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Sign up to receive announcements on funding and training opportunities at <https://lacats.pbrc.edu/about/listserv>

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



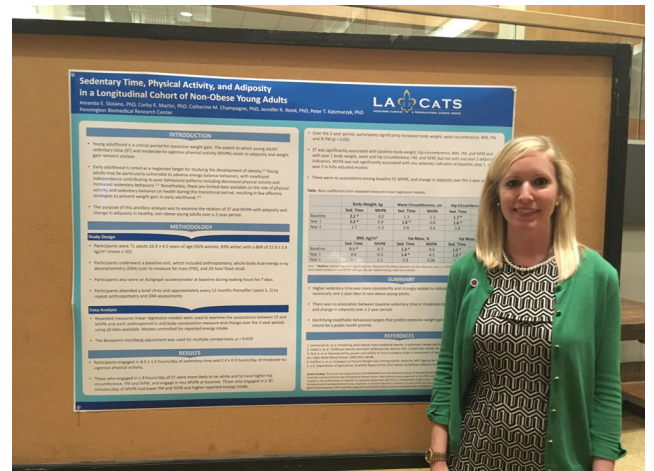
Since assuming the role as Director and Principal Investigator of the LA CaTS Center in February, I have been very impressed by the depth of the program, and the reach that it has throughout the state. I look forward to building on what has been accomplished to date and to advancing and building on the progress that has been made to maximize the tremendous impact LA CaTS is having on biomedical research in our state. The LA CaTS Center is one of 10 IDeA-CTRs (Institutional Development Awards for Clinical & Translational Research) funded by NIGMS, and we are now one of two that have been renewed for an additional five years of funding. This speaks volumes to the tremendous commitment and hard work of my predecessors, Dr. William Cefalu and Dr. Donna Ryan,

along with my Co-Program Directors, Dr. Steve Nelson (LSU Health Sciences Center-New Orleans) and Dr. Lee Hamm (Tulane University).

My vision for the future of the LA CaTS Center is to continue to expand our research base and provide support and resources to all of our partner institutions. Our long-term goal is to help the Louisiana research community find ways to decrease health disparities and improve health outcomes. We know that even a slowing or small reduction in health disparities will have significant benefit on the health of Louisianians and on reducing the financial health burden on the state.

Some of our accomplishment for the first year of the second NIH grant cycle include: 1) addition of two clinical trial units to our Clinical Research Resources, at LSU Health Sciences Center-Shreveport and the LSU Dental School in New Orleans; 2) expanding our base to assist over 230 investigators who have used our services or resources; 3) our Professional Development Core has established seven new training sites to identify research education needs; 4) a third Community Advisory Board was established in Shreveport; 5) our Health Literacy Core identified 14 research protocols with patient literacy assessments; and 6) our investigators published over 83 peer reviewed manuscripts, made over 20 competitive scientific presentations, and obtained approximately \$1.5M in extramural funding.

At the beginning of May, Pennington Biomedical hosted our annual External Advisory Committee Meeting in Baton Rouge. This well-attended event included LA CaTS Center faculty and staff from all member institutions. Dr. Amanda Staiano, one of Pennington Biomedical Research Center's star investigators, gave an invited presentation. We learned how the LA CaTS Center propelled her career journey from the beginning of her LA CaTS Roadmap and Meritorious Scholar awards to her current



Amanda Staiano, PhD, Pennington Biomedical

Continued on Page 2

success as the Louisiana site PI for a multi-site (including Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, and the University of Rochester School of Medicine, New York) PCORI funding award, along with her exciting research on combating obesity and sedentary behavior in children. We look forward to having our advisors and the LA CaTS Center faculty and staff together again next year in New Orleans.



Members of LA CaTS Center Executive Committee (EC), Internal (IAC) and External Advisory (EAC) Committees. Pictured from left to right: Royce Sampson (IAC, Medical Univ. of South Carolina), Craig McClain, MD (EAC, Univ. of Louisville), Marian Limacher, MD (EAC, Univ. of Florida), Henry Ginsberg, MD (Columbia Univ.), Gordon Bernard, MD (EAC Chair, Vanderbilt Univ.), John Kirwan, PhD (EC, Pennington Biomedical), Claudia Baquet, MD, MPH (EAC, Hope Institute, LLC), Lee Hamm, MD (EC, Tulane Univ.), James Cimino, MD (EAC, UAB), Joe Moerschbaeher, PhD (IAC, LSUHSC-New Orleans)

SHOUT OUTS

A big LA CaTS Center “shout out” to our past scholars that have recently received awards and grants:

- 1. Amanda Staiano, PhD (Pennington Biomedical Research Center)-Funding award from PCORI (Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute)**
- 2. Sarah Jolley, MD, MSc (LSU Health Sciences Center-New Orleans)-K23 award from NIH**
- 3. Derrick Samuelson, PhD (LSU Health Sciences Center-New Orleans)-K99 award from NIH**

Read more details here:

<https://www.lacats.org/news-and-publications/news/?ArticleID=477>

LA CaTS IN THE COMMUNITY

The LA CaTS Community Advisory Boards (CABs) were established to support research conducted in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Shreveport and surrounding communities within the LA CaTS Center. Three CABs: Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and Shreveport together—comprise 36 members from various health organizations, academic institutions, and the communities at-large.

The CABs have played a crucial role in developing the new LA CaTS Community Website (www.LACaTS.org/community). The purpose of the website is to help facilitate communication and awareness to and from the community and the LA CaTS Center. One new feature to point out, is the “Featured CAB Member of the Month”, which provides more details on the expertise and make-up of our CAB members. Check out the home page each month for the featured CAB member!



Daisy Slan, EdD

East Baton Rouge Parish School District, Instructional Leadership Program
LA CaTS Featured CAB Member-June 2018

If you are interested in learning more about the LA CaTS CABs and how to utilize them in your research, contact the Community Engagement & Outreach Resource at community@LACaTS.org or make a **SPARC** service request.

SPOTLIGHT: CLINICAL RESEARCH RESOURCES, THE TULANE CLINICAL TRIAL UNIT

The **Tulane LA CaTS Clinical Translational Unit (CTU)** provides a broad range of services to offer complete clinical trial coordination and to assist in the initiation and conduct of clinical and translational research. **Free services are available to current LA CaTS Roadmap Scholars and Pilot Awardees!** The CTU is staffed by a highly-trained clinical research team who will assist investigators in all stages of the clinical and translational research process, from protocol development and review, regulatory compliance, and budgetary assistance to recruitment, nursing services, study coordination, and closeout. The CTU will serve as a point of contact



for sponsors as well as investigators, and enhance and facilitate high-quality clinical and translational studies with a specific emphasis on recruitment of underserved populations.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

To view or request services from our other LA CaTS Center CTUs, please go to our [SPARC site](#) or contact info@LACaTS.org.

THE 411: WHAT'S COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR

1. Baton Rouge LA CaTS Community Advisory Board Meetings - **July 25, August 22, and September 26, 2018**
2. **Community Scholars Program Informational Conference Call - July 9, 2018**
3. Letters of Intent Due for Community Scholars Program - **July 16, 2018**
4. **LA CaTS REDCap Hour, Featuring Biostatistics Talk - July 26, 2018**
5. Full Applications Due for Community Scholars Program - **August 13, 2018**
6. OHRP: Exploratory Workshop: "Meeting the New Challenges in Informed Consent in Clinical Research" - **September 7, 2018**
7. **LA CaTS Senior Investigator Update - September 24, 2018**
8. OHRP Research Community Forum- "Community Engagement: Current Challenges and New Directions" – **September 25-26, 2018**

For more information on our Calendar of Events, please visit <https://www.lacats.org/calendar/>.

To add an event, contact us at info@LACaTS.org.

LA CaTS CENTER WELCOMES NEW ROADMAP SCHOLARS (2018-2020)

Each year the Professional Development Core selects qualified Scholars into the LA CaTS Roadmap Scholars Program. The Roadmap Scholars are junior faculty members whose goals are to become sustainable independent researchers. The Roadmap Scholars together with their mentors, will design an individual Roadmap leading to independence that includes didactic courses in clinical research methodology, molecular medicine and genetics, health disparity, ethics, and their mentored research leading to a "K" award or equivalent.

Please join us in welcoming the 7th Cohort of Roadmap Scholars: Luther Gill, DPT, PhD (LSUHSC), David McDougal, PhD (Pennington Biomedical), and Margaret Zimmerman, PhD (Tulane University).



Dr. Gill will work on identifying reliable biomarkers associated with skeletal muscle mitochondrial dysfunction to improve future rehabilitation strategies. Dr. Gill plans to examine the impact of exercise on mitomiR expression in sepsis-induced myopathy to highlight an alternative rehabilitative approach, while utilizing the use of mitomiRs as biomarkers of recovery.



Dr. McDougal will work on testing the hypothesis that glial acetate metabolism can be used to predict future susceptibility to a hypoglycemic challenge in individuals with diabetes. Specifically, his focus is to determine if alterations in glial acetate metabolism could be used as an effective biomarker for assessing the risk of hypoglycemic complications and to determine if it predicts future susceptibility to hypoglycemia.



Dr. Zimmerman will continue her work on sex hormones and renal physiology by delineating the mechanisms by which menopausal hormone therapy impacts the kidney so treatments can be optimized for renal health. Specifically, Dr. Zimmerman aims to determine if MPA prevents estrogen-induced inflammation and kidney damage in a GR-dependent manner.

For further detail about each Scholar's project, please visit the following link on the [Professional Development Core website](#).

FEATURED INVESTIGATOR



Maissaa Janbain, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
Department of Hematology/Medical Oncology
Tulane University
LA CaTS 2015 Roadmap Scholar

Dr. Janbain grew up in Beirut, Lebanon, and graduated from Lebanese University School of Medicine in 2005. Later that year, she came to the United States to complete her training in Internal Medicine. In 2012, she joined Tulane School of Medicine, Section of Hematology Oncology for fellowship training, and after graduation, accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine. Dr. Janbain's goal is to build a successful career as an independent clinical and translational investigator in hemostasis. Dr. Janbain received a LA CaTS Roadmap Scholar award in 2015 and a Hemostasis and Thrombosis Research Society (HTRS) Mentored Research Award in 2017, and continues to work on projects and trials on global hemostasis.

Read more about Dr. Janbain & her research click [HERE](#).

THE HEALTH LITERACY CORNER

Spanish Patient Materials: Does it Affect Your Research?



Terry Davis, Ph.D



Connie Arnold, Ph.D

When the LA CaTS Health Literacy (HL) Directors volunteered at the LSUHSC-Shreveport Cancer Screening Health Fair, they realized there were many Hispanic individuals who wanted health screenings, but there was no Spanish language information or patient education materials. The director of the biobank wanted materials to give Spanish speaking patients and the public information on genomic studies and biobanking, but again, lacked appropriate materials. The Director identified this as a barrier to participating and stated only 1% of their biobank samples are from Hispanic individuals. In response,

the HL Core and director of the biobank invited the Hispanic Medical Student Association to lunch and asked them for help. They were very eager to help translate materials and elicit input from Spanish speaking individuals. They also suggested two Hispanic health care providers be involved and they were invited to join the LA CaTS North Louisiana Community Advisory Board (CAB) as well as a media director from the health fair. One is a veteran news professional with 39 years of storytelling in Shreveport. Another is an advocate and interpreter from the Martin Luther King Health Center & Pharmacy. Their varied backgrounds will help to extend our Hispanic outreach. The HL Core Directors are currently working with a summer research student to translate biobanking materials for patients and the public into Spanish. We plan to expand the scope of the project to include more materials and elicit input and evaluation from Hispanic patients.

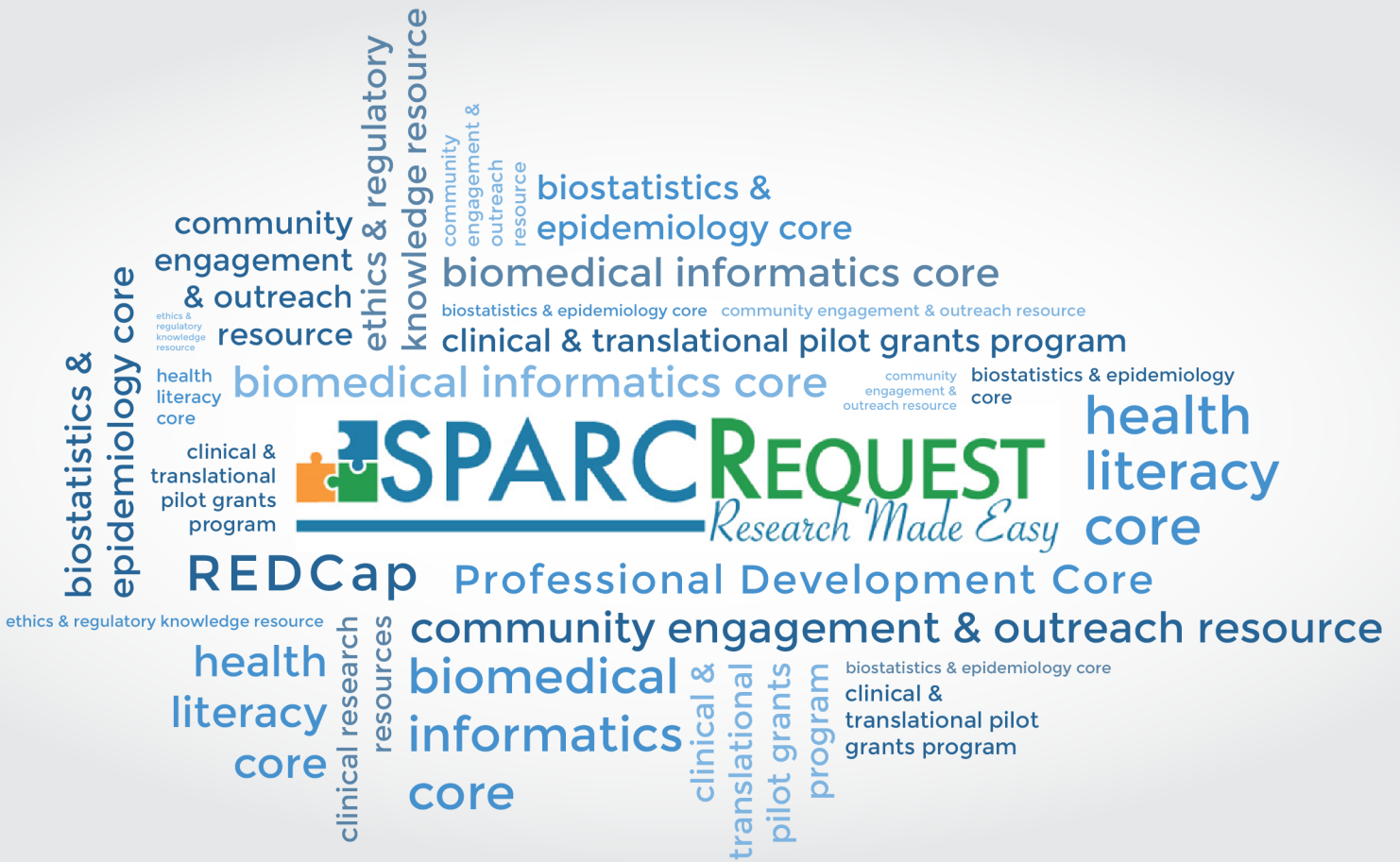
INTERESTED IN HEARING ABOUT A STATISTICS HOT TOPIC?

Did you know? LA CaTS Statisticians are now part of the educational opportunity offered through the LA CaTS REDCap Hour webinar once per month. They have provided brief presentations on topics such as randomization methodology and data validity in the past, as well as answer any questions from the biostatistics world.

Have a particular statistics topic you would like to hear about at a future REDCap Hour?

Contact us at biostatitics@LACaTS.org.

*REDCap Hours are held the last Thursday of each month at 2:30pm via webinar. You can sign up [here](#) to receive announcements on future REDCap Hours and other educational events.



IF YOU ARE USING A LA CATS CENTER RESOURCE, YOU CAN:

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Manage your project information and requests in one central location!

- 

Request or obtain pricing for research services across LA CaTS Center Institutions!

- 

Build your budget with budget development tools!

- 

Create patient visit schedules and indicate source of funding!

- 

Communicate directly with your service providers!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: SPARC.LACATS.ORG



LA CaTS Center
 Phone: 1-844-452-2287
 Email: sparc.support@lacats.org