



LA CaTS CENTER INSIDER

2025 Summer Edition



Message From the Director

The LA CaTS Center is pleased to share the release of our second **Annual Summary** to internal and external stakeholders. The summary includes of accomplishments and productivity as of 2024, and also acknowledgement to the center's cores, leadership, and committee members. Please feel free to share this summary within your research communities.

Download the Annual Summary [here](#).

Sincerely,



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

SSCI Announces Opening of Abstract Submissions for 2026 Southern Regional Meeting



Call for Abstracts Now Open!

Abstract Deadline – October 3
LA CaTS category: "IDeA Program-Clinical & Translational Research"



Abstract submission link: <https://srm2026.abstractcentral.com/>

Information on SRM 2026: <https://www.sciweb.org/southern-regional-meeting.php>

Welcome to the Team!



Paula Jordan
**CROWN Program
Coordinator, LA CaTS
Community Engagement
& Outreach Core**

Thank YOU for your service!



Thank you for your incredible dedication
and service in the Professional
Development Core!

**WE
APPRECIATE
YOU!**

We are truly grateful for your
commitment and collaborative spirit!

HATS OFF TO OUR RESEARCHERS



Leanne Redman, PhD
Pennington Biomedical

Recipient of the American Society of
Nutrition Award



Tim Allerton, PhD
Pennington Biomedical

Publication of the Year



Lucio Miele, MD, PhD
LSU Health New Orleans

Committee of 100 Member



Yilin Yoshida, PhD
Tulane University

Multiple Publications & Abstracts at
National Meetings



Vivian Fonseca, MD
Tulane University

Diabetes Research Shared at the ADA
Meeting 85th Scientific Session



Steven Heymsfield, MD
Pennington Biomedical

Diabetes Research Shared at the ADA
Meeting 85th Scientific Session



LA CaTS Center Leadership Honors the Biomedical Informatics Team as "Core of the Year"



Left-Right: Ron Horswell, PhD (Pennington Biomedical), Chindo Hicks, PhD (LSUH-NO), John Kirwan, PhD (Pennington Biomedical), Lucio Miele, MD, PhD (LSUH-NO), Steve Nelson, MD (LSUH-NO), San Chu, MS (Pennington Biomedical) | Not pictured: David Crosslin, PhD (Tulane University), Daniel Fort, PhD (Ochsner Health)

Click [here](#) to read more.

LA CaTS Center Announces New Cohort of Roadmap Scholars



Van Barnes, PhD
Tulane University



Stephanie Waldrop, MD
Pennington Biomedical
Research Center



Dicle Yalcin, PhD
LSU Health New Orleans

[Click here to view our scholars and their projects](#)



Dr. Conlin, Professional Development Core Leaders, and Roadmap Scholars at the 2025 Annual Retreat

LA CaTS Professional Development Core hosts Annual Retreat & Plenary Talk by Dr. Paul Conlin, Harvard Clinical & Translational Science Center, Chief of Medical Service at VA Boston Healthcare System.

Missed the plenary talk? See it on our LA CaTS YouTube Channel [HERE](#).



Boost Health Literacy with AI

Researchers now have a powerful tool to make their work more accessible—ChatGPT, combined with expert guidance from the Health Literacy Core, is helping turn complex scientific jargon into clear, understandable language for the general public who may not have a background in science or medicine.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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.

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](#)



Calendar of Events



[LA CaTS New Orleans Community Advisory Board](#)

[Meeting](#)

Aug 15, 2025

New Orleans, LA



[CCTS ExpeDITions Session: "Introducing Dissemination and Implementation Research"](#)

Aug 19, 2025

Zoom



MOCK NIH STUDY SECTION
K & R Series Grants

[CCTS Mock NIH Study Section: "Sit in the Driver's Seat-Be the Reviewer" \(K08 Grant Review\)](#)

Aug 19, 2025

Zoom

[CCTS Mock NIH Study Section: "Sit in the Driver's Seat-Be the Reviewer" \(R01 Grant Review\)](#)

Aug 20, 2025

Zoom



[UAB CCTS: Research Orientation Program Session](#)

Aug 21, 2025

Zoom



MOCK NIH STUDY SECTION
K & R Series Grants

[CCTS Mock NIH Study Section: "Be the Fly On the Wall – Observe a Study Section in Action" \(R01 Grant Review\)](#)

Sep 23, 2025

Zoom

[CCTS Mock NIH Study Section: "Be the Fly On the Wall – Observe a Study Section in Action" \(K01 Grant Review\)](#)

Sep 26, 2025

Zoom



[Be the Reason Kids Greaux Healthy: Annual Childhood Obesity Conference](#)

Oct 2-3, 2025

Baton Rouge, LA



[2026 Southern Regional Meeting - Abstract Deadline](#)

Oct 3, 2025



[LA CaTS Baton Rouge Community Advisory Board Meeting](#)

Oct 15, 2025

New Orleans, LA



[CCTS 2025 Translational Science Symposium](#)

Oct 30-31, 2025

Gulf Shores, AL



[2026 Southern Regional Meeting](#)

Feb 26-28, 2026
New Orleans, LA



[NISBRE 2026](#)

Jun 14-17, 2026
Bethesda, MD

[See full calendar details](#)

LA CaTS Community Engagement & Outreach Core: *Strengthening Community Voices in Research*

The LA CaTS Community Engagement & Outreach Core has been instrumental in ensuring that the voices of our community partners and Community Advisory Board (CAB) members are embedded not only in the research process but also in broader efforts to improve health across Louisiana. This year's new initiative includes the development of the **LA CaTS CAB Working Groups (listed below)**, an opportunity to provide a platform for CAB members to utilize their expertise and experiences, while actively engaging in areas such as grant review, outreach, and community-informed research that will help address the key challenges faced by the communities served. The Core's goal is to strengthen collaboration and foster meaningful relationships among CAB members through shared interests and goals.

[Working Groups Overview](#)



Grant Review

Community-centered feedback on research proposals to ensure relevance and cultural appropriateness.



Community Events/Outreach

Support for health fairs and outreach promoting chronic condition awareness and research participation.



Community Website

Development of an accessible, engaging, and up-to-date online resource for Louisiana communities



TRIP (Translating Research into Practice)

Clear communication of research findings to bridge academic science and everyday health



CROWN (Community Research for Optimal Wellness Network)

Promotes equitable partnerships, identifies health priorities, and supports community-led research

*For more information, contact the CEO Core at community@lacats.org or click [HERE](#) to visit our webpage.





Other Research & Training Opportunities



Mongan Institute
Mass General Brigham

The Mongan Institute at Mass General Brigham has designed a virtual research training program to be accessible to busy clinicians and researchers, and focused on acquiring critical skills for success in healthcare data and delivery science.

Visit www.mghmonganeducation.org to discover how the Healthcare Data & Delivery Science Certificate Programs can benefit your clinicians, researchers, senior research administrators, and research staff.

For additional information or questions, contact Stephen Bartels, MD, MS (sjbartels@mgd.harvard.edu) directly or Sara Axelrod (program manager at saxelrod@mgd.harvard.edu).



TIERS+

Data Visualization and Integrity Workshop Series

Join us for four virtual workshops covering visualization basics, platform selection, data ethics, and reproducibility. Each session builds practical skills you can apply immediately. Registration enrolls you in all 4 sessions.

Session Details:

1. "Introduction to Data Visualization: The Power of Visual Data Interpretation"
August 20, 2025; 12-1:30 (CT) PM via Zoom
Presenters: Drs. Marla Hertz and Ashley McGuire
2. "Application of Visualization Platforms and Software"
August 27, 2025; 12-1:30 (CT) PM via Zoom
Presenters: Drs. Marla Hertz and Ashley McGuire
3. "Data Ethics and Integrity for Data Visualization"
September 3, 2025; 12-1:30 (CT) PM via Zoom
Presenter: Dr. Megan McCabe
4. "Reproducibility and Transparency for Data Visualization – Making Data Fair and Shareable"
September 10, 2025; 12-1:30 (CT) PM via Zoom
Presenters: Drs. Marla Hertz and Ashley McGuire

Visit go.uab.edu/tiers-plus for more info and to register for more TIERS+ events

Recent Publications

[Perceptions of sleep and sleep research among African American adults.](#)

Peyrel P, Viverito M, Eliser D, Tanksley M, Newton RL Jr, Carmichael OT, Baron KG, Singh P. Sleep Health. 2025 Jul 1:S2352-7218(25)00115-9.

[Association of Hospitalizations With Randomized Glycemia-Lowering Treatment in GRADE.](#)

Hsia DS, Younes N, Ghosh A, Kazemi EJ, Krause-Steinrauf H, Buse JB, Baker C, Brown-Friday J, Diaz E, Diner J, Groessl EJ, Legowski EA, Mariash CN, Waltje AH, Wexler DJ, Martin CL; GRADE Research Group. Diabetes Care. 2025 Jul 1;48(7):1288-1294.

[Trends and Risk Factors of Oral Health and Preventive Dental Care in Adults With Diabetes and Prediabetes: National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 1999-2000 to 2017-2020.](#)

Lu Y, Yoshida Y. Endocr Pract. 2025 Jul;31(7):867-874.

[Factors Affecting Reproducibility of Change in Glucose During Exercise: Results From the Type 1 Diabetes and EXercise Initiative.](#)

Li Z, Calhoun P, Rickels MR, Gal RL, Beck RW, Jacobs PG, Clements MA, Patton SR, Castle JR, Martin CK, Gillingham MB, Doyle FJ 3rd, Riddell MC. J Diabetes Sci Technol. 2025 Jul;19(4):958-970. doi: 10.1177/19322968241234687. Epub 2024 Mar 8. PMID: 38456512 Free PMC article.

[Trends in high remnant cholesterol level and its risk factors among US adults using NHANES data from 1999 to 2020: a serial cross-sectional study.](#)

Xun Y, Hu G. BMJ Open. 2025 Jun 17;15(6):e095079.

[Change of spiny neuron structure in the basal ganglia song circuit and its regulation by miR-9 during song development.](#)

Jarrell H, Akhtar A, Horowitz M, Huang Z, Shi Z, Fang Z, Li X. J Neurosci. 2025 Jun 13:e2276232025 .

[Validation of a novel approach to assess metabolic flexibility to a high-fat meal in a whole-body room calorimeter.](#)

McDougal DH, Sanchez-Delgado G, Flanagan EW, Marlatt KL, Sparks JR, Yang S, Redman LM, Ravussin E. Obesity (Silver Spring). 2025 Mar 6.

[Effect of Early and Delayed Treatment With Remdesivir on Mortality in Patients Hospitalized With COVID-19.](#)

Makkar SR, Hansen K, Hotaling N, Toler A, Sidky H. Open Forum Infect Dis. 2025 Feb 27;12(2):ofae740.

[Deubiquitinating Enzymes Regulate Skeletal Muscle Mitochondrial Quality Control and Insulin Sensitivity in Patients With Type 2 Diabetes.](#)

Dantas WS, Heintz EC, Zunica ERM, Mey JT, Erickson ML, Belmont KP, Taylor AL, Davuluri G, Fujioka H, Fealy CE, Hoppel CL, Axelrod CL, Kirwan JP. J Cachexia Sarcopenia Muscle. 2025 Apr;16(2):e13763.

[Protocol for a randomised controlled trial of a weight maintenance intervention to promote fat loss in pregnant individuals with obesity.](#)

Redman LM, Phelan S, Apolzan JW, Beyl RA, Altazan AD, Dickey MS, Simeon E, Flanagan EW, Cabre HE, Sparks JR, Kebbe M, Caughey AB, Valent AM, Hsia DS, Yin E, Keadle SK. BMJ Open. 2025 Feb 25;15(2):e095804.

[Response to Comment on Nathan et al. Relationship Between Average Glucose Levels and HbA1c Differs Across Racial Groups: A Substudy of the GRADE Randomized Trial. Diabetes Care 2024;47:2155-2163.](#)

Nathan DM. Diabetes Care. 2025 Mar 1;48(3):e34-e35.

[Development and validation of the Food Noise Questionnaire.](#)

Diktas HE, Cardel MI, Foster GD, LeBlanc MM, Dickinson SL, Ables EM, Chen X, Nathan R, Shapiro D, Martin CK. Obesity (Silver Spring). 2025 Feb;33(2):289-297.

[Definition and diagnostic criteria of clinical obesity.](#)

Rubino F, Cummings DE, Eckel RH, Cohen RV, Wilding JPH, Brown WA, Stanford FC, Batterham RL, Farooqi IS, Farpour-Lambert NJ, le Roux CW, Sattar N, Baur LA, Morrison KM, Misra A, Kadowaki T, Tham KW, Sumithran P, Garvey WT, Kirwan JP, Fernández-Real JM, Corkey BE, Toplak H, Kokkinos A, Kushner RF, Branca F, Valabhji J, Blüher M, Bornstein SR, Grill HJ, Ravussin E, Gregg E, Al Busaidi NB, Alfaris NF, Al Ozairi E, Carlsson LMS, Clément K, Després JP, Dixon JB, Galea G, Kaplan LM, Laferrière B, Laville M, Lim S, Luna Fuentes JR, Mooney VM, Nadglowski J Jr, Urudinachi A, Olszanecka-Glinianowicz M, Pan A, Pattou F, Schauer PR, Tschöp MH, van der Merwe MT, Vettor R, Mingrone G. Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol. 2025 Mar;13(3):221-262.

[Effect of nirmatrelvir/ritonavir \(Paxlovid\) on hospitalization among adults with COVID-19: An electronic health record-based target trial emulation from N3C.](#)

Bhatia A, Preiss AJ, Xiao X, Brannock MD, Alexander GC, Chew RF, Davis H, Fitzgerald M, Hill E, Kelly EP, Mehta HB, Madlock-Brown C, Wilkins KJ, Chute CG, Haendel M, Moffitt R, Pfaff ER; N3C Consortium. PLoS Med. 2025 Jan 17;22(1):e1004493.

[Impact of COVID-19 Diagnosis on Weight Trajectories of Children in the US National COVID Cohort Collaborative.](#)

Mottalib MM, Phan TT, Bramante CT, Chute CG, Pyles LA, Beheshti R. medRxiv [Preprint]. 2025 Jan 5:2025.01.03.25319927.

[Twenty-Five Years of Evolution and Hurdles in Electronic Health Records and Interoperability in Medical Research: Comprehensive Review.](#)

Shen Y, Yu J, Zhou J, Hu G. J Med Internet Res. 2025 Jan 9;27:e59024.

[Improving weight loss and cardiometabolic risk in black patients with diabetes or pre-diabetes: Rationale and protocol for a digital medicine hybrid type 1 implementation trial.](#)

Katzmarzyk PT, Price-Haywood EG, Apolzan JW, Denstel KD, Drews KL, Farris E, Harden-Barrios J, Hearld LR, Mire EF, Martin CK, Newton RL, Pisu M. Contemp Clin Trials. 2025 Feb;149:107806.

[Racial disparities in gestational weight gain and adverse pregnancy outcomes among Black and White pregnant people with obesity.](#)

Kracht CL, Harville EW, Cohen NL, Sutton EF, Kebbe M, Redman LM. Obesity (Silver Spring). 2025 Feb;33(2):395-404.

[The association between android-to-gynoid lean mass ratio and all-cause and specific-cause mortality in US adults: A prospective study.](#)

Fan Y, Ding L, Li W, Li W, Sun L, Li X, Chang L, He Q, Hu G, Wang B, Liu M. Diabetes Obes Metab. 2025 Feb;27(2):595-605.

[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. 2025 Jan;29(1):342-355.

[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. 2025 Jan;27(1):320-327.

Modulators of Energy Expenditure Accuracy in Adults with Overweight or Obesity:
E-MECHANIC Secondary Analyses.

Matthews R, Höchsmann C, Erickson ML, Dorling JL, Spielmann G, Johannsen NM, Church TS, Martin CK. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 2025 Mar 1;57(3):470-480.

Associations between COVID-19 therapies and outcomes in rural and urban America: A
multisite, temporal analysis from the Alpha to Omicron SARS-CoV-2 variants.

Anzalone AJ, Beasley WH, Murray K, Hillegass WB, Schissel M, Vest MT, Chapman SA, Horswell R, Miele L, Porterfield JZ, Bunnell HT, Price BS, Patrick S, Rosen CJ, Santangelo SL, McClay JC, Hodder SL; National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C) Consortium. J Rural Health. 2025 Jan;41(1):e12857.

Determination of Glucose-Independent Racial Disparity in HbA1c for Youth With Type 1
Diabetes in the Era of Continuous Glucose Monitoring.

Christakis NJ, Gioe M, Gomez R, Felipe D, Soros A, McCarter R, Chalew S. J Diabetes Sci Technol. 2025 Jan;19(1):72-79.



Our mailing address is:

LA CaTS Center

6400 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70808