donald A. Dreyer and William Joseph Dimattia. (Dr. Bibb V. Saye not shown).

Baton Rouge campus. A merit certificate and \$125 was awarded to each of the top four candidates at the fair. The RPS of the LSMS is actively involved in the LSMS and this is just one of their activities.

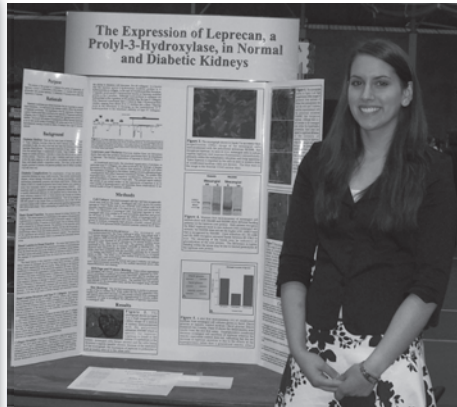
In October 2004, the RSP of the LSMS was established by the House of Delegates (HOD). Dr. Bill Dimattia was selected as Chairman and began organizing the Section. By December 2005, an Executive Board was elected and in February 2006, bylaws were created and have been presented to the HOD. A delegate and alternate delegate have been elected to the HOD.

The RSP offers its retired members a voice in the HOD, a chance to stay active in the membership, and an active role that assists the LSMS in recruiting and retaining members so that organized medicine remains a strong voice for physicians.

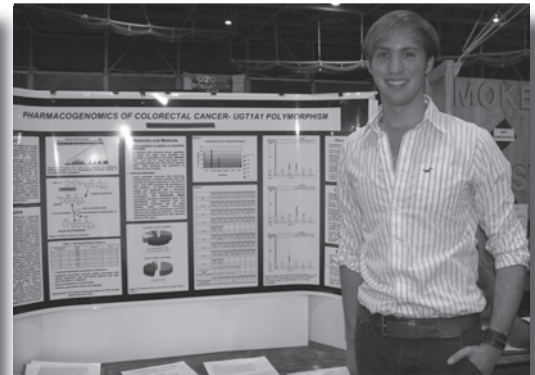
For information about the meetings and updates of the RPS, please contact Cathy Thompson at [cathyt@lsms.org](mailto:cathyt@lsms.org) or call 800.375.9508. Dr. Dimattia can be reached at [wjdimattia@hotmail.com](mailto:wjdimattia@hotmail.com).



Haley Sibley pictured in front of her project, "An Evaluation of the Potential Erosion of Teeth by Various Popular Drinks."



Elise Eva Ackley pictured beside her project, "The Expression of Leprecan, a Proyl-3-Hydroxylase, in Normal and Diabetic Kidneys."



Douglas Scott Crawford pictured beside his project, "Pharmacogenomics in Colorectal Cancer Treatment - UGT1A1 Polymorphism."

*The LSMS conveys its sincerest congratulations to all participants.*

## CMS Announces Physician Reimbursement Changes

According to an alert from the Louisiana Health Care Review on April 4, 2007, specifications for 74 measures that will be included in a Medicare bonus payment program for physicians were posted April 3 by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

The specifications are part of the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI), a program that allows professionals filing claims under the Medicare physician fee schedule to earn a bonus payment by reporting data.

The specifications were posted in advance of the beginning of the program on July 1. Providers will be able to identify measures applicable to their practices and to prepare for submission of quality data, CMS said.

The agency said that it anticipates a small number of additional specification changes, which may expand the applicability of the measures to additional eligible professionals.

The measure specifications are available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI>. Viewers should click on the measures/codes section of the page and scroll down to the Downloads section.

## New Orleans City Business Recognizes Health Care Heroes

In the Health Care Heroes special section on May 14, 2007, *New Orleans City Business* named the inaugural class of Health Care Heroes, recognizing 68 leaders in the region's health care industry.

Honorees were selected based on their contributions to the health care industry and their perseverance through Hurricane Katrina and the lasting effects. The following LSMS members were honored:

*Roland Bourgeois, MD*

*Sander Florman, MD*

*Gerald Vocke, MD*

*Gerald Cohen, MD*

*Juan Gershanik, MD*

*Larry Hollier, MD*

*Frank Culicchia, MD*

*Kevin Jordan, MD*

*Patrick Quinlan, MD*

*Joseph T. Crapanzano, Jr., MD*

*Swati Shah, MD*

*Raja Dhurandhar, MD*

*Charles Thomas, MD*

## New Website Ready to Aid in Disasters



As a physician, you have a critical need to be able to access evacuees medication histories to provide continuity of care in the event of a disaster. ICERx, a secure web site operated by private organizations and made possible with the assistance of federal, state, and local governments, provides you with a secure portal to obtain this information.

The information provided on ICERx is meant to complement, not substitute for, complete information provided to you by your patient. Medication information pertaining to selected sensitive healthcare conditions is not available through ICERx. For more information, call 1.888.ICERX.50 or visit [www.icerx.org](http://www.icerx.org).

## CAPSULES

May/June 2007

PRESIDENT

W. Juan Watkins, MD

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Dave Tarver

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Sadie D. Wilks

STAFF WRITERS

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Published bimonthly for the membership of the Louisiana State Medical Society, *Capsules* is intended to serve as an impartial forum for the information affecting physicians in Louisiana. Treatment of articles, views, and opinions expressed within are not necessarily endorsed by the LSMS. Comments and suggestions are welcomed and should be directed to the managing editor at the address below:

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## Sorry Works! Coalition Offers AudioConference or CD to Earn CME Credit

On May 9, 2007, the Sorry Works! Coalition offers a risk management audio conference on "A Deeper Look at Apology and its Role in Disclosure."

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education through the joint sponsorship of The Risk Management and Patient Safety Institute (RM&PSI) and The Sorry Works! Coalition. RM&PSI designates this educational activity for a maximum of 1.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)<sup>TM</sup>. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

If you are unable to attend the live conference, CDs will be available approximately 3-4 weeks after the program takes place.

For more information, visit [www.sorryworks.net](http://www.sorryworks.net).

## Ask the Right Questions about Domestic Violence and Get CME Credits for It

According to a news release from the Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPPF) in April 2007, in less than one month, nearly 4,000 health care providers have received continuing education units for completing the FVPPF continuing medical education program, now available on Medscape.

Video vignettes demonstrate simple clinical assessments for domestic violence, sample patient interviews, ways to address the needs of victims with children, and more. After viewing the video, health care providers are tested on what they've learned and must get at least 70 percent of the answers right to receive credit.

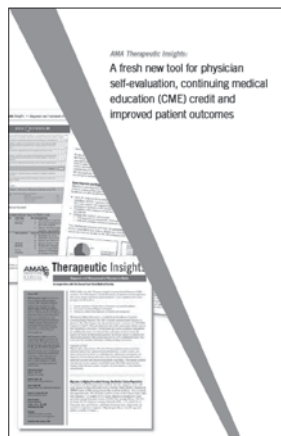
Domestic Violence and Your Patient's Health: Asking the Right Questions is available at [www.medscape.com/viewprogram/6760\\_index](http://www.medscape.com/viewprogram/6760_index) until March 15, 2008. Physicians can receive a maximum of 1.0 American Medical Association PRA Category 1 Credit™ and nurses can receive 1.0 nursing contact hours. None of these credits are in the area of pharmacology. More information is available at [www.endabuse.org](http://www.endabuse.org).

## AMA Launches Therapeutic Insights

In the March/April 2007 issue of *Capsules*, information was provided concerning the American Medical Association's (AMA) business of selling licenses to health care information companies for access to physician professional data, including prescribing data.

In response to the growing concerns about the sale of prescribing data, the AMA is working to provide a direct benefit to physicians with the new CME product, *AMA Therapeutic Insights*.

*AMA Therapeutic Insights* is a quarterly Continuing Medical Education (CME) newsletter intended to provide primary care physicians with evidence-based guidelines for selected medical conditions. This CME activity will serve as a clinical context for your review of personalized physician prescribing reports that you can request after each issue. These reports are for your use only and are intended to improve clinical practice and prescribing habits as a function of self-assessments. For more information, visit [www.ama-assn.org/go/therapeuticinsights](http://www.ama-assn.org/go/therapeuticinsights).



## LPCA and Southwest Regional Primary Care Association Host Annual Continuing Education Conference

The Louisiana Primary Care Association (LPCA) and the Southwest Regional Primary Care Association will be hosting its Annual Continuing Education Conference on June 18-20, 2007, at the Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. This year's theme is Promoting a Culture of Quality and Access through the Mobilization of a Shared Mission. Conference tracks will include Governance Training, Advocacy and Fundraising, Workforce Development, Finance and Management Operations, Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Clinical Quality, Legal Matters, Information Technology, Emergency Preparedness and Administrative Support Training. Keynote speakers and other invited guests include Tom Van Coverden, CEO/President of the National Association of Community Health Centers, Dr. H. Jack Geiger, Founding Father of the CHC Movement, and SWPCA State and Congressional Representatives.

Participant and sponsor registration forms can be down loaded at [www.lpca.net](http://www.lpca.net). Early bird discounts for participant registration are available to those that register before May 25, 2007. For more information, please visit [www.lpca.net](http://www.lpca.net).

## Physician Recognition Awards

Recognizing physicians for participating in continuing medical education, the American Medical Association (AMA) honors qualified physicians with the Physician's Recognition Award (PRA). Physicians must show documentation of obtaining 50 credits or more per year of AMA PRA category 1 and 2 Credit™ and of having read at least two credits per week of "authoritative" medical literature. The most recent recipients of the PRA are:



*Guy Brannon, MD*

*Vimla Menon, MD*

*Corey Conn, MD*

*Clifton Morris, Jr., MD*

*Andrew Dentino, MD*

*Waylon Parker, MD*

*Bharat Joshi, MD*

*Derrick Spell, MD*

## LSMS Annual Report Now Available

The 2005 and 2006 LSMS Annual Reports are now available. If you would like to receive a copy of one, or both reports, contact:

Linda Jones  
Department of Public Affairs  
800.375.9508  
publicaffairs@lsms.org

## Upcoming Events

### *Memorial Day*

May 28, 2007

LSMS Office Closed

### *Board of Governors*

June 6, 2007 - Baton Rouge

### *AMA Annual Meeting*

Chicago Hilton & Towers

June 22-27, 2007

### *Regular Legislative Session*

Adjourns at 6 p.m., June 28, 2007

### *Independence Day*

July 4, 2007

LSMS Office Closed

### *2007 HOD Resolution Deadline*

August 14, 2007

### *Board of Governors*

August 15, 2007 - Baton Rouge

Calendar

Pass on Capsules to Prospective Members!

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