

2024 Annual Summary

The **mission** of the LA CaTS Center is to **support and grow clinical and translational research through partnerships with researchers and the Louisiana communities we serve**. By fostering collaborations, we aim to better understand health issues and improve health outcomes, particularly for those with chronic diseases in the Gulf South. We envision a future where a unified, statewide network of academic, research, and healthcare institutions work together to transform clinical and translational research, ultimately improving the health and well-being of Louisiana's population.

This report highlights some of the LA CaTS Center's key **accomplishments**, outlines its strategic goals for the future, and provides an overview of the Center's mission, vision, and the collaborative efforts of its statewide network of academic, research, and healthcare institutions. Additionally, the report covers the impact of major initiatives like the **Roadmap Scholar** Program to produce the next generation of clinical and translational researchers.



LA CaTS Center Goals

- 1 Strengthen the collaborative infrastructure that fundamentally supports clinical and translational research in Louisiana academic institutions.
- 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
- 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 disparities and health outcomes.

Accomplishments

GRANT FUNDING & AWARDS

- **Secured over \$335 million in extramural grant awards** for Louisiana, including \$225 million in NIH awards since the start of the grant.
- Awardee or collaborator on **12 NIH supplement grants, totaling \$9.3 million** in areas such as women's health, chronic disease, and data science research since 2020.

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS & RESEARCH

- Supported **more than 2,000 publications and 1,300 competitive scientific presentations** since the start of the grant.
- Established a **statewide Clinical Trial Units network**, recruiting a study cohort reflective of Louisiana's demographic makeup.
- Provided more than **900 clinical and translational (CT) scientists access to technical services and resources** through LA CaTS Center Cores.
- Provided over **215 CT Training and Professional Development opportunities** engaging early-stage clinicians, researchers, and community members through seminars, workshops, and virtual platforms.
- 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
- Participated as a **collaborator in the National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C)**, supporting 4 NC Enclave users and partnering with 16 partnering institutions; efforts contributed to **two grant awards totaling \$484,761, 10 multi-institutional publications, and 17 co-authorships** advancing COVID-19 research and data sharing.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & COLLABORATION

- **Highly engaged Community Advisory Boards (CAB)** with 39 members - in the New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Shreveport/North Louisiana regions. **Members participate** on research teams to **develop and implement studies and serve as advisors to investigators** on a broad range of study ideas, ongoing research, and ways to further engage our communities.

RECOGNITION & STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- **Expansion & engagement of new partners & resources:** BMI Core collaborations & partnerships (i.e., Ochsner Health) **increased access to statewide clinical data, created virtual cohorts** (e.g., breast cancer, diabetes, obesity, Parkinson's disease), and **standardized electronic medical records** for research.
 - This is being used in LA CaTS Center pilot projects, Roadmap Scholar projects, and NIH grant applications.
- Expanded the **Roadmap Scholar Program to LSU Health Shreveport**, which has further strengthened the partner network.
- Over **30 career promotions** for past and current Roadmap and Meritorious Scholars.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

CELEBRATING 12 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE AMONG ROADMAP SCHOLARS

The **LA CaTS Center Roadmap Scholar Program** was established to foster the growth of junior scientists who are interested in or just entering the field of **clinical and translational research**. The program supports 75% of the scholar's salary for two years to provide **protected time for research and training**. It also covers tuition for a **Master of Science in Clinical Research (MSCR)** degree from Tulane University. Thus, during the two-year program, up to \$270k of total support may be provided to each scholar.

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.



35 Roadmap Scholars have completed the program.



6 Roadmap Scholars are currently enrolled.



160 extramural grants successfully attained after program completion.



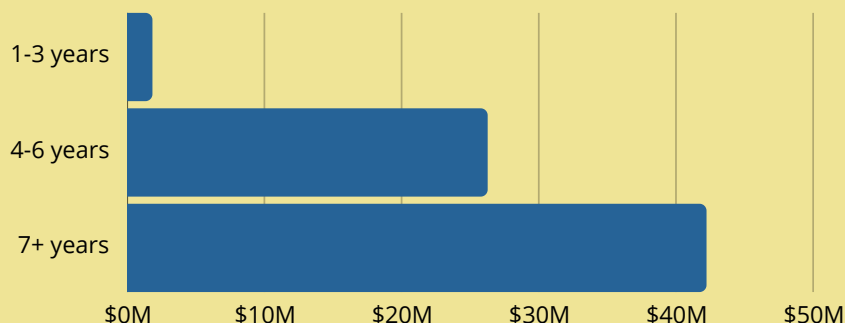
Over \$70.3 million dollars in total grant awards.



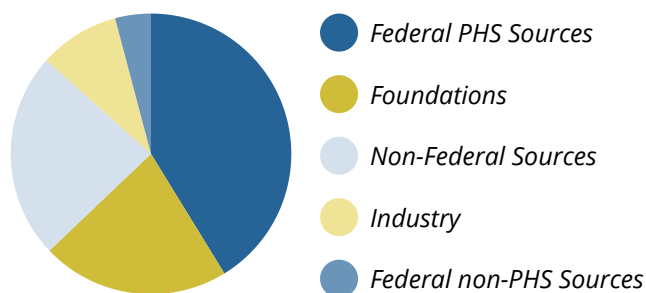
899 manuscripts published by Roadmap Scholars.



Grant Amounts Awarded in Years Following Program Completion

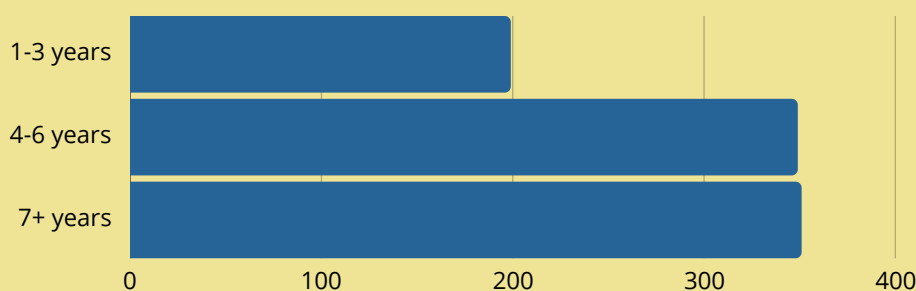


LA CaTS Roadmap Scholars' Grant Awards



The LA CaTS Roadmap Scholars Program has proven to be a transformational initiative in **advancing clinical and translational research, fostering the professional growth** of junior scientists and **equipping them with essential skills** for a successful career. Of the 35 Roadmap Scholars who completed the program, 12 (34%) have attained the rank of associate professor or secured upper leadership roles in industry, with most promotions occurring within 2 to 3 years of program completion. Additionally, many scholars are on track to achieve tenure or the rank of associate professor in the near future. By creating individualized roadmaps and providing robust mentorship, the program not only **enhances individual careers** but also **strengthens Louisiana's research community**. As healthcare evolves, the demand for innovative research directly impacting patient care is increasingly critical. This program is uniquely designed to cultivate the next generation of researchers equipped to tackle these challenges head-on.

Manuscripts Published in Years Following Program Completion



We would like to recognize the LA CaTS Center Governing, Advisory, and Operations Committees for their valuable contributions to our success in 2024.

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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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- Donald Mercante, PhD (LSUHNO)
- Arti Shankar, PhD (TU)
- Sudesh Srivastav, PhD (TU)

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- D'Andra Odom, MPA (PB)
- Andrea Pickett (PB)
- LaKeisha Williams, PharmD (XU)

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