SAHP CHRONICLES:
ROARING SUCCESSES IN ALLIED HEALTH
ABOUT LSUHNO SAHP

The School of Allied Health Professions (SAHP) at Louisiana State University Health - New Orleans (LSUHNO) was established in 1970 by the Board of Supervisors and comprises both undergraduate and graduate programs.

Baccalaureate degrees (Bachelor of Science) are offered in Cardiopulmonary Science and Medical Laboratory Science. The Department of Communication Disorders offers a Master of Communication Disorders degree in Speech-Language Pathology and a Doctor of Audiology degree. The Department of Occupational Therapy offers the Master of Occupational Therapy degree, the Department of Physical Therapy offers a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree, and the Department of Counseling offers the Master of Health Sciences degree. The SAHP also includes the Human Development Center, which provides programs to increase the capacity of professionals in health, mental health, education, and rehabilitation to support individuals with developmental and acquired disabilities and their families to participate in all aspects of community life.

The SAHP provides multidisciplinary outpatient services to achieve diversity of patient objectives that include diagnostic, therapeutic, and restorative services to enable patients to achieve as much functional, social, and occupational independence as is reasonably possible.

OUR MISSION

The SAHP is committed to providing quality education, leadership, research, and public service through direct patient care and community outreach by clinical healthcare professionals and educators.
The School of Allied Health Professions at LSU Health New Orleans appreciates that interprofessional education is the leading process of learning used to foster collaborative practice and improve health outcomes. It prepares our student learners to work as a team to provide quality care and education to patients.”

-Dr. Erin Dugan

FROM THE DEAN
ERIN M. DUGAN, PH.D.

As we reflect on 2023, I extend warm gratitude to all who played a pivotal role in preparing our diverse student body, faculty, and staff.

Throughout the past year, the School of Allied Health Professions strengthened our infrastructure to advance our mission in teaching, research, and service. In the area of teaching, we recruited new faculty across departments to bolster support for existing faculty and students. We received funding to purchase educational resources and supplies to enhance student learning and skill acquisition before clinical fieldwork experiences. In the area of research, an office of research services was approved, enabling us to hire an associate dean for research affairs and a research coordinator. Their roles are critical in strengthening our research structure and increasing productivity. In the area of service, our dedicated faculty continued to serve the school and university. Faculty clinicians provided direct patient care in our on-campus clinics and at external contracted sites, including hospitals. New contracts and agreements were established, benefiting student learning and community development. In addition to the aforementioned efforts, the SAHP has taken significant steps to enhance our programs and support faculty. A student recruitment specialist was hired to engage with prospective students, promote our programs, and increase enrollment across all disciplines within the school. Lastly, we increased faculty travel support to recognize the importance of disseminating research and scholarly work.

As part of our commitment to excellence, the School of Allied Health Professions is actively revising our strategic plan to ensure alignment with the broader goals of LSUHNO. To strengthen our sense of community, we expanded our event offerings. These gatherings, which include alumni events, partner day, white coat ceremonies, research day, dean’s quarterly meetings, and student engagement activities, provide opportunities for connection, celebration, and collaboration.

Thank you for your continued dedication to building a thriving academic environment within the School of Allied Health Professions.

Sincerely,
Erin Dugan, PhD
The Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions (ASAHP) selected LSU Health New Orleans’ School of Allied Health Professions as the recipient of the 2023 ASAHP Award for Institutional Excellence and Innovation in Interprofessional Education (IPE) and Collaborative Health Care.

Since 2017, LSU Health New Orleans’s School of Allied Health Professions has participated in Team Up®, a two-year longitudinal interprofessional education experience integrated within the curriculum of all six LSU Health New Orleans schools for first and second-year students. Students also engage in single IPE experiences in simulation labs, hospital training labs, clinics, or in the community. As well, students can participate in Interprofessional Student Alliance community projects to address health-related disparities in underserved communities.

"The collaborative model of interprofessional education provides the platform at LSU Health New Orleans to build high quality health care teams that can and will effect change in improving health outcomes across individuals and communities.” - Janet Southerland, DDS, MPH, PHD, LSUHNO Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs

The SAHP’s Human Development Center has two grants that offer further interprofessional experiences to students:

- The Interprofessional Preparation for Related Services Personnel Serving Children With Disabilities Who Have High Intensity Needs
- The Leadership in Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND)
SAHP YEAR IN REVIEW

SPRING 2023

JAN 9
SAHP STUDENT ORIENTATION

MAR 2
SAHP JOB FAIR

MAR 30
WHITE COAT CEREMONY FOR MLS, OT, PA, & SLP

APRIL 19
SAHP RESEARCH DAY

MAY 10
COUNSELING GRADUATE STUDENT SHOWCASE

MAY 16
SAHP COMMENCEMENT

2023 NEWSLETTER
FALL 2023

AUG 08
MICROAGGRESSION AND IMPLICIT BIAS, SAHP DIVERSITY EVENT

SEP 27
SAHP JOB FAIR

OCT 6
SAHP OPEN HOUSE

OCT 13
SELF-CARE DAY BY COMMUNICATION DISORDERS DEPT

OCT 20
WHITE COAT CEREMONY FOR PT

DEC 5
OT RESEARCH DAY
ALUMNI & COMMUNITY EVENTS

Graduate Alumni Networking Social
May 10, 2023

Kids Zoo to Do
April 21, 2023

Saints Pre-Game Tailgate
December 10, 2023

Don’t miss out on the SAHP’s exciting community and alumni events! Whether you’re looking to reconnect with classmates, expand your professional network, or simply have fun, our events offer something for everyone. Be a part of our vibrant community and help us continue the tradition of excellence and camaraderie. Stay connected, get involved, and join us at our next event.

Follow our Instagram @lsuhealth_neworleans_sahp and stay tuned for email updates for upcoming events.
GRANTS

The LSU Health New Orleans School of Allied Health Professions is honored to receive prestigious grants for innovative projects in 2023. These awards underscore our commitment to advancing health sciences, transforming healthcare education, and building the capacity of future professionals to better care for individuals with disabilities through the lens of social determinants of health and person-centered planning.

5 HIGHEST SAHP GRANTS IN 2023

EARLY HEAD START $3,991,821
_Human Development Center_
Early Head Start Child Care Partnership

LEND $464,000
_Human Development Center_
Leadership Education In Neurodevelopmental and Other Related Disabilities

INTERPROFESSIONAL PREPARATION $249,869
_Human Development Center_
Interprofessional Preparation for Related Services Personnel Serving Children With Disabilities Who Have High Intensity Needs

UCEDD (CORE) $606,330
_Human Development Center_
University Center for Excellence on Development Disabilities

WIPA $265,000
_Human Development Center_
Louisiana Work Incentive Planning and Assistance

LCMC PIPELINE

Due to unprecedented shortages of medical laboratory scientists and respiratory therapists in Louisiana and the New Orleans metropolitan area, LSUHNO School of Allied Health Professions and LCMC Health have partnered to enhance accessibility to education and healthcare. Together, they have established the LCMC Health-LSUHNO School of Allied Health Medical Laboratory Science Scholars Program (LLMLS) and the LCMC Health-LSUHNO School of Allied Health Respiratory Therapy Scholars Program (LLCPS).

These programs offer eligible students financial assistance for tuition and fees, providing up to $12,000 over three semesters. Recipients, upon graduation, agree to fulfill a paid full-time position as a medical laboratory scientist or respiratory therapist at their matched LCMC Health facility. Xavier Cruz Maldonado, Hannah Pike, Jasmine Holcombe, and Hannah Pike are the inaugural LLMLS Scholar recipients and Amyri Lopez and Terrica Louis are the inaugural LLCPS Scholar recipients. LCMC Health facilities will host match day for these Scholars in November.
2023 BY THE NUMBERS

ENROLLMENT
SPRING 2023

- Audiology: 34
- Speech-Language Pathology: 36
- Physical Therapy: 97
- Occupational Therapy: 104
- Counseling: 10
- Physician Assistant Studies: 103
- Cardiopulmonary Science: 29
- Medical Laboratory Science: 53
- Non-Degree, Allied Health Undergraduate: 1

GRADUATES BY SEMESTER

- Spring 2023: 169
- Summer 2023: 2
- Fall 2023: 368
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION DISORDERS
AUDIOLGY
ACADEMIC PROGRAM

ABOUT US

The LSUHNO Audiology Program continues to promote excellence and compassion in audiological care.

The program provides hands-on experience for students while serving the community through an on-campus clinic. With a commitment to academic success and clinical proficiency, students are empowered to become skilled audiologists, ready to make a meaningful impact in the lives of others.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Madison Humphries

Madison Humphries is a 3rd year doctor of audiology student. This past year she attended the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Conference in Washington, D.C to present her research completed through the Interprofessional Preparation of Related Service Personnel (IPP) program. Madison’s poster featured the research behind and creation of her children’s book titled “Hannah and Hayden Get Their Hearing Aids” to engage children and their families in the process of obtaining hearing aids.

Created as an educational tool for teachers, caregivers, and medical professionals, this storybook provides children with honest images of hearing loss to stimulate their awareness, acceptance, and understanding. Madison is currently working on publishing this children’s book!
FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Megan Majoué
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Dr. Megan Majoué was the 2023 recipient of the Allen A. Copping Excellence in Teaching Award. She has been a faculty member with SAHP since 2017 and specializes in vestibular science. She continues to conduct research in her chosen field and has a dynamic on-campus clinic to help treat her patients while training our students with cutting edge technology.

PUBLICATIONS

Drs. Hurley, Guidry and Majoué had an article accepted for publication in the American Journal of Audiology, “Critical Thinking: A Program Review of Doctor of Audiology Students.”

In health care settings, critical thinking involves the integration of background scientific knowledge with the relevant initial patient history to accurately diagnose and implement a treatment plan. Medical professionals must rely on critical thinking skills to gather, analyze, and process information to make correct clinical decisions. The study reports critical thinking skills for entering doctor of audiology (AuD) students and the trajectory of the change in critical thinking skills measured 2 times over a period of 3 years.

The results of this program review show significant improvement in critical thinking skills as students progress through the AuD program at LSUHNO SAHP. Thus, our current audiological academic and clinical curriculum promotes critical thinking skills. Furthermore, students with initial weak critical thinking skills graduate as strong critical thinkers and become successful clinicians who meet one of our primary audiology education program goals.
At the 2023 American Academy of Audiology National Conference in Seattle, two audiology fourth year students, Mahsa Abedi and Adele Ory, presented their research.

Adele’s publication with Dr. Danielle Mercer and Dr. Terri Ibieta is entitled “Early Intervention Enrollment Rates and Hearing Aid Fittings Among Early-Identified Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing Children in Louisiana.”

Mahsa presented two of her publications one of which was “The Audiologist’s Role in Determining Cochlear Function After Gunshot Injury to the Temporal Bone,” which was published alongside Dr. Megan Majoué and Dr. Annette Hurley. Her second presentation was “Interprofessional Management of a Child with Vascular Compression of the Cochleovestibular Nerve: A Case Report” with Dr. Majoué and Dr. Hurley, from SAHP’s Audiology Department, and Dr. Leslie Lopez, from SAHP’s Speech-Language Pathology Department.

At LSUHNO’s Research Day, third year audiology students Sam Ducote and Abbey Landry presented their poster with Drs. Guidry and Hurley on the “Comparison of Prescribed Hearing Aids to Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids.” Their study used probe-microphone measurements to compare these devices to prescriptive targets for patients with mild and moderate hearing loss. Their results revealed that preset and self-fit OTC hearing aids over amplified the mild and moderate hearing losses at many frequencies and input intensities.
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION DISORDERS
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
ACADEMIC PROGRAM

ABOUT US

Our program is dedicated to training future speech-language pathologists who are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and compassion to make a meaningful impact in the lives of individuals with communication and swallowing disorders.

Our on-campus clinic provides services including prevention, identification, diagnosis, consultation, therapy, and remediation for persons with speech and language disorders allowing our students to gain clinically expertise for a variety of clinical practices.

SPOTLIGHTS

Emily Kornman ‘19

Emily Kornman graduated from LSUHNO in 2019. She is currently the lead technologist specialist and in-house SLP at Team Gleason. She sees individual clients in their Assistive Technology Lab. She also presents to large audiences on voice preservation. The website www.roon.com is a resource she recommends for individuals navigating ALS.

Andrea Pizza ‘23

Andrea Pizza graduated from LSUHNO in 2023. She went on to train at the Blaine Block Voice Institute for Analysis and Rehabilitation in Dayton, Ohio. She is the founder of Voice Therapy with Larry, an LLC specializing in providing creative education tools and resources to support children in voice therapy. She is currently back home working at UMC.
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Adrianna Roes, a speech-language pathology student, created and submitted an original design which was selected by the Louisiana Speech-Language Hearing Association as their 2024 convention logo.

“Being an SLP student is my greatest accomplishment. I love the profound impact I get to make as an SLP student, whether it’s helping a child with speech sound disorders find their voice or assisting an adult recovering from a stroke regain their communication abilities. The rewarding feeling of making a difference transcends any specific population I work with!”

GRANTS

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded a Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children Program (HTPCP) grant to Dr. Lopez to study an innovative, community-based initiative to improve the health status of infants, children, and families in underserved communities by increasing their access to preventive care and services. The project runs through February 2027.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) have provided funding for Dr. Lopez to complete an action-oriented needs assessment of Early Head Start programs in Orleans Parish to enhance provider- and family-engaged developmental monitoring. The project runs through December 2024.
The Department of Cardiopulmonary Science offers a bachelor’s degree in cardiopulmonary science, specializing in either CARDIOVASCULAR SONOGRAPHY or RESPIRATORY THERAPY. This year celebrates the program’s 45th anniversary at LSUHNO.

Cardiovascular sonography merges cardiac sonography and vascular technology in the use of noninvasive techniques to diagnosis cardiac abnormalities and circulatory system disorders. Respiratory therapy involves the evaluation, treatment and management of patients who are experiencing respiratory or cardiopulmonary disorders.

Casey Tran, class of 2024, helped faculty to recruit the next cohort of respiratory therapy and cardiovascular sonography students during LSU’s fall Health Professions and Wellness Career Fair, held in the LSU Student Union Ballroom. (October 3, 2023)
**STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS**

**Haley Alvarado ‘23**

**RECEIVES TWO AWARDS**

Haley Alvarado, class of 2023, received the John B. Bobear Award for Outstanding Student in Respiratory Therapy and the Dean’s Award, as a graduate who represents the highest ideals of the SAHP in the areas of scholarship and service.

**Effects of Waterpipe Tobacco Smoking**

Senior students Hailey Carter, Justice Pitts, Amanda Nguyen, and Alexis Werner won best oral poster presentation with “The Effects of Waterpipe Tobacco Smoking on the Respiratory System” during the Louisiana Society for Respiratory Care 51st Annual Educational Meeting and Exhibits. (April 26, 2023)

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**PUBLICATIONS**


**Dr. John Zamjahn** authored a Spotlight Article on the respiratory therapy program at LSU Health New Orleans for The Coalition Chronicle, a publication of the Coalition for Baccalaureate and Graduate Respiratory Therapy Education in Volume 13 (6): 1-11.

**RESEARCH**

**Dr. Andy Pellett** presented "Understanding mitral regurgitation associated low gradient aortic stenosis" at the American Society of Echocardiography’s 2023 scientific sessions on June 24 in National Harbor, Maryland.
Building Health Teams

For LSUHNO’s office of interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice (IPECP) summer program called Building Health Teams, Dr. Zamjahn showcased the respiratory therapy profession and academic programs within the Department of Cardiopulmonary Science. This 4-week program is open to high school and college students interested in pursuing a health career.

Summer Science Program

The respiratory therapy program’s inaugural senior high school student, Melaya Rayford, from Abramson Sci Academy in New Orleans East, was mentored as part of the 2023 LSU School of Medicine High School Summer Science Program. Melaya learned about respiratory anatomy and physiology and practiced respiratory therapy skills. She also toured University Medical Center where she learned about the specialized areas of respiratory care and observed patient care.

STEM Fests

Two STEM Fests, hosted by the New Orleans Saints and Pelicans, had senior respiratory therapy students discuss the principle of Boyle’s Law as they demonstrated positive and negative pressure breathing to participants. Participants also placed an endotracheal tube in a mannequin head and “breathed” for it with a resuscitation bag. Pictured on top are Haley Alvarado and Kelsey Nicolosi on March 4, 2023 at the Ochsner Sports Performance Center. Pictured on bottom are Nedda Iweinat and My Do on October 14, 2023 at the Caesars Superdome.
Clinical Rotations

Respiratory therapy program junior students (pictured left to right: Amyri Lopez, Miranda Strassel, Erin Vogt, Ashley Knox, and Terrica Louis) started their first clinicals by attending University Medical Center New Orleans with Molly Quinn Jensen, MHS, RRT, RRT-ACS, RRT-NPS on October 10, 2023.

Ochsner Flight Care Visit

Ochsner Flight Care Team Members, Vinh Nguyen, RRT, RRT-NPS, NREMT, CPS class of 2009, and Caroline Phillips, RRT, RRT-NPS, C-NPT, NREMT, CPS class of 2012, presented our senior students with a look into the career of a flight care respiratory therapist, as they toured the Ochsner Flight Care facility, located within the New Orleans Lakefront Airport. (November 16, 2023)
ABOUT US

The Master of Health Sciences degree in Counseling provides students with professional education and clinical experience to serve persons of all ages and with diverse backgrounds that have challenges related to mental, physical, developmental, cognitive, and emotional disabilities. This mission is achieved through various academic, clinical, research, and scholarly activities.

SPOTLIGHTS

Dr. Erin Dugan
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Dr. Erin Dugan received a Play Therapy Lifetime Achievement Award from the Louisiana Association for Play Therapy. Here she is posing with past interns from the LSU Child and Family Counseling Clinic during the association’s state conference in March 2023.

Raquel Nunez
STUDENT

Raquel Nunez was nominated for the Southern Association of Health Professions Dean’s (SAHPD) Student Leadership, Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity Award by the LSUHNO SAHP SAHPD Faculty Committee.
NEW FACULTY

Dr. Holly Walters

Dr. Holly Walters is our newest faculty member and an alumna of our program, graduating with a Master of Health Sciences in Rehabilitation Counseling. She holds a Ph.D. in counselor education from Oregon State University and is a Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor (LPC-S).

RECRUITMENT

On October 5, 2023 the department hosted its first open house and received a great turnout of prospective students from across Louisiana. Additionally, it hosted a virtual open house prior to Thanksgiving 2023 for attendees to attend virtually! Dr. Walters has hit the ground running and attended numerous recruitment events during the fall 2023.

RESEARCH

On September 22, 2023 the Department of Counseling held a Counseling Research Symposium showcasing student projects.

Pictured are Mackenzie McComas and Scott King, who are second year students and Chi Sigma Iota board members, with their poster “Depression Scores as a Function of Sleep and Gender” coauthored with Dr. George Hebert.
ABOUT US

Medical laboratory scientists (medical technologists/clinical laboratory scientists) perform analytical tests on blood and body fluids. As vital members of the health care team, they provide information necessary for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease. Medical Laboratory Science is a profession requiring precise and accurate evaluation techniques and keen problem-solving and judgment skills.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Joanie Brocato, Department Head, and Daniel Haun, clinical instructor, presented a session at the 2023 American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, Clinical Laboratory Educator's Conference. The session title was Clinical Chemistry Simulator and demonstrated one of the latest practice simulators developed by MLS faculty in the past decade. As the title suggests, this simulator challenges student's abilities and clinical knowledge to review, interpret and take appropriate action as 'patient results' are generated by modern multichannel analyzers. After clinically correlating sets of patient results to age and sex, the student must then use and practice critical thinking skills to determine the appropriate action to be taken. The simulator contains banks of patient results representing common and rare clinical conditions, as well as artifactual findings that would invalidate the result. Some results correlate well and are released without further action but others require corrective action to prevent the release of erroneous results.
NEW EQUIPMENT

The Department of Medical Laboratory Science was fortunate to acquire multiple equipment upgrades and new additions in 2023. Using the education resource fund, the department added a high definition monitor to the laboratory, acquired a real-time PCR instrument for students to use in their molecular diagnostic lab, and upgraded microscopes, lab chairs, and centrifuges.

STUDENT AWARDS

Duyen Vu
BETTY LYNNE THERIOT OUTSTANDING STUDENT

Angelica Gaines
FACULTY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Alissa Diaz
SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Mario Brown
J CLYDE SWARTZ-WELDER “C2” AWARD

LINDEBERG SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Angelica Gaines
Angelica Gaines was selected for the Lindberg scholarship for demonstrating competence in the classroom and student laboratory, a commitment to the profession of medical laboratory science, and excellent laboratory skills during clinical rotations.

BETTY LYNNE THERIOT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Alissa Diaz
Alexandra Jarreau
Alexandra Lawson
Maxim Niculai
Katelynn Starkey

2023 NEWSLETTER
DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

ABOUT US

The Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) Class of 2025 held their White Coat Ceremony on March 15, celebrating their imminent transition from the academic portion of their learning to learning to the clinical portion, as they embark on their first Level II fieldwork in the summer. Outstanding Alumnus of the Year Sally Richardson gave the keynote address to over 200 friends and family who attended the event to support our students. Congratulations to the Class of 2025 on achieving this milestone in their occupational therapy education!

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Sally Richardson, LOTR

The MOT Class of 2025 selected Sally Richardson, LOTR, as Outstanding Alumnus of the Year. Sally graduated from the program in 2019 and has stood out in the OT community due to her expertise in neurorehabilitation and her advocacy for patients. In addition, she is a frequent guest lecturer, volunteering her time to give exciting and engaging lectures to our students. We are so proud to say that Sally Richardson is an alumna of the SAHP!
Dr. Mark Blanchard and Dr. Ingrid Franc published an article on the effectiveness of an educational video intervention for people with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis prior to power wheelchair evaluations in the Journal of Interprofessional Practice and Collaboration, co-authoring it with prior students Kelly Connelley, Emily Copeland, Quinn Malbrough, and Sara Pendleton.

Ingrid Franc, Associate Professor, presented at the American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference in Orlando. She was part of Scientific Symposium, providing the results of a research project on the effects of LSVT-BIG intervention on the speed of completing common activities of daily living in people with Parkinson’s disease.

Both Alanna Glapion, Clinical Instructor, and Rebecca Callais, Clinical Instructor, will be presenting at the Louisiana Occupational Therapy Association annual spring conference in Baton Rouge in May. Rebecca will be giving a workshop on the occupational therapy approach to vestibular rehabilitation and Alanna will present a workshop on incorporating student accommodations into fieldwork education.
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

ABOUT US

The Department of Physical Therapy began in 1971 and the first class graduated in 1973. The mission of the program is to develop graduates with outstanding clinical skills in physical therapy, including diagnosis, clinical reasoning, program planning, and therapeutic intervention. The program offers highly qualified faculty, state of the art facilities, and is located in the heart of the LSUHNO medical complex.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Rachel Wellons
Dr. Wellons’ research is in the area of clinical translational research with respect to balance and vestibular disorders, interprofessional education, case-based learning, and strategies to increase clinical reasoning in physical therapy education. She participated in four invited presentations in 2023.

Ha Hoang
Dr. Hoang’s main areas of research are phenomenology of student success, career development in physical therapy, and program-based retention practices. Dr. Hoang has presented at local, state, national, and international conferences.
Dr. Howe Liu’s studies focus primarily on investigations of the effect of alternative therapies like Tai Chi on older adults with neurodegenerative disorders (e.g., Parkinson’s disease), and the effect of different assistive walking devices on an older user’s body mechanics. Also, he conducts research on cadavers in anatomy lab for precise surface projections and potential impingement spots of a variety of peripheral nerves in comparison with people who may suffer from peripheral pain problems. He published ten peer reviewed articles in 2023.

Dr. Moreau has been funded through the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Thrasher Research Fund, Pedal-with-Pete Foundation, American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), and the Section on Pediatrics of the APTA. She is currently the principal investigator of two, multi-site R01 clinical trials funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Moreau has published over 25 peer-reviewed manuscripts in high impact journals in her field. The overarching goal of Dr. Moreau's research is the development of effective rehabilitation strategies to address neuromuscular impairments and improve activity, participation, and quality of life.


2. Short-Burst Interval Treadmill Training to Improve Community Walking Activity and Mobility in Cerebral Palsy. Bjornson, Moreau, & Bodkin. (PI). HIH/NICHD R01 HD098270-01

3. An Individualized Multimodal Intervention for Bone and Muscle Health in Pre-Adolescents with Cerebral Palsy: Promoting Healthy Transitions into Adulthood. Moreau N. (PI). Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy


FOLLOW US!

WEBSITE
www.alliedhealth.lsuhsc.edu/pt/

FACEBOOK
@LSUHealthNewOrleans.PT
DEPARTMENT OF
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
STUDIES

ABOUT US

With a focus on primary care, the LSUHNO Department of Physician Assistant Studies awards a Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree following 29 months of intensive academic and clinical training. Of the 29 months, the 17-month academic phase is conducted in New Orleans with state-of-the-art training equipment and facilities. A 12 month clinical experience is conducted at a variety of sites throughout Louisiana.

We've made an exciting move within our institution, transitioning from the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies to the Department of Physician Assistant Studies, which represents a big step forward for our program.

SPOTLIGHTS

Savannah Samuel
FIRST-YEAR PA STUDENT

1st year PA student Savannah Samuel has been recognized for her leadership and commitment to diversity and inclusion, being selected as the SAHP nominee for the Southern Association of Health Professions Dean’s Student Leadership, Diversity, Inclusion, & Equity Award.

Stephanie Eschete
FACULTY

We're thrilled to have Stephanie Eschete join us as the newest member of our teaching team. As an alumna of our program, she brings a fresh perspective to our faculty, and we're excited about how her experience will help us improve and grow.
IN THE NEWS

Our faculty members Brittany Booth and Amber Weydert have been sharing their expertise on Fox 8 News, discussing important health topics with the community. Amber Weydert discussed “What you should not do before a medical appointment” and Brittany Booth discussed men’s health.

Our new department head, Brittany Booth, also shared her personal journey to becoming a PA on the PA Path Podcast, giving insights into her career and our PA program. The podcast is live! [Listen to it here.]

MILESTONES

The Class of 2024 celebrated their hard work with a White Coat Ceremony in April of 2023, an important event where they were joined by family and friends as they prepared to start their clinical experiences.

FOLLOW US!

WEBSITE
www.alliedhealth.lsuhsc.edu/pa/

FACEBOOK
@paprogram.neworleans
The Human Development Center (HDC) at LSU Health New Orleans is Louisiana’s University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD).

HDC serves as a resource to people with disabilities and their families, service providers in health, education, and rehabilitation, and policy-makers. Our mission is to build Louisiana’s capacity to ensure that people with disabilities are able to participate fully in all aspects of community life.

As a UCEDD, HDC is tasked to fulfill the purpose of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act through interdisciplinary training, research, and community service.

SERVICES PROVIDED

Our services reached 14,802 individuals in the 2023 fiscal year.

Continuing Education 3047
Community Training 6188
Technical Assistance 4455

Our focus is on the following areas:

- Early Childhood Education
- Inclusive Education
- Deafblind Support
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Education
- Postsecondary Transition
- Competitive Integrated Employment
- Work Incentive Planning
- Interdisciplinary Training
- Community Health

For a full look at our programs, visit www.hdc.lsuhsc.edu.
Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities

LEND is a 300+ hour interdisciplinary leadership training program funded by the US Health Resources Services administration Maternal Child Health Bureau.

Interprofessional Preparation of Related Service Personnel

This scholarship program trains related services personnel in inter-professional evaluation and management of school-age children with disabilities presenting with high-intensity needs. This project is made possible by the Personnel Development Program, authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

HDC leveraged over $8M in extramural funding in FY 2023 with nearly $6M in federal grant funding. HDC’s LASARD project received over $1.7M in contracts from school districts across the state for K-12 educator training. HDC also generated funding from tuition for the Early Learning Center and from fees for service from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. The balance of HDC’s revenue came from state and local sources for training and coaching in early childhood care and secondary transition.

Collectively, these activities allowed HDC to support about 50 full time staff.

Conservatively, HDC leverages $20 to every $1 of funding provided by the university and SAHP.
Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) is an umbrella term describing the effects that can occur in an individual exposed to alcohol in the womb. These effects may include physical, mental, behavioral, and/or learning disabilities with lifelong implications.

1 in 20 U.S. school-age children have FASD.
May et al, (2018)

**FASD SPOTLIGHTS**

Despite being the largest preventable cause of developmental disabilities in the U.S., fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) is largely undiagnosed or misdiagnosed in Louisiana. The HDC aims to address the lack of education, awareness, and preventative measures in our state.

**Louisiana FASD Summit**

The Human Development Center organized the Louisiana FASD Summit on June 16-17, 2023, which set the foundation for HDC’s work related to FASD in Louisiana. The summit featured experts who presented on epidemiology, prevention, intervention, family advocacy, and lived experience. 312 summit participants registered from 4 countries and 29 US states.

**Krista James**

Dr. Krista James was named as HDC’s Director of FASD Initiatives. With her lived experience as the adoptive mother of three children with FASD and years of supporting teachers to better serve students with disabilities, Krista will lead HDC’s efforts to create an interagency strategic plan to address FASD in Louisiana.
SAHP CLINICS

Clinics at the LSUHNO School of Allied Health Professions had 3,684 patient encounters in 2023.

Our on-campus clinics include:
- Audiology
- Counseling
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Speech-Language Pathology

In addition to on-campus clinic services, our multi-specialty clinicians participate in continuous collaborative endeavors for education & service. They do so by partnering with entities small and large. They help improve and diversify clinical education opportunities for students by participating as site supervisors at various clinics throughout the community. Clinicians also provide direct services as part of practicing and promoting their clinical expertise. Some community partner sites include:

- American Hearing + Balance
- Jefferson Parish School Board
- Early Detection Screenings, Inc.
- Veteran's Affairs
- Dept of Southeast LA Veteran's Health Care System
- Communities in the Schools of the Gulf South, Inc.
- The Split-Second Foundation, Inc.
- Tulane University
- Ochsner Clinic Foundation
- Young Audiences Charter Schools
AUDIOLOGY CLINIC

The LSUHNO Audiology Clinic provides an environment for graduate students to work with faculty providing exemplary care to a diverse patient population. The clinic offers a vast array of evidence-based services for all age ranges. It also provides an opportunity to complete research to test and provide the most current methods of audiological care.

PROVIDERS

- Megan Majoué, Au.D., CCC-A, FFF-A
- Megan Guidry, Au.D., CCC-A, FFF-A
- Erica Cardosi, Au.D., CCC-A, FFF-A
- Emily Mutter, Au.D., CCC-A
- Annette Hurley, Ph.D., Au.D., CCC-A

SERVICES

- Hearing Tests
- Balance Testing
- Hearing Aids
- Tinnitus Management
- Cochlear Implant
- Auditory Processing
- Hearing Protection

The clinic offers comprehensive diagnostic evaluations including pediatric testing. Clinicians work with all major hearing aid manufacturers and use verification measures to ensure quality fittings. The Audiology Clinic works with cochlear implant patients in pre- and postoperative assessment, programming and troubleshooting, and in rehabilitation and counseling for all cochlear implant brands.

The clinic has on-site electrophysiology and vestibular equipment for students to get hands-on advanced testing.
CHILD & FAMILY COUNSELING CLINIC

The LSUHNO Child & Family Counseling Clinic is an outpatient mental health clinic designed to provide mental health services to children, adolescents, and their families. The clinic provides supervision and consultation services to students and professionals seeking to earn continuing education hours toward licensure/certification as well as provide professional development trainings and mental health consultation.

PROVIDERS

- Erin Dugan, PhD, CRC, NCC, LPC-S, Registered Play Therapist Supervisor
- George Hebert, Ph.D, Licensed Psychologist
- Holly Walters, Ph.D., LPC-S, CRC

SERVICES

- Individual, Group, and Family Play Therapy
- Psychological Assessment & Testing
- Social Skills Groups
- Filial Therapy
- Child Parent Relationship Therapy
- Caregiver Consultations
- Parent Strategies
- Professional Consultations
- Professional Seminars & Speaker Events
- School Trainings/Seminars
- Telehealth Services
- Supervision

The mission of the Child & Family Counseling Clinic is to encourage the unique development and emotional growth of children, adolescents, and their families through proper assessment, diagnosis and treatment.

“I tell everyone that I can about the work done by Dr. Dugan and her team! Endlessly grateful!”

(504) 556 - 3451
www.lsuh.sc/cfcounselingclinic

2023 NEWSLETTER
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CLINIC

The LSUHNO Occupational Therapy Clinic offers outpatient rehabilitation services for adults with vestibular disorders, orthopedic injuries, neurological disorders, chronic conditions, and numerous other factors affecting normal daily functioning. The clinic provides individual services and caregiver training sessions to reduce the effect of impairments and increase function in patient identified, valued occupations.

PROVIDERS

- Rebecca Callais, MOT, Herdman
  Trained Vestibular Therapist

AREAS OF SPECIALTY

- Vestibular Rehabilitation

OUTPATIENT REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH:

+ Vestibular disorders
+ Orthopedic injuries
+ Neurological disorders
+ Chronic conditions
+ Numerous other factors affecting normal daily functioning

(504) 568-4302
https://alliedhealth.lsuhsc.edu/clinics/otclinic.aspx
PHYSICAL THERAPY CLINIC

The LSUHNO Outpatient Physical Therapy Clinic offers physical therapy services for patients needing rehabilitation after injury, illness and a variety of other diseases that affect movement and mobility. Our therapists work with patients to reduce pain and the effects of other impairments in order to increase function to the highest attainable level based on patients' personal activity goals.

PROVIDERS

Rachel Wellons, PT, DPT
Katherine Atiyeh, PT, DPT
Ngozi Akotaobi, PT, DPT, COMT, FAAOMPT

AREAS OF SPECIALTY

- Vestibular rehabilitation (gaze stabilization and ocular motor exercises, canalith repositioning)
- Balance training
- Gait training
- Strengthening
- Aerobic conditioning
- Patient education
- Orthopedic specialist for: spine, shoulder, elbow, hip, knee, foot/ankle

SERVICES

+ Adult Neurorehabilitation and Vestibular Rehabilitation
+ Therapeutic Exercise
  Exercises provided in direct contact with a Physical Therapist aimed to improve strength, endurance, range of motion, and flexibility.
+ Manual Therapy
  Procedures involving soft tissue or joint mobilization to improve stiffness and pain
+ Dry Needling
  This technique is performed by physical therapists in conjunction with therapeutic exercise to reduce pain, muscle tension, and improve functional mobility. The therapist inserts a thin filiform needle, without medication or injection, through the skin into painful muscles throughout the body known as trigger points.
The LSUHNO Speech-Language Pathology Clinic offers a full range of speech and language services for people of all ages by nationally certified and state licensed speech-language pathologists. Graduate students provide evaluations and therapy under close supervision by certified speech-language pathologists.

**PROVIDERS**

- Molly Brouillette, MCD, CCC-SLP
- Leslie C. Lopez, Ph.D., CCC/SLP, BCS-CL, CHES +B8
- Michelle Willis, M.C.D., CCC-SLP

The ability to communicate our feelings, basic needs, and thoughts is taken for granted by most people; however, there are persons of all ages who are unable to communicate effectively or efficiently.

The goal of the LSUHNO Speech-Language Pathology Clinic is to provide services including prevention, identification, diagnosis, consultation, therapy, remediation and referrals for persons with speech and language disorders.

**SERVICES**

- Neurological disorders including stroke, TBI, brain tumors, progressive/degenerative diseases, concussion management
- Voice & resonance disorders
- Gender affirming voice therapy
- Accent modification training
- Adult and pediatric swallowing disorders
- Language delay or disorders
- Literacy disorders
- Fluency disorders
- Articulation and motor speech disorders
- Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC)
- Aural rehabilitation for the hearing impaired
- Adult and pediatric swallowing disorders
SAHP RETIREMENTS

Kelly Alig, Ph.D., LOTR
Occupational Therapy
22 YEARS SERVED

Meher Banajee, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Speech-Language Pathology
26 YEARS SERVED

Tammy H. Crabtree, M.C.D., CCC-A
Audiology
16 YEARS SERVED

Jane Eason, Ph.D.
Physical Therapy
26 YEARS SERVED

Susan Pancamo, M.C.D., CCC-SLP
Speech-Language Pathology
16 YEARS SERVED
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

LSUHNO School of Allied Health Professions offers a world of opportunity through our diverse student organizations.

From professional development to community outreach, these groups are designed to enrich students’ educational journey and foster lifelong connections.

SGA

The Student Government Association (SGA) at LSUHNO School of Allied Health Professions is the heart of student advocacy and leadership. Representing student interests, the SGA fosters a collaborative environment, promotes academic excellence, and organizes impactful events.
The Student Academy of Audiology (SAA) at LSUHNO SAHP introduces students to lifelong involvement in activities that promote and advance the profession of audiology and provides services, information, education, representation, and advocacy for both the profession and consumers of audiology services.

SAA members volunteer at GiGi’s Playhouse, a no-cost community and achievement center for individuals with Down syndrome. This was a great opportunity for students to learn more about the program and its participants.

Students volunteered at the bi-annual Louisiana Usher Symposium. They check in attendees, help behind the scenes, listen to the lecturers, and interact with individuals with Usher Syndrome. Usher Syndrome (USH) is a genetic disorder characterized by hearing loss, retinitis pigmentosa, and vestibular areflexia. About 60% of children with both profound deafness and balance issues have USH. This syndrome is especially important because prevalence is higher in Louisiana, as USH Type 1C is associated with the French Acadian population. There are estimated to be 1 in 20,000 individuals worldwide, and about 763 in Louisiana with Usher’s.
The Student Physical Therapy Association (SPTA) at LSUHNO School of Allied Health Professions is dedicated to advancing the field of physical therapy through student engagement and professional development. The SPTA organizes educational workshops, community outreach programs, and networking events to enhance clinical skills, promote health awareness, and foster connections within the physical therapy community.

The SPTA hosted a kickball tournament in 2023.
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

PI THETA EPSILON

Pi Theta Epsilon is the National Occupational Therapy Honor Society.

SOTA

The Student OT Association (SOTA) participated in a Wheelchair Wash event at Split Second Rehab.

COTAD

Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity
Each year, the Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions (ASAHP) offers a scholarship program for health professions students enrolled in its member institutions. The purpose is to recognize outstanding students in the health professions who are achieving excellence in their academic programs and have significant potential to assume future leadership roles in health professions. Each student chosen for an award will receive a $1,000 scholarship.

Imani is a strong student with a commitment to community and inclusive opportunities. She is an asset to our occupational therapy program, and receiving a scholarship would be instrumental in furthering her education.”

-OT Faculty Alanna Glapion, MS, OTR/L

Imani is committed to community and inclusive opportunities. While advancing through the OT curriculum, Imani is also the Vice President of SAHP’s Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (COTAD). She is an IPP Scholarship Award Recipient and attended the Association of University Center on Disabilities (AUCD) conference in 2022. She worked as an assistant teacher in LSUHNO HDC’s inclusive Early Learning Center in the Human Development Center building.
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WEBSITE
www.alliedhealth.lsuhsc.edu

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LSU Health Science Center, School of Allied Health

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