The John Ochsner Heart & Vascular Institute

Named after nationally renowned heart surgeon Dr. John Ochsner, the John Ochsner Heart and Vascular Institute (JOHVI) is a comprehensive cardiac and vascular tertiary care center with multiple locations, making it convenient to connect the communities we serve to the excellent quality care they need.

JOHVI is home to more than 50 cardiologists representing a continuum of care unmatched in the Gulf Coast region. In fact, people from all over the world come to Ochsner for heart care. Ochsner has completed more than 1,000 heart transplants and over 830 non-surgical aortic valve replacement (TAVR) procedures. We are the largest comprehensive center for management of arrhythmias in the Gulf South with over 2,600 procedures performed a year.

Through ongoing research initiatives, physician training programs and clinical trials, JOHVI continues to set the standard for diagnosis and treatment of heart disease. We serve as a destination center for patients across the Gulf South with complex cardiac diseases and as a resource for patients who have been told there are no other options available to treat their heart and vascular condition.
MISSION
We Serve, Heal, Lead, Educate and Innovate.

VISION
Ochsner will be a global medical and academic leader who will change and save lives. We will shape the future of healthcare through our integrated health system, fueled by the passion and strength of our diversified team of physicians and employees.
2019

TOP FUNDS by Dollars Raised

1. Cardiology Red Tie Affair
2. William A. Oliver Cardiology Fund
3. John Ochsner Tribute Fund

$812,113
Dollars Donated to 31 JOHVI Funds

1,114
Gifts to Cardiology Funds

947
Donors like you

312
New donors

Endowment created to honor the late Dr. John Ochsner
667 Donors like you

195 New donors

$1,586,375 Dollars Donated to 37 JOHVI Funds

873 Gifts to Cardiology Funds

100+ Donors gave two or more gifts in 2020

TOP FUNDS by Dollars Raised

1 JOHVI Research
2 Cardiology Red Tie Affair
3 Interventional Cardiology Fund
COVID-19 RELIEF UPDATE

Over the course of 2020, Ochsner Cardiologists and their teams took on a tremendous and inspiring role in tackling the COVID-19 crisis. At the height of the global pandemic, Ochsner cardiology staff, physicians, fellows, surgeons and other providers worked 24/7 to fully support an entire COVID Intensive Care Unit. The Cardiology Staff provided direct support and staffing to the critical care physicians and unit. Together with our nurses they worked tirelessly to provide excellent care to all COVID patients.

Gifts to support the Employee Assistance Fund during the COVID-19 Pandemic have provided crucial support and timely resources. The Employee Assistance Fund provides financial assistance for Ochsner employees directly impacted by COVID-19 and exists to provide financial grants to the employees who are our frontline workers and have put their lives on hold to protect ours and those in our communities. The fund is used to support employees across our system during times of intense need. Your support ensures that resources are always there when our frontline employees need it most. In 2020, the Employee Assistance funds provided support to 341 employees across Ochsner Health, providing support for hurricane relief, unexpected COVID-19 crises and childcare in addition to temporary financial disasters.

The Pandemic Response Research Fund was used for the Seroprevalance COVID trial conducted by Amy Freehan, PhD, in Baton Rouge. Using a novel recruitment method and paired molecular and antibody testing for severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2 infection, her study determined seroprevalence in a racially diverse municipality in Louisiana. Infections were highly variable by zip code and differed by race/ethnicity. Overall census-weighted seroprevalence was 6.9 percent, and the calculated infection fatality ratio was 1.61 percent.
YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION

Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, Dr. Chip Lavie authored and published 45 COVID-related papers. His first two papers – published within the first month of COVID cases in the United States – were referenced more than 750 times in various publications, news outlets and by other healthcare providers.

His largest paper on the topic, Obesity and Outcomes in COVID-19: When an Epidemic and Pandemic Collide, received national and international recognition when published in the Mayo Clinic Proceedings. This paper provided the evidence for clinicians to more aggressively treat and monitor obese, especially severely obese, patients diagnosed with COVID-19. Your support for the Cardiac Rehab CCU Education Fund enables Dr. Lavie to continue his academic and research efforts, as well as publish and promote his findings on a national level.

Cardiology team (above) and fellows (below) providing direct support and staffing for COVID-19 patients.

Chip Lavie, MD
Each year, we invite patients to write a note of appreciation to their physicians in honor of National Doctors’ Day, March 30. Doctors Day is an opportunity to say thank you to our physicians for their dedication and contributions to society and the community. All gifts in honor of physicians go to Ochsner’s Excellence Fund. The Excellence Fund is entirely supported by the generosity of donors.

Annually, teams throughout Ochsner submit applications and a committee selects projects to receive support from the fund. These projects create opportunities for improvements and innovations in patient care that are changing and saving lives every day. Since 2013, 224 projects have been made possible by donors like you!

Some examples of cardiology projects funded by the Excellence Fund are a digital medicine ambulatory blood pressure monitoring program, electronic monitoring with automated, real-time reporting for high-risk infants with single-ventricle congenital heart disease and adding an echo table to reduce patient discomfort during echocardiograms. All of these projects were made possible through the generosity of donors like you. To learn more about the Excellence Fund, please visit ochsner.org/excellencefund.

2019 Cardiology Excellence Fund Project

The echocardiography project was awarded $25,000 to reduce the number of patients that undergo a second stress test or angiogram by adding the left ventricular global longitudinal strain at peak stress to improve test performance and patient care and reduce costs.

2020 Cardiology Excellence Fund Project

Keeping the Beat Going: Using Simulation to Train Pacemaker Placement was awarded $24,977 to bring pacemaker simulation training software to the Sim Center at Ochsner.
Nursing Innovation Fund

It goes without saying that nurses go above and beyond every day to provide patients with quality and compassionate care. In January 2020, the World Health Organization named 2020 the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife. Throughout 2020, nurses around the world stepped up to the frontline to help combat COVID-19 in our communities, and they continue to do so today.

Your gifts to the Nursing Innovation Fund support our nurses by providing additional training, professional development, recognition and more. There is no better way to honor and acknowledge the skill, commitment and compassion of nurses who have worked tirelessly to help keep our communities in good health. Thank you for your kindness and support.

Healthy State

Ochsner leaders, physicians and researchers have spent years analyzing health factors and disparities to identify the greatest needs across the region. Based on this data, a strategy was developed and will be implemented over the next 10 years to improve health and reach the vision of ranking 40 by 2030. This 10-year commitment includes an initial investment of $100 million during the next five years. Your gifts will support investment in projects that eliminate barriers to healthcare; bring resources into underserved, urban and rural communities; collaborate with partners to research and better understand health disparities; utilize technology and innovation to improve outcomes and invest in Louisiana’s next generation of healthcare providers and frontline staff.

“At Ochsner, our team is made up a group of passionate clinicians with an unwavering commitment to each and every patient. Our team provides the highest level of expertise and heart care in the Louisiana and the Gulf Coast. It is together that have the opportunity to change and save the lives of heart patients each and every day.”

Dr. Sammy Khatib
Second Annual Red Tie Affair

The Second Annual Red Tie Affair was held on Friday February 8, 2019 at the Ritz Carlton, New Orleans. The event raised funds in support of the John Ochsner, MD, Tribute Fund to support cardiovascular patients at programs at the John Ochsner Heart and Vascular Institute.

This lovely celebration of cardiac care in the Gulf South featured food, fun and moving presentations from patients, physicians and donors. At the event, the John Ochsner Heart and Vascular Award of Excellence was presented to Dr. Carl "Chip" Lavie.

Gallagher was the presenting sponsor in 2019.

John Ochsner Award Recipient
CARL J. LAVIE, JR., M.D., FACC, FACP, FCCP

Dr. Lavie attended medical school at LSUMC in New Orleans and did his Internal Medicine training at Ochsner and cardiology at the Mayo Clinic. He is currently Professor of Medicine and Medical Director of Cardiac Rehabilitation and Prevention and Director of the Exercise Laboratories at the John Ochsner Heart and Vascular Institute, Ochsner Clinical School-The University of Queensland School of Medicine in New Orleans.

He has authored more than 1,000 medical publications and two cardiology textbooks. He serves on 40 editorial boards, including the Journal of the American College of Cardiology and the American Journal of Cardiology, and is Associate Editor and Cardiovascular Section Editor of the Mayo Clinic Proceedings. He is also Editor-in Chief of Progress in Cardiovascular Diseases and is the author of the book The Obesity Paradox. Research topics he is passionate about: Obesity and Obesity Paradox; Physical Activity, Exercise, and Sedentary Behavior; Cardiac Rehabilitation; Psychological Cardiac Risk Factors; Physical Fitness Aerobic and Muscular; Hypertension and Cardiac Hypertrophy.
Third Annual Red Tie Affair

On board the Riverboat Louis Armstrong, Ochsner celebrated our third annual Red Tie Affair on Friday, March 6th. The 2020 Red Tie Affair was presented by Gallagher and chaired by Mrs. Gina Khatib. Longtime friends of the late Dr. John Ochsner, Walda and Sydney Besthoff, served as honorary chairs of the event. The John Ochsner Heart and Vascular Award of Excellence was presented to Dr. Hector Ventura for his many contributions to the cardiology program at Ochsner. The award was presented by Cardiology Chairman, Dr. Chris White, and Ochsner President & CEO, Warner Thomas, while many of Dr. Ventura’s patients, family members, colleagues, and friends cheered in appreciation.

The evening celebrated a major Ochsner milestone, our 1,000th heart transplant. Mr. Devine King, the 1,000th Heart Transplant recipient, seated with his physicians, care team, and family, shared words of gratitude for Ochsner during the event.

Raising more than $360,000, the third annual Red Tie Affair benefited patients and programs at the John Ochsner Heart and Vascular Institute. The event featured a special "Mission Moment" raising more than $120,000 for cardiology patient assistance funds.

The event concluded with Dr. Ventura, performing “Somewhere over the Rainbow,” in honor of his 91 year old mother, Nelida Ventura, who was in attendance from Argentina to watch her son receive the John Ochsner Heart and Vascular Award of Excellence.

John Ochsner Award Recipient
HECTOR VENTURA, M.D., FACC, FACP

Dr. Ventura attended medical school at National University of Buenos Aires School of Medicine and did his Internal Medicine training at Ochsner and Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship at Ochsner. He is currently Section Head, Advanced Heart Failure/Heart Transplant at the John Ochsner Heart and Vascular Institute and Professor of Medicine, Ochsner Clinical School-The University of Queensland School of Medicine in New Orleans. He has served two terms as Program Director of the Cardiology Training Program. He is the past Governor of the Louisiana Chapter of the American College of Cardiology. Additionally, he is the President of The Ochsner Alumni Association. He is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology, American Heart Association and Heart Failure Society of America. He has co-authored more than 600 articles, abstracts and book chapters and serves on 21 editorial boards, including the Journal of the American College of Cardiology and the American Journal of Cardiology, and is Associate Editor of Journal of the American College of Cardiology: Heart Failure. He is also Editor-in-Chief of Current Problems in Cardiology. He is the chair of Awards Committee of the American College of Cardiology and he is the co-chair of the International Committee of the American College of Cardiology.
In 2020, the Bush Family of Laurel, Mississippi, donated funds to start the **Cardiology Community Outreach Fund** at Ochsner. The first community outreach project, Teach A Girl: Blood Pressure (TAG:BP) is a unique initiative that targets middle-school aged girls by educating them cardiovascular disease, their heart health and lifestyle changes they can implement to influence friends and family towards better heart health. Ochsner has partnered with local Girl Scout troops and K-12 professionals in the greater New Orleans Area to create and pilot the program.

TAG: BP educates through hands-on demonstrations and science experiments in which the girls earn badges. This is a unique initiative to teach young girls aged 9-11.

Dr. Patrick Breaux, along with Ochsner physicians and cardiology fellows and residents spearheaded the planning and creation of the program.

**Q&A WITH SHIRLEY AND JAMES WRAY BUSH**

**WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO GIVE TO OCHSNER?**

We love Ochsner. And we want to give back to an organization that has given us so much. We are so grateful to support Ochsner – it is a wonderful organization.

**TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR CONNECTION TO OCHSNER.**

James Wray: We have been Ochsner patients for some time. But, we really found special connection with Dr. Breaux. He knew something was awry – and he was relentless about figuring out what it was. He set me up with specialist after specialist – personally checking in on each test with each doctor– until we found the pancreatic cancer. He went above and beyond to make sure everything was in line. He didn’t let up. I credit him with saving my life.

**WHY IS SUPPORTING COMMUNITY OUTREACH WITH THE CARDIOLOGY DEPARTMENT SO IMPORTANT?**

Shirley and I realize the importance of creating a healthy community through education. In our community in Laurel we see...
Your support to our Digital Medicine funds provide the necessary access and technology for all patients to participate in these programs. Richard Milani, MD has been working on strategies and tools for care delivery and improvement both inside and outside the walls of the hospital. As a cardiologist with deep expertise in medical informatics, he has worked tirelessly to improve the health of all patients. Together with CEO of Innovation Ochsner Aimee Quirk, they have harnessed this expertise to create innovative ways to deliver care. Your support to Digital Medicine funds allows Dr. Milani to pilot new projects and ideas each year.

Digital Medicine is a nationally recognized, clinically-proven program revolutionizing how we treat chronic conditions combining digital tools and engagement with a dedicated care team.

Digital Medicine has been proven to be successful at better managing chronic conditions than traditional models of care. Compared with 26 percent of patients receiving usual care, 79 percent of Digital Medicine for hypertension patients achieved their blood pressure goal in six months. Similarly, 81 percent of Digital Medicine for diabetes patients achieved their A1C goal after six months versus 62 percent of usual care patients, and patients experienced a 36 percent drop in instances of diabetes distress after six months in the program.
Ochsner’s **Cardiology Department Fund** addresses the immediate and critical needs of our heart patients and cardiology programs. With your support to this fund, we are able to provide the highest level of compassionate care to all patients while furthering the treatment of heart disease. This fund supports initiatives and ideas that fulfill and advance the mission of the John Ochsner Heart and Vascular Institute.

Your gifts to the Cardiology Department provide crucial support for equipment and infrastructure. Thanks you your generosity, we will update and expand the cardiology administrative offices and physician spaces.

This project will bring spaces up to code in light of COVID, including removing old carpeting and installing barriers.

In addition, we were able to gain accreditation from the Pulmonary Hypertension Association as a Pulmonary Hypertension Cancer Center in 2020. The Pulmonary Hypertension Association’s Scientific Leadership Council, 28 global leaders in the field of pulmonary hypertension, have spearheaded the PHA-Accredited PH Care Centers (PHCC) initiative to establish a program for accreditation of centers with special expertise in pulmonary hypertension (PH), particularly pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), to raise the overall quality of care and outcomes in patients with this life-threatening disease. Once considered rapidly fatal, PAH can now be treated with many medications, all developed in just the past two decades. Despite medical advances, the median time from onset of symptoms to PAH diagnosis is still 1.1 years, and many patients will see three or more different physicians over this period before they are properly diagnosed. Since early 2011, PHA’s Scientific Leadership Council has developed the PHCC initiative to assure outstanding care in pulmonary hypertension.

An O Bar team member helping a patient with their digital medicine equipment.

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**WE SERVE**

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The Ochsner Clinic Foundation is committed to the tradition and importance of endowed scholars in recognizing and fostering excellence in innovative patient care among its physicians and scientists. Because of your generosity, we are honoring the legacy of Dr. John Ochsner and his commitment to impacting patient care by creating a Distinguished Scholar in Cardiovascular Innovation position in his name: the John Ochsner Scholar.

Over the past years, your gifts to the John Ochsner Tribute Fund allowed Ochsner to create a robust endowment in his honor. Income generated from this endowment will provide support to protect physician time and/or support innovation/research expenses dedicated to developing innovation in clinical care, research, or education of physicians. Because of your generosity, the John Ochsner Distinguished Scholar ensures that the legacy of our friend and renowned physician, Dr. John Ochsner, will continue into perpetuity.

Just as Dr. Ochsner did over his long and substantial career, the selected scholar will enrich patient care and programs within the John Ochsner Heart and Vascular Institute. The John Ochsner Scholar will be selected based upon the scientific merit, potential impact, innovation, relevance, and feasibility of their proposed project. The Scholar will hold the position for five years and will be selected by an internal committee of academic and cardiovascular leaders within Ochsner.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, selection of this scholar has been delayed until early 2021. We look forward to sharing the selected John Ochsner Scholar and report on his/her progress and impact on the John Ochsner Heart and Vascular Institute through patient care, research, physician education, and/or community engagement.
Ochsner is committed to providing financial assistance to those patients who need it most. Consistent with our mission to deliver compassionate, high quality, affordable healthcare services, Ochsner strives to ensure that all patients who need healthcare services but do not have the means are not prevented from seeking or receiving care. The majority of our patient assistance funds support the indirect costs that are associated with a medical diagnosis, chronic illness, or surgical procedure. Support has ranged from transportation to and from clinic, Walmart gift cards, food vouchers, and overnight stays on campus.

“Unfortunately our heart transplant patients often experience financial and personal difficulties in their journey—often at the scariest moment of their life. Your philanthropic support helps our patients through their trials and tribulations: may it be losing their home and possessions in a fire while awaiting a heart transplant or needing assistance to get to medical appointments after job loss due to their medical condition. Their gratitude...my gratitude...my team’s gratitude...goes out to you in fullness. Thank you for your generosity and love for our heart transplant patients at Ochsner.”

Brittany Lisi, RN LVAD Coordinator
PATIENT ASSISTANCE FUNDS
- Dr. Cliff Van Meter LVAD Patient Assistance Fund
- Pulmonary Hypertension Patient Assistance Fund
- Harold Newman Heart Transplant Patient Assistance Fund
- Seal Heart Transplant Patient Assistance Fund

PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION
A cancer patient who has new metastatic disease and is undergoing chemotherapy at Ochsner and her son who had a heart transplant and is currently on the list for re-transplant recently lost their home and all of their belongings to a fire. Your generosity toward the patient assistance funds at Ochsner provided much needed support for this family during devastating hardships.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT FUND
In 2020, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Williams established the Caregiver Support Fund for heart transplant and surgery patients at the John Ochsner Heart and Vascular Institute. This gift will allow Ochsner to develop a robust support program and provide educational resources and programmatic support to cardiology patients and their caregivers.

Why We Give
Gwen and Charles Williams
“I believe it’s important to give because we are called to give and serve others, and anyone benefiting from the sacrifice of others should be willing to continue passing along a helping hand, whether financially, physically, or otherwise.”

Dr. Charles Williams
BENSON CENTER FOR STRUCTURAL HEART

Over the years, Ochsner has increased programs and services to meet the needs of our heart patients. With some of the most skilled and experienced cardiologists and surgeons, Ochsner has built a structural heart and valve replacement center that allows many of those patients to seek care close to home. Your generosity has provided our award-winning and nationally ranked structural heart team with the funds needed to bring talent, experience and innovation to our structural heart and valve program. Now, we are able to treat patients with complex native heart valve disease, artificial valvular heart disease and structural heart disease in a safe, comforting environment. The multi-disciplinary team at the Benson Structural Heart and Valve Center routinely performs a higher than average volume of both traditional and minimally invasive procedures, including transcatheter aortic valve replacements (TAVR). This procedure is extending the lives of more and more intermediate and high-risk patients who aren’t candidates for open-heart surgery. We now do more than 200 TAVR procedures each year. Your investment has allowed Ochsner to increase the number of patients we can care for, while shortening the wait time for these life-saving procedures and evaluations.

In 2020, our clinic renovations and updates were complete. The patient waiting area has been renovated. Our patients wait in an inviting, comfortable and more intimate setting, where they can also learn about Ochsner’s latest advances in fighting heart disease. Additionally, your investment allowed Ochsner the flexibility to adapt waiting area during the COVID-19 crisis, providing a safe and socially distanced area for our patients and their families to wait for clinical appointments and procedures. We have doubled our patient rooms to 20 new rooms that will shorten the wait times for outpatient evaluations. Clinical rooms have been renovated and outfitted with the new technologies and safety features.

In 2021, we plan to complete renovations and updates to the Catheter Lab, providing our team of physicians and nurses the most state-of-the-art technology and innovation. When it is safe to gather again, we hope to have a Grand Opening of the Benson Structural Heart and Vascular Institute in 2021.
PATIENT UPDATE: GLADYS B.

I turn 95 this year, August 16. I look at everything as a blessing – I can dress myself, bathe myself, cook for myself -- I can do everything I want to do! Sometimes I feel stronger and healthier than my daughter – and she is 63!

I wouldn’t be here without Dr. Ramee. I always tell him that. Good doctor and I advise anybody that has heart troubles or something the matter with their heart, Ramee is the one for them! My heart is still going strong.

It’s a beautiful life when you can wake up in the morning and feel good. After my surgery with Dr. Ramee, I have a renewed look on life. He did me a lot of good. Before I had surgery I would wake up and couldn’t catch my breath or walk. A lot of things I couldn’t do. I enjoy life to the fullest.

I try to inspire and help people to live life to the fullest – because that’s where blessings come from. I inspire people younger and older than me. My life has been wonderful since I got a new heart. I am so happy to inspire other people that are younger and older than me. Get out and be happy!

Your gift helps advance innovative treatment, patient care and hope to those in need. I Thank you for your generosity!

“Each case is unique. Our goal is to find the right treatment for each patient to minimize their risks and improve their quality of life.”

Dr. Stephen Ramee
WE LEAD

ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY

Because of philanthropic support to the AFib Center of Excellence in recent years, the Electrophysiology (EP) program at Ochsner was able to reach a major milestone!

Throughout 2019 and 2020, EP nursing leaders - Stacey Maheu BSN, RN (Manager, Cath Lab/EP Lab), Sheila Mire, RN (Supervisor, EP) and Monique Harlton, RN – diligently led the department and staff in pursuing ACC Accreditation for the Electrophysiology Program/Lab at Ochsner. The ACC Electrophysiology (EP) v1 Accreditation is an operational model that merges the latest science and process improvement methodologies within the Electrophysiology lab. EP v1 is the result of diligent work by leading electrophysiologists in top EP programs, ensuring the incorporation of the most recent guidelines and expert consensus statements by recognized professional organizations while ensuring clinical quality and other metrics are consistently met. Because of your support, we have achieved accreditation – allowing Ochsner to be the largest and most comprehensive center for the management of arrhythmias in the region.

In the coming years, Afib Center of Excellence Funds will be used to implement EP Academy for the EP Nurses and Technologists. EP Academy is an online program that prepares clinical staff for a valuable certification milestone in Electrophysiology – ultimately, providing a stronger and more skilled EP team. Ochsner has crafted a 3-year educational track that will prepare clinical staff for the certification exam, allowing for advancement in this demanding, fast-paced career. At the point of certification, nursing staff and Technologists will have proficiency in EP clinical practice, eligible for promotions and increase in base pay!

“The certification is a great marketing angle for recruitment, but the knowledge that our staff have now and will have after completing EP Academy will greatly increase engagement, retention and confidence for the department. Our physicians rely on the staff to assist with the diagnosis and treatment of complex arrhythmias. EP Academy is the tool we will use to empower and educate staff. We are VERY excited for the future EP Lab!”

Stacey Maheu BSN, RN Manager, Cath Lab/EP Lab
**HEART FAILURE AND TRANSPLANT**

Nearly 50 years after performing the first heart transplant in the Gulf South, Ochsner Health has successfully completed its 1,000th heart transplant on Mr. Devine King, pictured right with Dr. Ventura.

Led by Aditya Bansal, MD, Ochsner Surgical Director of Heart Transplant, Mechanical Circulatory Support and ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation) and Hamang Patel, MD, Ochsner Medical Director of Heart Transplant, the case took more than 10 hours to perform.

Strong coordination of care before, during and after surgery included some of Ochsner’s most highly skilled professionals in cardiology, heart failure, transplant, surgery, perfusion, operating room, intensive care and nursing from JOHVI and the Ochsner Multi Organ Transplant Institute.

“Receiving a heart transplant is a rare and lifesaving gift. It’s humbling to think of how many lives our heart transplant program has impacted over the last fifty years. We are incredibly thankful to all the donors and their families who have contributed to making this possible,” said Patrick E. Parrino, MD, FACS, Chief, Section of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, Ochsner Health System.

“Reaching this milestone is a testament to the legacy of the late Dr. John L. Ochsner, Sr. who pioneered heart valve and coronary bypass surgery. We are so proud of our team’s relentless spirit and dedication to seeking innovative solutions for patients and improving their quality of life – not just today, but for years to come,”

Hector O. Ventura, MD
Section Head, Cardiomyopathy & Heart Transplantation, John Ochsner Heart and Vascular Institute

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Dr. John Ochsner performed the first heart transplant in Louisiana on Jan. 8, 1970. The recipient was William Taylor, age 52. Dr. Ochsner and a team of six other physicians performed the three-hour operation at Ochsner Foundation Hospital, now called Ochsner Medical Center, on Jefferson Highway. It was the 150th heart transplant in history, and the 92nd in the United States, The Associated Press reported. A week after his surgery, Mr. Taylor was “chatty” and told his doctors he was glad to be alive, The New Orleans States-Item reported.
“Educating the next generation of cardiologists is fundamental to the practice of medicine and a crucial component of our mission at the John Ochsner Heart and Vascular Institute. Because of your support, we have designed a robust program with a long tradition of developing outstanding clinicians and teachers”

Dr. Hector Ventura
Outgoing Program Director, Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship is a three-year training program in cardiovascular disease. With your philanthropic support, our cardiology fellows have the opportunity to learn from the best and most renowned physicians in the field of cardiology. Fellows receive a comprehensive and balanced training experience that help fellows learn to manage the high complexity-high volume patient base we have as a tertiary referral center, accredited LVAD/heart transplant center, Electrophysiology Center, and regional center of excellence in Interventional Cardiology. In recent years, this highly coveted and competitive cardiology fellowship has received more than 550 applications for eight yearly fellowship spots.

Beginning in April 2021, DR. JOSE TAFUR SOTO will assume the role of Fellowship Program Director, Cardiovascular Disease Training Program. Dr. Tafur Soto is a 2015 graduate of the Ochsner Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Program. He also completed his Interventional Cardiology Fellowship at Ochsner before joining the staff.

Philanthropic gifts made in support of the Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship support the education and academic pursuits of the fellows. In 2019 and 2020, research and academic presentations
made by each cardiology fellow were 100% funded through philanthropic support.

Because of your generosity, our cardiology fellows have accomplished the following over the past two years:

- 50 Medical Presentations at various conferences (virtual and in-person)
- 100% participation in clinical research at Ochsner
- 25 published papers in multiple medical and scientific journals

COVID RELATED EFFORTS

Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, eight Cardiology Fellows were deployed to work in the COVID-ICU for weekly rotations, assisting critical care physicians and deployed cardiologists. Those fellows not working in the ICU, continued to cover night shifts, emergency consults, the Cardiology Critical Care Unit, and other clinical services, while providing back up should a fellow test positive or fall ill with the virus. Ochsner’s Office of Professional Development provided on site consultations/evaluations to all staff working in COVID units to be certain they were coping with the stress associated covering the COVID-ICU and provide necessary counseling serviced if needed.

INTERVENTIONAL CARDIOLOGY FELLOWSHIP

The Interventional Cardiology Fellowship is a two-year training program that accepts two fellows each year led by DR. RAJ PATEL. As one of the largest academically-accredited interventional coronary and peripheral vascular training programs in the nation, our Interventional Fellows receive training from prestigious leaders in the field. The Ochsner interventional fellowship offers a very unique opportunity to gain experience in all aspects of interventional cardiology, as well as patient management, including attending on the inpatient service and diagnostic and interventional catheterization procedures in both the coronary and peripheral circulation.

In 2019 and 2020, philanthropic support to Interventional Cardiology Fellowship funded the education, travel, and research of these bright fellows. Because of your support, our interventional cardiology fellows presented their research at five conferences and published one medical paper in a major medical journal.

“Without the generosity of our donors, we would not have the opportunity to train eight fellows each year. It doesn’t just make a difference in the trainee’s life, but those of all the patients they serve throughout their career.”

Jose Tafur Soto, MD
WE EDUCATE

CLINICAL CARDIAC ELECTORPHYSIOLOGY FELLOWSHIP

As the largest and most comprehensive center for the management of arrhythmias in the region, Ochsner is the ideal place to receive advanced fellowship training in Electrophysiology. Our one to two year training program led by DR. MICHAEL BERNARD offers each fellow the opportunity to become expert in all aspects of cardiac arrhythmia management. Ochsner admits 2 EP fellows to our program each year.

In 2020, gifts to the Electrophysiology Laboratory Education Fund provided the necessary tools and equipment needed to train and educate our Electrophysiology Fellows. As part of each fellows training and clinical education, they spend much of their time reviewing procedures and cases on laboratory equipment located in the EP lab. The majority of the time, this equipment is actively used in procedures performed by our physicians, leaving our fellows/physicians with limited access to effectively study and review cases. This past year, philanthropic support allowed for the purchase of a read-only clinical and case review software system. This has given our EP fellows the ability to utilize this educational tool each day, for multiple hours a day – ultimately enhancing their ability to properly read and diagnose heart arrhythmias, abnormal heartbeats, and other electrophysiological issues.

Because of your support to the Electrophysiology Fellowship Funds, our EP fellows presented their research at four conferences and published one medical paper in a major medical journal.

HEART FAILURE & TRANSPLANT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

At Ochsner, our Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology Fellowship is designed to provide intensive experience and training in the evaluation and treatment of patients with a wide range of cardiomyopathies including infiltrative cardiomyopathies and Advanced Stage Heart Failure. These fellows are exposed to all areas of heart failure and transplant – both clinical and surgical. Ochsner admits one fellow each year in this program, led by DR. SELIM KRIM.

Because of your support to the Heart Failure and Cardiac Transplant Education Funds, our Heart Failure Fellow was able to present his research at one conference, prior to the global pandemic.
CARDIOLOGY AND CTS EDUCATION

In 2019, this fund was created by Drs. Parrino and White to provide joint educational opportunities for our cardiologists and cardiothoracic surgeons. In line with Ochsner’s multidisciplinary approach to medicine, this fund provides support for both our cardiologists and cardiothoracic surgery to learn together.

In the coming year, the Cardiology and Surgery departments plan to host two educational opportunities for physicians and surgeons.

Gifts to the Interventional Cardiology Fund support activities that contribute to the growth and development of the Section of Interventional Cardiology both programmatically and professionally. In 2020, donations to this fund supported the continuing education of our interventional cardiologists and their fellows at the Emory Practical Intervention Course Southeastern Consortium (EPIC-SEC). The Emory Practical Intervention Course-Southeastern Consortium (EPIC-SEC) is a 3-Day CME course that has provided training for thousands of interventional cardiologists from the United States and abroad since 1981. This year, Ochsner’s Interventional Cardiologists not only attended, but performed two live case demonstrations from Ochsner Medical Center catheterization laboratory during this year’s virtual conference. In light of COVID, this international conference took place virtually. Led by Dr. J. Stephen Jenkins, the live case demonstrations showcased the technique of Carotid Stenting and Left Atrial Appendage Occlusion which are invasive procedures that prevent stroke. Because of your support to this fund, Ochsner provided critical education and live surgical training to 1,600+ interventional cardiologists in 44 states across the US and 50+ countries across the world.

Drs. Tafur, Jenkins, and Ramee performing live surgery as part of Emory Practical Intervention Course Southeastern Consortium in August 2020
Cardiology Research

2019

107
Active Clinical Trials

1,743
Patients in Active Clinical Trials

151
Publications

2020

99
Active Clinical Trials

1,702
Patients in Active Clinical Trials

136
Publications

We will learn as much about heart disease in the next 10 years as we did in the last 100. Through gifts to Ochsner Cardiovascular Research Funds, donors will provide the stability that will make a substantial impact on cardiovascular diseases now and in the future.

OCHSNER RESEARCH ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

In December 2020, the ACC and the American Heart Association (AHA) released an updated Guideline for the Management of Patients With Valvular Heart Disease (VHD) that includes expanded treatment options, recommends fewer invasive interventions, when possible, and stresses the importance of patient involvement in treatment considerations. Research done by Ochsner physicians was utilized and cited in the newly released guidelines - Echocardiographic Assessment of Degenerative Mitral Stenosis: A Diagnostic Challenge of an Emerging Cardiac Disease.

Doctors: Ahmet Afssin Oktay, MD, Yvonne E. Gilliland, MD, Carl J. Lavie, MD, Stephen J. Ramee, MD, Patrick E. Parrino, MD, Michael Bates, MD, Sangeeta Shah, MD, Michael E. Cash, MD, Homeyar Dinshaw, MBBS, and Salima Qamruddin, MD
“Ochsner’s vision for advancing innovative treatments in cardiology is unparalleled. And with recent advances in research and technology, the opportunity to change and save lives has never been greater.”

CHRISTOPHER WHITE, MD

Medical Director Value Based Care
System Chair for Cardiovascular Diseases

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION

In addition to providing outstanding care to our EP patients, Dr. Morin oversees cardiovascular research at Ochsner. In his role as Director of (both) Cardiovascular AND Electrophysiology Research, he leads an active team for heart patients near and far. He also dedicates his time to mentoring the next generation of these researchers in partnership with the University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School.

In 2020, the University of Queensland and Ochsner Academics bestowed the academic honor of Professor of Medicine to Dr. Morin. Individuals with this honor have dedicated their time to the practice and profession of medicine, while making substantial contributions in their field. Over the past 11 years, the UQ-Ochsner Clinical School has given nearly 350 physicians different academic titles, however, only 28 have been bestowed with the title, Professor of Medicine. This is an incredible, well-deserved, and prestigious honor for your favorite electrophysiologist and friend. The John Ochsner Heart and Vascular Institute is so fortunate to have such an outstanding physician and prolific researcher!
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded Ochsner a $1.3 million shared grant for cardiothoracic surgery research. The grant, which will be used over a five-year period, establishes Ochsner as an affiliate linked clinical research center, which will work to conduct collaborative randomized control trials with another site as part of the larger Cardiothoracic Surgical Trials Network (CTSN).

Led by Dr. Gene Parrino, this grant marks the first time Ochsner’s cardiothoracic surgery team, based in New Orleans has participated in a NIH-sponsored clinical trial and focuses on work with CTSN – a network of North American hospitals that work together to conduct collaborative clinical trials aimed at finding solutions for important cardiac issues impacting public health. CTSN was formed in 2007 by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) in collaboration with National Institute of Neurologic Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) and Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR). The CTSN Data Coordinating Center is housed at the International Center for Health Outcomes and Innovation Research at The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City.

Dr. Hernan Bazan has a strong clinical interest in carotid disease and acute stroke. Particularly he is trying to understand which patients will benefit from interventions and ways to stabilize vulnerable atherosclerotic plaques. Collaborating with stroke neurology, he established a carotid biobank in 2010 that to date has collected >280 carotid plaque and serum samples with detailed patient histories from which stroke status, functional neurological outcomes, and non-invasive imaging can be retrieved. This clinical research work has contributed to the cardiovascular literature in understanding which patients with carotid disease and stroke to intervene and the optimal timing. An overall objective of his translational work on carotid disease is to fill the gaps in knowledge about the molecular changes that occur during atherosclerotic plaque rupture.

Ultimately, we aim to identify potential diagnostic and therapy targets in asymptomatic patients at greatest risk of atherosclerotic plaque rupture events (e.g., stroke and MI).
The Alton Ochsner Distinguished Scientist Edward D. Frohlich, MD, a longtime friend, esteemed physician and Ochsner colleague passed away on August 16, 2019 at the age of 87.

This is a tremendous loss for medicine and for all who had the privilege of knowing and working with Dr. Frohlich. A member of our Ochsner family for more than 40 years, Ed joined Ochsner as a young physician when very little was known about hypertensive disease. Over his career, Dr. Frohlich established an international reputation as a pioneer in investigative clinical and experimental hypertension, especially as it pertains to the relationship between hypertension and heart failure. His work helped elevate Ochsner as a premier research institution on an international scale.

Very simply, Ochsner would not be the clinical and research destination it is today without Dr. Frohlich, and hypertension today is a manageable and preventable chronic disease thanks in large part to his foundational work.
Ochsner Baton Rouge Cardiology Department Innovation Fund was established for patient assistance or other items necessary for the department to provide the highest quality of care. This fund was used to purchase Holter Monitors, a small wearable device that keeps track of your heart rhythm for patients in the Baton Rouge region.

In addition, your support helped send a nurse who assists patients with their devices to a course to advance her skills. Natassha Valente, RN attended Arrhythmia Technology Institute Jumpstart Course in 2020. This course is designed for allied health professionals who want to learn about the function, programming and troubleshooting of CIEDs.

As the philanthropy team grew in 2013, he focused exclusively on government relations for the Ochsner system. His recent work was focused on building external relationships through business development, hospital acquisition and governmental affairs. Ochsner meant so much to Bill – and his family. He would connect with people immediately and intimately about health concerns, and put them in touch with someone at Ochsner who could help. He had a way of bringing light and energy into the room.

In the wake of his death, the Oliver family sought to keep his legacy alive and vibrant, requesting in lieu of flowers, donations be made to create the William A. Oliver Cardiology Fund. Each year, cardiovascular diseases claim more lives than cancer and chronic lower respiratory diseases combined. More than 92 million American adults live with some form of cardiovascular disease or the after-effects of stroke. The needs are great, but we’re taking things just as Bill did: by helping one person at a time feel whole again. Bill lived a life of putting others first.
PEDIATRIC CATH LAB AND CARDIOLOGY LAB

In 2020, these funds allowed Ochsner to outfit existing Catheter Labs with equipment to be used by our pediatric interventional cardiologists to provide care to heart patients of all ages.

ADAIR CAREY PEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGY FUND

The Adair Carey Pediatric Cardiology Fund was established in memory of a pediatric cardiology patient to provide assistance to patients experiencing temporary financial struggles during treatment. Typically, your gifts support extended stays in the Brent House Hotel for families while their loved one is undergoing treatment.

Our highly trained team includes a world-renowned cardiac surgeon, interventional cardiologists, imaging specialists, pediatric anesthesiologists, pediatric intensivists nurses and critical care cardiac specialists. Our team also includes perfusionists, professionals who use heart-lung machines during cardiac surgery.

Once again for 2020-2021, Ochsner Hospital for Children has been ranked among the Top 50 Children’s Hospitals in the country for pediatric cardiology and heart surgery specialties by U.S. News and World Report. Ochsner Hospital for Children is Louisiana’s only ranked children’s hospital.
THANK YOU!