

Update on Research Activity and Medical Education



Ochsner Journal

In the last year, the *Ochsner Journal* has published an extensive variety of original research from within Ochsner and from other reputable healthcare institutions. Studies cover everything from the value of chest radiography for COVID-19 patients over 50 years of age to burnout and associated risk factors in pediatric residents. Readers can explore research delving into the latest nurse-driven protocols for Foley catheter utilization, perinatal outcomes for patients with systemic lupus erythematosus treated with and without hydroxychloroquine and anesthetics, and patient outcomes after renal autotransplantation.

"The journal brings attention to incredible things happening in both research and education," says Ronald Amedee, MD, Editor-in-Chief of the *Ochsner Journal*, Dean of Medical Education and Head of The University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School. "It's the perfect medium for our physician-scientists to present their original research and most meaningful investigations. Managing Editor Kathleen McFadden is my right – and left – arm when it comes to producing each issue, and her wonderful staff of medical editors ensures the finished product looks great every time."

The rigorously peer-reviewed, quarterly *Ochsner Journal* features an editorial mix of original research, literature reviews, reports on quality improvement projects and innovative programs, editorials, case reports, letters and other articles that span the spectrum of medical practice and education and scientific research. Each issue begins with a message from Dr. Amedee, a reflection on the content and observations on what's happening inside and outside Ochsner's walls.

Since its inception in 1999, the *Journal* has published a wide range of timely and practical studies produced by practitioners in all specialties. There is no charge to send in an article or publish it, but each submission undergoes an intense peer review based on the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education's (ACGME) six core competencies. In recent years, every article has received a digital object identifier (DOI) number and the full text of every issue appears in PubMed Central. This increases global discoverability and external citations.



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Innovative, high-quality research and education lead to enhanced and more comprehensive patient care. Be a part of our ongoing commitment to these endeavors. Give to Ochsner Academics by visiting ochsner.org/supportacademics or calling 504.842.7135.

On the Cover

From left to right:

Dr. Sammy Khatib
Vice Chair, Department of Cardiology Section Head, Arrhythmia and Electrophysiology

Dr. Mark Effron
Medical Director for Clinical Research

Samantha Bright
Cardiovascular Clinical Research Director

Dr. Daniel Morin
Director, Cardiac Electrophysiology and Cardiovascular Research

Dr. Christopher White
System Chair for Cardiovascular Disease and Medical Director of Value-Based Care

Shannon Williams
Clinical Trials Coordinator Supervisor

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LETTER FROM

Leonardo Seoane, MD, Chief Academic Officer



At Ochsner Academics, our goals are threefold: Grow the pipeline with diverse healthcare providers trained in The Ochsner Way who represent the patients and communities they serve; increase access to therapeutic options through research and drive evidence-based medicine through clinical trials; and use data to advance our knowledge of medical science and improve outcomes for patients. Over the last year, we've accomplished much in all three areas.

Priming the Healthcare Provider Pipeline

In 2020, The University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School (UQ OCS) had 88 medical students graduate and enter residencies, with a 97% match rate through the National Resident Matching Program® – our highest ever since growing our class size over 50. We're also continuing to see about one-third of our students stay in Louisiana for their residencies.

In graduate medical education, our pass rates on board certification exams remained at 90% and our residents' overall satisfaction with their training is 91%. Our residency programs are growing in class size and offerings. We've added an Interventional Radiology residency and a Pediatric Dentistry residency in partnership with Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center New Orleans. With LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport, we've also launched a Medical Informatics fellowship and initiated fellow exchanges in Nephrology and Gastroenterology.

Through it all, we're so proud of the way our residents and fellows have stepped up during the COVID-19 crisis, going above and beyond their duties to respond to each surge. They practice our Ochsner Values by putting patients first.

With the hope of overcoming the ongoing nursing shortage in our state, the new Loyola University New Orleans, in partnership with the Ochsner Health pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program, is enrolling its first students for fall 2021. The partnership will provide Loyola undergraduate nursing students opportunities to work with Ochsner's clinical faculty in a variety of placements so they can graduate as well-rounded, practice-ready nurses.

We've expanded the Ochsner Program to Introduce Medicine to Underrepresented Students (OPTIMUS), an education and mentorship program for Black and Hispanic students, as well as PODER, a support and mentorship program coordinated by Latinx physicians at Ochsner to help Latinx undergraduate students become physicians.

Increasing Clinical Trials to Prevent and Manage COVID-19

In response to the ongoing pandemic, Academics has continued work on a number of important initiatives.

These include being part of the initial Phase 3 clinical trials for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, Johnson & Johnson's ENSEMBLE COVID-19 vaccine trials, and community outreach to Black and Hispanic communities about the importance of diverse enrollment in clinical trials to make sure the vaccine will be effective for everyone. We continue to be involved in COVID-19 vaccine trials for children and booster trials as well genomic screening for COVID-19 variants in partnership with LSU Health New Orleans for the state of Louisiana.

Ochsner also participated in all six arms of the National Institutes of Health Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV) trials, and our Cardiovascular Center of Excellence was the second-highest enroller in the United States for the trial examining the potential benefits of anticoagulants for COVID-19 patients.

We're also partnering with Pfizer in the Acute Respiratory Illness Surveillance (AcRIS) trial, investigating an app with voice recognition as a tool to detect COVID-19, influenza and other respiratory infections. Pfizer is also sponsoring a trial at our Ochsner-Xavier Institute for Health Equity and Research looking at social barriers to both digital health participation and cancer screenings. In addition, researchers at our Ochsner Center for Outcomes Research (OCOR) have done a great deal of work in predictive modeling for intensive care unit (ICU) and bed utilization during COVID-19 surges.

Leveraging Research and Data to Improve Outcomes

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, Ochsner physicians and scientists observed that Black patients were being disproportionately affected by COVID-19. They published the first data-driven article on health disparities in the pandemic in *The New England Journal of Medicine*. This elucidated broader health and healthcare disparities that compelled us to make a difference beyond COVID-19.

With a \$2.4 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, we created the Ochsner-Xavier Institute for Health Equity and Research in partnership with Xavier University of Louisiana. Xavier sends more Black students to medical school than any other college in the U.S. and has been a leader in health disparities issues.

We are working together to leverage our research and expertise in population health, health careers, engagement and advocacy to improve health inequities in the state of Louisiana and to prepare more physicians, clinicians and other health professionals who look like the patients we serve. Through the Institute, we are starting a new master's program in Health Informatics and bachelor's program in Medical Laboratory Science, and we're committed to launching a master's program in Genetic Counseling.

Additionally, I'm proud to say we've seen significant growth in clinical trials, enrolling 3,498 patients in 2020. We've also had 519 peer-reviewed publications, our most ever, and received \$7.35 million in grants – a significant increase from the previous years.

Moving Toward a Healthier Future

In addition to being hard-hit by COVID-19, Louisiana has consistently ranked as one of the least healthy states, placing 49th in 2020 by *America's Health Rankings*®. After spending years analyzing health factors, disparities and needs across the region, our leaders, physicians and researchers have created a strategy to improve Louisiana's ranking to 40 by 2030. In Academics, the Ochsner-Xavier Institute for Health Equity and Research will be fully engaged in supporting our Healthy State initiative.

This year in particular, I want to thank everyone in Academics for their professionalism and personal sacrifice in working toward a purpose that's bigger than any of us – helping to further understand how we can overcome both COVID-19 and the disparities that serve as barriers to better health for our region.



Leonardo Seoane, MD, FACP

Chief Academic Officer & Senior Vice President,
Ochsner Health

Professor of Medicine, University of Queensland
Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs,
LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport



A Center of Excellence for Cardiovascular Research

A center of excellence in healthcare requires a high concentration of expertise and specialized resources that drive collaborative research and care centered on the mission of delivering the best possible patient outcome.

Ochsner Health's Cardiovascular Center of Excellence is among the most academically productive, with 153 peer-reviewed manuscripts over the last year serving as one tangible result of its researchers' scholarly work.

Several of the clinician-educator-scientists at the Cardiovascular Center of Excellence hold leadership positions in professional organizations such as the American College of Cardiology, American Heart Association and the Heart Rhythm Society. In addition, Ochsner Health's cardiovascular physicians are frequently invited to present at national and international medical societies' scientific sessions, to give Grand Rounds at respected institutions throughout the world, and to provide expert commentary in the medical literature, according to **Daniel P. Morin, MD, MPH**, Director of Cardiovascular Research and Director of Electrophysiology Research at Ochsner Health.

In the last year, the Cardiovascular Center of Excellence enrolled 1,676 patients in 84 clinical trials.

"The large number of volunteer trial participants is a testament to Ochsner Health's focus on utilizing our enormous clinical strength and volume in order to increase medical knowledge, advance science and improve care," Dr. Morin says. "It also shows the confidence that our community of patients has in us, as they volunteer to participate in these studies."

He adds that none of the trials the Cardiovascular Center of Excellence conducts would be possible without the excellent work done by a team of 19 dedicated clinical research coordinators, led for the past three years by Cardiovascular Research Supervisor Shannon Williams.

"These tireless professionals help to identify and enroll patients, then ensure that our research endeavors are conducted with extreme efficiency and the highest integrity, while maximizing patient safety and protecting patient privacy," Dr. Morin says.

Exploring the Cardiovascular Risks, Considerations and Complications Related to COVID-19

Given the severity of the initial wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in New Orleans and the strain Ochsner Health experienced as a result, **Christopher White, MD**, System Chair for Cardiovascular Disease and Medical Director of Value-Based Care at Ochsner Health, was invited to EuroPCR, the annual meeting of the European Association of Percutaneous Cardiovascular Interventions, to share Ochsner Health's experience to help prepare other countries around the world to deal with the pandemic.

Dr. White and **José David Tafur Soto, MD**, an interventional cardiologist at Ochsner Health and Program Director of the Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship at Ochsner Health, authored a comprehensive review called "The COVID Pandemic and Interventional Practice." The review included reports on manifestations of COVID-19 in the cardiovascular system, the impact of the pandemic on the management of common cardiac conditions, stratification of cases based on their severity in order to maximize the available healthcare resources, and other challenges to regular practice related to the unique conditions imposed by the pandemic.

"The review, which was published by EuroPCR, has been very well accepted and is now a reference used by many physicians around the world," Dr. Tafur Soto says.

The Cardiovascular Center of Excellence participated in many multicenter clinical trials related to COVID-19, including several that were part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV) trials.

P. Eugene Parrino, MD, Section Head for Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, in partnership with Cleveland Clinic's Cardiothoracic Collaborative Clinical Center, is participating in the ACTIV-3a trial, which is looking at the safety and effectiveness of various therapeutics, including monoclonal antibodies, for people hospitalized with COVID-19. Dr. Parrino's work was conducted as part of a Cardiothoracic Surgical Trials Network (CTSN) five-year, \$1.3 million research program intended to identify strategies for bringing proven therapies into clinical practice that improve the treatment of patients with cardiovascular disease.

Led locally by **Mark Effron, MD**, Medical Director for Clinical Research at Ochsner Health, the NIH ACTIV-4a, -4b and -4c trials investigated the effects of antithrombotic therapy administered to COVID-19 patients at various stages of illness, from outpatient, to admitted with critical illness, to postdischarge. Dr. Effron was also the local principal investigator in the NIH's Antithrombotic Therapy to Ameliorate Complications of COVID-19 (ATTACC) trial.

"Importantly, the results of these trials are already having a clinical impact locally, as Ochsner Health has adopted recommendations from within our research to establish protocols of care for COVID-19 patients," Dr. Morin says.

Carl "Chip" J. Lavie, Jr., MD, Medical Director of Cardiac Rehabilitation and Prevention and Director of the Stress Testing Laboratory at Ochsner Health, has coauthored dozens of COVID-related manuscripts since the start of the pandemic, many in collaboration with other institutions around the globe. Additional manuscripts are currently in review. ●



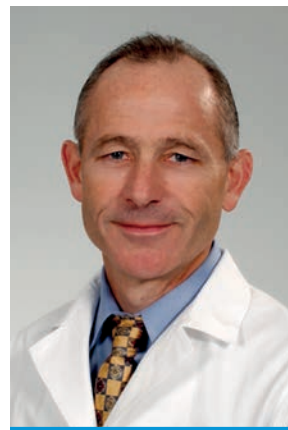
Stephen Ramee, MD, was named Chair of the Tom and Gayle Benson Heart Valve Center. Dr. Ramee also recently received the 2021 John Ochsner Award, which honors a physician, scientist or member of the Ochsner Health community who

has made significant contributions to the care of patients and the fight against cardiovascular disease. The award recognizes someone who is committed to fostering excellence in innovative patient care, education, research or community awareness.

Additional Comprehensive and Collaborative Research Projects

Beyond COVID-related studies, Ochsner Health's Cardiovascular Center of Excellence researchers have initiated and continued studies with potentially critical impacts for patients with a variety of cardiovascular conditions.

Hernan A. Bazan, MD, Professor of Surgery in Section of Vascular/Endovascular Surgery and Program Director for the Vascular Surgery Fellowship at Ochsner Health, was named the first John Ochsner Heart and Vascular Institute Distinguished Scholar in Cardiovascular Innovation. This endowed award provides funds to protect time dedicated to developing innovation in clinical care, research or the training of physicians. Dr. Bazan's endowment will support his research study titled "Innovation in Acute Carotid Stroke Treatments to Prevent Atherosclerotic Plaque Rupture."



Ochsner Health's Director of Interventional Cardiology Research, **James Stephen Jenkins, MD**, is collaborating with Traci Goodchild, PhD, Director of the Cardiovascular Center Translational Core Laboratory at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center New

Orleans (LSUHSC-NO), on a series of experiments examining the therapeutic utility of renal denervation for the treatment of heart failure. Their team has developed heart failure models in swine and is investigating the effectiveness of catheter-based elimination of the kidney's sympathetic nerves, as well as determining when in the disease course this therapy has optimal benefit. The team recently received a \$3 million R-01 grant from NIH to support this work.

Dr. Jenkins is also collaborating with Patrice "Patrick" Delafontaine, MD, Executive Dean at the Tulane University School of Medicine, and David J. Lefer, PhD, Director of the Cardiovascular Center of Excellence at LSUHSC-NO School of Medicine, using a swine model of atherosclerotic heart disease to test whether chronic treatment with insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1) works to inhibit the progression of atherosclerosis.



The Ochsner Health-initiated electrical cardioversion trial is the first investigator-initiated randomized clinical trial conducted as a partnership between Ochsner Health and Ochsner LSU Shreveport.

Daniel P. Morin, MD, MPH, Director of Cardiovascular Research and Director of Electrophysiology Research at Ochsner Health, received a philanthropic grant from a grateful patient to test a novel strategy for electrical cardioversion in obese patients. “It can be particularly difficult to cardiovert atrial fibrillation in obese patients, due to multiple factors including the greater distance between the heart and the pads that deliver energy to the chest wall,” Dr. Morin says. “This Ochsner Health-initiated ongoing multicenter randomized study, which began in 2020, is enrolling 200 obese patients with atrial fibrillation. These patients are randomized to cardioversion (i.e., shock) using the standard single set of defibrillation pads versus cardioversion using two sets of pads simultaneously.”

The cardioversion trial is a collaboration between Dr. Morin at Ochsner Medical Center, **Michael Castine, MD**, an interventional cardiologist at Ochsner West Bank, and **Paari Dominic, MD**, Director of Cardiac Electrophysiology at Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport. This is the first investigator-initiated randomized clinical trial to be conducted as a partnership between Ochsner Health and Ochsner LSU Shreveport.

Dr. Morin is also collaborating with Stanford University, Cleveland Clinic, East Carolina University and Cooper University Health Care on a \$5.5 million American Heart Association / Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute grant-supported randomized clinical trial called Engaging Patients to Help Achieve Increased Patient Choice and Engagement for AFib Stroke Prevention (ENHANCE-AF).

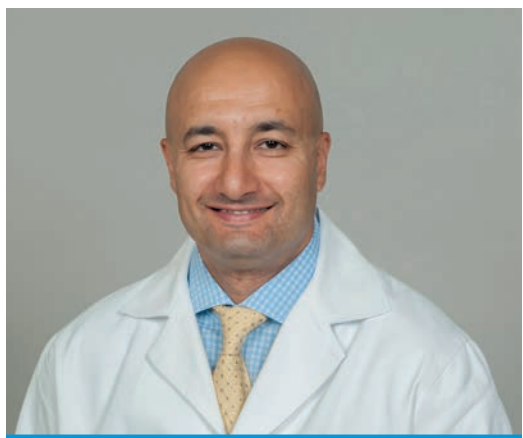
Dr. Morin helped to devise the protocol and is on the steering committee for the trial. ENHANCE-AF is testing methods of improved patient education regarding the use of anticoagulation agents for stroke risk reduction in patients with atrial fibrillation. Ochsner Health enrolled 311 of the 633 patients enrolled at all centers combined so far.

Additionally, in an externally funded, investigator-initiated longitudinal trial called LIFEMARKER, Dr. Morin’s team collected four blood samples at three-month intervals from 196 patients with systolic heart failure and implanted cardioverter-defibrillators. This work demonstrated the ability of several biomarkers of myocardial stretch, myocardial turnover and inflammation for the prediction of potentially fatal ventricular arrhythmias and death. Findings were published in the journal *EP Europace* in 2020.

In a follow-up study made possible by the Ochsner Blood Bank, Dr. Morin and other Cardiovascular Center of Excellence researchers are collaborating with Torbjørn Omland, MD, PhD, MPH, Professor of Cardiology at the University of Oslo in Norway, to assess blood collected at Ochsner Health for a protein called secretoneurin. This protein has been shown to predict several adverse outcomes, including heart failure and ventricular tachyarrhythmias. The resultant data will help to determine whether changes in circulating secretoneurin over time could identify periods of particularly high risk for adverse patient outcomes. ●

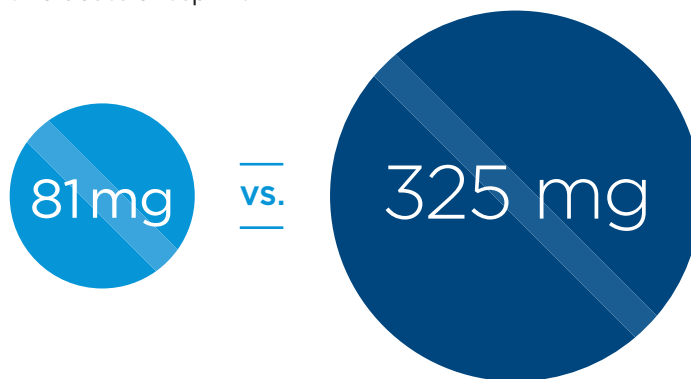


Salima Qamruddin, MD, MPH, an echocardiographer at Ochsner Health, is collaborating with Gregg Pressman, MD, Associate Director of the Echocardiography Lab at Einstein Medical Center Philadelphia, in an externally funded investigation of a novel combined stethoscope/EKG device called “Eko DUO” that is designed to detect depressed heart function and cardiac arrhythmia. Ochsner Health is enrolling 500 patients, who will undergo evaluation with the Eko DUO, and the researchers will verify the findings with simultaneously acquired echocardiograms.

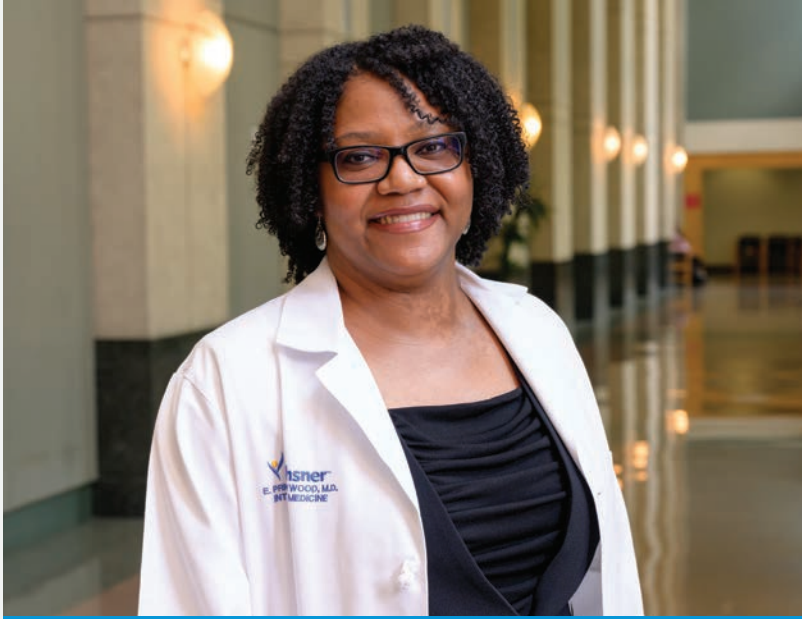


Selim Krim, MD, Director of the Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology program, collaborated with authors from multiple other centers on “A Randomized, Controlled Trial of Hemodynamic-Guided Management of Heart Failure.” This study used a CardioMEMS pressure sensor device implanted percutaneously into the pulmonary artery to provide pressure data that was then used to guide medical therapy. The trial’s results were presented at the European Society of Cardiology meeting with simultaneous publication in the prestigious medical journal *The Lancet*.

Mark Effron, MD, Medical Director for Clinical Research at Ochsner Health, served on the steering committee for and was one of the authors, along with **Richard Re, MD**, Section Head of Hypertension, of the “Aspirin Dosing – A Patient-Centric Trial Assessing Benefits and Long-term Effectiveness (ADAPTABLE) Trial.” This trial compared the use of 325-milligram aspirin versus 81-milligram (“baby”) aspirin to prevent major adverse cardiovascular events in patients with cardiovascular disease. ADAPTABLE was presented as a late-breaking trial at the American College of Cardiology Scientific Sessions in 2021 and published simultaneously in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Ochsner Health was the third-leading enrolling site in the study, which found no difference in efficacy or safety between the two doses of aspirin.



AWARDS & ACCOLADES



Ochsner Launches Health Equity Initiative

Healthcare inequity is a complex problem that requires careful investigation and novel solutions. The Ochsner-Xavier Institute for Health Equity and Research (OXIHER) will focus on research, education, quality, engagement and advocacy to enhance healthcare access and improve health equity and outcomes throughout the state. OXIHER is funded by a \$2.4 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Eboni Price-Haywood, MD, MPH, will serve as the medical director for OXIHER. As a primary care physician, Dr. Price-Haywood has always focused on addressing health disparities and advancing health equity while helping patients prevent disease and achieve better health.

Leonardo Seoane, MD, Chief Academic Officer of Ochsner Health, praised her appointment as a win for Ochsner, Xavier and the people of Louisiana. "Dr. Price-Haywood's contributions in outcomes research demonstrate a capacity to untangle the causes of health inequity and define workable solutions," he says.

Dr. Price-Haywood most recently served as the Director of the Ochsner Center for Outcomes Research (OCOR), where her involvement in COVID-19 studies allowed the research team to uncover health disparities in the community.

Gala and Amedee Appointed to National GME Councils

Two of Ochsner's academic leaders were recently selected to serve on national graduate medical education councils.



Rajiv Gala, MD, will serve a three-year term as Co-Chair of the Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology of the American College of Obstetricians and

Gynecologists. In this capacity, Dr. Gala, the Designated Institutional Official for Graduate Medical Education at Ochsner Health, will help to prepare OB/GYN residency program directors and managers to effectively lead their programs.



Ronald G. Amedee, MD, was appointed to a six-year term as a member of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Appeals Panel for

Institutional Review. Dr. Amedee, Dean of Medical Education and Head of The University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School, completed a six-year term on the ACGME Institutional Review Committee in 2019, serving as vice chair of the committee for the last two years.



Julia Garcia-Diaz, MD, poses with Leonardo Seoane, MD, while accepting her award.

Academics Well Represented in Spirit of Leadership Awards

Physician Academic Contributor of the Year award recipient **Julia Garcia-Diaz, MD**, is a Senior Physician of Infectious Disease at Ochsner Medical Center (OMC) in New Orleans. Finalists for this award included **Juan Carlos Velez, MD**, Senior Physician and Department Chair of Nephrology at OMC New Orleans, and **Rocky Mollere, MD**, Senior Physician and Family Practice Site Lead at Ochsner Health Center-Lapalco.

James McMullen, Associate Clinical Research Coordinator at OMC New Orleans, was a finalist for the Non-Clinical Employee of the Year. **Stephanie Morgan**, Supervisor in the Accounting Office of Sponsored Projects at the Academics Center, was a finalist for Non-Clinical Supervisor of the Year.

All of our 2020 Spirit of Leadership recipients and finalists demonstrated outstanding leadership and made tremendous contributions to their profession, Ochsner and the community.

UQ OCS Staff Recognized as “Collaborators of the Year”

The UQ OCS recruitment team received a 2020 University of Queensland Excellence Award for its completely virtual recruitment effort. The team’s innovative approach to recruiting the UQ OCS medical class for January 2021 required 265 mini-interviews conducted by 79 interviewers from Ochsner.

The UQ OCS recruitment team included:

- **Lisa Casey**, Clerkship Program Coordinator
- **Katie Guillot**, Clerkship Program Coordinator
- **Scott Peters**, Medical Education Director
- **Stacey Porter**, Clerkship Program Coordinator
- **Carl Tholen**, Education Operations, AVP
- **Tamika Webb-Detiege, MD**, Admissions and Enrollment Assistant Dean

“Our Ochsner Academic team was referred to as adaptable, flexible, unflappable and student-centric throughout this year of pandemic,” says Ronald Amedee, MD, Dean of Medical Education and Head of UQ OCS.



Oncology Clinical Research Associate Wins DAISY Award



Clinical Research Associate in Adult and Pediatric Oncology Research **Melissa Forschler, RN**, received the DAISY award in March 2021. Skipping her typical day off, Forschler enrolled a 1-year-old girl in a clinical trial, thought to be her best hope for recovery, on a Saturday, to spare the family the anxiety of waiting until Monday. The DAISY award is part of an international program that recognizes the skill and compassion nurses provide to patients and their families.

Addressing a Critical Shortage of Doctors in Louisiana

With the country and state facing a critical shortage of trained healthcare providers, Ochsner is continuing to invest in additional education and workforce development programs – and partnering with other forward-thinking institutions – to train the next generation of physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, pharmacists, and allied health professionals.

Through the Ochsner Physicians Scholars Program, Ochsner has committed \$15 million over the next five years for expenses associated with medical school for medical students who choose to practice psychiatry or primary care and commit to work at Ochsner for a least five years upon successful completion of residency. Ochsner is also committing \$15 million over the next 10 years in workforce development programs in partnership with Louisiana's Community and Technical Colleges (LCTCS) to grow the pipeline of nursing and allied health professionals in Louisiana.



Xavier Graduate Awarded Ochsner Health Medical School Scholarship



The third annual Ochsner Health Medical School Scholarship for LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport – School of Medicine was awarded to Xavier University of Louisiana graduate **Colbren Thomas**.

The scholarship award covers the cost of tuition for Thomas to attend LSU Health Shreveport – School of Medicine.

Thomas holds a Bachelor of Science in biology from Xavier University. Outside of the classroom, he was engaged in campus leadership activities, volunteering, shadowing and conducting scientific research. Notably, Thomas participated in the Harvard Multidisciplinary International Research Training (MIRT) Program – a national program designed to encourage students to pursue careers in biomedical and behavioral research.

Partnering to Meet Our Healthcare Workforce Needs

Ochsner Health, in partnership with Loyola University New Orleans, will offer a pre-licensure nursing program. Graduates of the four-year undergraduate program will be eligible to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for registered nurses.

Also, a partnership with Xavier University will develop two new graduate degree programs – genetic counseling and health informatics. Xavier is the first university in Louisiana to offer a genetic counseling program. Students will receive classroom instruction at Xavier and clinical rotations at Ochsner Health facilities.

Genetic counselors and health informatics professionals support individuals and families affected by or at risk for genetic disorders. They use data to develop healthcare processes and solutions and help families make informed healthcare decisions.

“With the evolution of technology, there is a critical need for the medical informatics field, which is the intersection of information science, computer science and health,” says Leonardo Seoane, MD, Chief Academic Officer of Ochsner Health.



Research

With 3,498 patients enrolled in clinical trials in 2020, Ochsner Health continued its commitment to respond to our community's greatest healthcare needs with evidence-based treatments and interventions to improve patient outcomes. Our research is designed to find solutions at the smallest molecular level as well as those that address the greatest cultural disparities. From participating in national vaccine and therapeutic trials for COVID-19 to exploring social barriers to preventive care and critical health screenings, the entire Ochsner Research team continues to innovate at every level to improve patient care, treatment outcomes, and the health of our region and state.

3,498

patients were enrolled in Ochsner clinical trials in 2020

Sponsor Life-Changing Research



Your support is needed for research investigations into the underlying causes of human diseases and clinical trials that provide our patients with access to the most cutting-edge care. Give to Ochsner Research by visiting ochsner.org/supportacademics or by calling **504.842.7135**.

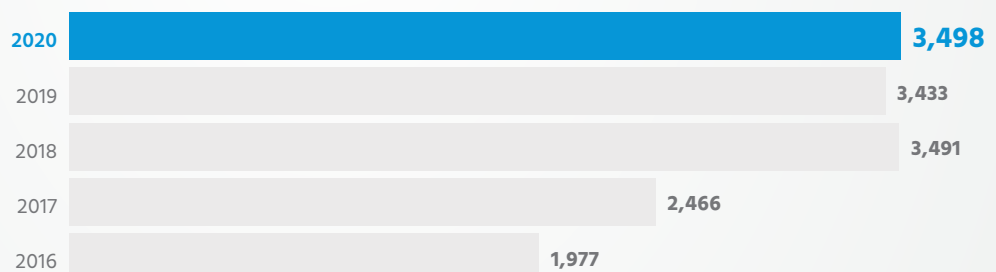
AT A GLANCE

The increase in grant funding secured by our researchers in 2020 underscores the breadth of impactful and innovative research being conducted at Ochsner. Perhaps more importantly, the number of patients enrolled in clinical trials has grown – helping Ochsner Academics fulfill one of its core goals: increasing patient access to therapeutic options.

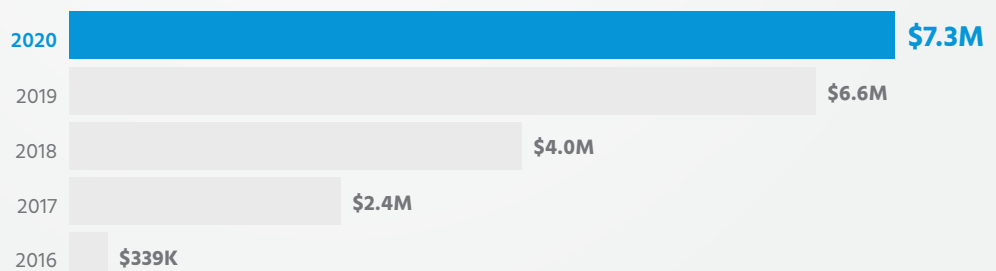
Active Clinical Trials



Patients Enrolled in Clinical Therapeutic Trials



Grant Funding



Ochsner Holds 17th and 18th Annual Research Days

Research Day is an annual event that showcases the biomedical research of investigators within the Ochsner Health system. This group includes students from The University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School, LSU Health Shreveport medical students, as well as postdoctoral fellows, scientists, clinical residents and fellows, nurses and pharmacists.



Academics leaders at 2021 Research Day virtual presentation from Monroe Hall on Ochsner Medical Center campus.

17th Annual Research Day September 22, 2020



Keynote Speaker:
Antonio Gotto, Jr., MD
Provost for Medical Affairs
Emeritus, Cornell University;
Dean Emeritus, Weill Cornell
Medical College

Everyone at Ochsner was pleased to be able to reschedule our 17th annual Ochsner Research Day to September 22, 2020, to honor our innovators. Featured guest lecturers at the virtual event included Eboni Price-Haywood, MD; Juan Carlos Velez, MD; Amy Feehan, PhD; and Martin Sapp, PhD, who presented findings from their COVID-19 research studies focused on health disparities, the role of kidney disease, screenings and the virus's prevalence in various regions of Louisiana.

UQ OCS Medical Student Presentation Award

- First place – Miles Seidel
- Second place – Donald Chang
- Third place – Ian Doig

Best Ochsner Health Residents/Fellows Presentation Award

- First place – Daniel April, MD
- Second place – Hayden Hill, MD
- Third place – Jose Najul-Seda, MD

Best Nursing Presentation Award

- Renee Mancini, RN

Best Pharmacy Presentation Award

- Ushma Kaszubski, MD

2020 Research Mentors of the Year

- Kathy Jo Carstarphen, MD, for UQ OCS students
- Daniel Johnson, MD, for residents and fellows
- Daniel Morin, MD, for junior faculty

18th Annual Research Day May 27, 2021



Keynote Speaker:
**Dimitrios Kontoyiannis, MD,
ScD, PhD (Hon);** Robert C. Hickey
Chair in Clinical Care and Deputy
Head of Internal Medicine at the
University of Texas MD Anderson
Cancer Center

Our 18th annual Research Day, held virtually on May 27, 2021, included video presentations by Leonardo Seoane, MD, Chief Academic Officer, and John Cole, MD, Chairman of Community Oncology Practices at Ochsner Health.

UQ OCS Medical Student Presentation Award

- Xinyi Luo, MD

Best Ochsner Health Residents/Fellows Presentation Award

- Jessica Simon, MD

Best Postdoctoral Research Fellow Presentation Award

- Donald Chang, MD

Best Nursing Presentation Award

- Fiona Winterbottom, DNP, MSN

Best Pharmacy Presentation Award

- Bethany Lane, MD

2021 Research Mentors of the Year

- Ifeanyi Iwuchukwu, MD, for UQ OCS students
- Tamunoinemi Bob-Manuel, MD, for residents and fellows
- Nathan Bolton, MD, for junior faculty

NEWS & RECOGNITIONS

Ochsner Pediatric Medical Geneticists Research Study Identifies a Cause of Congenital Heart Valve Disease

Ochsner researchers in genetics contributed to a research study that has identified a significant cause of congenital heart disease. The research discovered a specific loss of function in the PLD1 gene (phospholipase D1) that causes right heart valve birth defects and neonatal cardiomyopathy.

Dmitriy M. Niyazov, MD, Assistant Clinical Professor with UQ OCS and Section Head of Medical Genetics in Pediatrics, along with Jennifer Jacober, MPH, MS, CGC, Genetic Counselor in Pediatrics, collaborated in the study on PLD1 and the mutations related to congenital heart disease. It involved over 50 researchers from around the world. The findings were published in *The Journal of Clinical Investigation* in a paper titled “Biallelic Loss-of-Function Variants in PLD1 Cause Congenital Right-Sided Cardiac Valve Defects and Neonatal Cardiomyopathy.”

This study provides an increased understanding of disease mechanisms and the physical effects of the loss of PLD1 function, particularly in relation to congenital heart disease.



Ochsner and LSUHSC-NO Researchers Team Up on Genomic Sequencing Project



Amy Feehan, PhD, leads a joint Ochsner-Louisiana State University research team recently awarded \$1.5 million by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to perform variant sequencing on positive COVID-19 samples.

The project will help identify which variants are circulating and where. State and local leaders can use this information to understand the emergence of new variants as restrictions change.

“Because Ochsner is already doing approximately 60% of the SARS-CoV-2 testing in Louisiana, we are uniquely positioned to collect samples for variant testing through the Ochsner Biorepository,” Dr. Feehan says.

Dr. Feehan, along with sequencing partners Lucio Miele, PhD, and Judy Crabtree, PhD, from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center New Orleans, expects to sequence up to 300 positive COVID-19 samples each month for the next two years.

“This funding is an excellent example of how Ochsner and LSU can work together to solve public health problems for the state,” says Leonardo Seoane, MD, Chief Academic Officer at Ochsner Health.

LDH epidemiology teams will use the sequencing information to monitor mutations of the virus. There are currently three variants of coronavirus identified globally that are believed to be 50% more infectious than the original COVID-19 strain.

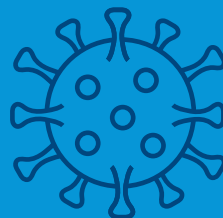
Ochsner Surgeon and Professor Wins \$1.9M NIH Grant for Commercialization of New Compounds

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded a \$1.9 million Small Business Technology Transfer grant to South Rampart Pharma for development of a new non-opioid analgesic in collaboration with Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center Neuroscience Center of Excellence. The Fast-Track Phase 1/2 highly competitive grant will fund late-stage pre-clinical development of small molecule pain medicine.

"The safe treatment of acute and chronic pain is a predominant and expensive public health issue worldwide," says **Hernan Bazan, MD**, Endowed John Ochsner Cardiovascular Innovation Scholar, Professor of Surgery in the Section of Vascular/Endovascular Surgery, Program Director of the Vascular Surgery Fellowship and co-founder of South Rampart Pharma.

The library of new compounds South Rampart Pharma discovered was published in the *European Journal of Medical Chemistry*. These proprietary compounds are effective in reducing pain and fever without liver and kidney toxicity in pre-clinical studies. The NIH grant will help move their research through investigational new drug (IND) approval and Phase 1 clinical trials.

Baton Rouge Prevalence Study Illuminates Regional Impact of COVID-19



The COVID-19 Prevalence Study, conducted by Principal Investigator **Amy Feehan, PhD**, in cooperation with Pennington Biomedical Research Center, shows that 6.6% of Greater Baton

Rouge residents over the age of 18 were infected with the virus. Dr. Feehan and her team analyzed data gathered from more than 2,100 Baton Rouge resident volunteers. The study was conducted in partnership with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation and funded by the Louisiana COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force, the Humana Foundation, the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation and Healthy Blue.

According to the study, Black residents had the highest rates of past infection, while Hispanic residents had the highest rates of active infection. Residents with public-facing jobs had a much higher prevalence of positive tests than residents with non-public-facing jobs.

Ochsner Research Partners in Zero-Dollar Copayment Project



The Ochsner Center for Outcomes and Health Services Research has partnered with Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine on a new study to determine whether a value-based benefit approach using zero-cost patient copayments would improve medication adherence and diabetes outcomes and ultimately save money for patients, insurers and healthcare providers.

The study is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK).

The grant provides funding over five years for the Louisiana Experiment to Address Diabetes: Zero-Dollar Copayment project or LEAD-ZDC. Tulane University is the recipient of the \$2.5 million grant, with Ochsner Health receiving a five-year subaward totaling \$238,189. The study will examine a policy intervention of lowering out-of-pocket cost for select medications, including antidiabetics, antihypertensives and statins, among fully insured Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana (BCBSLA) members. The experiment will also explore barriers to medication adherence at patient, healthcare provider, healthcare system and community levels.

ACCOLADES & GRANT AWARDS

Seven 2021 postdoctoral research fellows had the opportunity to work with leading clinicians and clinician-scientists across several disciplines. Fellowships allow postdoctoral students to continue their research after their November culmination before their residencies begin in July.

Diab Ali, MD

Mentor: Jose Posas III, MD

"A System-Wide Retrospective Cohort Analysis Toward an Epidemiology of Persistent Post-Concussive Symptoms"

Kennedy Carpenter, MD

Mentors: Cuong Bui, MD and R. Shane Tubbs, PhD

"An Anatomical Model for Studying Cerebellar Tonsillar Herniation Related to Raised Intracranial Pressure"

Colin Carroll, MD

Mentor: Sean Waldron, MD

"Single-Shot Versus Continuous Regional Anesthesia for Treating Acute Postoperative Pain in Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery: A Prospective Randomized Control Trial"

Donald Chang, MD

Mentor: Daniel Morin, MD

"Investigating Clinical Outcomes and Cost-Effectiveness of Implantable Cardioverter-Defibrillator Generator Change in Patients with Recovered Left Ventricular Ejection"

Nrusheel Kattar, MD

Mentor: Edward McCoul, MD

"Post-Operative Outcomes in OSA Patients After Sinonasal Surgery Compared to Oropharyngeal, Laryngeal and Otologic Surgery"

Akanksh Ramanand, MD

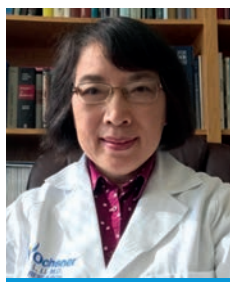
Mentor: Juan Carlos Velez, MD

"Urinary Sediment Biomarkers for Diagnosis of Acute Tubular Necrosis"

Katherine Robbins, MD

Mentor: Li Li, MD, PhD

"Contribution of the Notch4-Wnt5a Axis to Melanoma Plasticity and Drug Resistance"



Li Li, MD, Staff Scientist at Ochsner Institute of Translational Research, was awarded an NIH-funded primary grant through the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center for "Identification of Predictive and Prognostic Factors That Contribute to Colorectal Cancer Progression, Recurrence and Treatment Response in African American and Non-Hispanic White Patients." Dr. Li also received an NIH-funded subgrant from

the Goldman Sachs Foundation for "Integrative Multi-Omics Approach to Improve Understanding of Colorectal Cancer Disparities in African American and Alaska Native People."

Dr. Li was also awarded a \$50,000 grant for a cancer study titled "Inhibition of ATR Enhances Anti-Cancer Activity of Ciclopirox and Immune CPB in RCC," and **Beth Arredondo, MD**, was awarded a \$50,000 grant for her study "Tele-Dementia Diagnosis and Care in Underserved Populations." Both grants are funded by Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center.



Joseph Biggio, Jr., MD, received a National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded subcontract from the University of Utah for "Startup, Preparation and Test Enrollment for the Timing of Delivery (TME) Aim Study of Pregnancy of Neonatal Health (SPAN)." Dr. Biggio is System Chair for Women's Services and Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Ochsner Health.

An NIH-funded subgrant from Benaroya Research Institute was awarded to **Julia B. Garcia-Diaz, MD,** for "COVID-19 Anti-CD14 Treatment Trial (CATT)," an ongoing study. Dr. Garcia-Diaz is Director of Clinical Infectious Disease Research and Medical Subspecialties at Ochsner Health.



Outstanding Research Trainees Receive Awards

Outstanding trainees were invited to present (virtually) at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation, held in conjunction with the Southern Regional Meetings of the American Federation for Medical Research in February.



The following UQ OCS medical students received these awards:

- **Xinyi Luo,** for "15-Year Experience With Multimodality Therapy Including Esophagectomy for Elderly Patients With Locoregional Esophageal Cancers." Luo's mentor on this project is **John Bolton, MD.** Luo was also named a winner of the Southern American Federation for Medical Research Southern Society for Clinical Investigation (SAFMR/SSCI) Student Research Award.
- **Anna Garbuzov,** for "Rare Case of Pediatric Intracranial Inflammatory Myofibroblastic Tumor With DCTN1-ALK Fusion." **Corey Falcon, MD,** is Garbuzov's mentor for this project.

The following Ochsner Health Residents received these awards:

- **Aldo Torres-Ortiz, MD,** for "COVID-19 in Kidney Transplant Recipients: Experience From a Large Health System in Louisiana." His mentor for this project is **Jorge Garces, MD.** Dr. Torres-Ortiz was also named second-place winner of the SSCI Young Investigator Award.
- **Mohammed Alsaggaf, MD,** for "Lung Cancer Screening Uptake and Predictors in the US: A National Study." His mentor for this project is **Keith Sigel, MD.** Dr. Alsaggaf was also named a winner of the American Federation for Medical Research (AFMR) Henry Christian Award.

Education

The ongoing challenges of COVID-19 never slowed us down; rather they have seemingly strengthened the resolve of our medical students, residents and fellows to achieve – and to go beyond – the expectations of their programs. In the last year, The University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School saw its highest match rate ever through the National Resident Matching Program® – 97%! We have added accredited residency programs and grown our resident numbers. Our board certification pass rates and resident satisfaction measures have remained high. Our students and physician leaders have continued to win awards; we have grown partnerships to enhance our education and training capabilities; and we have engaged with the community in efforts to build a stronger and more diverse pipeline of future medical leaders.



Play a Part in Preparing Top Providers

We are committed to educating clinicians to provide care that is safe, patient-centered, coordinated, affordable and of the highest quality. You can help! Support Ochsner Education by visiting ochsner.org/supportacademics or calling 504.842.7135.

BY THE NUMBERS

Academics has been an integral component of our institution since its founding. We strive to educate and train a health professional workforce that is prepared to provide safe and efficient care in an evolving healthcare delivery system. Here are some educational highlights over the last year:

88

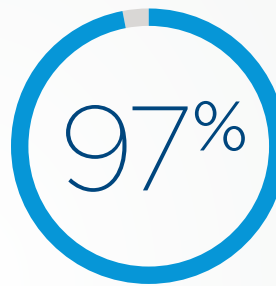
medical students
graduated from UQ OCS

31

UQ OCS physician leaders
received **new title appointments**

2

new residency programs
added – Interventional Radiology
and Pediatric Dentistry



match rate through
the **National Resident
Matching Program**



pass rate on board
certification exams



UQ OCS Takes Innovative Approach to Recruiting

UQ OCS's adapted virtual recruitment platform, in response to COVID-19 social distancing protocols, allowed the recruiting team to **conduct 265 mini-interviews by 79 UQ OCS staff interviewers.**

House Staff Commencement Held

On June 9, 2021, the Ochsner Academics Department of Graduate Medical Education hosted its annual House Staff commencement ceremony to celebrate and recognize resident and fellow physicians completing their core and specialty training with our institution.



This year's event marked the completion of medical training for 95 residents and fellows in Ochsner-sponsored programs accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

The return of an in-person event was possible because all attendees had received their COVID-19 vaccines, making this event free of masks and social distancing. Video livestreaming was available for families, faculty and house staff who were unable to attend in person. Robert Hart, MD, Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer at Ochsner Health, served as the event's keynote speaker.

The following special awards were presented to Ochsner Physician Leaders in Academics as well as selected House Staff:

2021 Hurst B. Hatch Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award

- Medicine Programs – **Obinna Nnedu, MD** – Infectious Disease
- Surgery Programs – **Robert Treuting, MD** – Orthopedic Surgery

2021 Case Report Writing Award

- **Sergey Kachur, MD** (PGY-6, graduated 6/30/21) – Cardiovascular Disease, for his paper "A Non-Invasive Physiologic Strategy for the Management of Left Main Coronary Artery Disease"

2021 Dean H. Echols Writing Award

- **Tamunoinemi "Emi" Bob-Manuel, MD** (PGY-6, graduated 6/30/21) – Cardiovascular Disease, for his paper "Outcomes Following Endovascular Therapy for Acute Stroke by Interventional Cardiologists"

2021 Edward D. Frohlich, MD Research Writing Award

- **Sergey Kachur, MD** (PGY-6, graduated 6/30/21) – Cardiovascular Disease, for his paper "Development and Validation of a Multivariable Risk Prediction Model for COVID-19 Mortality in the Southern United States"

2021 Alton Ochsner Resident Leader of the Year Award

- **Scott Rooney, MD** (PGY-6, graduated 6/30/21) – Anesthesiology, GMEC Resident Member Representative

2021 Resident Teaching Award Recipients

- **Diana Maslov, MD** (PGY-2) – Internal Medicine
- **Catherine Lule Rault, MD, MPH** (PGY-2) – OB/GYN
- **William Shamus Rohn, MD** (PGY-2) – Psychiatry
- **Mary Van Wert, MD** (PGY-2) – Surgery
- **Mary Vetter, MD** (PGY-2) – Pediatrics

Doctors-in-Training Receive White Coats at UQ OCS

In January 2021, UQ OCS handed out white coats and Humanism in Medicine pins during the iconic rite of passage ceremony, which begins the clinical phase of medical education. The pins served as a visual reminder to keep compassion and empathy at the center of clinical practice.

The 94 UQ OCS medical students who received their white coats graduated from respected institutions across the country, including Columbia University, Cornell University, Duke University, Emory University, Georgetown University, Harvard University, New York University, University of California, University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, University of Virginia and Vanderbilt University, as well as in-state institutions Louisiana State University and Tulane University.



George Karam, MD, Paula Garvey Manship Chair of Medicine, LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans School of Medicine, and Assistant Dean for Baton Rouge Medical Education, served as the keynote speaker.



Bill Cassidy, MD, the senior U.S. Senator for Louisiana, delivered a keynote address at the UQ OCS culmination ceremony.

UQ OCS Holds Culmination Ceremony

UQ OCS honored its 2020 graduating class with a socially distant culmination ceremony on November 20, 2020, held on the Ochsner Medical Center – New Orleans campus. The festivities were streamed live to family and friends of the new graduates.

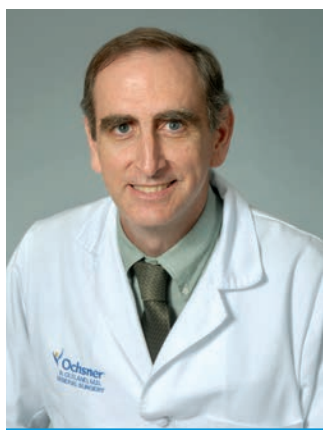
The 103 graduating students successfully completed medical education through a unique four-year training, academic and clinical experience across two continents. During the 2020 culmination ceremony, several UQ OCS students and physicians were recognized with awards.

Special Award Recipients

- **Diab Ali** – Student Excellence Award for Psychiatry
- **Colin Carroll** – John Lockwood Ochsner Sr. Surgical Award
- **Elise Le Cam** – Internal Medicine-American College of Physicians Excellence Award
- **Iman Malik** – Dr. E. Edward Martin, Jr. Family Medicine Award
- **Kali Stewart** – Student Excellence Award for OB/GYN
- **Caroline Vasco** – Student Excellence Award for Pediatrics

ACCOLADES & SCHOLARSHIPS

Surgeon Honored as UQ OCS Teacher of the Year



UQ OCS Teacher of the Year **Bruce Cleland, MD**, was chosen by the Ochsner Medical Student Association from among eight student-nominated finalists. A board-certified surgeon who completed his surgical internship and residency at William Beaumont Army Medical Center in El Paso, Texas, Dr. Cleland holds a medical degree from the University of Virginia School of Medicine. He has been a member of the Ochsner team since 1992.

Student-nominated candidates for the Teacher of the Year award are recognized as the top teachers from UQ OCS who go above and beyond in their clinical teaching and inspire the next generation of care providers.

American Medical Association 2020 Impact Challenge Winners

A team of medical students from the Ochsner Clinical School – **Oluwabukola Akingbola, Diab Ali, Kierha Baker, and Monica Gillie** – under the guidance of **Kathy Jo Carstarphen, MD**, won the 2020 American Medical Association (AMA) Health Systems Science Student, Resident and Fellow Impact Challenge.

This year's AMA Challenge was focused on how medical students, residents and fellows across the country have applied health systems science to impact patients, physicians and health systems during the pandemic.

The team was recognized for its COVID-19 outreach work through the Ochsner MedVantage Network Innovation (OMNI) program in an article published by the AMA, and each student is eligible for a \$500 award.

New Clinical School Society Heads Announced

Kathy Jo (KJ) Carstarphen, MD, leads the Curtis Tyrone Medical Society, and **Leise Knoepp, MD**, leads the Alton Ochsner Medical Society, each as of January 1, 2021. "Both of these individuals have distinguished track records of substantial contributions to medical student education and advancement within the Ochsner Clinical School," says Ronald G. Amedee, MD, Dean of Medical Education for Ochsner Health, Professor and Head of School for UQ OCS.

All students are assigned to one of five medical societies, which provide structure for longitudinal educational advising and coaching for students from both faculty and peers. The societies are also social units, organized to promote a sense of community within the larger UQ OCS cohort. The Society Head is a practicing Ochsner physician chosen for expertise in advising and coaching.



Kathy Jo (KJ)
Carstarphen, MD



Leise Knoepp, MD

New UQ Titles Awarded

Two honorary professor appointments were awarded to **W. Mark Roberts, MD**, and **Richard Tubbs, MD**. **Anthony De Conciliis, PhD**, and **Nicholas Duesbery, PhD**, both received appointments as adjunct professors at UQ OCS. Over the last academic year, 31 Ochsner staff members received new title appointments, including 20 senior lecturers, four lecturers and seven associate lecturers. Ochsner has approximately 334 active UQ title holders.



W. Mark Roberts, MD



Richard Tubbs, MD

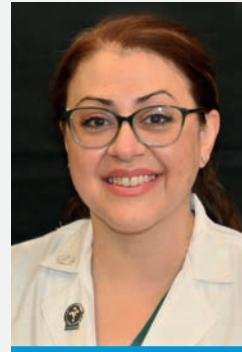


Anthony De Conciliis, PhD



Nicholas Duesbery, PhD

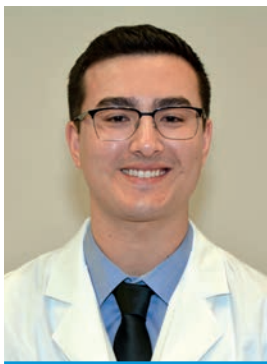
Desiree McCombs Awarded Dr. Gil Scholarship



The Perla S. Gil, MD Scholarship was awarded to **Desiree McCombs**, a third-year medical student who immigrated to Louisiana from Costa Rica in the late 1980s. The Gil

Scholarship supports female Ochsner Clinical School students of Hispanic descent, a group traditionally underrepresented in the medical profession.

McCombs' introduction to medical science came during high school, when she spent time at Charity Hospital in New Orleans while her mother battled stage IV malignant melanoma. Before coming to Ochsner Clinical School, McCombs completed six years of service in the U.S. Air Force and a master's degree in aeronautical science. McCombs is interested in pursuing a career in emergency or internal medicine while focusing on global health issues and how to better serve disadvantaged people in our communities.



Tyler Kidd Awarded Dr. and Mrs. Roy Gregory Scholarship

Senior medical student **Tyler Kidd** received the Dr. and Mrs. Roy Gregory Scholarship for Family Medicine.

"Tyler Kidd is an outstanding candidate for family medicine, and his leadership and dedication to the specialty make him particularly well deserving of this award," says **G. Dodd Denton, MD**, Deputy Head of School, Students, UQ OCS.

Kidd, the Vice President of the UQ OCS Family Medicine Interest Group, is currently working on a project that will allow chronically ill patients in the New Orleans area to have increased access to telehealth.

NEWS & RECOGNITIONS

OPTIMUS Health Career Panel



The Ochsner Program to Introduce Medicine to Underrepresented Students (OPTIMUS) held a virtual health career panel for students interested in pursuing careers as an allied health provider, audiologist, physician assistant,

cardiovascular perfusionist, orthotist or prosthetist.

OPTIMUS, led by **Tamika Webb-Detiege, MD**, a senior rheumatologist at Ochsner Medical Center - New Orleans, strives to reduce healthcare disparities and increase diversity in medicine by encouraging members of underrepresented communities to pursue careers in healthcare.

During the fall 2020 semester, UQ OCS medical students participated in a "Pre-Med Career Conference for Underrepresented Minorities in Medicine" OPTIMUS conference, which allowed potential medical school applicants to learn about medical school and the application process from current students.

Graduate Medical Education Updates

- ✓ The Interventional Radiology (IR) Residency Program was accredited on April 22, 2021. Residents will participate in body and neurointerventional cases. The residency offers the Early Specialization in Interventional Radiology (ESIR) pathway, allowing residents to enter advanced one-year positions in independent IR programs. Ochsner's Independent IR Residency Program received initial accreditation for two Independent IR positions for July 2022.
- ✓ Expansion of our Surgery Residency Program and a temporary expansion of our Pain Medicine Residency Program were approved.
- ✓ Ochsner is looking forward to assuming sponsorship of the Plastic Surgery Joint Residency Program in July 2022.

Continuing Medical Education

With COVID-19 bringing in-person events to a halt, the Department of Continuing Medical Education partnered with Business Development to create a series of webinars around the pandemic. Each webinar was presented by a content expert in their field. The featured topics included:



COVID-19 – When and How It Will End?

Leonardo Seoane, MD,
Chief Academic Officer



How Are You Really? Let's Have a Conversation About Physician Burnout

Nigel Girgrah, MD,
Ochsner Chief
Wellness Officer



COVID-19 Vaccinations and Virus Update

Katherine Baumgarten,
MD, Ochsner Medical
Director of Infection
Prevention and Control

Physical Therapy Residency Program Receives Accreditation

The postgraduate Sports Physical Therapy Residency Program at Ochsner Health earned an initial five-year accreditation status from the American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education (ABPTRFE). Mark Gutierrez, PT, DPT, OCS, SCS, FAAOMPT, is the Program Coordinator.

This program focuses on presenting the most current, evidence-based curriculum possible, while providing mentorship by highly trained, board-certified therapists and collaborating with some of the most well-respected physicians in our region to develop advanced practitioners in the field of sports and orthopedic physical therapy.

Gaining accreditation status allows Ochsner to recruit more extensively, as this is the only accredited sports physical therapy residency program available between Houston, Texas, and Oxford, Mississippi.



Ochsner Academics Summer Internship for Students (OASIS)

Children of Ochsner employees were eligible to attend the 2021 OASIS program. Qualified students, selected through a competitive application process, gained valuable insight and information about what it takes to be accepted to medical school. The two-week program in June engaged students in clinical shadowing, lectures, clinical simulations and panel discussions. Students also had opportunities to interact with Ochsner physicians and staff and exposure to innovative technologies in research and clinical care.

Gala Named New DIO

Rajiv Gala, MD, was named the new Designated Instructional Official (DIO) for Graduate Medical Education at Ochsner Health. He previously held the role of Program Director for the Obstetrics & Gynecology Residency Program, which was instrumental in the delivery of the OCS OB/GYN Core Rotation.

"High-quality medical education and research is not possible without the dedicated work of those training the next generation of doctors and advancing the science of medicine," says Ronald Amedee, MD, Dean of Medical Education and Head of UQ OCS.



Simulation Center Hosts MedEd Combine

An immersive educational event featuring seven 25-minute educational segments on pain management streamed live on April 24, 2021, at the Ochsner Clinical Simulation and Patient Safety Center. Virtual reality training allowed physicians from around the world to get quality training without traveling. Organized by MedEd Combine, a company specializing in medical training, the segments gave providers a deeper understanding of pain control technologies they could bring to their patients.

Radiation Technology Program Graduates 13 Students

Following five semesters of training in Ochsner Radiology departments and the Ochsner Center for Academic Excellence, 13 students graduated from the University of Holy Cross Program in Radiologic Technology in April. The first graduates who took the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists Certification Examination upheld the program's record of a 100% pass rate, a record that has stood since the first graduating class in 1972. At least nine of these graduates will be joining Ochsner Health.

Ochsner Publications

There were approximately 687 publications with an Ochsner affiliation in 339 journals over the past academic year. Below is a selection of the published research, based on the power of the study, the prestige of the journal, the number of Ochsner authors per study and/or an Ochsner physician-researcher's status as first author. The citations below omit non-Ochsner-affiliated authors and contributors.

Diethelm L, Rampolla R

Using Bronchoscopic Lung Cryobiopsy and a Genomic Classifier in the Multidisciplinary Diagnosis of Diffuse Interstitial Lung Diseases.

Chest. 2020 Nov;158(5):2015-2025.

Reilly JP

Ultrasound renal denervation for hypertension resistant to a triple medication pill (RADIANCE-HTN TRIO): a randomised, multicentre, single-blind, sham-controlled trial.

Lancet. 2021 Jun 26;397(10293):2476-2486.

Brown BL

Vagus nerve stimulation paired with rehabilitation for upper limb motor function after ischaemic stroke (VNS-REHAB): a randomised, blinded, pivotal, device trial.

Lancet. 2021 Apr 24;397(10284):1545-1553.

Sawyer WP, Luo X, Welch AM, Bolton NM, Brown R, Bolton JS

15-Year Experience with Multimodality Therapy Including Esophagectomy for Elderly Patients with Locoregional Esophageal Cancer.

J Am Coll Surg. 2021 Apr;232(4):580-588.

Posas-Mendoza TF, McLeod C, Davis W, Zakem J, Quinet R

Etiologies and management of hemophagocytic lymph histiocytosis: is it time for an updated protocol and targeted treatments?

Rheumatology (Oxford). 2021 Jun 18;60(6):2927-2933.

Canter D

Intravesical nadofaragene firadenovec gene therapy for BCG-unresponsive non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer: a single-arm, open-label, repeat-dose clinical trial.

Lancet Oncol. 2021 Jan;22(1):107-117.

Garcia-Diaz J, Nossaman B

Presence of antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC) against SARS-CoV-2 in COVID-19 plasma.

PLoS One. 2021 Mar 4;16(3):e0247640.

Tugulan CI, Spindel SM, Bansal AD, Bates MJ, Parrino EP

Does Elective Sternal Plating in Morbidly Obese Patients Reduce Sternal Complication Rates?

Ann Thorac Surg. 2020 Dec;110(6):1898-1903.

Blonde L

Durable Effects of iGlarLixi Up to 52 Weeks in Type 2 Diabetes: The LixiLan-G Extension Study.

Diabetes Care. 2021 Mar;44(3):774-780.

Turner SS

Changes in urinary kidney injury molecule-1 levels after blood transfusions in preterm infants.

Sci Rep. 2021 Jun 3;11(1):11690.

Himes RW

Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage: A Manifestation of the Telomere Biology Disorders.

J Pediatr. 2021 Mar;230:55-61.e4.

Lunski MJ, Burton J, Tawagi K, Maslov D, Simenson V, Barr D, Yuan H, Johnson D, Matrana M, Cole J, Larned Z, Moore B

Multivariate mortality analyses in COVID-19: Comparing patients with cancer and patients without cancer in Louisiana.

Cancer. 2021 Jan 15;127(2):266-274.

White CJ

A novel method to interpret early phase trials shows how the narrowing of the coronary sinus concordantly improves symptoms, functional status and quality of life in refractory angina.

Heart. 2021 Jan;107(1):41-46.

Longo S

Effect of Prophylactic Negative Pressure Wound Therapy vs Standard Wound Dressing on Surgical-Site Infection in Obese Women After Cesarean Delivery: A Randomized Clinical Trial.

JAMA. 2020 Sep 22;324(12):1180-1189.

Guirguis M

Cooled Radiofrequency Ablation Compared with a Single Injection of Hyaluronic Acid for Chronic Knee Pain: A Multicenter, Randomized Clinical Trial Demonstrating Greater Efficacy and Equivalent Safety for Cooled Radiofrequency Ablation.

J Bone Joint Surg Am. 2020 Sep 2;102(17):1501-1510.

Johnson KM

Trial of Sodium Phenylbutyrate-Taurursodiol for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.

N Engl J Med. 2020 Sep 3;383(10):919-930.

Effron MB, Re RN

Comparative Effectiveness of Aspirin Dosing in Cardiovascular Disease.

N Engl J Med. 2021 May 27;384(21):1981-1990.

Patel HK

A Comparative Study of 22G versus 19G Needles for EUS-Guided Biopsies for Parenchymal Liver Disease: Are Thinner Needles Better?

Dig Dis Sci. 2021 Jan;66(1):238-246.

Dvorin EL

Corticosteroid Use for Acute Respiratory Tract Infections in Direct-to-Consumer Telemedicine.

Am J Med. 2020 Aug;133(8):e399-e405.

Lavie CJ, Price-Haywood EG

Effects of a 2-Year Primary Care Lifestyle Intervention on Cardiometabolic Risk Factors: A Cluster-Randomized Trial.

Circulation. 2021 Mar 23;143(12):1202-1214.





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