

# NEWSLETTER



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## FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As always during and after the regular legislative session, the LSBME has been very busy implementing laws from our state government, as well as continuing to improve and update existing board processes. As of August we have three new board members, who are profiled elsewhere in this newsletter. Effective September 10<sup>th</sup>, we welcome Lawrence H. Cresswell III, DO, JD as our new Director of Investigations.

As directed by Act 423 of the legislature, we have completed our work with the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy in creating a single uniform prescription drug prior authorization form used by all insurers. We will host a hearing on September 28<sup>th</sup> for public input on this issue. This month we begin work on updating the Therapeutic Marijuana rules to reflect legislative changes.

With regard to licensing, in addition to creating the rules for a new category of licensee, genetic counselors, we have purchased an electronic fingerprinting machine to shorten the licensure application process by saving time on criminal background checks. Digital fingerprints obtained at residency fairs and on the LSBME premises will save applicants time and an extra visit elsewhere for the fingerprinting required as part of the application process. And finally, the implementation of initial applications as well as renewals on a fully online basis is complete, and has been very successful in shortening the application process for all licensees. ■

Vincent A. Culotta, Jr., MD  
 Executive Director



## BOARD HIRES NEW DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGATIONS

Dr. Lawrence Cresswell is a native of Rochester, New York, who moved to New Orleans at the age of 17 to attend Xavier University of Louisiana. After graduating from Xavier with majors in biology and chemistry, he attended the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine in Long Island, NY where he earned his Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Cresswell completed his residency (including a year as Chief Resident) in Emergency Medicine at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, NY.

After completing his residency in 2009, Dr. Cresswell returned to New Orleans, working at Ochsner Medical Center, New Orleans East Hospital, East Jefferson General Hospital and the New Orleans VA Medical Center. He has served as Medical Director for the Department of Emergency Medicine at both Ochsner Baptist Medical Center and New Orleans East Hospital. From 2013-2017 Dr. Cresswell completed a law degree from Loyola University while working full time as an emergency physician. Dr. Cresswell is looking forward to using his experience as a physician as well as his knowledge of the law in his work with the Investigations staff and the board. ■

## BOARD WELCOMES FOUR NEW MEMBERS

Effective the August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the board, the LSBME is a ten member board. Act 599-2018 of the recent legislative session increased the total number of board members to ten from a previous seven, and added a "public" or consumer member. For the August meeting, we welcomed new physician members Rita Orton MD, James C. Taylor MD, and Terrie R. Thomas, MD and our new public member Kim S. Sport, JD. The new members of the Board are profiled below.



**Rita Y. Horton, MD** is a graduate of LSUHSC School of Medicine in Shreveport. She completed her residency training at St. Louis University in general psychiatry and child and adolescent psychiatry. She is the holder of the Brad and Kay McPherson Endowed Professorship in Child Psychiatry, Program Director of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at LSUHSC-Shreveport. An author of various scholarly articles and principal investigator on many research studies, Dr. Horton also serves as a Caddo Parish Deputy Coroner.

**Kim S. Sport, JD** is a native of New Orleans. She graduated from the school of Radiologic and Nuclear Medicine Technology at Charity Hospital of Louisiana in New Orleans before receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Sciences from the University of Holy Cross, and a Juris Doctor degree with high honors from Tulane Law School. Her many accomplishments in public service include the foundation of Jefferson Dollars for Scholars in 1993, and the United Way's Women's Leadership council (now Women United). She is a three-time cancer survivor, and the founder of Breastoration, an organization which helps women afford reconstruction procedures following their mastectomies and advocates for health insurance coverage for such procedures. An ongoing supporter of breast cancer survivors, she is also a fierce advocate for survivors of domestic violence and has researched, drafted and provided testimony for numerous legislative changes in domestic violence laws. Ms. Sport has received many awards for her volunteerism and civic engagement, including United Way's highest honor (the Toqueville Award), the woman of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's caucus, the Citizen Lawyer award from the Louisiana State Bar Association, and most recently (2018) Gambit's New Orleanian of the year.



**James Alton "Jim" Taylor, Jr., MD** is a New Orleans native and a resident of Zachary, LA. He is a graduate of the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts, and holds a Bachelors degree in Medical Technology. He worked in the blood bank at University Hospital - New Orleans before and during medical school, and received his MD from LSU in New Orleans in 2001. He completed his residency in Family Medicine at Baton Rouge General Medical Center in 2004, where he served as chief resident. He has been in private practice in family medicine since 2004, and is a solo practitioner in Denham Springs, LA. He serves as director of Emergency Services and of the Rural Health clinic at St. Helena Parish Hospital. He also serves as a clinic preceptor at East Jefferson General's Family Medicine Residency Program, and works in rural emergency departments throughout southeast Louisiana. Dr. Taylor brings broad healthcare experience from a diverse group of settings, as well as a firsthand experience in the allied health professions to his service with the Board.

**Terrie R. Thomas, MD** is a native of Baton Rouge and board certified in obstetrics and gynecology. She received her B.S. in Microbiology from Louisiana State University (LSU) in Baton Rouge in 1997, and received the designation as one of the Top 25 Graduating Seniors. She received her MD from LSU New Orleans in 2002, and completed her residency in Obstetrics/Gynecology there in 2006. During her tenure in medical school and residency she received awards for student and resident teaching; since entering private practice in 2006 she has continued her passion for teaching as an Assistant Clinical Professor for both the LSU and Tulane OB/GYN Departments. As a practitioner, Dr. Thomas has been very active in leadership roles. She served as Chief of the Medical Staff for Woman's Hospital during the hospital's transition to the Briarwood campus. Dr. Thomas is an active member of the American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a community volunteer for various organizations. She resides and practices in Baton Rouge. ■



## In Recognition

New Board member Dr. James Taylor replaces Dr. Mark Dawson as the rural family medicine physician representative on the Board. The LSBME wishes to thank Dr. Dawson, who served from January 2005 until June of this year for his kind and practical guidance; he will be missed. (Pictured: Drs. James Taylor and Mark Dawson)




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## Did you know? CDC recommendations on Testing for Hepatitis C

Did you know that as early as 2012 the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended that all “baby boomers” (persons born 1945-1965) should be tested for Hepatitis C, regardless of risk profile? This is because the prevalence of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) is very high in this population, and often undiagnosed until severe liver damage has occurred. Currently, 75% of those diagnosed with HCV were born 1945-1965. A large proportion of people with HCV are not aware that they have the infection; estimates range from 45-85% of those infected. According to the CDC, one-time testing of those in this age group may identify 800,000 new cases, and with appropriate treatment, avoid 120,000 HCV related deaths. An article published in 2015 estimated that 3.5 million people in the U.S. have chronic hepatitis.<sup>1</sup>

For other age groups, the CDC recommends HCV testing for:

- Those currently injecting drugs
- Anyone who ever injected drugs, even if rarely and many years ago
- Persons with certain medical conditions, including those who:
  - Received clotting factor concentrates before 1987
  - Were ever on long term hemodialysis
  - Have persistently high abnormal alanine aminotransferase (ALT) levels
  - Have an HIV infection
- Persons who were prior recipients of organ transplants or transfusions who:
  - Were notified they received blood from a donor who later tested positive for HCV
  - Received a transfusion, blood components or an organ transplant before July 1992

More complete details on suggested testing methodologies, who should or should not be tested, and other HCV disease information may be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/guidelinesc.htm>

<sup>1</sup> Edlin BR, Eckhardt BJ, Shu MA, Holmberg SD, Swan T. Toward a more accurate estimate of the prevalence of hepatitis C in the United States. *Hepatology*. 2015;62(5):1353-63.

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## RULES ADOPTED AND NOTICED FOR INTENT SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

***The following rules were adopted or noticed since the publication of the June newsletter.***

Notice of Intent with respect to the proposed rule on Uniform Prescription Drug Prior Authorization Form, required by Act 423, of the 2018 Regular Session of the Legislature, and which has been developed in collaboration with the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy, appeared in the August 2018 Register. A public hearing is scheduled for Sept. 28 with the anticipated promulgation of the rule in the December 2018 Register. ■