



Message From The Director

Greetings! We are proud to release our first LA CaTS Center Executive Summary, summarizing our progress and acknowledging our members at our LA CaTS Member Institutions, collaborators and partners. We continue to see exceptional growth and resiliency of our Center and are happy to share it with you.

Download the Executive Summary [here](#).

Calendar of Events



Forge AHEAD Seminar: Racism as a Foundational Contributor to Inequities Across Multiple Chronic Diseases (Hybrid Event)
May 8, 2024



RECOVER Research Review (R3) Seminar: "SARS-CoV-2 infection during pregnancy and development of Long COVID"
May 14, 2024



LA CaTS Baton Rouge Community Advisory Board Meeting
May 15, 2024



Webinar: NIH Grants Process: A Brief Walk-Through for Beginners
May 15, 2024



UAB CCTS: Research Orientation Program Session
May 16, 2024



NISBRE2024

9th National IDeA Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence (NISBRE) Conference
Jun 16-19, 2024



LA CaTS Baton Rouge Community Advisory Board Meeting
June 19, 2024

[See full calendar](#)

Funding & Training Opportunities



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](#)



For those interested in applying to the LA CaTS Community Scholars Program in the future, check out the [Community Scholars Preparation Webinar Series](#).



The LA CaTS Center congratulates Dr. Steve Nelson for his appointment as the new Chancellor of LSU Health New Orleans. Dr. Nelson also serves as a LA CaTS Program Co-Director.

See press release [here](#).



RECOVER

Researching COVID to Enhance Recovery

An Initiative Funded by the National Institutes of Health

RECOVER News Digest

The RECOVER News Digest highlights recent press coverage of RECOVER, COVID-19, and Long COVID.

Read more [here](#).

New Partnership



Read more about the LA CaTS Center's partnership with the **Southern Society for Clinical Investigation (SSCI)** for the 2024 Southern Regional Meeting (SRM).

Attention Investigators



NISBRE2024

Save-the-Date: 2024 National IDeA Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence (NISBRE) Conference June 16-19, 2024 Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C.

For more information: <https://nisbre2024.vfairs.com/en/>

[Register Now](#)

Center Resource Spotlight



Tulane Center for Clinical Research (TCCR) is part of the LA CaTS Center's Clinical Trial Unit (CTU) network. The TCCR is located in New Orleans and is a Louisiana leader in academic research.

[Read more about this research resource for investigators.](#)

Congratulations

Congratulations to our LA CaTS Round 12 Multi-Institutional Pilot Grants & Cohort 5 Community Scholars Program Awardees

Multi-Institutional Pilot Grants Projects

1. Rajesh Mohandas, MD (LSU Health New Orleans) & Prasad Katakam, MD, PhD (Tulane University). **Project title:** "Cerebral Microvascular Dysfunction and Neuroinflammation - A Novel Mechanism Mediating Cardiovascular Risk in Chronic Kidney Disease"
2. Eric Ravussin, PhD (Pennington Biomedical Research Center) & Franck Mauvais-Jarvis, MD, PhD (Tulane University). **Project title:** "Experimental approach to test predictions of body weight regulation models"

Community Scholar Projects- Cohort 5

1. **Academic Partner:** Matthew Calamia, PhD (LSU A&M), **Community Partner:** Kimberly Hill, MS (Brian Injury Association of Louisiana - BIALA)
Project title: "Supporting the Mental Health Needs of Those Living with Traumatic Brain Injury their Care Partners"
 2. **Academic Partner:** Shelly Dolan, MSN, DNP (LSU Health New Orleans), **Community Partner:** Andreas Hoffman (Greenlight NOLA)
Project title: "Getting their Hands Dirty: Urban Gardening as a Platform to Introduce Health Promotion Behaviors in Preschoolers"
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- Congratulations to **Dr. Jennifer Caldwell**, Pennington Biomedical, for being the recipient of the Forge AHEAD Center Pilot Award Cohort 3. Her project title is "[Linking GAINS: Linking Genetics and Improving Nutrition in Scotlandville](#)".
- LA CaTS Center's **D'Andra Odom** selected as member of The Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC) Leadership Baton Rouge [Class of 2024](#).

LA CaTS in the Community



The LA CaTS Baton Rouge Community Advisory Board (CAB) and Mayoral Task Force to end food security met Feb 28th to have a focus groups style discussion with community members, physicians, scientist, and leaders in the Baton Rouge Food Bank. The Baton Rouge CAB led the discussion with 10+ community members who came to Pennington Biomedical to discuss their personal experiences with food insecurity.

[Learn more about our CABs.](#)



Recent Publications

[Predictors of racial differences in weight loss: the PROPEL trial.](#)

Newton RL Jr, Zhang D, Johnson WD, Martin CK, Apolzan JW, Denstel KD, Brantley PJ, Davis TC, Arnold C, Sarpong DF, Price-Haywood EG, Lavie CJ, Thethi TK, Katzmarzyk PT. Obesity (Silver Spring). 2024 Mar;32(3):476-485.

[An explanation for the accuracy of sensor-based measures of energy intake: Amount of food consumed matters more than dietary composition.](#)

Chou T, Hoover AW, Goldstein SP, Greco-Henderson D, Martin CK, Raynor HA, Muth ER, Thomas JG. Appetite. 2024 Mar 1;194:107176.

[Exercise-induced Changes in Central Adiposity During an RCT: Effect of Exercise Dose and Associations With Compensation.](#)

Dorling JL, Apolzan JW, Johannsen NM, Thomas DM, Höchsmann C, Hsia DS, Martin CK. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2024 Feb 20;109(3):e997-e1005.

[Longitudinal Profiling of Fasting Plasma Metabolome in Response to Weight-Loss Interventions in Patients with Morbid Obesity.](#)

Chen M, Miao G, Huo Z, Peng H, Wen X, Anton S, Zhang D, Hu G, Brock R, Brantley PJ, Zhao J. Metabolites. 2024 Feb 10;14(2):116.

[Effects of Non-Face-to-Face Chronic Care Management on Service Utilization and Outcomes Among US Medicare Beneficiaries with Diabetes.](#)

Hong D, Stoecker C, Shao Y, Nauman E, Fonseca V, Hu G, Bazzano AN, Kabagambe EK, Shi L. J Gen Intern Med. 2024 Feb 21.

[Effects of metformin on glucose metabolism and mitochondrial function in patients with obstructive sleep apnea: A pilot randomized trial.](#)

Zunica ERM, Heintz EC, Dantas WS, Hebert RC, Tanksley M, Beyl RA, Mader EC Jr, Kirwan JP, Axelrod CL, Singh P. Physiol Rep. 2024 Feb;12(3):e15948.

[Advancing Health Equity: The Role of a Community-Academic-Public Health-Practice \(CAPP\) Partnership in Addressing COVID-19 Disparities in Louisiana.](#)

McClure J, Mendoza L, Sokol T, Brown D, LaVeist T, Brown S, Peacock E, Williams L, Mushatt D, Katzmarzyk P, Sarpong D, Krousel-Wood M. Am J Public Health. 2024 Jan;114(S1):S55-S58.

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

Sidky H, Hansen KA, Girvin AT, Hotelling N, Michael SG, Gersing K, Sahner DK; N3C consortium. Comput Struct Biotechnol J. 2024 Jan 9;24:115-125.

[Variant of the lactase LCT gene explains association between milk intake and incident type 2 diabetes.](#)

Luo K, Chen GC, Zhang Y, Moon JY, Xing J, Peters BA, Usyk M, Wang Z, Hu G, Li J, Selvin E, Rebholz CM, Wang T, Isasi CR, Yu B, Knight R, Boerwinkle E, Burk RD, Kaplan RC, Qi Q. Nat Metab. 2024 Jan;6(1):169-186.

["Take care of your families, take care of one another": Indigenist families and foodways.](#)

McKinley CE. Fam Relat. 2023 Dec;72(5):2371-2389. d

[Progress in Glioma Stem Cell Research.](#)

Ramar V, Guo S, Hudson B, Liu M. Cancers (Basel). 2023 Dec 24;16(1):102.

[Assessment of Community Awareness and Screening of Chagas Disease in the Latin American Community of Greater New Orleans.](#)

Herrera C, Bernabé KJ, Dumonteil E, DeCuir J, Thompson JM, Avendano M, Tu W, Leonhardt MM, Northland BA, Frederick J, Prieto B, Paternina-Caicedo A, Ortega E, Fonseca M, Hincapie M, Echeverri M. Trop Med Infect Dis. 2023 Dec 5;8(12):515.



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