The Department of Medicine is committed to excellence in medical education, research, and clinical service. Our faculty are among the most respected clinicians and scientists in the region and country and they deliver clinical services at Tulane Medical Center, the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and the Medical Center of Louisiana at New Orleans. The Department is one of the largest and most successful research departments in the School, with translational programs that span basic science research to clinical studies and to the application of knowledge to population and community settings. Innovative educational programs are a centerpiece of the Department’s mission to provide outstanding education and training at all levels: student, resident, fellow, alumni and continuing medical education.

We are committed to discovery and to improving the health of our community – that of our individual patients and of the population at large. We are fortunate to have enthusiastic staff, residents, post-doctoral fellows, and faculty that support the mission of the department with great collaboration, energy, and innovation.

Patrice Delafontaine, MD
Interim Chair

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The Department of Medicine Sections and Section Chiefs

Clinical Immunology, Allergy, and Rheumatology
  Section Chief: Laurianne G. Wild, MD
Cardiology
  Section Chief: Patrice Delafontaine, MD
Endocrinology and Metabolism
  Section Chief: Vivian A. Fonseca, MD
Gastroenterology
  Luis A. Balart, MD
General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics
  Geraldine E. Ménard, MD
Hematology and Medical Oncology
  Cindy Leissinger, MD
Infectious Diseases
  David Mushatt, MD, MPH
Nephrology and Hypertension
  Eric E. Simon, MD
Pulmonary Diseases, Critical Care, and Environmental Medicine
  Joseph A. Lasky, MD

Highlights for the 2013-2014 academic year

• Research
The searchable database of diabetes experts and facilities on the Expertscape website listed Dr. Vivian Fonseca as the number two expert in type 2 diabetes in the world. Expertscape compiled the rankings through analysis of articles published to the Pubmed database.


Dr. Salman Arain, served as a principal investigator contributing research to the ground-breaking FAME II Trial, which found that technology has positive results for patients with coronary artery disease.

The American Diabetes Association presented the first Vivian Fonseca Scholar Award in recognition of the many years of volunteer service of Dr. Vivian Fonseca to the American Diabetes Association. The award promotes and recognizes diabetes research focused on South Asian or Asian American, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander populations and/or research by a scientist from South Asia or these populations.

Dr. John Schieffelin is principal investigator of a project supported by the NIH-funded Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE). He is exploring the mechanism through which human monoclonal antibodies can both neutralize and enhance dengue infection. This work will ultimately help explain the pathogenesis of capillary leak in severe dengue hemorrhagic disease.

The Louisiana Clinical Data Research Network (LACDRN), a partnership between the Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI), Pennington Biomedical Research Center, and Tulane University, was approved for a funding award by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to develop and expand a health data network that will be part of PCORnet: the National Patient-Centered National Clinical Research Network. The LACDRN is one of 29 such networks that were approved nationwide for a total of approximately $93.5 million to form this new national resource that aims to boost the efficiency of health research.

Highlights continued on back of page...
improving population health.

Dr. John Schieffelin’s Lassa research has both laboratory and field components. This research is supported by several NIH-funded grants and contracts targeting multiple aspects of this deadly disease. He is a member of the Viral Hemorrhagic Fever Consortium and co-investigator on projects exploring the role of antibody in Lassa fever and their potential as immunotherapeutics as well as the development of new diagnostic tests and the genetic basis of severe Lassa disease.

- Education
  Dr. Keith Ferdinand served as course director for the American College of Cardiology’s Heart of Women’s Health conference, held in January in Washington, DC. Leading specialists discussed the importance of heart health for women.

  Drs. Susan McLellan and Nicholas Van Sickels founded and direct The Resident Initiative in Global Health at Tulane (RIGHT) program, which provides skills and training to residents interested in a career path in global health. Residents who participate in the RIGHT program will attend seminars, journal clubs, case series lectures, complete a scholarly project and meet regularly with a mentor experienced in global health. More than ten residents conducted international medicine research in 2013-2014.

  Eighty six residents presented abstracts or vignettes at regional/national meetings in 2013-2014.

  Faculty in the Section of General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics received awards at the 2013-2014 Owl Club Awards: Internal Medicine Best Attending T3/T4 Clerkship: Chad Miller; Heal-X Award Module of the Year: Chad Miller (tied w/ Ross Kingsberg); Heal-X Professor of the Year: Chad Miller; T2 Professor of the Year Award: Elma LeDoux; T2 Course of the Year – Clinical Diagnosis: Elma LeDoux; and W. Clifford Newman Student Advocacy Award: Chayan Chakraborti.

- Patient Care
  Drs. Susan McLellan and David Mushatt were chosen as top doctors in Infectious Disease in the state of Louisiana by Best Doctors, Inc., a company that has built a database of professionals that are highly regarded by their peers.

  Drs. Mark Cassidy, Asif Anwar, Patrice Delafontaine, Thomas Giles, Corey Goldman, Thierry Le Jemtel, and Lawrence O’Meallie were chosen as best doctors of Cardiovascular Disease in the state of Louisiana by Best Doctors, Inc.

  The Ruth U. Fertel/Tulane Community Health Center’s Brinton Family Health and Healing Center offers free health and wellness education programs open to patients of the clinic and interested community members.

- Community Engagement
  Dr. MarkAlain Dery, Executive Director of The New Orleans Society for Infectious Disease Awareness, Inc. (NOSIDA), founded a new FM radio station, WHIV (102.3 FM), RADIO NOLA HIV, programming dedicated to human rights and social justice.

  The Tulane Community Health Clerkship is a newly-required, four-week non-clinical rotation focusing on social determinants of health. These are the non-medical aspects of patients’ lives such as education, housing, employment, language, environment, nutrition, and safety that affect their health. The skills students gain in this course are vital to contextualizing care to individual patient needs and addressing broader population health issues.

  The Louisiana Community Health Worker Institute (LCHWI), was founded in 2010 by Dr. Ashley Wennerstrom. The only program of its kind in Louisiana, LCHWI offers an 80-hour capacity-building program to prepare trusted community members to work as community health workers (CHWs). This unique workforce is increasingly recognized as a resource for eliminating health disparities and achieving the triple aim of reducing costs, enhancing quality of patient care, and improving population health.

Consistently making the Best Doctors listings

Drs. Deepa Bhatnagar and Cathy Lazarus share a smile during a poster session

Highlights for the 2013-2014 academic year continued

Dr. David Mushatt, formerly principal investigator (PI) for the CPCRA site, is the PI for the Tulane site of the NIAID-funded INSIGHT Network and the START study.

Dr. Jeff Wiese says Tulane is “the best kept secret in residency training programs”

Dr. Nicholas Van Sickels working during a cholera outbreak in Haiti

Faculty
145 full and part-time salaried
328 part-time nonsalaried

Residents
146

Postdoctoral Fellows
81

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