



Message From The Director

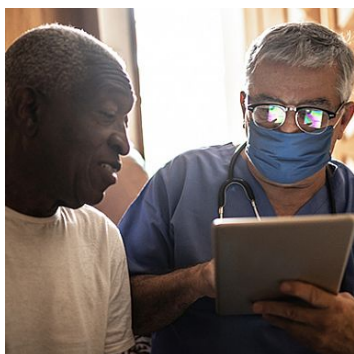
I would like to wish all of you a healthy and productive new year! Thank you all for your perseverance and support for the LA CaTS Center during a year of extraordinary challenges. The pandemic forced us to adjust our day-to-day operations in much the same way you had to adapt to the lockdown's restrictions. Despite these obstacles, your perseverance and support helped the center continue to grow and our investigators to pursue new avenues of research.

Fortunately, we were able to draw on the NIH's support and guidance, which led to new collaborations and opportunities. Our member institutions either engaged in or led research efforts focusing on COVID-19 testing and treatments. LA CaTS' robust infrastructure helped the center secure an NIH grant from the [Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics in Underserved Populations \(RADx-UP\)](#) program. The RADx-Up application drew support from Louisiana's Congressional Delegation, Governor, and Health Secretary. This was a success for our center!

I am happy to report that there have been many others. Since July 2019, LA CaTS investigators have generated approximately \$45M in external grant awards and acknowledged LA CaTS in over 200 publications. In addition, more than 300 investigators have utilized our center's services and/or resources. Finally, over 400 of you have participated in our seminars, workshops and webinars.

Thank you again for your support and dedication to the mission of the LA CaTS Center, focused on addressing health disparities and improving health outcomes for Louisiana citizens. Best of luck in the new year.

John Kirwan, PhD, LA CaTS Center IDeA-CTR Director
Pennington Biomedical Research Center



Center Spotlight

John Kirwan, PhD, Pennington Biomedical Research Center

Study Tackles Barriers to COVID-19 Testing in Black Communities

Pennington Biomedical, HealthyBR Part of Nationwide Effort to Fill Gaps in Care

Pennington Biomedical Research Center and the Louisiana Clinical and Translational Science Center (LA CaTS) secured a major research grant to help in the fight against COVID-19 in Louisiana. Pennington and LA CaTS scientists were selected to participate in Operation Warp Speed, the White House initiative on COVID-19. The research will focus on COVID-19 testing in Louisiana's Black communities, which have been hit hard by the virus.

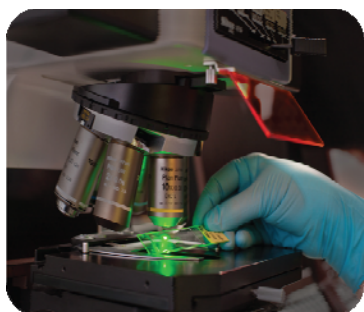
Read more [HERE](#).



Funding & Training Opportunities

The **Roadmap Scholars Program** targets junior faculty who are just entering the field of clinical and translational research. When they complete this training, we anticipate that the scholars will have competed successfully for an NIH Career Transition (K) award or its equivalent, permitting continued protected mentored career development.

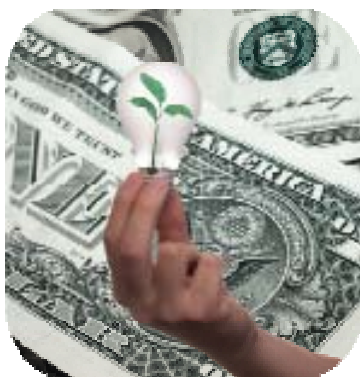
- **Application deadline: Monday, February 1, 2021 by 5:00pm CST**
- [Read more HERE](#)



LA CaTS Pilot Grant Program provide financial support for these pilot projects, facilitate support-in-kind such as access to cores, statistical and regulatory support, and help awardees obtain any education and training needed to enhance the long-term success of these projects. The Pilot Grants Program will ensure the support and identification of promising research projects at all member institutions, and the rational allocation of core resources. Each award may be up to \$50,000/year in total costs for one year.

LA CaTS Pilot Grant Funding Opportunity (Round 10)

- **Full Application Deadline: Monday, April 12, 2021 by 5pm CST**
- [More details](#)



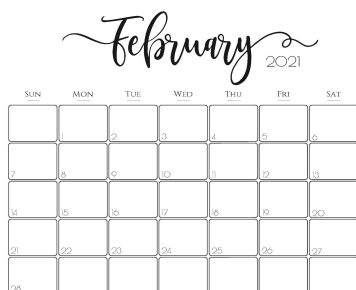
LA CaTS Grant Development Award Program supports investigators with sufficient preliminary data to support collaborative grant-writing teams. Awards are up to \$5,000 in total costs.

- [More details](#)



LA CaTS Visiting Scholars Program supports training opportunities for junior investigators to enhance skills or learn new technique. Awards are up to \$5,000 in total costs.

- [More details](#)



Events & Deadlines

Jan. 28: Louisiana COVID-19 Seminar Series: Seminar #8
4:00-5:00pm (virtual)

Feb (Various Dates): IDeA National Resource-Workshops & Symposium for Proteomics
[More details](#)

Feb. 18: Delaware IDeA-CTR ACCEL Virtual Community Research Exchange Conference
[More details](#)

Feb. 19: LA CaTS Level I Research Coordinator Training (Virtual)
[Register here](#)

[View Full Calendar](#)



Save the Date for Translational Science 2021!



COVID-19

Visit our [COVID-19 Research Resources](#) Webpage!

- Introducing a new resource: [National COVID Cohort Collaborative \(N3C\)](#)
- Interested in publications and where the clinical trials are happening around our state? See our [COVID-19 Publication Resource](#) or [COVID-19 Clinical Trial Database](#).
- The **Louisiana COVID-19 Seminar Series** continues in 2021! Recordings are available for viewing on our [YouTube](#) channel.



LA CaTS in the Community

Dr. Daniel Sarpong, LA CaTS Community Engagement & Outreach Resource Director, Xavier University hosted the December 10th COVID-19 Chronicle Seminar. This installment is entitled "Community Engagement and Research Addressing COVID-19" and features Ms. Kristina Gustavson, Ms. Mariana Montero and Dr. Sandra Brown.

[View Full Discussion](#)



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