

2025-2026 Annual Summary

The **Louisiana Clinical and Translational Science (LA CaTS) Center** unites **ten major academic, research, and healthcare institutions** into a coordinated statewide infrastructure designed to **accelerate clinical and translational research addressing Louisiana's most pressing health burdens and advance discoveries into the hands of clinicians and communities** where they can have the greatest impact. Through this unified network, the LA CaTS Center provides the collaborative foundation necessary to support and grow clinical and translational research across the state. By fostering these collaborations, we can **better understand how health issues permeate our communities and develop innovative approaches to chronic disease prevention in Louisiana and the Gulf South.**

This report highlights **key accomplishments** of the LA CaTS Center, outlines **strategic goals** for the future, and provides an **overview of the Center's mission, vision, and the collaborative efforts** of its statewide network.



LA CaTS Center Goals

- 1** Strengthen the collaborative infrastructure that fundamentally supports clinical and translational research in Louisiana academic institutions.
- 2** Expand relationships among our academic institutions, health care organizations, and communities, as well as to increase health literacy, participation in research trials, and overcome barriers to disease management.
- 3** Provide additional coordinated services for successful completion of clinical and translational research both within and across participating institutions and communities.
- 4** Increase the number of investigators performing clinical and translational research and provide for growth in multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional projects addressing chronic diseases affecting our populations.

Accomplishments

GRANT FUNDING & AWARDS

- **Secured over \$394 million in extramural grant awards** for Louisiana, including \$275 million in NIH awards since the start of the grant.
- Awardee or collaborator on **12 NIH supplement grants, totaling \$9.3 million** to address pressing biomedical and emerging health issues.

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS & RESEARCH

- Contributed approximately **2,000 publications and 1,200 competitive scientific presentations** since the start of the grant.
- Provided investigators with access to LA CaTS technical services **more than 1,650 times**, strengthening statewide research productivity.
- Provided over **225 CT Training and Professional Development opportunities** engaging early-stage clinicians, researchers, and community members – **reaching more than 2,000 participants** through workshops, symposiums, webinars, and community events.
- Advanced statewide research infrastructure through expanded partnerships, including a major collaboration with **Ochsner Health** that improved access to statewide clinical data, enabled virtual cohorts, and standardized electronic medical records for research.
- Actively participated as a Society Member at the **Southern Society of Clinical Investigation (SSCI) Southern Regional Meeting**. Organized and hosted a **scientific symposium** that highlighted collaborative, cross-institutional research throughout the state. Research supported by the LA CaTS Center was prominently showcased at this meeting
- Strengthened North Louisiana research capacity through the appointment of the first Roadmap Scholar at LSU Health Shreveport.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & COLLABORATION

- Maintained **three highly engaged Community Advisory Boards (CABs)** in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Shreveport, with **more than 30 members** actively advising investigators on study development, community engagement strategies, and emerging research priorities.
- Implemented Louisiana's premier community-engaged research initiative through the launch of the **Community Research for Optimal Wellness Network (CROWN)**, connecting communities to clinical and translational research focused on health issues that matter most.

RECOGNITION & STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- Expanded and engaged new statewide partners and resources, including collaborations with Ochsner Health, the Chartis Group, and Louisiana's clinical and medical research centers.
- **Accelerated scientific progress by galvanizing Roadmap Scholar career trajectories**, reflected in their growing contributions to statewide research productivity — including **over 1,000 publications, hundreds of competitive presentations, and leadership roles in 370 funded grants totaling over \$100 million**, demonstrating the program's long-term impact on the translational research workforce.
- Hosted **3 coordinator trainings** during grant year 4, with **average attendance exceeding 500 participants** per event.

JOIN THE JOURNEY

CELEBRATING 14 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE AMONG ROADMAP SCHOLARS

What have our **Roadmap Scholars** accomplished?

Since 2012, Roadmap Scholars have embarked on prestigious research careers, securing numerous grants, publishing a wealth of impactful manuscripts, and mentoring future researchers along the way.



40 Roadmap Scholars have completed the program.



6 Roadmap Scholars are currently enrolled.



370 grants successfully attained, including **5 K awards** and **18 R awards**.

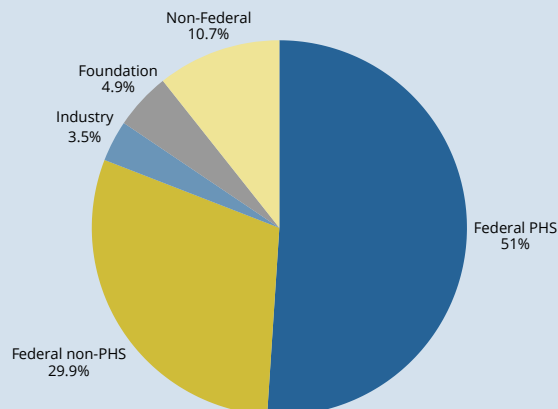


Over 100 million dollars in total grant awards.

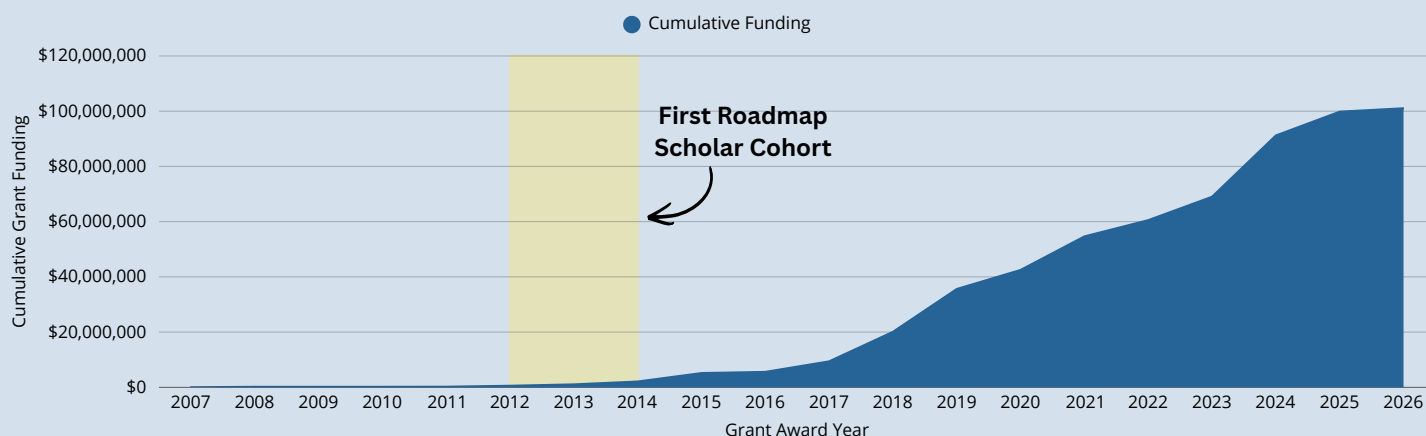


1023 manuscripts published by Roadmap Scholars, including **483 LA CaTS citations**.

Distribution of Grant Dollars

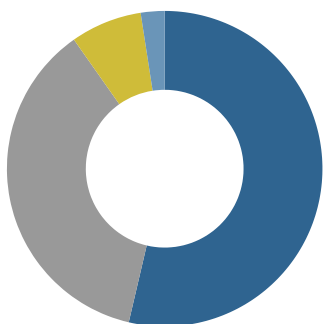


Cumulative Grant Funding Over Time



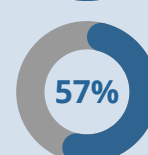
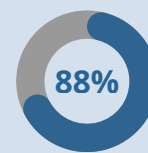
Where are **Roadmap Scholars** now?

Roadmap Scholars are **equipped to make significant strides in clinical and translation research**, a vital field that **bridges the gap between discovery and application**. As healthcare evolves, the need for innovative research that directly impacts patient care has never been more critical.



Current Scholar Roles

- 37% Associate Professors
- 54% Assistant Professors
- 7% Industry Leads
- 2% Other



Since completing the program, **88% of scholars have secured grants** and **100% have published manuscripts**. Approximately **57% have mentored future researchers**.

OUR LA CATS STORY

REFLECTING ON OUR PROGRESS AS WE CHART THE PATH AHEAD

Where Have We Been?

- **Connecting statewide resources** to reduce fragmentation that once made research difficult to navigate across Louisiana's institutions.
- **Strengthening research pathways** for prevention, early detection, and long-term engagement – especially in rural communities where sustained access to healthcare and research opportunities has historically been limited
- **Expanding participation and reach** through trusted community partnerships, including efforts like LA CEAL and rural obesity hubs that brought research directly into underserved areas.
- **Building stronger research workforce** by supporting early-stage investigators, coordinators, and trainees, and by giving smaller and rural institutions access to a statewide research network they could not build alone.

Where Are We Going?

- Focusing on **modifiable factors that drive multiple chronic diseases** across Louisiana, and strengthening research infrastructure needed to address them.
- **Growing our reach in Louisiana** by partnering with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) as trusted anchors for long-term research participation and community based care.
- **Expanding community-embedded research** that supports prevention, early detection, and long-term engagement across the state.
- **Strengthening the clinician-scientist pipeline** through PRISM Studios, an emerging program designed to create structured, accessible pathways for research literacy, expert consultation, and interdisciplinary relationships and collaborations.



We would like to recognize the LA CaTS Center Governing, Advisory, and Operations Committees for their valuable contributions to our success in 2025-2026.

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- L. Lee Hamm, MD, LA CaTS Program Co-Director
- Steve Nelson, MD, LA CaTS Program Co-Director

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- Margarita Echeverri, PhD (XU)
- Paula Jordan (PB)
- Andrea Pickett (PB)
- LaKeisha Williams, PharmD (XU)

The LA CaTS Center is supported in part by U54 GM104940 from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health.