In August, we were proud to announce the 5-year renewal of the LA CaTS Center IDeA-CTR grant. The new $20 million award will bring the total NIH grant support for our CTR to $60 million over a 15-year period. Our cores, led by group of extraordinary researchers and directors from across the state, have been working hard to plan for our newly awarded cycle. In September, I was privileged to attend the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health. The Biden-Harris Administration announced a goal of ending hunger and increasing healthy eating and physical activity by 2030 so that fewer Americans experience diet-related diseases like diabetes, obesity, and hypertension. In July, leading up to the WH Conference, Pennington Biomedical and the LA CaTS Center led a Louisiana convening that enabled community participants across Louisiana to provide input for the September Conference.

Also in September, the LA CaTS Center team came together for its Annual External Advisory Committee Meeting hosted by Tulane University. Our advisors are accomplished researchers at leading universities across the country with diverse backgrounds that range from CTSA programs, biomedical informatics and programs in health disparities. The guidance and expertise they bring to our CTR is invaluable.

In conclusion, the LA CaTS Center will focus this next 5 years on expanding and strengthening the network, scaling the clinical and community-based advances that were made by addressing health disparities during COVID-19, and creating a sustainable growth model for research infrastructure and the development of a diverse workforce. We continue to see exceptional growth and resiliency of this IDeA-CTR because of the tremendous dedication of all who play a role across our state.

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

Read more!

- Press Release on LA CaTS Center IDeA-CTR Renewal
- National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition and Health
- Biden-Harris Administration’s fact sheet releasing $8 billion in new commitments
- LA CaTS Center External Advisors
This year’s NISBRE (NIH NIGMS 8th Biennial National IDeA Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence) Meeting will be held virtually, December 12-14, 2022. NISBRE is a national scientific meeting to showcase the scientific and training accomplishments of the IDeA program of NIGMS.

The registration fee for investigators from the LA CaTS IDeA-CTR partner institutions is covered under the LA CaTS registration fee.

Read more HERE.

Funding & Training Opportunities

2023 Underrepresented Minority Roadmap Scholar (UMRS) Program
Center Spotlight

LSU Health Shreveport’s Dr. Terry Davis Receives 2022 Community Hero Award

Read more here.

LSU Health-New Orleans’ Ochoa receives Prestigious Award from NCI

Read more here.

Welcome New LA CaTS Faculty!

The LA CaTS Center Welcomes New Core Faculty-Dr. Kimberly Drews & Dr. Jennifer Caldwell

Kimberly Drews, PhD
LA CaTS Biostatistics, Epidemiology & Research Design (BERD) Director

Read bio for Dr. Drews here.
N3C invites you to begin your journey with the Enclave and join the collaborative efforts of our partners to better understand and address the most pressing COVID-19 clinical questions.

**How big is the N3C Data Enclave?**

Data within the N3C Data Enclave is provided by 76 sites from across the nation and contains information about 16.0 million anonymized persons. The Enclave has 19.4 billion total rows containing:

- 6,251,459 COVID+ Cases
- 1.8 billion Clinical Observations
- 9.1 billion Lab Results
- 3.1 billion Medication Records
- 900.7 million Procedures
- 951.1 million Visits

*Data as of October 20, 2023*

Read More

Questions? Contact the LA CaTS Biomedical Informatics Team at [Biomedinformatics@LACaTS.org](mailto:Biomedinformatics@LACaTS.org).

N3C Public Health Answers to Speed Tractable Results (PHASTR) Call for Proposals.
Read More

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**Events & Deadlines**

Missed the Oct. 20th LA CaTS Seminar Series? [Watch it now!](#)

**Nov. 16**: LA CaTS Baton Rouge Community Advisory Board Meeting
LA CaTS in the Community

The Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education at Xavier University of Louisiana invites community members to apply to join a Community Advisory Board (CAB), or a network of community members seeking to advocate for local community concerns and to see the improvement of residents' health. There are various boards that we are filling with different missions, all to address health challenges in communities across Louisiana. The interest form is for completion is here: https://forms.office.com/r/BSad6nGbVq

Recent Publications

**Association of Renin Angiotensin Aldosterone System Inhibitors and Outcomes of Hospitalized Patients With COVID-19.**

**Using the articularis genu to test peri-articular muscle health during knee osteoarthritis.**

**Supporting family meal frequency: Screening Phase results from the Simply Dinner Study.**

**Visceral, subcutaneous, and total fat mass accumulation in a prospective cohort of adolescents.**

**Nutritional quality of calorie restricted diets in the CALERIE™ 1 trial.**
Racette SB, Barry VG, Bales CW, McCrory MA, Obert KA, Gilhooly CH, Roberts SB, **Martin CK**, Champagne C, Das SK. Exp Gerontol.

**Association of Obesity and Diabetes With the Incidence of Breast Cancer in Louisiana.**

**Adipocyte-Specific Laminin Alpha 4 Deletion Preserves Adipose Tissue Health despite Increasing Adiposity.**
Bailey JL, Burk DH, Burke SJ, Reed SD, **Ghosh S**, **Elks CM**. Biomedicines.

**Coding Long COVID: Characterizing a new disease through an ICD-10 lens.**

**Sex differences in determinants of COVID-19 severe outcomes - findings from the National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C).**

**Glucose-independent racial disparity in HbA1c is evident at onset of type 1 diabetes.**
Alaqeel A, Gomez R, **Chalew SA**. J Diabetes Complications.

**The effects of exercise and diet on sex steroids in breast cancer survivors.**

**A Physical Activity Intervention in Older African Americans: The PAACE Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial.**
The association between food insecurity and gun violence in a major metropolitan city.

Technical report: an online international weight control registry to inform precision approaches to healthy weight management.

Blocking ActRIIB and restoring appetite reverses cachexia and improves survival in mice with lung cancer.

Tulane STAR (Sending Texts, Advancing Results): impact of text messaging on bariatric post-operative protocol compliance.

Peacock E, Craig LS, Krousel-Wood M. Curr Opin Cardiol.

Comparison of weight loss data collected by research technicians versus electronic medical records: the PROPEL trial.


Association of Abdominal Visceral Adiposity and Total Fat Mass with Cancer Incidence and Mortality in White and Black Adults.

Demonstrating an approach for evaluating synthetic geospatial and temporal epidemiologic data utility: results from analyzing >1.8 million SARS-CoV-2 tests in the United States National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C).

The trial to assess chelation therapy 2 (TACT2): Rationale and design.
The association of abdominal adiposity with premature discontinuation of postoperative chemotherapy in colon cancer.


Intraclass correlation coefficients for weight loss cluster randomized trials in primary care: The PROPEL trial.


"You Can Get Away with Anything Here... No Justice at All"- Sexual Violence Against U.S. Indigenous Females and Its Consequences.

McKinley CE, Knipp H. Gender Issues.

Infant Feeding Varies Across Eating Behavior and Feeding Modalities in Mothers With Low Income.

Kebbe M, Altazan AD, Beyl RA, Gilmore LA, Redman LM. J Nutr Educ Behav.

"When You Come Together and Do Everything, It'll be Better for Everybody": Exploring Gender Relations Among Two Southeastern Native American Tribes.


SARS-CoV-2 genomic surveillance as an evidence-based infection control approach in an offshore petroleum employee population.


Effects of acute arginine supplementation on neuroendocrine, metabolic, cardiovascular, and mood outcomes in younger men: A double-blind, placebo-controlled trial.


Metformin is Associated with Reduced COVID-19 Severity in Patients with Prediabetes.


A higher proportion of small adipocytes is associated with increased visceral and ectopic lipid accumulation during weight gain in response to overfeeding in men.


Dimethyl malonate slows succinate accumulation and preserves cardiac function in a swine model of hemorrhagic shock.


Who is pregnant? defining real-world data-based pregnancy episodes in the National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C).


Demographic Patterns and Increasing Incidence of Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma in Louisiana.

Sex Differences in the Progression of Metabolic Risk Factors in Diabetes Development.

Risk Factors Associated with Post-Acute Sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 in an EHR Cohort: A National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C) Analysis as part of the NIH RECOVER program.

Alliance of Randomized Trials of Medicine vs Metabolic Surgery in Type 2 Diabetes (ARMMS-T2D): Study rationale, design, and methods.

Mediators of weight change in underserved patients with obesity: exploratory analyses from the Promoting Successful Weight Loss in Primary Care in Louisiana (PROPEL) cluster-randomized trial.


Evaluating Health Literacy in Virtual Environments: Validation of the REALM and REALM-Teen for Virtual Use.


Breakthrough SARS-CoV-2 Infection Outcomes in Vaccinated Patients with Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis: A National COVID Cohort Collaborative Study.