



**LA CaTS Center Announcements**

**2020-2021 Community Scholars Program Teams**

## Community Scholars Program

### 2020-2021 Cohort 4

	<p><b>Tyra Gross, PhD</b> Xavier University <i>Evaluating Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies (IYCF) Support in a Low Breastfeeding Population</i></p>
	<p><b>Keith Ferdinand, PhD</b> Tulane University <i>Simple Text-Messaging And Social Support to Increase Hypertension Medication Adherence in New Orleans: LA (TEXT) MEDS (SCALE)</i></p>
	<p><b>Margarita Echeverri, PhD</b> Xavier University <i>Empowering Me: An educational initiative addressing domestic violence during COVID-19</i></p>
	<p><b>Chelsea Kracht, PhD</b> Pennington Biomedical <i>Modifications of Early Childhood Education Center's Outdoor Setting for Toddler Health</i></p>

[More details](#)



**2021 Pilot Grants Awardees**

Round 10 Pilot Grants Projects		
Applicant	Institution	Project Title
Yilin Yoshida, PhD	Tulane University	Sex Differences in COVID-19 Outcomes: Role of Sex Hormones, Inflammatory Biomarkers, Comorbidities, and Socio-demographic Factors
Vance L. Albaugh, MD, PhD	Pennington Biomedical	Intestinal Glucose Utilization Drives the Weight Loss Benefits of Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass
Rutkai Ibolya, PhD	Tulane University	Role of mitochondrial quality control in vascular aging
Timothy Allerton, PhD	Pennington Biomedical	The Role of Hydrogen Sulfide in Adipose Tissue Microvascular Function in Obesity-Associated Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction
Prachi Singh, PhD	Pennington Biomedical	Addressing health disparities in African Americans – exploring sleep and developing interventions
Larissa Sweeny, MD	LSU Health New Orleans	Characterizing Immune Response in Viral and Non-Viral Mediated Oropharyngeal Carcinomas
Maria Sanchez-Pino, PhD	LSU Health New Orleans	Epigenetic signature of obese-induced MDSC: decoding the link with increased risk for Cancer
Yinghua Jiang, MD, PhD	Tulane University	Preclinical pharmacological evaluation of novel therapeutic compound itaconate for treating ischemic stroke complication in HIV Tg26 mice
Eman Toraih, MD, PhD	Tulane University	miR-145/MMP9 ratio for prediction of recurrence in patients with well-differentiated thyroid carcinoma patients

[More details](#)



# HATS OFF TO OUR RESEARCHERS

## LA CaTS Investigators' Obesity & Cancer Research in *Obesity Journal*

Congratulations to Dr. Maria Sanchez-Pino (LSU Health New Orleans), Dr. Justin Brown (Pennington Biomedical), Dr. Peter Katzmarzyk (Pennington Biomedical), Dr. Lucio Miele (LSU Health New Orleans), Dr. Jovanny Zabaleta (LSU Health New Orleans), and Dr. Augusto Ochoa (LSU Health New Orleans), for their contribution to this important work and publications partially supported by the LA CaTS Center.

[More details](#)

## New Study Shows Hospitalization Rates for New Onset Pediatric Type 2 Diabetes Doubled During COVID-19 Pandemic

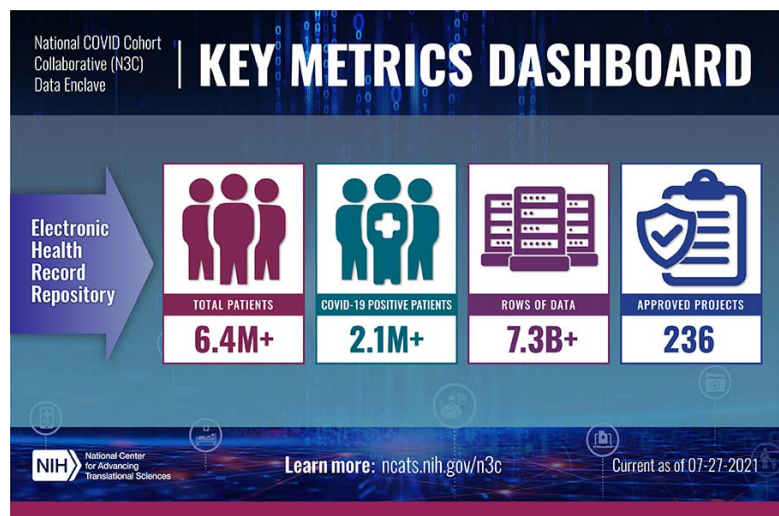
Dr. Daniel Hsia (Pennington Biomedical) presents on "Initial Presentation of Children with Type 2 Diabetes during the COVID-19 Pandemic" at the American Diabetes Association 81st Scientific Sessions.

[More details](#)



National  
COVID  
Cohort  
Collaborative

## Interested in a national data resource to study COVID-19?



• [More details](#)

## 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](#)



The Pennington/Louisiana NORC is pleased to announce a Pilot and Feasibility Grant Program to establish opportunities designed to increase the number of investigators from underrepresented groups and/or disadvantaged backgrounds as well as individuals with disabilities. The NORC will give highest priority to research related to nutrition/obesity throughout the lifespan. The P&F awards are intended to generate preliminary data for the investigator to obtain extramural research funding from the NIH (e.g., R01).

- **Submission Deadline for LOI:** September 17, 2021
- **Funding available:** \$100,000
- [More details](#)

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## Events & Deadlines



**Aug. 25:** 2021 NIH IDeA Western Regional Webinar  
To register and for more information, visit the event website at <https://survey.nmsu.edu/surveys/?s=MCPWME4EJ>

**Aug. 27:** New Orleans Community Advisory Board Meeting



**Sept. 9-11:** Diabetes, Obesity, and Cardiovascular Disease Virtual Summit

[Register now](#) for early bird rates for the 15th Annual Diabetes, Obesity & Cardiovascular Disease Summit!

Sept. 29-30: "Methodological Approaches for Whole Person Research" workshop

[Free registration](#) is required, and this workshop will be videocast and archived for future viewing.

Missed the 2021 Professional Development Plenary Talk? [Watch it now!](#)

[View Full Calendar](#)



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## COVID-19

Visit our [COVID-19 Research Resources](#) Webpage!

- **Introducing the new Louisiana COVID-19 [Clinical Trial Database](#) & [Publication Resource \(LA CPR\)](#)**
- **Louisiana COVID-19 Seminar Series** is taking a break for the summer. Seminars are recorded and available for viewing on our [YouTube](#) channel.

[More details](#)

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## LA CaTS in the Community

The LA CaTS Center is pleased to serve as an information hub of COVID-19 community activities and updates announced by various community organizations in conjunction with the LA CaTS Community Engagement and Outreach Resource (CEOR) Core and the Community Advisory Boards (CABs).

Click [HERE](#) to view the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Community Activities Webpage.

[Best Practices around COVID-19 Research for Community](#)

[Members & Stakeholders](#)



## Pennington Biomedical Launches "Obecity, USA Campaign"

**Obecity, USA Campaign:** Pennington Biomedical Research Center is launching a national advocacy campaign designed to raise awareness of obesity and the work the Baton Rouge-based facility is doing to address it. The campaign consists of 30- and 60-second television spots, radio ads and out-of-home advertisements—including billboards and place-based signage in arenas and stadiums—that explore the dangerous cycle of obesity and the inherited and environmental factors that cause it. The campaign is being funded by the PBRC Foundation, which raised money through private donations to retain the international agencies that did the design and communication work for the campaign. To learn more about the campaign and Pennington's goal of eradicating obesity by 2040 visit [www.VisitObecity.org](http://www.VisitObecity.org).



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