First MDA/ALS Clinic in Louisiana Located at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center
New Orleans School of Medicine

NEW ORLEANS, May 21, 2013 — The Muscular Dystrophy Association announced today the designation of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center New Orleans School of Medicine as an MDA/ALS clinic. The designation makes LSUHSC the first MDA/ALS clinic in Louisiana and recognizes the high standards of care offered by a team of specialized physicians and therapists for people in the greater New Orleans area who are living with ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig’s disease).

LSUHSC is the 44th MDA/ALS center in the country, joining a national network of MDA/ALS centers that provide a multidisciplinary team of medical professionals skilled in the diagnosis and treatment of ALS. LSUHSC has built a comprehensive medical team of clinicians including a board-certified neurologist, a pulmonologist, and respiratory, physical and speech therapists.

“This designation of the MDA/ALS clinic is a very important step in improving patient care for those who are diagnosed with ALS or a neuromuscular disease,” said clinic director Amparo Gutierrez, M.D. “This will allow us to provide specialty care to patients in Louisiana and other states in the southeastern region. Our clinic will continue to provide patients access to care regardless of their economic background. And we also look forward to working with other MDA/ALS clinics around the country to
grow our ALS research program.”

MDA/ALS centers are an integral part of MDA’s commitment to developing effective treatments and working toward finding a cure. One of the ways in which they do this is by participating in ongoing ALS clinical research trials.

“We welcome the exceptional expertise in ALS care provided by the health care specialists at Louisiana State University to our network of clinics,” said MDA Executive Vice President and Chief Medical and Scientific Officer Valerie A. Cwik, M.D. “We know that the team at LSU will provide help and hope to families who are on the challenging journey that is ALS.”

Currently, MDA is funding 63 international ALS research projects at a cost of more than $20 million.

For more information, see “New MDA/ALS Center Opens at LSU.”

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**About MDA**

MDA is the world leader in providing ALS services and funding ALS research. Over the years, MDA has invested $324 million in its ALS research, services and information programs. In addition, MDA operates 200 medical clinics across the county, 44 of which are designated as ALS-specific research and care centers.

MDA established the MDA ALS Clinical Research Network to streamline collaboration on ALS research and support tests of experimental treatments, with locations at Methodist Hospital (Houston), Massachusetts General Hospital (Boston), Columbia University (New York City), Emory University (Atlanta) and California Pacific Medical Center (San Francisco).

MDA is the nonprofit health agency dedicated to finding treatments and cures for muscular dystrophy, ALS and related diseases today affecting
more than 1 million Americans. It does so by funding research, providing comprehensive health care and support services, and through advocacy and education.

In addition to funding more than 250 neuromuscular disease research projects worldwide, MDA facilitates support groups for individuals and families, and provides local summer camp opportunities for thousands of youngsters with progressive muscle diseases.

For more information, visit mda.org and follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/MDAnational and Twitter @MDAnews.

About LSU
LSUHealth Sciences Center New Orleans educates Louisiana’s health care professionals. The state’s academic health leader, LSUHSC New Orleans consists of a School of Medicine, the state’s only School of Dentistry, Louisiana’s only public School of Public Health, Schools of Allied Health Professions and Graduate Studies, and the only School of Nursing within an academic health center in Louisiana. To learn more, visit http://www.lsuhs.edu and http://www.twitter.com/LSUHSCHHealth @LSUHSCHHealth.