

CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION • HEALTH DISPARITIES • IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES IN THE UNDERSERVED POPULATION

2023 Executive Summary



Baton Rouge

- › Pennington Biomedical Research Center
- › LSU A&M



New Orleans

- › LSU Health New Orleans
- › Tulane University
- › Xavier University
- › Children's Hospital
- › LSUH-NO School of Dentistry
- › Ochsner Health System
- › University Medical Center (UMC)
- › Southeast LA Veterans Health Care System



Shreveport

- › LSUH Shreveport



LOUISIANA

Executive Summary

The Louisiana Clinical and Translational Science (LA CaTS) Center combines 10 major Louisiana academic, research and health care delivery institutions into a unified research infrastructure, collectively *addressing health disparities and improving health outcomes in our underserved population with chronic diseases.*



Four important Specific Aims for the LA CaTS Center:

Specific Aim 1: Strengthen the collaborative infrastructure that fundamentally supports clinical and translational research in Louisiana's academic institutions.

Specific Aim 2: Expand bi-directional relationships between our communities and urban and rural safety-net clinics, as well as to increase health literacy, participation in research trials, and overcome barriers to disease management.

Specific Aim 3: Provide additional coordinated services for successful completion of clinical and translational research both within and across participating institutions and communities.

Specific Aim 4: Increase the number of investigators performing clinical and translational research and provide for growth in multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional projects addressing disparities and health outcomes.

The core of the LA CaTS Center comprises three primary collaborating institutions – **Pennington Biomedical Research Center (Lead)**, **LSU Health-New Orleans**, **Tulane Health Sciences Center**—complemented by strong research partners including LSU Health-Shreveport, Xavier University of Louisiana, Children's Hospital of New Orleans, Louisiana State University A&M College, Southeast LA Veterans Health Care System, University Medical Center, Ochsner Health System and LSU Health School of Dentistry.



LA CaTS Center Cores & Resources to achieve the Specific Aims

Executive Summary

The LA CaTS Center has been successful in aligning priorities and committing resources of the major biomedical institutions of the state by growing a single clinical and translational science (CT) program for Louisiana. We provide a unified, coordinated system to approach and conduct clinical trials that addresses issues on a statewide level.

Major accomplishments since 2012:

1. Securing more than **\$280 million in extramural grant awards for Louisiana** – approximately \$200 million in NIH awards
2. Contributing more than **1,900 publications and 900 competitive scientific presentations**
3. Expansion & engagement of **new partners & resources**. Example: expansion of BMI Core collaboration access to clinical data from across the state and creation of virtual cohorts (e.g., breast cancer, diabetes, HIV, COVID-19), now being used in LA CaTS Center pilot projects, Roadmap Scholars projects and multiple NIH grant applications
4. Recruiting **diverse study population** (~40% ethnic minority) for the statewide network of Clinical Trial Units (CTUs)
5. Highly Engaged **Community Advisory Boards (CAB)** – headquartered in the New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Shreveport/North Louisiana regions. Members participate on research teams to develop and implement studies and serve as advisers to investigators on a broad range of study ideas and ongoing research.
6. Giving more than **850 CT scientists** access to technical services and resources provided by the LA CaTS Center Cores.
7. **30 career promotions** for past and current Roadmap and Meritorious Scholars
8. **18 career promotions** reported for Young Investigators affiliated with the Pilot Grants Program
9. Provided over **215 CT Training and Professional Development opportunities** for researchers and community members through LA CaTS Center seminars, workshops, and virtual platforms.
10. Total of **10 NIH supplement grants awarded**, totaling >\$8.4 million

Additional Funding Success: Subawards & Administrative Supplements

1. "Effects of E-Cigarettes on the Lung Metabolome in People Living with HIV" - Project Leads: David Welsh, MD (LSU Health New Orleans) & John Apolzan, PhD (Pennington Biomedical Research Center)
2. "Pregnancy Complications and Cardiometabolic Health in American Indian Women" - Project Lead: Emily Harville, PhD (Tulane University)
3. RADx-UP: "Transforming Community Engagement to Increase SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Underserved Populations in Baton Rouge" - Project Lead: Peter Katzmarzyk, PhD (Pennington Biomedical)
4. RADx-UP: "Engaging Church Health Ministries to Decrease SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine Hesitancy in Underserved Populations in Baton Rouge" - Project Lead: Peter Katzmarzyk, PhD (Pennington Biomedical)
5. National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C): "Improving Health through Partnerships and Transformative Research" - Project Lead: Lucio Miele, MD, PhD (LSU Health New Orleans)
6. "Health Disparities and SARS-CoV-2 Evolution: A Focused Viral Genomics Study" - Project Leads: Lucio Miele, MD, PhD (LSU Health New Orleans) & Daniel Sarpong, PhD (Xavier University)
7. NIH RECOVER: "A Multi-Site Observational Study of Post-Acute Sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Adults" - Project Leads: Judd Shellito, MD (LSU Health New Orleans), Vivian Fonseca, MD (Tulane University), & Frank Greenway, MD (Pennington Biomedical)
8. "SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Surveillance Network" - Project Lead: Lucio Miele, MD, PhD (LSU Health New Orleans)
9. "Metabolic Inflammation, Viral Persistence and Bioenergetic T-Cell Fatigue in Post Acute SARS-CoV2" - Project Lead: John Kirwan, PhD (Pennington Biomedical)
10. NIH Administrative Supplement to "Advance the Use of Electronic Health Records for Research" - Project Leads: Ronald Horswell, PhD (Pennington Biomedical), Liheng Shi, PhD, & Vivian Fonseca, MD (Tulane University)

We would like to acknowledge the LA CaTS Center Governing, Advisory, and Operations Committees that have contributed to our success in 2023.

Executive Council

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

Internal Advisory Committee

- Donna Ryan, MD, Chair, Pennington Biomedical
- Patrice Delafontaine, MD, Tulane University
- Jyotsna Fuloria, MD, University Medical Center
- David Guzick, MD, PhD, LSU Health Shreveport
- Kathleen Kennedy, PharmD, Xavier University
- Gus Kousoulas, PhD, LSU A&M
- Eric Ravussin, PhD, Pennington Biomedical
- Mark Roberts, MD, Ochsner Health System
- Brooks Robey, MD, VA Southeast LA Healthcare
- Royce Sampson, MSN, Medical Univ. of South Carolina
- Janet Southerland, PhD, LSU Health New Orleans

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- Jamy Ard, MD, Wake Forest University
- Claudia Baquet, MD, Hope Institute, LLC
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- James Cimino, MD, University of Alabama
- Anna Mae Diehl, MD, Duke University
- Marian Limacher, MD, University of Florida

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- Carly Pigg (LSUHNO)
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- D'Andra Odom (PB)
- LaKeisha Williams, PharmD (XU)

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- Daniel Fort, PhD (OCH)
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- Cynthia Moreau (TU)
- Judd Shellito, MD (LSUH-NO)
- John Vanchiere, MD, PhD (LSUHS)
- David Welsh, MD (LSUHNO)

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- Fermine Thomas-Dean (LSUHS)

Pilot Grants Program

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- Peter Katzmarzyk, PhD (PB)
- Tonette Krousel-Wood, MD (TU)

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- Arti Shankar, PhD (TU)
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- Daniel Kapusta, PhD (LSUHNO)
- Leanne Redman, PhD (PB)
- Michelle Wilson (TU)

Tracking & Evaluation

- Sylvia Goldman, PhD (PB)
- Brian Melancon (PB)

PB - Pennington Biomedical ♦ LSUHNO - LSU Health New Orleans ♦ TU - Tulane Univ ♦ LSUHS - LSU Health Shreveport ♦ OCH - Ochsner ♦ XU - Xavier University ♦ CH - Children's Hospital

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