

2022-2023 Ochsner Academics

A YEAR OF ACADEMIC GROWTH & EXPANSION



Annual Update on Medical Education
& Research Activity



Ochsner Journal

From fall 2022 to summer 2023, the *Ochsner Journal* published **62 articles** covering original research, case reports, reviews and quality improvement papers. Beginning with the Spring 2023 issue, *Ochsner Journal* moved to an exclusively digital format, and a new static cover was designed and launched with the Summer 2023 issue. The past four issues continue to exemplify the medical excellence and innovation that has occurred over the past year.



FALL 2022

Just in time for flu shot season, the Ochsner Health radiology and orthopedics departments described the classic presentation of shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (SIRVA), as well as recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for avoiding such injuries.



SUMMER 2023

Ochsner anesthesiologist Bobby Nossaman, MD, questioned prior thoracic surgery studies that advocate intraoperative fluid restriction because such regimens risk postoperative complications from “masked” hypovolemia. In an analysis of 222 consecutive thoracic surgery patients, Dr. Nossaman found no such effect.



WINTER 2022

Through a multidisciplinary collaboration involving the Ochsner Medical 3D (m3D) lab, surgery, transplant and neurology, a 3D reconstruction with VR visualization was used to clarify the complex renal vascular anatomy of a living kidney donor. This innovative reconstruction allowed the donor to provide a kidney for his brother after he was initially declined by the selection committee.



SPRING 2023

A new quarterly column—“Health, Medicine and Society”—cowritten and curated by Ochsner hospitalist Kevin Conrad, MD, debuted. The inaugural column examined the challenges posed by climate change on individuals’ health and on the care health systems provide.

In June 2023, the *Ochsner Journal* received its first-ever Journal Impact Factor by Clarivate Analytics, a measure of quality and prestige.

Total accepted submissions reflected 61% non-Ochsner authors who came from 16 countries.

View archived and current issues and content published ahead of print at ochsnerjournal.org

Contents

Appearing on the cover (clockwise from left) are key events during the year signaling Academics' significant growth and expansion:

Loyola BSN Program
White Coat Ceremony

20th Annual Ochsner
Research Week

The University of
Queensland – Ochsner Health
Partnership Extension

Xavier University of Louisiana
and Ochsner Health College
of Medicine Partnership

The Ochsner Center for Nursing
and Allied Health at Delgado
Community College

Ochsner Lafayette General
and University of Louisiana
at Lafayette Accelerated
BSN Program

2	Letter from the Chief Academic Officer
4	A Year of Academic Growth & Expansion
7	Academic Recognitions

10 Education

11	Graduate Medical Education
13	UQ-Ochsner MD Program
14	UQ-Ochsner Medical Student Achievements
15	Nursing Academics Allied Health PA Program
16	Continuing Medical Education Simulation Center
17	Education Pipeline Programs

18 Research

19	Research Accolades
20	20th Annual Research Week
22	Research Centers of Excellence Updates
26	Research Awards
27	Research Pipeline Programs

28	Ochsner Publications
-----------	----------------------

Letter from Leonardo Seoane, MD Chief Academic Officer

It was a privilege to represent Ochsner Health's physicians and other healthcare providers when I testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions in February 2023. I informed the committee of our proactive approach to reducing projected workforce shortages—including a shortage of up to 124,000 physicians by 2034—which will disproportionately burden southern states and rural areas.

From "growing our own" with investments in STEM education, to nurturing key partnerships, to expanding our graduate medical education programs, we're cultivating a pipeline of providers trained "The Ochsner Way."

We are getting students interested and involved in STEM and prospective healthcare careers through our charter school—the Dr. John Ochsner Discovery Health Sciences Academy, our Science Technology Academics Research (STAR) summer scholars program for high school students, our Ochsner Program To Introduce Medicine to Underrepresented Students (OPTIMUS) and our Ochsner Academics Summer Internship for Students (OASIS), which provides clinical and academic experiences for undergraduates.

We've renewed our partnership with The University of Queensland for another 10 years, building upon an incredible joint program that has trained and placed 800 additional physicians throughout the U.S. in a little over a decade, 25% of whom we retain in the region. And we've now taken that successful model and expanded it, applying it to our partnership with Xavier University of Louisiana to create a new allopathic College of Medicine focused on training physicians who will better represent the communities they serve.



Dr. Seoane testifies before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

Ochsner and our partners are also developing new pathways for nurses to earn their degrees in response to crisis-level shortages across the country. Our programs with Loyola University New Orleans and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette are innovative programs designed to train more nurses. With Delgado Community College, we've created the Ochsner Center for Nursing and Allied Health and seek to double the number of associate degrees awarded over the next five years.

Growing our graduate medical education programs has long been a priority because 70% of physicians practice within 70 miles of where they completed their residencies or fellowships. We're adding four new residency programs in Lafayette, establishing one in partnership with St. Tammany Health System, and growing our academic medical center in New Orleans.

Increasing Access to Innovative Therapies and Exceptional Care

Our new partnership with MD Anderson, one of the world's leaders in cancer care, will allow us to grow our clinical trial network across the Gulf Coast and advance our knowledge of the best evidence-based treatments.

Striving to increase diversity in our clinical trial enrollments, we've created the Clinical Research Coordinator (CRC) Apprenticeship program, supported by Ochsner-Xavier Institute for Health Equity and Research (OXIHER), to develop CRCs who can better relate to and serve our diverse community. We've already had six CRCs successfully complete the program and accept employment with Ochsner, and we're making positive strides in increasing the number of underrepresented subjects in clinical trials, reaching 34% in 2022, better than the national average.

Furthering our mission to improve patient care, our talented team of data scientists at the Center for Outcomes and Health Services Research supports our physicians with valuable data gathered through Epic. In 2022, Hernan Bazan, MD, DFSVS, FACS, the John Ochsner Endowed Professor in Innovation for the Ochsner Heart & Vascular Institute, partnered with Dan Fort, PhD, MPH, Ochsner's biomedical research informatics specialist, to leverage his database of carotid artery disease and stroke patients with Ochsner's carotid biobank to look for biomarkers to predict plaque rupture. The work is laying the groundwork for a predictive model of who will have a stroke when they are diagnosed with carotid atherosclerosis and therefore determine who would benefit most from intervention.

The incredible growth of our research programs is evidenced by the increase in grant funding we've received, from \$4 million in 2018 to \$10.5 million in 2022. The Robert J. and Debra H. Patrick Neuroscience Center will be a major cornerstone of our Neuroscience Center of Excellence, allowing us to bring together clinical services, research and innovation space focused on everything from 3D printing for planning neurosurgical procedures, to augmented and virtual reality surgical training, to research using artificial intelligence to interface with the human brain.

I also want to mention OXIHER's continuing critical work toward our Healthy State commitment. Through OXIHER's advocacy, Medicaid is now covering smoking cessation, and—in partnership with the Cancer Advocacy Group of Louisiana—OXIHER got legislation passed to mandate smoking cessation coverage for anyone in Louisiana. These concrete policy changes address a major issue contributing to our state's poor health ranking.

As I look back over a year of remarkable growth and expansion in Academics, I am so proud and thankful for the dedicated and innovative individuals within our organization—and our partner organizations—who've

made these achievements possible and who allow us to continuously reach new heights in patient care, community health and scientific discovery.



A handwritten signature of Leonardo Seoane in blue ink, written in a cursive style.

Leonardo Seoane, MD, FACP
Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer, Ochsner Health
Professor, The University of Queensland

A Year of

Academic Growth & Expansion

What does a year of progress look like for Ochsner Academics? It is defined by extensive efforts to expand the pipeline of exceptional healthcare providers trained “The Ochsner Way,” who better represent patients in the community. It means increasing access to innovative therapeutic options—especially for those traditionally underrepresented in clinical trials. Through growth and expansion, Ochsner is improving health equity in Louisiana and the region to attain better health.

Populating the Pipeline With Exceptional Physicians

Ochsner renewed its incredibly successful partnership with The University of Queensland Medical School and launched a new one with Xavier University of Louisiana to create an allopathic College of Medicine focused on training physicians who will represent the communities they serve.

“As our relationship has matured, we have learned much from each other, including during external crises like COVID, floods and hurricanes, to find greater alignment,” says Ronald Amedee, MD, FACS, Dean of Medical Education at Ochsner and Director of the Ochsner Clinical School located within The University of Queensland Medical School.

The UQ-Ochsner Health partnership has placed more than 800 students in very competitive residencies in nearly every medical specialty—ultimately supplying critically needed physicians to a nation facing a projected shortage of up to 124,000 physicians by 2034.

“From my perspective, the new College of Medicine at Xavier is going to look very much like what we have with The University of Queensland,” Dr. Amedee says.

The new College of Medicine with Xavier will offer exceptional medical education locally with an emphasis on increasing diversity among future physicians and filling voids in the region.

Growing Our Graduate Medical Education Programs

GME is rapidly expanding, with Ochsner creating new residency opportunities, such as in interventional radiology, and increasing the capacity for learners in surgery, one of Ochsner’s oldest clinical departments.

Ochsner is sponsoring a family medicine residency at St. Tammany Parish Hospital “with the goal of having the best family medicine residency in the state,” Dr. Amedee says. In Lafayette, Ochsner Lafayette General Medical Center—which was named Best Hospital in Southwestern Louisiana by *U.S. News & World Report*—is creating its own GME program, with a general surgery residency currently recruiting its first learners to start in fall 2024 and applications for an internal medicine residency underway.

Partnering for New Nursing and Allied Health Programs in Response to Nationwide Shortages

In Nursing Academics, led by Director Sylvia Hartmann, MN, RN, the Loyola University New Orleans pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program, in partnership with Ochsner Health, now has three cohorts and will graduate its first class in May 2024. The University of Louisiana at Lafayette announced a new accelerated BSN pre-RN Program in



As our relationship has matured, we have learned much from each other, including during external crises like COVID, floods and hurricanes, to find greater alignment.”

Ronald Amedee, MD | Dean of Medical Education

May 2023, a partnership between the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and Ochsner Lafayette General. Plans are underway for Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center New Orleans School of Nursing to expand its accelerated BSN pre-RN program to North Louisiana. Ochsner is also administering a \$2 million donation to the Southern University School of Nursing through the Louisiana Department of Health to expand student enrollment, training, lab programs and job placement.

Allied Health accomplishments, under the leadership of Director Melissa McDowell, MBA, include a new Ochsner Psychology Doctoral Internship that welcomed its first class in July 2022. Ochsner’s Neurologic Physical Therapy Residency Program was granted initial five-year accreditation by the American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education in May 2023. In addition, the LSU Health Shreveport Physical Therapy Program, in partnership with Ochsner Health and Ochsner Lafayette General, received acceptance by the Louisiana Board of Regents in May 2023 to participate in the Regional Healthcare Innovation Partnership Program. Together, the institutions are creating a Doctor of Physical Therapy expansion program at Ochsner Lafayette General to start in 2025.

Promoting Patient-First Research

Ochsner has focused on increasing the number of its clinical trial enrollees, especially from minority groups

who have been traditionally underrepresented. Increasing research grant funding and improving the reputation of its Research Centers of Excellence were also major priorities.

“Ochsner is a patient-first organization, and while science is wonderful, if clinical trials weren’t connected to improving patient care, they wouldn’t be very meaningful,” says W. Mark Roberts, MD, MMM, Dean of Research. “It’s important that there is a strong probability we can put a patient on each study.”

Ochsner has around 600 clinical trials currently open and thousands of patients enrolled each year. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Roberts said it was eye-opening for many researchers to see that the worst possible outcomes disproportionately affected the most disadvantaged people.

“Clinical studies should pay special attention to those who could gain the most advantage from the trial,” Dr. Roberts says. “The expectation is our staff—those enrolling patients for these trials—should look like, sound like and relate to those patients.”

Ochsner Academics’ CRC Apprenticeship Program was designed and launched in 2022 by Clinical Research Director Nicole Villemarette-Pittman, PhD, specifically for that purpose—to develop future CRCs to serve Ochsner’s diverse community.



The expansion of clinical research ‘in more remote geographies,’ guided by our new ‘hub and spoke’ model developed by Clinical Research Director Johanna Veal, BSN-RN, CCRP, defines the idea of going where the patients are to give everyone opportunities to access the best possible care.”

W. Mark Roberts, MD, MMM | Dean of Research

MD Anderson Partnership Will Be a Game-Changer

Dr. Roberts says Ochsner’s new partnership with MD Anderson is an exceptionally big deal.

“I doubt we would have been an attractive partner without a good, solid research department,” Dr. Roberts says. “*U.S. News & World Report* ranked them as the best cancer care facility in the U.S., and this new relationship facilitates sharing their ideals in patient practice, care delivery and the optimal ways to conduct cancer research.”

He says Ochsner’s experience in research is especially meaningful, as it is now a widely accepted belief that being on a clinical trial should be a standard of care for patients with cancer.

Conducting Research With Clear Patient Impact

With a goal of being a hub of clinical research elevating patient outcomes, Dr. Roberts says the increases in research partnerships with powerful scientific centers and increases in grant funding for Ochsner’s own physician-investigator-designed research show its legitimacy in the research arena.

“There’s a lot of exciting research happening now. ENT surgeon Ed McCoul, MD, MPH, has a million-dollar project testing AI and machine learning algorithms for improving nasal endoscopy, supported by our own senior health informatics researchers and biostatisticians,” Dr. Roberts says. “We’re also one of a handful of sites across the U.S. for the GRAIL PATHFINDER2 Study, which involves a sophisticated blood test that screens for occult cancers.”

There has been an “enormous commitment to research and research productivity” with the Neuroscience Center of Excellence, Dr. Roberts says, “from Dr. Richard Zweifler recruiting for his brain health studies to emerging brain-computer interface and biodesign research happening under Dr. Korak Sarkar.”

The work being done at the Ochsner-Xavier Institute for Health Equity and Research (OXIHER) remains incredibly important because, he says, “as doctors, we only modestly impact overall wellness—behaviors that happen outside of care dominantly impact how people’s lives unfold.”

Finally, Dr. Roberts says the expansion of clinical research “in more remote geographies,” guided by our new “hub and spoke” model developed by Clinical Research Director Johanna Veal, BSN-RN, CCRP, defines the idea of going where the patients are to give everyone opportunities to access the best possible care.

Academic Recognitions

2022 Spirit of Leadership Awards Recognize Outstanding Leaders

The annual Ochsner Spirit of Leadership Awards recognize our employees, leaders, physicians and teams for going above and beyond by exhibiting the spirit of leadership through our mission, vision and core values. The Division of Academics had several team members who were finalists for the annual recognition awards as well as award recipients in their respective categories.

James Milburn, MD, Senior Physician and Vice Chair of Radiology at Ochsner Medical Center, received the 2022 Spirit of Leadership Physician Academic Contributor of the Year award. Finalists for this award also included **Lisa Birdsall Fort, MD**, Senior Physician and Section Head of Emergency Medicine at Ochsner Baptist, and **Anna Suessman, DO**, a Physician in the Pediatric Emergency Department at Ochsner Medical Center.

Dayna Gessler, Project Manager for the Division of Academics, received the 2022 Employee of the Year: Non-Clinical award.

Elise-Marie Curry, RN, Supervisor of Clinical Research for the Division of Academics, was a finalist for the Supervisor of the Year award.



Infectious Disease Physician Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

George Pankey, MD, who has led the infectious disease team at Ochsner for nearly 60 years and is internationally recognized as an expert in the field, was recognized with the 2022 Ochsner Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Pankey and his staff have guided Ochsner's response to epidemics including HIV/AIDS, anthrax and bioterrorism, West Nile virus and Ebola. His expertise invigorated Ochsner's leadership and strong response during the COVID-19 pandemic, and he is a true pioneer, motivational leader and mentor.



Director of Cardiovascular Research Elected to HRD Board of Trustees

Daniel P. Morin, MD, MPH, FHRS, a Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiologist and Director of Cardiovascular Research, was elected to a three-year term on the Heart Rhythm Society Board of Trustees. HRS is an international nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C., that promotes education and advocacy for cardiac arrhythmia professionals and patients. Founded in 1979, HRS has more than 7,100 members from over 70 countries.



System Medical Director of Precision Medicine Receives Prestigious Award

Marc Matrana, MD, MSc, FACP, System Medical Director of Precision Medicine, received the Catalyst for Precision Medicine Award in October 2022, one of five Cancer Community Awards (C2 Awards) that celebrate unsung heroes of cancer care. The award Dr. Matrana received recognizes his innovative work in researching the latest breakthroughs in cancer research and early detection while advocating for enhanced patient access to precision cancer care. Dr. Matrana donated his \$50,000 in prize money to the Cancer Advocacy Group of Louisiana (CAGLA).



Radiology Chair Emeritus Earns Highest Honor From American College of Radiology

The 2023 Gold Medal of the American College of Radiology (ACR) was awarded to **Edward Bluth, MD, FACP**, by the ACR Board of Chancellors for distinguished and extraordinary service to the ACR or to the discipline of radiology. Dr. Bluth started at Ochsner in 1977 and served as the Chair of the Radiology Department between 1999 and 2006 and served as a member of the Board of Management, Board of Governors and Board of Directors for the Ochsner Clinic and Foundation. He is currently Chair Emeritus and a Professor at the Ochsner Clinical School of The University of Queensland Medical School.



Medical Director for Global Health Education and Public Health Honored

During the Urban League of Louisiana's 2022 Annual Meeting and Celebration, **Yvens Laborde, MD**, was honored for his leadership in health equity. Dr. Laborde helped organize the Big Health Event, held on September 17, 2022, for which Ochsner partnered with the Urban League of Louisiana to bring free healthcare screenings to the community.

New Academic Titles Awarded for 2022-2023

The University of Queensland awarded new academic titles and promotions to Ochsner physicians and staff who made substantial contributions in teaching, research, service and engagement. There are now 363 active title holders at Ochsner.

Professor

Dodd Denton, MD*

Associate Professor

Yvens Laborde, MD*

Nicole Villemarette-Pittman, PhD*

Senior Lecturer

Shilpa Amara, MD

Ann Arens, MD

Alexis Cates, DO

Sara Fernandez, MD

Freddie Joseph III, MD

Lea Martin, PhD*

Isaac Molinero, MD

Courtney Parke, PhD*

Daniel Sessions, MD

Carl Tholen, MEd*

Lecturer

Amber Sleem, DO

Mohammad Sultan, DO

*These individuals were promoted; they previously held a different academic title at The University of Queensland.



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

Ochsner Sports Neurologist Elected to AAN Board of Directors



Sports Neurologist **José Posas, MD, FAAN**, was elected to a two-year term on the American Academy of Neurology Board of Directors during the organization's Annual Meeting in April 2023. The AAN represents more than 40,000 members and is the largest professional association of neurologists and neuroscientists in the world.

Medicine in Society Clerkship Director Named AHA Next Generation Leaders Fellow

Kathy Jo Carstarphen, MD, MPH, MA,

Clerkship Director for the Medicine in Society program rotation within the Ochsner Clinical School located within the UQ Medical School, received an NGL Fellowship from the American Hospital Association for 2023, as well as a John A. Hartford Foundation Age-Friendly Health Systems Scholarship. The

fellowship is designed to empower leaders to bring about real and lasting change in the hospital and health systems in which they serve.



Emergency Medicine Chair Receives ACEP National Emergency Medicine Faculty Teaching Award



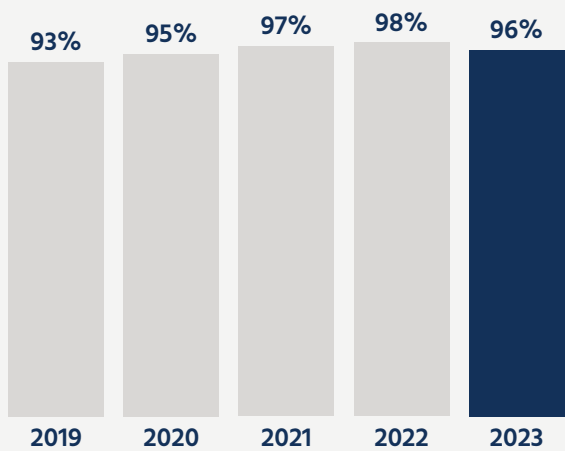
The Academic Affairs Committee of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) selected **Nicole McCain, MD, FACEP**, for the 2023 National Emergency Medicine Faculty Teaching Award, which honors an outstanding educator in emergency medicine for excellence in teaching, community education and contributions to regional and global programs.

Education

We are committed to growing the pipeline of diverse healthcare providers trained “The Ochsner Way.”

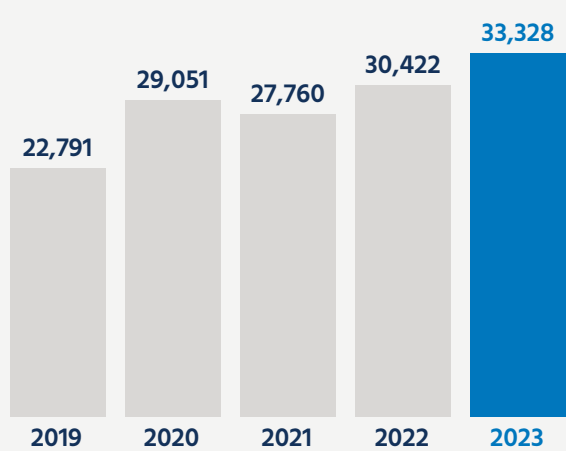
UQ-Ochsner Doctor of Medicine Program

Match Rate Through the National Resident Matching Program®



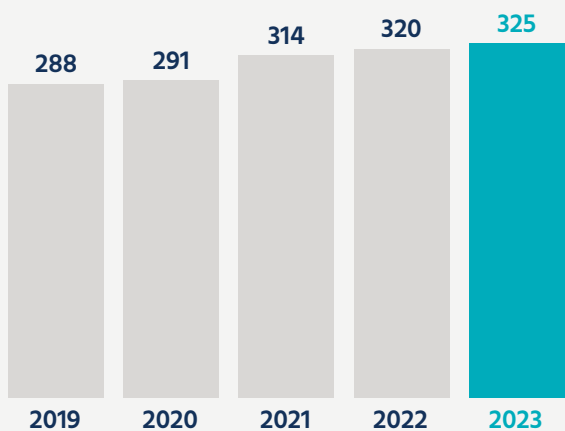
Clinical Simulation & Patient Safety Center

Learners in Simulation Scenarios



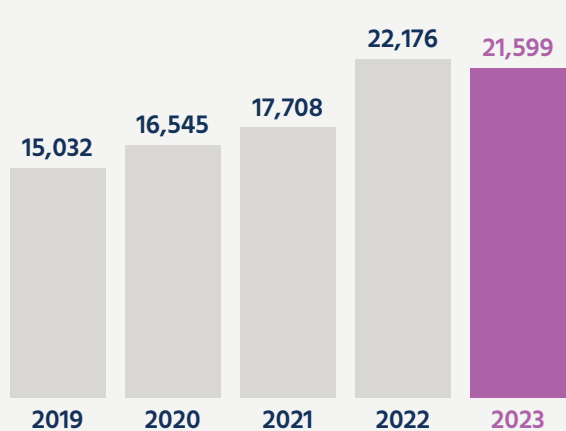
Graduate Medical Education

Enrollment in Ochsner-Sponsored GME Programs



Continuing Medical Education

Physician Attendance at Ochsner CME Programs



Graduate Medical Education

2023 House Staff Commencement Held

On June 1, 2023, the Ochsner Academics Department of Graduate Medical Education marked the culmination of core and specialty training for resident and fellow physicians at the House Staff commencement ceremony.

The annual event recognized the completion of medical training for 96 residents and fellows in Ochsner-sponsored programs accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), one Podiatry Medicine graduate and 14 Pharmacy residency graduates.

"The skills you learned beyond the textbook, how to think on your feet and adapt, are why all of you will be the future leaders that healthcare needs," said **Rajiv Gala, MD**, Graduate Medical Education Designated Institutional Official, as he opened the ceremony.

Leonardo Seoane, MD, Chief Academic Officer and Executive Vice President at Ochsner Health and Interim Chief Executive Officer at Ochsner LSU Health North, and **Pete November**, Chief Executive Officer of Ochsner Health—who served as the distinguished commencement speaker—also offered remarks of gratitude and encouragement.



Pete November, Chief Executive Officer of Ochsner Health, served as the distinguished commencement speaker for the GME House Staff commencement ceremony.

The following 2023 special awards were presented to our Ochsner Physician Leaders in Academics as well as selected House Staff:

Hurst B. Hatch Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award

Hospital-Based Medicine – Patricia Porada, MD – Internal Medicine
Surgical Specialties – Conor Coogan, MD – General Surgery

Alton Ochsner Resident Leader of the Year Award

Victoria Polo, MD – Obstetrics & Gynecology

Resident Teacher of the Year Award

Omar Khattab, MD – Emergency Medicine

Edward D. Frohlich, MD Research Writing Award

Aaron Hayson, MD – Vascular Surgery

Case Report Writing Award

Koyenum Obi, MD – Cardiology

Resident Performance Improvement/Quality Initiative Award

Abdullah Noor, MD – Internal Medicine
James Toppin, MD – Obstetrics & Gynecology

GME Program Manager Excellence Award

Stacey Galindo – Sr. Education Program Manager



- ▶ Stacey Galindo (left), Senior Education Program Manager, receives the 2023 GME Program Manager Excellence Award.
- ▶ Victoria Polo, MD (center), OB/GYN Physician, receives the 2023 Alton Ochsner Resident Leader of the Year Award.

Ochsner Graduate Medical Education Had Successful Match Day 2023 on March 17

100%

of positions filled by students from across the globe participating in this year's match

38%

of positions matched with students from within Louisiana

The Ochsner Department of GME offers 31 ACGME-accredited residency and fellowship programs in a variety of specialties. GME sponsors programs that emphasize personal, clinical and professional development for more than 1,000 trainees at our campuses each year.



GME Team Recognized for AIAMC National Initiative on JEDI

Ochsner GME was honored March 24, 2023, at the Alliance of Independent Academic Medical Centers (AIAMC) for successful completion of a National Initiative on JEDI: Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Ochsner was initially selected for the 18-month initiative in 2021 with the Redesigning Recruitment in Health Care project.

A leadership team from Ochsner collaborated with select hospitals across the United States to develop and implement a JEDI plan that positively impacted both individual performance and institutional culture. Team members included **Rajiv Gala, MD**, GME DIO; **Ronald Amedee, MD**, Dean of Medical Education at Ochsner and Director of the Ochsner Clinical School located within the UQ Medical School; **Carl Tholen**, Vice President of Medical Education and Chief Administrative Officer of the Ochsner Clinical School located within the UQ Medical School; **Donna Guidroz**, Director of GME; **Brittany Copeland Ducote**, Operations Manager of GME; **José H. Posas, MD, FAAN**, Neurology Residency Program Director; and **Anna White, MD**, Obstetrics & Gynecology Residency Director.





UQ-Ochsner MD Program

Class of 2022 Honored at Culmination Ceremony

The UQ-Ochsner MD program held its annual Culmination Ceremony on November 19, 2022.

The 88 graduating students successfully completed the world-class medical program, which offers four years of training and clinical experience across two continents.

The keynote address was delivered by **Sam Hawgood, MBBS**, Chancellor and Arthur and Toni Rembe Rock Distinguished Professor at the University of California, San Francisco. At UCSF, he has also served as Dean of the UCSF School of Medicine and Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs. Dr. Hawgood is a distinguished alumnus of The University of Queensland Medical School and a native of Australia.

In addition to their extensive training and education hours, this class of students was also recognized for their participation in community outreach events across greater New Orleans throughout 2022.

2022 Special Recognitions

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Anna Suessman, MD – Pediatric Emergency Medicine

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

Lauren Cohen, MD	Michael Schneider, MD
Rohan Krishnan, MD	Charles Sisk, MD
Peter Liao, MD	Abdul Zia, MD
Rohit Rajendran, MD	

INTERNAL MEDICINE – AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS EXCELLENCE AWARD

Abdul Zia, MD

DR. E. EDWARD MARTIN, JR. FAMILY MEDICINE AWARD

Rana Mehdizadeh, MD

DR. JOHN LOCKWOOD OCHSNER, SR. SURGICAL AWARD

James O'Leary, MD

STUDENT EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR OB/GYN

Harsheen Chawla, MD

STUDENT EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR PEDIATRICS

Grace Kooi, MD

STUDENT EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR PSYCHIATRY

Isabel Yoon, MD

123

UQ-Ochsner
medical students
volunteered

1,675

hours across

27

different
events

14

of those students
volunteered for
more than

30

hours
individually



Physicians-in-Training Receive White Coats at 13th Annual Ceremony

On January 7, 2023, 70 UQ-Ochsner physicians-in-training at received their white coats and were honored with Humanism in Medicine pins—a visual reminder to keep empathy at the center of clinical practice. **Yolangel (Yogi) Hernandez Suarez, MD, MBA, FACOG**, Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs at Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, served as the keynote speaker.

Match Day: March 17, 2023

78 graduates of UQ-Ochsner Class of 2022 received a **96% match rate** through the National Residency Match Program—a number that exceeds the national match rate for U.S. medical schools

12th consecutive year that the school's match rate has been **90% or above**

65%+ of 2022 graduates of Ochsner Clinical School within The University of Queensland Medical School matched in their **top 3 choices** for residencies

UQ-Ochsner Medical Student Achievements

Third-Year Student Receives 2023 Perla S. Gil, MD Scholarship

UQ-Ochsner medical student **Tabitha Baca** was awarded the Perla S. Gil, MD Scholarship, which was established to enhance diversity in the medical profession by supporting female Ochsner Clinical School students of Hispanic descent, a group traditionally underrepresented in the medical profession. Baca was born in Mexico City and aims to help close health equity gaps for low-resourced communities.

Fourth-Year Student Awarded Dr. and Mrs. Roy Gregory Scholarship

UQ-Ochsner medical student **Lily Morrison** received the Dr. and Mrs. Roy Gregory Scholarship, which was established to support a senior medical student at the Ochsner Clinical School committed to pursuing a career in family medicine. Morrison worked as an epidemiologist before starting medical school.

Most-Ever MMIs in Single Day

As part of the admission criteria for the UQ-Ochsner Doctor of Medicine program, applicants participate in multiple mini interviews, which assess personal qualities such as kindness, compassion, adaptability and communication skills. In past years, 64 applicants per MMI round were interviewed, but on March 9, 2023, MMIs increased to 96 interviews in a single day, with three simultaneous rounds taking place at four scheduled times throughout the day. This expansion required more technology, equipment and staffing. MMIs were adapted for the UQ-Ochsner MD program by **Tamika Webb-Detiege, MD**, Deputy Head of Admissions and Enrollment, and implemented by **Sue Barrosse**, Director of Enrollment Management, with assistance from **Lionel Edmonds**, Enrollment Program Manager.

Nursing Academics

Collaborating With Other Schools to
Grow Enrollment and Expand Programs



70 active
affiliations

across **Louisiana,**
Mississippi and other
states address ongoing
workforce shortages

3,500 unique
students

participate in **5,600+**
clinical rotations
at Ochsner facilities
across all regions

Allied Health

1,668 allied health
students

from **138** different colleges and universities completed
2,070 clinical rotation placements across Ochsner
campuses in 2022



Physician Assistant Program



Our Second Class Graduates From Xavier University Physician Assistant Program in Partnership With Ochsner

33 PAs graduated on May 27, 2023 • **14 graduates** accepted positions at Ochsner in **emergency medicine,**
hospital medicine, NICU, family medicine, cardiology and **urgent care** • **65%** of the graduates were
minority students and **18%** were **African American** • **60%** of graduates were **from Louisiana**

Continuing Medical Education



4-year reaccreditation for Ochsner CME, awarded by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, effective July 31, 2022

150+ CME credit activities provided annually in partnership with **20+** joint providers

22nd Annual Southern Hospital Medicine Conference October 13–15, 2022 | The Roosevelt New Orleans

The conference featured three keynote presentations reflecting the theme of “reenergizing hospital medicine.” **David Houghton, MD**, Digital Medicine Medical Director at Ochsner, presented “Innovations in Hospital Care.” **James (Jamie) Newman, MD**, Hospitalist at Mayo Clinic, shared “Hospital Medicine from A to Z.” **Eboni Price-Haywood, MD, MPH, FACP**, Medical Director for the Ochsner-Xavier Institute for Health Equity and Research (OXIHER), presented “A Health Equity Framework for Reducing Healthcare Disparities.”

Ochsner Regional Neurosciences Symposium May 11–13, 2023 | Marriott Warehouse Arts District Hotel

The regional symposium showcased presentations and workshops by nationally recognized Ochsner experts and invited speakers. The symposium was co-chaired by **Aaron Karlin, MD**, System Chair for the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Section Head for the Pediatric Rehabilitation Program at Ochsner Health, and **Fawad A. Khan, MD**, Section Head for both the International Center for Epilepsy at Ochsner and the McCasland Family Comprehensive Headache Center at Ochsner Neuroscience Institute.

Clinical Simulation & Patient Safety Center

Simulation Center Celebrates Fifth Anniversary

The Ochsner Clinical Simulation and Patient Safety Center celebrated its fifth anniversary with an open house event October 4, 2022. More than 75 guests had the opportunity to participate in demonstrations of patient simulators, learning modules and mixed-reality solutions.

At the event, **James Bragg, Jr., MD**, Senior Physician, Internal Medicine, was named the Physician Simulation Educator of the Year, and **Shannon West**, Director, Nursing Professional Development, and **Fiona Winterbottom**, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Pulmonary Diseases, were co-recipients of the Nursing Simulation Educator of the Year.

Michael Smith, MD, MBA CPE, FACEP, Director of the Ochsner Clinical Simulation and Patient Safety Center and Professor at The University of Queensland Medical School, was appointed to the American College of Emergency Physicians Education Committee during ACEP22, the College’s Annual Conference October 1–4, 2022.



Education Pipeline Programs

OPTIMUS Holds Pre-Med Career Conference

Ochsner's Program to Introduce Medicine to Underrepresented Students (OPTIMUS) hosted a Pre-Med Career Conference for 22 underrepresented college students on September 24, 2022.



Students who attended represented five different colleges: Louisiana State University, Xavier University of Louisiana, Loyola University New Orleans, Tulane University and Prairie View A&M University.

Programming included interview tips, advice on applying to medical school, and hands-on simulation activities in suturing, laparoscopic motor skills and tracheotomy incision techniques. Ochsner internal medicine and surgery residents provided mentorship for each program.

OASIS Program Celebrates Five Years

17 undergraduate college students participated in the 2023 Ochsner Academics Summer Internship for Students (OASIS) program June 12–23.

70+ students have participated in OASIS since its inception **5 years ago**.

11 colleges and universities were represented in the 2023 class: University of Tampa, Loyola University New Orleans, Centre College, University of Alabama, Louisiana State University, Xavier University of Louisiana, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Tulane University, University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, Baylor University and Southeastern Louisiana University.

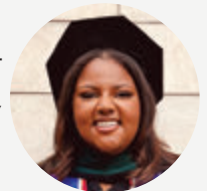
Annual Medical School Scholarship Awarded to Xavier Graduate

The annual Ochsner Health Medical School Scholarship (OHMSS) for LSU Health Shreveport School of Medicine was awarded to **Van Smith III**, a 2023 graduate of Xavier University of Louisiana. A native New Orleanian, Smith graduated from Xavier with a Bachelor of Science in Biology in May 2023. He first became interested in the medical field after witnessing the effects on people in his life of the high rates of diseases and lack of health resources in Louisiana.



OHMSS Recipient Update

The first recipient of the OHMSS, 2019 Xavier alumna **Sarah Bertrand, MD**, graduated from Louisiana State University Health Shreveport School of Medicine in May 2023 and is beginning an urban residency at Cahaba-UAB Family Medicine in Birmingham, Alabama.

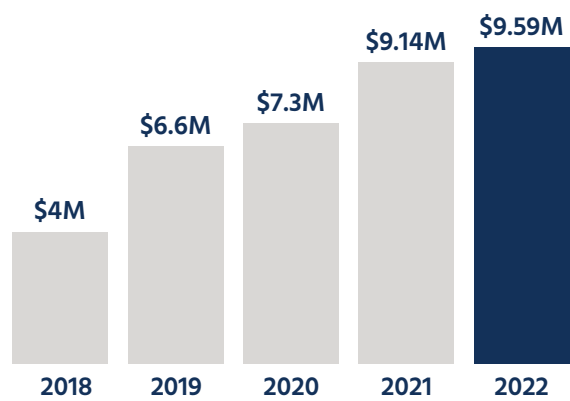


Research

Our ongoing goal in Research is to increase access to innovative therapeutic options for our communities.

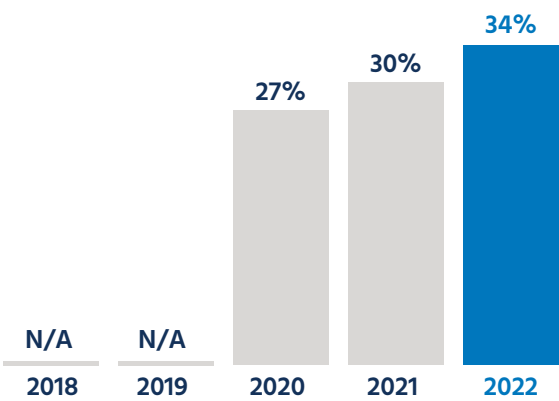
Grant Funding

Total Industry, Federal and Other Grants, Including Subawards



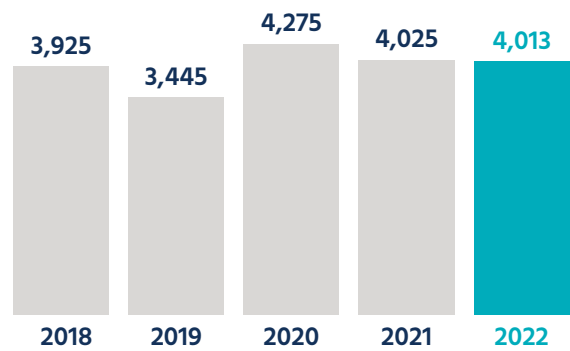
Clinical Trials

New Minority Patients Enrolled



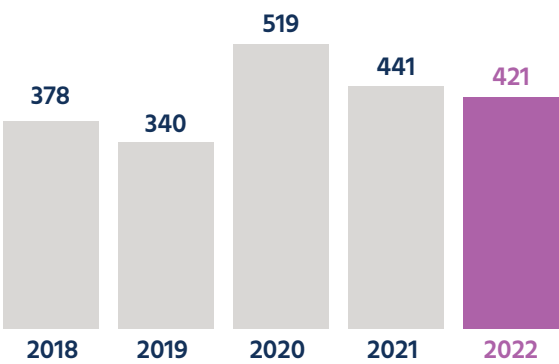
Clinical Trials

New Patients Enrolled



Ochsner Publications

Peer-Reviewed Publications by Ochsner Staff Authors



Research Accolades

2022 Report Ranks Ochsner Researchers Among Top 2% in the World

Ochsner researchers were recognized among the top 2% in their fields internationally, according to a Stanford University study that ranked researchers based on the impact of their publications. The ranking, considered the most prestigious worldwide, measures academic achievement based on bibliometric information and includes more than 200,000 researchers from more than 10 million scientists considered to be active.

The top-ranked Ochsner researchers are:

Lydia Bazzano, MD, Executive Chair for Institutional Review Board

J.R. Biggio, MD, System Chair, Women's Services, and System Chair, Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Lawrence Blonde, MD, Director, Diabetes Clinical Research Unit

Steven Deitelzweig, MD, System Department Chair of Hospital Medicine and VP of Medical Affairs

Carl "Chip" Lavie, MD, Medical Director of Cardiac Rehabilitation and Prevention

Edward McCoul, MD, Rhinology Specialist

Richard Milani, MD, Chief Clinical Transformation Officer

George Pankey, MD, Director of Infectious Diseases Research

Eboni Price-Haywood, MD, MPH, FACP, Medical Director at Ochsner-Xavier Institute for Health Equity and Research

Juan Carlos Velez, MD, System Chair, Nephrology

Hector Ventura, MD, Section Head, Heart Failure and Heart Transplant

Christopher White, MD, System Chairman for Cardiovascular Disease and Director, John Ochsner Heart & Vascular Institute



Dr. Henschke is pictured with W. Mark Roberts, MD, MMM, Dean of Research.

CT Lung Cancer Screening Pioneer Receives 37th Annual Alton Ochsner Award

Claudia Henschke, PhD, MD, Director of the Early Lung and Cardiac Action Program (ELCAP) and Professor of Radiology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, in New York, New York, was named the 2022 recipient of the Alton Ochsner Award Relating Smoking and Disease. She introduced low-dose CT screening for lung cancer, the leading cause of cancer deaths worldwide, in 1992—when nobody really believed it would work.

Dr. Henschke partnered with a global community of researchers, known as I-ELCAP, and together they helped screening achieve mainstream acceptance. Her research triggered randomized controlled trials in the United States and five other countries that have validated mortality reductions.

The prestigious award is named after Alton Ochsner, MD, who co-founded Ochsner Health in New Orleans and published the first paper linking smoking and health in 1939. It recognizes scientists who have made major contributions to establishing the relationship between smoking and disease and who have advanced the development of major prevention and treatment modalities.

20th Annual Research Week

Ochsner celebrated 20 years of research excellence during Research Week on May 23–25, 2023. This important annual event has grown through the decades and showcases the exciting and innovative research conducted across the system. Research Week featured special lectures from guest speakers and podium presentations by Ochsner staff.



Barry London, MD, PhD

Professor of Internal Medicine-Cardiovascular Medicine,
University of Iowa Health Care
Potter Lambert Chair in Internal Medicine

*"Search for New Arrhythmia Genes
and Therapies"*

Darrell Crawford, MD, FRACP, FAASLD

Associate Dean and Mayne Professor of Medicine,
The University of Queensland Medical School

"Iron and Fatty Liver Disease: A Toxic Twosome"

Keith C. Ferdinand, MD, FACC, FAHA, FASPC, FNLA

Gerald S. Berenson Endowed Chair in Preventive Cardiology
Professor of Medicine, John W. Deming Department
of Medicine, Tulane University School of Medicine

"Critical Caring: Involvement in Organized Medical Societies"



Hernan Bazan, MD, DFSVS, FACS

Professor of Surgery, Section of Vascular/Endovascular
Surgery, Ochsner Health | John Ochsner Endowed Professor
of Cardiovascular Innovation, Ochsner Health

*"From Vulnerable Plaque to Patient at Risk: Insights
from Treating Acute Carotid-Related Strokes"*

Claudia Henschke, PhD, MD

Director, Early Lung and Cardiac Action Program
Professor of Radiology at the Icahn School of Medicine
at Mount Sinai, New York, New York

*"Pioneering use of Low-Dose CT Scanning for Early Detection
of Lung Cancer and other Smoking-Related Pathologies"*

Paul Perkowski, MD

Associate Professor of Surgery, Vascular and Endovascular
Surgery, Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport

*"Development and Growth of a Research Program in a Busy
Clinical Surgery Department at an Academic Medical Center"*

W. Mark Roberts, MD, MMM

Dean of Research, Ochsner Health

"Ochsner Research Day 20th Year Celebration: A Retrospective"



2023 Best Poster Presentations

There were 100 poster presentations available for viewing in the Riverview Room of the Benson Cancer Center.

PHARMACY

Xinyi (Xena) Huang, PharmD

"Incidence, Risk Factors, and Negative Impact of Post-Liver Transplant Delirium: 5-Year Experience From a Tertiary Transplant Center"

NURSING

Sarah Owens, MSN, RN

"Preventing Inadvertent Loss of Small Volume Infusions"

OCHSNER CLINICAL SCHOOL MEDICAL STUDENT

Jonathan R. Hill, MBA – Medical Student

"The Patellofemoral Osteoarthritis Radiographic Atlas: Development and Reliability of a Standardized Radiographic Grading System"

OCHSNER RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS

Joshua D. Aymond, MD – Resident/Fellow

"Efficacy and Safety of Dual Direct Current Cardioversion Versus Single Direct Current Cardioversion as an Initial Treatment Strategy in Obese Patients With Atrial Fibrillation"

2022 POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW

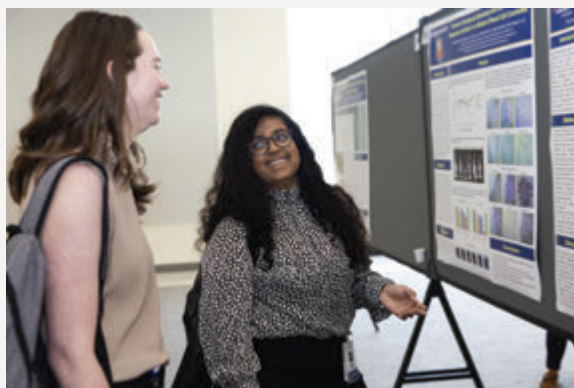
Charles Sisk, MD – Postdoctoral Research

"Adversity and Lack of Access to Emergency Contraception in the Post-Roe/Dobbs Era: Implications for Maternal Morbidity and Mortality"

CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

Kelley Nunez, PhD

"Single-Center Outcomes of First-Cycle Yttrium-90 for Bridge to Liver Transplantation in Hepatocellular Carcinoma Patients"



Research Mentors of the Year 2022

Kathy Jo Carstarphen, MD, MPD, MA – Medical Student Research Mentor

Jennifer Paruch, MD – Resident and Fellow Research Mentor

Eric Coons, PharmD – Clinical Professional Research Mentor



Research Centers of Excellence Updates



CARDIOLOGY

≈1,000

people were enrolled in therapeutic clinical trials through the Cardiology COE as of May 2023 – the most treatment study participants from any COE

159

articles were published by the Cardiology COE in 2022

Nuclear Cardiology Director Receives International Study Subaward

Robert Bober, MD, Director, Nuclear Cardiology and Site Principal Investigator, received a \$340,000 subaward for Ochsner to serve as a core lab for PET images for an international study titled “Evaluation of the Utility of Advanced Visualization 3 Dimensional Models Across Neurosurgical Training in Complex Cerebrovascular Disease; A Randomized Controlled Trial.”

Director of Interventional Research Shares RADIANCE Results

James Stephen Jenkins, MD, FACC, FSCAI, FSVM, Section Head of Interventional and Structural Cardiology and Director of Interventional Cardiology Research, is a contributing author to two articles demonstrating the effect of ultrasound renal denervation in resistant, hypertensive patients. Results from RADIANCE II, for which Ochsner was the number two enroller in the U.S., were published in *JAMA*. Pooled analysis from the RADIANCE SOLO, RADIANCE TRIO and RADIANCE II studies was concurrently published in *JAMA Cardiology*. Ochsner was ranked fourth among 51 sites for enrollment for RADIANCE SOLO/TRIO. Coordinators include **Michael Harrison, Terri Lopez, Angel Penning, Cherie Abadie** and **Shannon Williams**.

Advanced Heart Failure Research Director Receives NIA Subaward

Selim Krim, MD, Director of the Advanced Heart Failure Research Section, Associate Director of the Cardiovascular Diseases Fellowship and Site Principal Investigator, received a National Institute on Aging subaward for a project managed by Wake Forest titled “Physical Rehabilitation for Older Patients with Acute Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction (REHAB-HFpEF).” **Kelly Boudet** and **Emily Socks** will serve as clinical research coordinators and help recruit our goal of 44 participants over five years.

Ochsner Earns Honors as CREST-2 Study Center



W. Charles Sternbergh, MD, Professor and Chief of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, Principal Investigator, and **James Jenkins, MD**, Sub-Principal Investigator, with lead CRC **Shannon Williams**, earned Ochsner seventh place among

140 centers in five countries in the CREST-2 study, an NIH-sponsored randomized prospective multicenter trial designed to evaluate the optimal treatment for asymptomatic high-grade carotid stenosis.

MEDICINE MULTISPECIALTY

Ochsner Leads T2Resistance 510 (k) Study

George Pankey, MD, Director of Infectious Disease Research, was principal investigator for the T2Resistance 510 (k) study with the purpose of assessing a new investigational diagnostic test—the T2Resistance panel—to detect antibiotic resistance genes in patients’ blood samples. This study included 10 investigational sites with a total target enrollment of 1,500 subjects from all sites. Ochsner was the top-enrolling site with 354 patients and the first site to begin enrollment and reach target prior to most other sites opening their enrollment. Dr. Pankey also served on the T2Resistance Study Advisory Board.



NEUROSCIENCES

329

participants enrolled in
53 trials as of May 2023

145%

increase in enrollment
from the previous year

47%

of new trial participants are minorities underrepresented
in research, far exceeding the 31% target

Multiple Sclerosis Researchers Recognized as Top Enroller for Nationwide Study



Bridget Bagert, MD,
Director of the Ochsner
Multiple Sclerosis Center,
Principal Investigator,
and Study Coordinators
Maya Friedman and
Anna Leonard-Leumas, were
recognized as the top enroller

in the country for the Phase III study “A Double-blind, Randomized, Placebo-controlled, Parallel-group Trial of the Efficacy and Safety of Nabiximols Oromucosal Spray as Add-on Therapy in Patients with Spasticity Due to Multiple Sclerosis.”

Ochsner Directors Launch Louisiana Epilepsy Care and Research Consortium



Fawad A. Khan, MD, FACNS, FAHS, Director of the Ochsner Comprehensive Epilepsy Center, and **Nicole Villemarette-Pittman, PhD**, Director of Clinical Research at Ochsner Health, have launched a nonprofit organization to build a society of professionals within

Louisiana that focuses on clinical care and research in the epilepsy community. The inaugural annual conference of the Louisiana Epilepsy Care and Research Consortium, held in February 2023, connected 60 providers from the state with a shared vision to improve clinical care, access to care within the state and patient outcomes.

CAPTIVE PI and CRC Earn NIH Recognitions



As the fourth site to enroll in the CAPTIVA study, **Lauren Dunn, MD**, Vascular Neurologist and Principal Investigator, and Senior CRC **Christina Marchese**, earned a spot on the NIH study’s Principal Investigator and Coordinator

Steering Committees and were recognized in February 2023 as the “Shining Star Site” at the International Stroke Conference’s NIH StrokeNet Reception.

CIRP Grant Awarded to M3D and Biodesign Labs



Korak Sarkar, MD, Director of the m3D Lab, and the Ochsner BioDesign Lab were awarded a 2022 Collaborative Intramural Research Program (CIRP) grant to establish the feasibility of a shared imaging collection and processing platform to create

and produce 3D models in 3D Printing Labs at Ochsner and LSU Health Shreveport.

ONCOLOGY

MD Anderson and Ochsner Health Now Partners in Cancer Care

Ochsner and MD Anderson Cancer Network announced their new affiliation on June 22, 2023. Joining this network of eight partner hospitals provides opportunities for deeper integration with MD Anderson, care standardization across the system and the ability to treat rare and complex cancers. Oncology leadership anticipates increased patient volume as well as expanded access to advanced research studies and clinical trials stemming from the work of scientists and physicians at MD Anderson and the other network partners.

Ochsner Serves as Grail Pathfinder 2 Study Site

Ochsner was a site location for the Grail Pathfinder 2 Study and specifically the Galleri Test, a multicancer early detection test that screens for more than 50 types of cancer through a simple blood draw. The 900th patient was enrolled on May 31, 2023, within the first six months of the trial. Ochsner facilities in Lafayette, Baton Rouge and New Orleans served as study sites.



SURGERY MULTISPECIALTY

Bringing AI to ENT Practice



Otolaryngologist **Ed McCoul, MD, MPH**, and **Jonathan Bidwell, PhD**, Product Manager (Health Informatics), received grant funding from the Eye, Ear, Nose & Throat Foundation to develop the first-ever artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled endoscope. Nasal endoscopy (NE) instruments are used daily by ENT clinicians, but they can be unreliable and imprecise for clinical assessment, surveillance, planning and patient education. By standardizing NE interpretations, these researchers proposed using AI to help expert ENT clinicians overcome human judgment, fatigue, inattention and other cognitive biases. This technology could also enable a broader number of clinicians with less ENT training, such as those working in urgent care, to perform NEs, thereby expanding patient access to care.

Pioneering Pelvic Health Protocols

The clinical research team of Urologist **Colin Goudelocke, MD**, Multispecialty Clinical Research Manager **Maria Latsis**, Research Lab Manager and CRC **Neeti Galwankar**, and CRC **Rachel Graham, RN**, earned the distinction of being the first to perform protocol procedures on two patients at Ochsner Medical Complex – Clearview in Metairie on February 7, 2023. The research procedure was under the PEER 2 protocol (Pelvic

Health Electrically Evoked Recording). The aim of the study is to characterize stimulation-evoked signals in subjects indicated for InterStim™ sacral neuromodulation therapy.

TRANSPLANT

Treatment Investigation Grant Awarded



Ari Cohen, MD, Medical Director of the Multi-Organ Transplant Institute and Section Head of Transplant Surgery, is Principal Investigator for a three-year, investigator-initiated clinical trial funded through Boston Scientific studying the optimal approach to treatment in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma and hypoalbuminemia. The trial launched in February 2023.

Data Acquisition for Biomarker Study Completed

Led by Principal Investigator **Hrishikesh Samant, MD**, Ochsner completed data acquisition for an investigator-initiated research study with Helio Genomics focused on combined molecular and genetic biomarker profiling in early-stage hepatocellular carcinoma. The one-year study aims to define specific gene methylation patterns in cell-free tumor DNA and cross-reference patterns in a 350-patient Ochsner prospective cohort.

WOMEN'S SERVICES

609 participants in clinical trials as of May 2023

21 clinical research studies were published by investigators from the Women's Services COE May 2022 – May 2023

More than a dozen abstracts were presented at national meetings, including the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Annual Pregnancy Meeting and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Annual Clinical & Scientific Meeting



MFMU Network Prospect Study Subsite Designation Extended

Ochsner Health Women's Services COE was extended as a subsite of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Maternal-Fetal Medicine Units (MFMU) Network for an additional seven years in partnership with the University of Alabama at Birmingham. **Sherri Longo, MD**, Section Head of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, is the Ochsner site Principal Investigator, and **Joseph Biggio, MD**, System Chair of Women's Services and Maternal-Fetal Medicine, is the national Principal Investigator/subcommittee chair of the MFMU Prospect Study.

Kenner Head of Women's Services Earns Innovator Award

Veronica Gillispie-Bell, MD, MAS, FACOG, Head of Women's Services at Ochsner Medical Center – Kenner, was recently selected as a Phase 2 awardee for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Hypertension Innovator Award Competition. Dr. Gillispie-Bell received funding for the Ochsner Connected Maternity Online Monitoring (MOM) program, which monitors patients' blood pressure during pregnancy and the postpartum period. The national competition was developed by the HHS Office on Women's Health to identify programs that use innovative methods of blood pressure monitoring and follow-up to care during pregnancy and postpartum, especially for Black patients and those in the rural population.

Center for Outcomes and Health Services Research



Lisa Birdsall Fort, MD, Section Head of Ochsner Baptist Emergency Medicine, spearheaded a project to develop a new approach that predicts overcrowding in emergency departments. ED crowding is an urgent and worsening problem that places increased demands on patients, staff and healthcare systems. ED crowding scores can help health systems respond to high volumes; however, existing scores developed at large academic systems have thus far failed to reflect crowding conditions in more diverse practice scenarios. Dr. Fort and her team modeled data obtained through a retrospective cohort analysis at two ED facilities within Ochsner Health to successfully develop the Ochsner Emergency Department Overcrowding Score (OEDOCS).

This score is now being used at Ochsner to help measure and respond to ED crowding across multiple-sized EDs within our healthcare system. Dr. Fort was a featured speaker at the Healthcare Information and Management Systems HIMSS23 Digital Health Transformation Series, where she discussed OEDOCS, and she also had two presentations accepted at the 2023 AMIA 2023 Annual Symposium (AMIA) Clinical Informatics Conference.

Research Awards

2022–2023 Outstanding Research by Trainees

Six Outstanding Research by Trainees award recipients presented at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation (SSCI). The conference was held in conjunction with the Southern Regional Meetings of the American Federation for Medical Research in New Orleans on February 2–4, 2023. The award encourages high-quality research activity by Ochsner trainees and provides for regional dissemination of their research results.

Katherine Boecking, MD, OB/GYN Resident, Ochsner Health • “Association Between Area Deprivation Index (ADI) And Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Status Among Postpartum Patients”

Wesley Duerson, MD, Internal Medicine Resident, Ochsner Health • “Pregnancy and Prophylactic Red Cell Exchange in Sickle Cell Disease”

Vipin Varghese, MD, Internal Medicine Resident, Ochsner Health • “Urinary Sediment Microscopy in Patients With End-Stage Liver Disease With Acute Kidney Injury as a Diagnostic Tool”

Michael Duggan, MD, 2022 graduate of the Ochsner Clinical School within the UQ Medical School • “Fitz-Hugh-Curtis Syndrome: The Importance of a Sexual History in an Adolescent Patient”

Leah Feulner, UQ-Ochsner medical student • “Psychedelics Used in the Treatment and Relief of Symptoms in Anxiety Disorders: A Literature Review”

Charles Sisk, MD, 2022 graduate of the Ochsner Clinical School within the UQ Medical School • “Cross Sectional Evaluation of Availability of Levonorgestrel Emergency Contraception in New Orleans Metropolitan Pharmacies”

2023 Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

Seven UQ-Ochsner graduates received postdoctoral research fellowships for 2023 and worked with their mentors from January to May on research projects.

Lauren Cohen, MD • Mentor: **Juan Carlos Velez, MD**, “Urinary Sediment Biomarkers for Diagnosis of Acute Tubular Necrosis”

Rohan Krishnan, MD • Mentor: **Yashar Eshraghi, MD**, “Immersive Virtual Reality Therapy – An Acute Therapeutic Option for Chronic Pain Patients”

Peter Liao, MD • Mentor: **George Fuhrman, MD**, “Investigating Outcomes of Acute Care Surgery Patients Left in Gastrointestinal Discontinuity”

Rohit Rajendran, MD • Mentor: **Kathy Jo Carstarphen, MD**, “Telehealth Literacy Screening Tool (TLST) Validation Study”

Michael Schneider, MD • Mentors: **Ari Cohen, MD**, and **Paul Thevenot, PhD**, “Hepatocellular Carcinoma Surveillance Biomarkers AFP-L3 and DCP in the Context of Current AFP Biomarker Utilization in Bridge to Transplant”

Charles Sisk, MD • Mentor: **Frank Williams, MD**, “Adversity and Lack of Access to Emergency Contraception in the Post-Roe/Dobbs Era: Implications for Maternal Morbidity and Mortality”

Abdul Zia, MD • Mentor: **Evan Dvorin, MD**, “A Shot in the Dark: A Multifaceted Intervention to Reduce Inappropriate Corticosteroid Shot Injections and Prescribing in the Primary Care Setting”



2023 Postdoctoral Research Fellows (left to right): Peter Liao, Charles Sisk, Rohan Krishnan, Michael Schneider, Rohit Rajendran and Lauren Cohen. (Not pictured: Abdul Zia)

Research Pipeline Programs

New Clinical Research Apprenticeship Program Graduates First Class

The inaugural class of the Clinical Research Coordinator Apprenticeship program graduated on May 12, 2023. The six individuals, selected from 38 applicants, were the first to complete the new training program designed to bring qualified candidates to important clinical research roles at Ochsner. Apprentices also completed an exam to earn their NIH Clinical Research Curriculum Certificate. The apprenticeship program consists of rotations through Ochsner's Clinical Research Centers of Excellence as well as core research functions including central regulatory, biorepository, translational labs, finance, QA and the Institutional Review Board (IRB).



2022–2023 CRC Apprenticeship graduates (left to right): Ahian Medina, Ky Pecord, Mia Gobert, Amanda Hayden, Kate White and Dee Nichols.

2023 CURE Summer Internship Marks Five Years

The Collaborative Undergraduate Research Experience (CURE) welcomed its fifth class of interns to Ochsner from May 22–June 30, 2023. CURE was launched in 2017 by **Kevin Conrad, MD**, a senior physician in hospital medicine and Medical Director of Community Affairs and Health Policy at Ochsner. This summer research internship, offered in partnership with the University of New Orleans, allows undergraduate students to work on specific research projects alongside physicians, PhD-level scientists and experienced lab staff in medical research facilities at Ochsner.



2023 CURE interns (left to right): Steven Johnson, PhD, UNO Dean, College of Sciences; An Bui; Karenisha Jackson; Leen Seder; An Vu; Danielle Poussard; and Kevin Conrad, MD, MBA, SFHM, CURE Physician Sponsor.

Ochsner Publications

These selected Ochsner-affiliated publications from the past academic year reflect various medical specialties and clinical interests of our physicians and research scientists. This selection is based on the prestige of the journal, the power of the study, the number of Ochsner authors per study, and/or an Ochsner physician-researcher's status as first author. The citations below omit any non-Ochsner-affiliated authors and contributors.

Mark Effron, MD

"Comparison of the Effectiveness and Safety of 2 Aspirin Doses in Secondary Prevention of Cardiovascular Outcomes in Patients With Chronic Kidney Disease: A Subgroup Analysis of ADAPTABLE."

American Heart Journal. 2023 Jun 7;264:31-39.

Selim Krim, MD

"Hemodynamic-Guided Heart Failure Management in Patients With Either Prior HF Hospitalization or Elevated Natriuretic Peptides."

JACC: Heart Failure. 2023 Jun;11(6):691-698.

Lawrence Blonde, MD

"American Association of Clinical Endocrinology Consensus Statement: Comprehensive Type 2 Diabetes Management Algorithm – 2023 Update."

Endocrine Practice. 2023 May;29(5):305-340.

Caitlin Taylor, MD

"Using Oncotype DX Breast Recurrence Score® Assay to Define the Role of Neoadjuvant Endocrine Therapy in Early-Stage Hormone Receptor-Positive Breast Cancer."

Breast Cancer Research and Treatment. 2023 May;199(1):91-98.

James Stephen Jenkins, MD

"Endovascular Ultrasound Renal Denervation to Treat Hypertension: The RADIANCE II Randomized Clinical Trial."

JAMA: Journal of the American Medical Association. 2023 Feb 28;329(8):651-661.

Carl J. Lavie, MD

"Challenges in Cardiovascular Evaluation and Management of Obese Patients: JACC State-of-the-Art Review."

JACC: Journal of the American College of Cardiology. 2023 Feb 7;81(5):490-504.

Steven Deitelzweig, MD

"Delaying Clinical Events Among Patients With Non-Valvular Atrial Fibrillation Treated With Oral Anticoagulants: Insights from the ARISTOPHANES Study."

European Journal of Internal Medicine. 2023 Feb; 108:37-42.

Daniel Morin, MD

"Randomized Clinical Trial to Evaluate an Atrial Fibrillation Stroke Prevention Shared Decision-Making Pathway."

Journal of the American Heart Association. 2023 Feb 7;12(3):e028562.

Christopher White, MD

"Surgery or Endovascular Therapy for Chronic Limb-Threatening Ischemia."

New England Journal of Medicine. 2022 Dec 22;387(25):2305-2316.

Benjamin Brown, MD

"Vagus Nerve Stimulation Paired With Rehabilitation for Upper Limb Motor Impairment and Function After Chronic Ischemic Stroke: Subgroup Analysis of the Randomized, Blinded, Pivotal, VNS-REHAB Device Trial."

Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair. 2023 Jun;37(6):367-373.

Swetha Rani Kanduri, MD, Juan Carlos Velez, MD

“Acute Kidney Injury in Patients With Liver Disease.”

Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology.

2022 Nov;17(11):1674-1684.

**Richard Milani, MD, Eboni Price-Haywood, MD,
Jeffrey Burton, PhD, Jonathan Wilt, BS, Jonathan Entwisle, BS,
Carl J. Lavie, MD**

“Racial Differences and Social Determinants of Health in
Achieving Hypertension Control.”

Mayo Clinic Proceedings. 2022 Aug;97(8):1462-1471.

**Heather Green Matrana, MS, Mariella Gastanaduy, PhD,
William Forrest Johnston, MD, Herschel Vargas, MD,
Brian Kann, MD, Charles Whitlow, MD, Jennifer Paruch, MD**

“Liposomal Bupivacaine Transversus Abdominis Plane Blocks
in Laparoscopic Colorectal Resections: A Single-Institution
Randomized Controlled Trial.”

Diseases of the Colon & Rectum. 2023 Feb 1;66(2):322-330.

Maged Guirguis, MD

“Cooled Radiofrequency Ablation of Genicular Nerves Provides
24-Month Durability in the Management of Osteoarthritic Knee
Pain: Outcomes from a Prospective, Multicenter, Randomized Trial.”

Pain Practice. 2022 Jul;22(6):571-581.

Derek Vonderhaar, MD

“Effect of Fluid Bolus Administration on Cardiovascular
Collapse Among Critically Ill Patients Undergoing Tracheal
Intubation: A Randomized Clinical Trial.”

JAMA: Journal of the American Medical Association.

2022 Jul 19;328(3):270-279.

Marc Matrana, MD

“Telaglenastat Plus Everolimus in Advanced Renal
Cell Carcinoma: A Randomized, Double-Blinded,
Placebo-Controlled, Phase II ENTRATA Trial.”

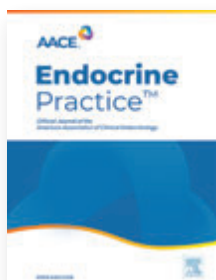
Clinical Cancer Research. 2022 Aug 2;28(15):3248-3255.

Sherri Longo, MD

“Skin Preparation Type and Post-Cesarean Infection
With Use of Adjunctive Azithromycin Prophylaxis.”

The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine.

2022 Jul;35(14):2690-2694.





Educating Healthcare Professionals. Researching to Improve Quality Care.

Our mission to provide exceptional patient care throughout the region cannot be accomplished alone. Your support allows us to grow a robust pipeline of high-quality providers through outreach, training programs, medical education, residencies and fellowships—and funds critical research with the potential to transform and save lives. Your partnership is essential to creating a more equitable, accessible care experience in our communities and to ensuring the best possible health outcomes.

To support our efforts by giving to Ochsner Academics, visit ochsner.org/giving



Ochsner Center for Academic Excellence
1401A Jefferson Highway
New Orleans, LA 70121

research.ochsner.org
education.ochsner.org

© 2023 Ochsner Health