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Annual Louisiana Parkinson's Conference

LSU has joined a task force aimed at disseminating information about combating Parkinson's disease throughout Louisiana. LCAC member and previous conference speaker, Dr Jan Hondzinski, has joined the organizing committee of local researchers, neurologists, and Parkinson's patients. The conference is designed to inform and/or remind attendees of the importance of combating Parkinson's with multiple successful strategies. Attendees include but are not limited to researchers, clinicians, people with the disorder, and caregivers. With assistance from the College of Human Sciences and Education personnel, LSU will help disseminate the complex issue of Parkinson's disease facing Louisiana and the nation to person's interested in combating Parkinson's by helping those with the disorder optimize their health-related quality of life.

This year's conference entitled "Back to the Basics" will include presentations on medical treatments, nutrition, and activity with keynote speaker, Dr. Maria De Leon, a motivational speaker and Neurologist with Parkinson's. The conference date is scheduled for Saturday July 23rd from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm in the Main Hall of the C. B. Pennington, Jr. Building at Pennington Biomedical Research Center; 6400 Perkins Road; Baton Rouge, LA 70808. For more information or to register online, please visit: <http://www.pbrc.edu/events/parkinsons/>.

Those interested in becoming an event partner or exhibitor can contact Rachel Henry at chseproed@lsu.edu | 225-578-8783.

LCAC Student Alumnus and Adjunct Faculty Member Dr. Chantelle Varnado

Dr. Chantelle Varnado is an Adjunct Professor at Southern Louisiana University and founder of Launch Therapy Center in Denham Springs. She obtained her PhD in Communication Science and Disorders in May of 2015. LCAC members, Dr. Neila Donovan (advisor) and Dr. Arend Van Gemmert, served on her dissertation committee. In her research she studied the influence of speech breathing treatments on children with spastic cerebral palsy. She will be presenting her dissertation research at The Conference on Motor



Drs. Neila Donovan and Chantelle Varnado

Speech in Newport Beach, California which lasts from March 3 through March 6, 2016. As the founder of Launch, a non-profit organization that provides programs for children with disabilities and their families, she strives to provide high-quality evidence-based practices to her patients. Moreover, she offers students the opportunity to gain clinical experience with children at the Launch Therapy Center. She is excited about the future of Launch and the ongoing collaborative projects with LCAC members, Dr. Neila Donovan and Dr. Meghan Savage.

Launch website: <http://www.launchpeds.com/>