

## The LSUHSC Science Youth Initiative (SYI) Program and LSUHSC-New Orleans Schools Science Partnership Program

We believe that New Orleans students need a strong educational foundation in the sciences and should be introduced to professional role models from the scientific community to enhance their academic enthusiasm and opportunity for success.

The goals of the program include:

- making science more interesting, easier to understand, and accessible in the classroom through hands-on science activities in coordination with the school administrators and teachers based on their current curriculum
- improving 4th grade science classroom and standardized test scores
- Introducing 4th graders attending New Orleans schools to positive and diverse science professionals and trainees as role models

Volunteer instructors include students, post-doctoral fellows, staff, and faculty from the Schools of Graduate Studies, Medicine, Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Public Health, and Nursing.

The Director of the SYI and Science Partnership Programs is Dr. Fern Tsien from the Department of Genetics. The SYI Co-Director is Ms. Martha Cuccia from the School of Public Health. We have reached more than 700 children since 2009 at our partner schools, St. Peter Claver, Esperanza, Lafayette Academy, McDonough 42, Good Shepherd School, Banneker, Langston Hughes, and Medard Nelson School.

To volunteer for the Science Partnership, click [here](#).



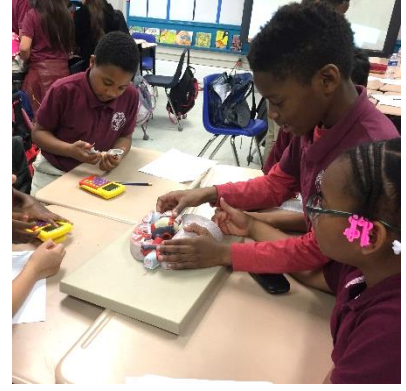
From left to right: Dr. Joseph Moerschbaecher III, LSUHSC Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Dean, School of Graduate Studies; Dr. Fern Tsien, Director of the SYI and LSUHSC New Orleans Schools Science Partnership Program; Dr. Kathleen McDonough, Professor and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, Director of MD/PhD Program, Director of Interdisciplinary Program



MD/PhD student Hannah Albritton (Microbiology, Immunology, and Parasitology)



Biochemistry graduate Dr. Allison Augustus-Wallace (Medicine and Office of Diversity and Community Engagement)



Dr. Fern Tsien (Graduate Studies, Genetics) and Matthew Spence (Public Health, Epidemiology) with students from St. Peter Claver and Esperanza Schools.

### LSUHSC-New Orleans School Science Partnership Program Field Day

The year-long program culminates with a field trip to LSUHSC. Laboratory activities included DNA isolation from strawberries; human organ demonstrations including the effects of smoking on the human lungs; and an activity on blood components. Instructors and tour guides included: Darryl Gaudet (Graduate Studies/ Physiology), Jonquil Poret (Graduate Studies/ Physiology), Dr. Danielle Mercer (Genetics), Ayesha Umrigar (Graduate Studies/ Genetics), Kirsten Wood (Graduate Studies/ Genetics), Ciera Singleton (Graduate Studies/ Genetics), Catherin Kim (Graduate Studies/ Biochemistry), Sarah Nelson (Medicine), David Odenheimer (Medicine), Morganne Manuel (Graduate Studies/Cell Biology & Anatomy), Davis Mas (Medicine), Cody Koress (Medicine), Ms. Martha Cuccia (Public Health), Elizabeth Kim (Graduate Studies/ Biochemistry), Hiba Elasaar (Medicine), Kyle Meredith (Graduate Studies/ Pharmacology), Andrew Mullet (Medicine), Dinh-Van Tran (Graduate Studies/Genetics), Dr. Allison Augustus-Wallace (Medicine/Office of Diversity and Community Engagement), Kyle Meredith (Graduate Studies/ Pharmacology), and Ian Denys (Medicine and Graduate Studies/ Pharmacology).



Isolating DNA from strawberries with Graduate students Jonquil Poret (Physiology) and Catherine Kim (Biochemistry).





Biochemistry MD/PhD student Dustin Todaro demonstrating the lungs and the heart.



Pathology resident Dr. Julie Li demonstrating normal and cirrhotic livers.

Dr. Sonia Gasparini (Graduate Studies, Neuroscience), Mary Moore (Public Health, Biostatistics and Genetics), and SYI Co-Director Martha Cuccia (Public Health) handing out books.



The children chose books from the LSUHSC campus-wide book drive and teachers received LSUHSC gifts.

