



Join us on February 13, 2025 for a special symposium at the 2025 Southern Regional Meeting!

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Frontiers in Health:
**Breakthroughs in Obesity,
Cardiovascular, and Kidney
Disease Treatments**

February 13, 2025 1:15pm-3:35pm	Intercontinental Hotel New Orleans Melpomene Room, 2nd floor	Register at www.ssciweb.org

NIH-funded IDeA Programs



John Kirwan, PhD
Pennington Biomedical
Research Center
"Louisiana Clinical & Translational
Science Center"



Joey Granger, PhD
Univ. of Mississippi
Medical Center
"Mississippi Center for Clinical
and Translational Research"

Plenary Talks



Donna Ryan, MD
Pennington Biomedical
Research Center
"Breakthroughs in Obesity: It's
Not Just About Weight Loss!"



Michael Hall, MD
Univ. of Mississippi Medical Center
"Obesity, Chronic Kidney Disease and
Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection
Fraction: Mechanistic Links and Novel
Therapeutic Opportunities"

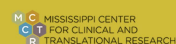


Licy Yanes Cardozo, MD
Univ. of Mississippi Medical
Center
"Obesity in women with PCOS:
Implications and Mechanisms"



M.A. "Tonette" Krousel-Wood, MD, MSPH
Tulane University School of Medicine
"Moving the Needle: Translating
Evidence-based Treatment for
Cardiometabolic Diseases into Practice"

Brought to you by



Center Spotlight

Meet the LA CaTS Navigator, [Michelle Wilson, MPH](#)
Tulane University



HATS OFF TO OUR RESEARCHERS



Candice Myers, PhD, MS
Roadmap Scholar Cohort 6
P50 from NIMHD



David McDougal, PhD
Roadmap Scholar Cohort 7
R56 from NIH



Amanda Staiano, PhD
Roadmap Scholar Cohort 4
UG1 from NIH

Pennington Biomedical



Jennifer E. Cameron, PhD
Roadmap Scholar Cohort 1
R01 from NIH-NIDCR



Michael Celestin, PhD
Roadmap Scholar Cohort 11
R01 from NIH

LSU Health New Orleans



Congratulations

2024-2025 LA CaTS Center New NIH Supplements



Yilin Yoshida, PhD
Tulane University

"Understanding Women's Excessive Risk of Heart Failure in Diabetes - A Life-Course Evaluation of Biological and Lifestyle Factors"

*In response to NOSI (NOT-GM-22-005):
Administrative Supplements for Research on
Women's Health in IDeA States*



Frank Greenway, MD
Pennington Biomedical



Robert Dubin, MD
Pennington Biomedical



Steven Heymesfield, MD
Pennington Biomedical

"Filling in the Gaps: GLP-1 Receptor Agonists and the Musculoskeletal System" (collaboration with MaineHealth)

*In response to NOSI (NOT-GM-24-001):
Availability of Administrative Supplements to
IDeA Awards to Fund Team Science
Development Projects*

Community Scholar Project - Cohort 6



Marcia Henry, PhD

Marcia Henry, PhD (Academic PI, Xavier University)



Alex Bellow, JD

Alex Bellow (Community Partner, Hosanna Fellowship Church of
Gretna)

Project title: "Empowering young mothers with a history of
substance use disorder to manage stress"

More Information:

[LA CaTS Community Scholars Program \(LACoSP\)](#)

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.

Applications Due: February 3, 2025

[More details](#)



The **LA CaTS Pilot Grants Program** are accepting pre-selected applications for the 2024-2025 Pilot Grant Funding Opportunity (Round 13). Each award may be **up to \$50,000** in total costs.

Selected Full Applications Due: February 17, 2025

[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.

Open enrollment until the maximum numbers of awards are met.

[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.

Open enrollment until the maximum numbers of awards are met.

[More details](#)



Short Experiences in Clinical Trials support junior investigators in clinical or translational research, and to link them with clinical trial mentors to assist their development in the field. Each award may be **up to \$5,000** in total costs.

Open enrollment until the maximum numbers of awards are met.

[More details](#)



2025 LA CaTS Community Scholars Program

COMING SOON!

[More details](#)



The Pennington Biomedical Nutrition Obesity Research Center (NORC) is accepting applications for Pilot and Feasibility (P&F) grants to support research in two different funding opportunities for early-stage scientists and multidisciplinary teams. Objectives include:

- 1) Conducting research projects to develop preliminary data and/or novel methods involving nutrition and/or obesity-related research.
- 2) Exploratory research relevant to obesity and/or nutrition using the existing data and biospecimens that are stored in the Pennington/Louisiana [NORC Biorepository](#).

A maximum of 2 grants will be funded within each of these categories (development of preliminary data/novel methods, and use of the Biorepository) for 1 year. Budgets for developmental grants or novel methods are expected to be \$40-50K with biorepository grants in the \$10-20K range.

LOI Submission Deadline: February 6, 2025

[More details](#)



Calendar of Events



**2024 LA CaTS Roadmap Scholar
Application FAQ - Informational Webinar 1
Dec 19, 2024**



**2024 LA CaTS Roadmap Scholar
Application FAQ - Informational Webinar 2
Jan 10, 2025**



**SSCI Southern Regional Meeting
Feb 13-15, 2025**

Calendar of Events



10th Annual CCTS Bioethics Forum: "AI in Action: Navigating Ethics and Opportunities in Healthcare"
Feb 19, 2025



Translational Science 2025
Apr 14-17, 2025

[See full calendar](#)



Welcome to our newest LA CaTS Center Team Member!



Andrea Pickett (Pennington Biomedical Research Center)

Andrea Pickett serves as the Program Coordinator for the Community Engagement and Outreach Core for the Louisiana Center for Clinical and Translational Science (LA CaTS) Center, based in Baton Rouge. She holds a B.S. in Psychology from Southern University and A&M College and is a student in the LSUS/LSUHS Master of Public Health program. Andrea's background includes community mental health initiatives and state-level disaster response through her work with the Louisiana Department of Health's Office of Behavioral Health. Passionate about improving health outcomes for communities in Louisiana and beyond, she brings dedication and expertise to her work. Outside of her professional endeavors, Andrea enjoys adventures with her husband and two sons, including exploring local parks, playing competitive games, and traveling to museums across the country.

LA CaTS in the Community



"Team Work Makes the Dream Work!"

Community Engagement & Outreach Core Holds 1st Writing Retreat

Dr. Stephanie Broyles gathered the Community Engagement and Outreach Core to participate in a full day writing retreat! The goal was to identify a core related writing project that the team was able to make progress on in one day. The intent is that these projects will lead to collaborative manuscripts with CEO members as co-authors. The activity was a teambuilding opportunity for the CE core with a detailed agenda, group lunch online, and an intentional time for feedback. LaKeisha Williams, PharmD, MSPH, Core Director, said "I really enjoyed it! It forced me to put that time to the side and accomplish some of my writing goals. I look forward to the next one." The CEO Core will continue to host these writing retreats in the year 2025.



Baton Rouge Announces 2025 Community Advisory Board Leaders



Chair, Myra Collins, LPN
Louisiana Practical Nursing Board/Baton
Rouge Community College

Myra Collins is an LPN and her expertise is in community outreach and resource development.



Co-Chair, Michelle Robins Nelson, DNP, APRN, FNP-C
General Surgery Services

Dr. Nelson is a Nurse Practitioner and her expertise is in accessing Health Care information



Secretary, Walter McLaughlin
EBR Redevelopment Authority

Walter "Geno" McLaughlin is a community engagement specialist and his expertise is in working in underserved communities



Congratulations CLASS OF 2024

Congratulations to our Community Engagment Core team member, D'Andra Odom (*5th from left*), on her graduation from Leadership Baton Rouge Alumni on November 19, 2024..



Recent Publications

[In silico and functional analysis identifies key gene networks and novel gene candidates in obesity-linked human visceral fat.](#)

Wang L, Seshachalam PV, Chua R, Zhou H, Lei S, Ghosh S. Obesity (Silver Spring). 2024 Nov;32(11):1998-2011. doi: 10.1002/oby.24161. PMID: 39497634

[Identification of exosomal ceRNA networks as prognostic markers in clear cell renal cell carcinoma.](#)

Zhu T, Fu H, Wang Z, Guo S, Zhang S. Medicine (Baltimore). 2024 Oct 25;103(43):e40167. doi:10.1097/MD.00000000000040167. PMID: 39470474

[Using Geographic Momentary Assessment to Explore Spatial Environment Influences on Wellbeing in People With HIV.](#)

Gasik RE, Smith EA, Skeen SJ, Tokarz S, Clum G, Felker-Kantor E, Theall KP. *AIDS Behav.* 2024 Oct 28. doi: 10.1007/s10461-024-04527-4. Online ahead of print. PMID: 39465467

[Excess Potassium Promotes Autophagy to Maintain the Immunosuppressive Capacity of Myeloid-Derived Suppressor Cells Independent of Arginase 1.](#)

Thylur Puttalingaiah R, Dean MJ, Zheng L, Philbrook P, Wyczechowska D, Kayes T, Del Valle L, Danos D, Sanchez-Pino MD. *Cells.* 2024 Oct 19;13(20):1736. doi: 10.3390/cells13201736. PMID: 39451254 Free PMC article.

[Dietary intakes of branch chained amino acids and obesity risk among Chinese gestational diabetes women.](#)

Yang X, Li W, Li W, Liu H, Wang L, Leng J, Fan Y, Yang X, Liu M, Hu G. *Front Nutr.* 2024 Oct 10;11:1436450. doi: 10.3389/fnut.2024.1436450. eCollection 2024. PMID: 39449822 Free PMC article.

[Finding Long-COVID: temporal topic modeling of electronic health records from the N3C and RECOVER programs.](#)

O'Neil ST, Madlock-Brown C, Wilkins KJ, McGrath BM, Davis HE, Assaf GS, Wei H, Zareie P, French ET, Loomba J, McMurry JA, Zhou A, Chute CG, Moffitt RA, Pfaff ER, Yoo YJ, Leese P, Chew RF, Lieberman M, Haendel MA; N3C and RECOVER Consortia. *NPJ Digit Med.* 2024 Oct 21;7(1):296. doi: 10.1038/s41746-024-01286-3. PMID: 39433942 Free PMC article.

[Body mass index trajectories and time in target range after delivery and long-term type 2 diabetes risk in women with a history of gestational diabetes mellitus.](#)

Zhang L, Shen Y, Liu H, Li W, Wang L, Zhang S, Leng J, Li W, Liang Z, Yu Z, Yang X, Hu G. *Diabetes Obes Metab.* 2024 Oct 21. doi: 10.1111/dom.16020. Online ahead of print. PMID: 39431360

[Evaluation of indoor activities for moderate-to-vigorous physical activity in preschoolers.](#)

Kracht CL, Hendrick C, Lowe A, Roman H, Staiano AE, Katzmarzyk PT, Beyl R, Redman LM. *J Sports Sci.* 2024 Sep;42(18):1776-1784. doi: 10.1080/02640414.2024.2413724. Epub 2024 Oct 9. PMID: 39383318

[SSRI use during acute COVID-19 and risk of long COVID among patients with depression.](#)

Butzin-Dozier Z, Ji Y, Deshpande S, Hurwitz E, Anzalone AJ, Coyle J, Shi J, Mertens A, van der Laan MJ, Colford JM Jr, Patel RC, Hubbard AE; National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C) Consortium. *BMC Med.* 2024 Oct 8;22(1):445. doi: 10.1186/s12916-024-03655-x. PMID: 39380062 Free PMC article.

[Trends in the Incidence of Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy Among the Medicaid Population before and During COVID-19.](#)

Lin J, Feng H, Horswell R, Chu S, Shen Y, Hu G. *Womens Health Rep (New Rochelle).* 2024 Sep 6;5(1):641-649. doi: 10.1089/whr.2024.0045. eCollection 2024. PMID: 39346805

[Calculation and Comparison of Step Guidelines for Preschooler Physical Activity While Indoors.](#)

Roman H, Redman LM, Neshteruk CD, Hales D, Helsel B, Kracht CL. Am J Hum Biol. 2024 Nov;36(11):e24162. doi: 10.1002/ajhb.24162. Epub 2024 Sep 28. PMID: 39340227

[Preliminary Effectiveness of a One-Week Summer Day Camp for Improving Children's Health Behaviors and Psychosocial Well-Being Outcomes.](#)

Tan Q, Nie Y, Son P, Underwood RA, Murray P, Hebert C, McKey KL, Hendrick C, Staiano AE, Chen S. Children (Basel). 2024 Sep 7;11(9):1097. doi: 10.3390/children11091097. PMID: 39334629 Free PMC article.

[Modification of childcare's outdoor setting for toddler physical activity and nature-based play: A mixed methods study.](#)

Kracht CL, Staiano AE, Harris M, Domangue K, Grantham-Caston M. PLoS One. 2024 Sep 20;19(9):e0309113. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0309113. eCollection 2024. PMID: 39302934 Free PMC article.

[Healthy Lifestyle and Cardiac Rehabilitation for Weight Loss.](#)

Höchsmann C, Dorling JL, Lavie CJ, Katzmarzyk PT. Curr Cardiol Rep. 2024 Nov;26(11):1321-1327. doi: 10.1007/s11886-024-02130-6. Epub 2024 Sep 4. PMID: 39230618 Review.

[STOPTHEBURN: A Randomized Controlled Trial of Death Cafés for Burnout Prevention in Intensive Care Unit Employees.](#)

Bateman ME, Chung CH, Mascarenhas E, Hammer R, Ravindran N, Panjshiri F, Mehta P, Byrne A, Lasky S, Denson R, Brown M, Halton B, Chiurco J, Ferrell S, Ruiz B, Wentowski C, Shukla I, Bauer H, Sarma A, Bhyravabhotla K, Zu Y, Peacock E, Lefante J, Epere J, Denson JL. Ann Am Thorac Soc. 2024 Nov;21(11):1572-1582. doi: 10.1513/AnnalsATS.202312-1024OC. PMID: 39052070 Clinical Trial.

[Trends in the Incidence of Gestational Diabetes Mellitus Among the Medicaid Population Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic.](#)

Lin J, Horswell R, Chu S, Dumas SA, Hu G. J Womens Health (Larchmt). 2024 Sep;33(9):1276-1282. doi: 10.1089/jwh.2023.0746. Epub 2024 Jul 19. PMID: 39029471

[Adjunctive therapy with an oral H₂S donor provides additional therapeutic benefit beyond SGLT2 inhibition in cardiometabolic heart failure with preserved ejection fraction.](#)

Doiron JE, Xia H, Yu X, Nevins AR, LaPenna KB, Sharp TE 3rd, Goodchild TT, Allerton TD, Elgazzaz M, Lazartigues E, Shah SJ, Li Z, Lefer DJ. Br J Pharmacol. 2024 Nov;181(21):4294-4310. doi: 10.1111/bph.16493. Epub 2024 Jul 9. PMID: 38982742

[From Alpha to Omicron and Beyond: Associations Between SARS-CoV-2 Variants and Surgical Outcomes.](#)

Verhagen NB, Geissler T, SenthilKumar G, Gehl C, Shaik T, Flitcroft MA, Yang X, Taylor BW, Ghaferi AA, Gould JC, Kothari AN; N3C Consortium. J Surg Res. 2024 Sep;301:71-79. doi: 10.1016/j.jss.2024.05.034. Epub 2024 Jun 24. PMID: 38917576

[Evaluating the Validity of the PortionSize Smartphone Application for Estimating Dietary Intake in Free-Living Conditions: A Pilot Study.](#)

Diktas HE, Lozano CP, Saha S, Broyles ST, Martin CK, Apolzan JW. J Nutr Educ Behav. 2024 Sep;56(9):643-652. doi: 10.1016/j.jneb.2024.05.226. Epub 2024 Jun 18. PMID: 38888538 Free article.

[The prevalence of postacute sequelae of coronavirus disease 2019 in solid organ transplant recipients: Evaluation of risk in the National COVID Cohort Collaborative.](#)

Vinson AJ, Schissel M, Anzalone AJ, Dai R, French ET, Olex AL, Lee SB, Ison M, Mannon RB; National COVID Cohort Collaborative. Am J Transplant. 2024 Sep;24(9):1675-1689. doi: 10.1016/j.ajt.2024.06.001. Epub 2024 Jun 8. PMID: 38857785 Free PMC article.

[Biological and behavioral pathways from prenatal depression to offspring cardiometabolic risk: Testing the developmental origins of health and disease hypothesis.](#)

Doom JR, Deer LK, Dabelea D, LeBourgeois MK, Lumeng JC, Martin CK, Hankin BL, Davis EP. Dev Psychol. 2024 Sep;60(9):1620-1638. doi: 10.1037/dev0001704. Epub 2024 Feb 15. PMID: 38358670 Review.

[The Intersections of COVID-19, HIV, and Race/Ethnicity: Machine Learning Methods to Identify and Model Risk Factors for Severe COVID-19 in a Large U.S. National Dataset.](#)

Kunz M, Rott KW, Hurwitz E, Kunisaki K, Sun J, Wilkins KJ, Islam JY, Patel R, Safo SE; National Covid Cohort Collaborative (N3C) Consortium. AIDS Behav. 2024 Oct;28(Suppl 1):5-21. doi: 10.1007/s10461-024-04266-6. Epub 2024 Feb 7. PMID: 38326668

[Assessing the effect of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors in the prevention of post-acute sequelae of COVID-19.](#)

Sidky H, Hansen KA, Girvin AT, Hotaling N, Michael SG, Gersing K, Sahner DK; N3C consortium. Comput Struct Biotechnol J. 2024 Jan 9;24:115-125. doi: 10.1016/j.csbj.2023.12.045. eCollection 2024 Dec. PMID: 38318198 Free PMC article.

[Impact of HIV on COVID-19 Outcomes: A Propensity Score Matching Analysis with Varying Age Differences.](#)

Guo S, Zhang J, Yang X, Weissman S, Olatosi B, Patel RC, Li X; N3C Consortium. AIDS Behav. 2024 Oct;28(Suppl 1):124-135. doi: 10.1007/s10461-023-04088-y. Epub 2023 Jun 8. PMID: 37289345 Free PMC article.



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