

Update on Research Activity and Medical Education



This report highlights the achievements and activities of Academics at Ochsner Health over the last year, many of which involved our response to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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LETTER FROM

Leonardo Seoane, MD, Chief Academic Officer

In a famous quote, Abraham Lincoln said, “The best way to predict your future is to create it.” That’s an idea that inspires much of what we do in Academics at Ochsner Health, and its importance has become even clearer as we navigate through a pandemic that is unprecedented in our lifetimes. Instead of being victims of circumstance, our physicians, researchers, program leaders, residents, fellows, and medical students have risen to the occasion and worked to create a better future.

Of course, COVID-19 is not the first unprecedented crisis that Ochsner and our community have faced. We survived Hurricane Katrina, bouncing back from that stronger and learning the value of a community coming together to find solutions. That experience helped prepare us for this one. We learned that when faced with a crisis, you can either hide or you can decide to make a difference. As you read this report, the path our people chose during this crisis will become abundantly clear. I could not be prouder of everyone who played a role, working through fear and uncertainty to make an impact.

Instead of sidelining our students, we made them part of the response, and a lot of what we’ve done – setting up a hotline for people worried about symptoms and exposures, serving as liaisons between medical teams treating patients who were alone in the hospital and patients’ families, developing our own in-house COVID-19 tests – would not have been possible without them. And our residents and fellows willingly deployed to serve patients where they were needed most.

On the research side, being an academic medical center uniquely positioned us to leverage our resources to gain new and critical knowledge – from a highly accurate predictive model for ICU resources that allowed us to collaborate with LCMC and Tulane and move patients around so one health



Leonardo Seoane, MD, Was Named Chairperson of the Gulf Coast Chapter of the National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA)

The NHMA is a non-profit association representing the interests of 50,000 licensed Hispanic physicians in the United States. It is dedicated to empowering Hispanic physicians to be leaders who will help eliminate health disparities and improve the health of Hispanics.

system was never overwhelmed, to a well-established clinical trials infrastructure that allowed Ochsner to participate in most of the key early treatment trials for COVID-19.

Early on, we observed that African Americans were being disproportionately affected by COVID-19, and we leveraged the incredible database we have here to publish a key article on health disparities in the pandemic – the first publication on the topic – in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. And the prevalence studies we’ve been able to conduct – first in New Orleans and then Baton Rouge – helped guide our health system, public health officials and politicians in developing strategies for dealing with the spread in our communities. These studies emphasized the disproportionate burden on certain populations and revealed both that we are nowhere near herd immunity and that about 40% of those who test positive are asymptomatic. That last detail solidified the need for a mandatory mask policy.

An Anchor for Community Health

All of this reminds us of our responsibility as an anchor institution in the community. I think COVID-19 revealed what we already knew about health inequities in the state, and it has taught us that if we all work together, we can manage these seemingly huge challenges. Even before the pandemic, in our planning for the coming decade, we threw down an audacious goal of improving the health ranking of Louisiana to at least 40th in the nation by 2030. The successes we’ve had in facing COVID-19 are a testament to what we can do. They have inspired us to really stay focused on that improvement.

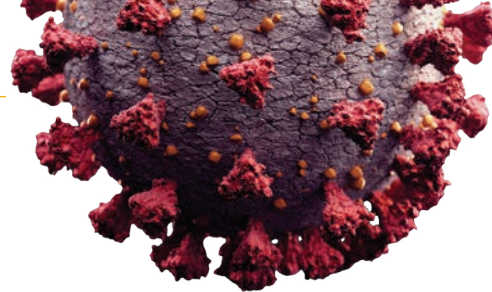
Again, I’m just so proud of everyone involved, from our residents and fellows who changed roles to care for our patients, to those who’ve adapted the curricular space,

continued progressing through milestones, and committed to celebrating our graduates and giving them some sense of normalcy, even virtually.

Beyond the pandemic response, I’m proud of many of Academics’ milestones and accomplishments over the last year. We celebrated 10 years of the UQ Ochsner Clinical School partnership. We completed the expansion of our clinical trials unit and finished renovations of our translational labs. We welcomed a new research dean after an extensive two-year search, and he’s been doing an excellent job. Our IRB was reaccredited with commendations, which is a big point of pride. We have facilitated translational research with LSU Health Science Center at Shreveport with our first successful round of seed funding. Our initiative to have a dyad partnership around Centers of Excellence has also proven to be a success.

At Ochsner Academics, we’ve worked hard over the last year to deliver on our promises to train the next generation of healthcare providers the Ochsner way, to be a leader in clinical and outcomes research and to completely invest in the health of our communities. In those ways, we are working together to create a better future for the communities we serve in Louisiana and throughout the Gulf Coast.

Leonardo Seoane, MD, FACP
Chief Academic Officer
Senior Vice President
Ochsner Health



An Extraordinary Response to an Unprecedented Pandemic

COVID-19 caught the world off guard, creating a public health crisis and pushing health systems to their limits. In the last several months, research facilities at academic medical centers and private companies have shifted their focus to clinical trials for potential vaccines, pharmaceutical solutions and antibody treatments. For many employees and students, work went virtual or paused altogether. But at Ochsner Health, facing the challenges of COVID-19 became a collaborative quest to provide answers, community support and the best possible care.

“When Ochsner and the Division of Academics faced the many unknowns associated with the unprecedented health crisis of COVID-19, every member of the Academics team contributed in any way they could to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of high-quality patient care, the continuation of medical education, and the advancement and dissemination of scientific knowledge,” says Shelly Monks, System Vice President for Academic Affairs at Ochsner. “The teamwork and esprit de corps demonstrated by staff, students, residents, fellows, scientists, administrators and physicians was unparalleled. I am very proud of everyone for their significant contributions to the achievements of the Division of Academics during this extraordinarily challenging period.”

Calculating Community Spread

As the COVID-19 crisis unfolded, Ochsner Health CEO Warner Thomas decided that Ochsner should take the lead in understanding the spread and impact of SARS CoV-2 in our communities. He turned to the Ochsner Infectious Disease Research team. Amy Feehan, PhD, and her team designed a prevalence study using the gold standard antibody test at the time.

“Most other studies had used highly flawed lateral flow assays that flooded the market before careful evaluation, but we decided to go to the trouble of collecting a blood draw to use the internally and externally validated Abbott system, which has 99.6% specificity and 100% sensitivity,” she explains.

Their study launched May 9 and finished just as the stay-at-home order ended on May 15. In total, more than 2,900 people received both the swab test looking for a current COVID-19 infection and the antibody test looking for a past infection – over 5,800 tests.

“The support and interest from Orleans and Jefferson was astounding,” Amy Feehan, PhD, says. “We had more than 25,000 willing participants sign up, which allowed us to randomly select a group that was demographically representative of the area.”

Though in some ZIP codes more than 20% of residents had been infected with SARS-CoV-2, a rate on par with New York City, overall, the team found that 7.8% of Jefferson and Orleans parish residents had been infected, with 6.9% having recovered from the virus and just 0.9% of the population facing an active infection at the end of the stay-at-home order.

Dr. Feehan’s team calculated a COVID-19 infection fatality rate of 1.61%, which is 10 to 40 times more deadly than the seasonal flu. Infection rates were higher among African American residents (10.3%) than white residents (5.9%), but fatality rates of 1.69% and 1.55%, respectively, were not significantly different.

The study found a 40% asymptomatic ratio, based on people who tested positive for antibodies but had never experienced symptoms. This alarming finding helped guide decisions by health system administrators and local officials and emphasized the importance of a mandatory mask policy.



Student volunteers answer phones at the makeshift call center, helping to triage patients calling in with COVID-19-related symptoms.

“The asymptomatic rate was alarming, because how do you convince someone to wear a mask even if they feel fine?” Amy Feehan, PhD, says. “But clearly, even after seven weeks of a strict stay-at-home order, we still had 0.9% new infections, and three-quarters of those were without symptoms. This is what makes the virus so insidious. The truth is, your actions could mean life or death for your family, friends and neighbors.”

A ‘Model’ Strategy

How many ICU beds do Ochsner hospitals and others nearby have left for COVID-19 patients? How many ventilators are available? Are any facilities at risk for an overwhelming influx?

These are the kinds of questions Dan Fort, PhD, MPH, Biomedical Research Informatics Program Manager, answers with his epidemic forecasting model.

“In mid-March, before we even had an official way to track these COVID-19 stats, Dr. David Taylor, a senior ICU pulmonologist, began manually collecting data. Since March 19, we’ve had a model,” he explains. “One person, every day, does a manual review of all ICU units within Ochsner Health, and I get that report. It’s augmented with some automated reporting, but the ICU census is most important.”

He then creates a model of available Ochsner resources and predictions for needs in the next 10 to 12 days. Daily updates go to Ochsner’s senior leadership to guide systemwide resource distribution and the Louisiana governor’s office.

“The most constrained resources in the state used to be ventilators, but now it’s ICU beds,” Dan Fort, PhD, MPH, says. “This rate of change in ICU beds is an important stat to keep an eye on because it tells you when you will run out – and when people will start dying. It allows us to see which areas are on a bad track and focus more attention there.”

This forecasting allowed Ochsner to increase its ICU capacity. The health system added between 70 and 100 beds based on March and April surges, showing the capacity for Academics to rapidly respond to analytic challenges in a meaningful way for the public good. The model was so successful at predicting hospital and ICU bed needs during the first wave of COVID-19 that the health systems of Greater New Orleans came together to feed their data into the model. This allowed us to develop a regional model for New Orleans to inform public officials including the state of resources needed. The health systems used the information to plan bed expansion across all of Greater New Orleans. This coordinated planning assured that no one hospital would have to go to crisis standards.

Students Do Their Part to Fight COVID-19

During normal times, the Ochsner Call Center is adequately staffed, and medical students are not involved in its activities. But when the first wave of COVID-19 hit New Orleans, the sense of panic among the general population grew and call wait times crept up to three hours or more. The University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School leaders recognized an opportunity for students to help.

On March 14, Donald Chang, PhD, a UQ OCS medical student and President of the Ochsner Medical Student Association, received a call from G. Dodd Denton, MD, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs at UQ OCS, explaining that the COVID-19 Hotline had been overwhelmed with more than 1,500 calls. A call was issued for medical students who could help, and in less than 24 hours Student Affairs heard from more than 100 interested students. The following Monday, UQ OCS's standardized testing center was transformed into a makeshift call center and students were onboarded with the Nurse Triage Call Center procedure.

At the call center, 109 medical students triaged patients calling in with COVID-19-related symptoms, questions or concerns, logging more than 1,900 hours. Students also placed outgoing calls to patients enrolled in a COVID-19 symptom-monitoring program created to improve patient outcomes and avoid unnecessary burdens on the health system. Students received support in their efforts from the UQ OCS faculty and academic administration, as well as patient care and call center staff.

Another call for help soon came in – this time from the Ochsner Department of Medicine. The Family Communication Champion Project arose from the fact that physicians were spending a disproportionate amount of time calling patients' families with updates, as hospitals were no longer allowing visitors – to the extent that it was taking away from their ability to provide care. UQ OCS students became liaisons, offering families valuable updates and keeping channels of communication open so physicians could focus on patient care.

"Many students found it therapeutic to be able to help the community in some way as we faced the unprecedented disruption of our lives. It allowed us to safely participate in the response to the pandemic in a role that was within our skill sets," says UQ OCS medical student Iman Malik.



Ochsner staff wearing PPE while working on the front lines.

Donald Chang, PhD, also helped establish Ochsner's COVID-19 diagnostic laboratory, Louisiana's first in-house hospital testing center.

"Every single diagnostic test was important. There was no room for error, as life-changing results depended on us," he says. "I was the fourth scientist to join the lab, a role that I was uniquely positioned for due to my previous doctoral work. I helped run some of the first COVID-19 diagnostic tests and optimized workflows as well as trained other scientists and helped track and analyze data to inform Ochsner leadership about pandemic impacts."

Students also played an important role at Ochsner's MedVantage Clinic, which provides care for geriatric patients with complicated medical conditions while addressing social barriers that lead to poor health.

"These patients were particularly vulnerable to poor outcomes from COVID-19," says medical student Bryan Savage. "With the help of 14 UQ OCS students and the direction of Dr. Kathy Jo Carstarphen, more than 500 patients were called to ensure they had adequate food and safe housing, were screened for depression

and COVID-19 symptoms, and received help with any medication or health issues. Students were instrumental in training patients to download and use the MyOchsner app so they could avoid unnecessary emergency department visits and maintain social distancing."

The pandemic brought up questions about the role of medical students in a crisis. Should they be considered essential frontline workers? Or were they still too inexperienced to make positive impacts?

"Here at Ochsner, we rolled up our sleeves and met this pandemic head on," Donald Chang, PhD, says. "The dedication, commitment and tenacity Ochsner medical students showed reflected why we pursued medicine to begin with. In the future, we hope to be given more opportunities to contribute and serve the communities we love."

Helping the Helpers Through Simulation

The Clinical Simulation and Patient Safety Center began dealing with the pandemic immediately, both in protecting learners – enforcing masking and physical distancing and moving some modules to a virtual format – and in helping Ochsner Health deal with the crisis.

"Personal protective equipment training was an obvious early need, both for protecting those providing care and limiting waste," says Michael Smith, MD, Medical Director, Clinical Simulation and Patient Safety Center. "Across the country, people shared best practices, such as moving pumps and monitors outside of the patient's room so they could be adjusted without the need to fully don PPE."

Under normal circumstances, many healthcare workers do not wear full PPE. So in addition to promoting the importance of rigorous handwashing, the Simulation Center helped create videos and educational materials for PPE use – a collaboration between infection control and nursing professional development learners – to augment Ochsner's rapid supply chain response to increase the supply of PPE. Videos were aimed at proper use of PPE, both in putting it on (donning) and taking it off (doffing) while avoiding contamination.

The Simulation Center never shut its doors and has been involved in multiple aspects of the COVID-19 response.

"We helped prepare frontline workers," Michael Smith, MD, says. "Redeployment training was conducted in our Simulation Center so people could go where they were needed, minimizing furloughs. We investigated barriers during intubation, tested devices to 'split' a ventilator – thankfully never needed – and examined how much aerosolization occurs with nebulizer treatments and noninvasive ventilation. We participated in the Dear World Project, for which Ochsner nurses were interviewed about their pandemic work."

He says this multifaceted approach, and the relentless drive to be prepared, is what everyone is most proud of within the Simulation Center, the Academics team and Ochsner as a whole.

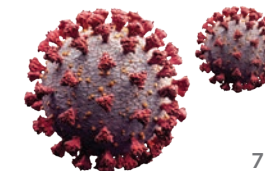
Documenting Ochsner's Extraordinary Response

The summer issue of the *Ochsner Journal* was just about finished when staff received a query from an Ochsner Clinical School medical student asking if they were interested in an article about how the institution established a robust COVID-19 testing capability in an extremely short time period.

"We immediately embraced the idea, recognizing the importance of documenting this tremendous effort," says Kathleen McFadden, Managing Editor of the *Ochsner Journal*. "Word spread quickly about our receptivity to COVID-19-related papers, and we received enough articles to create a special section in the summer issue. The production time frame was extremely tight, but we were determined to publish as many articles as possible to showcase the breadth of the institutional response and the remarkable contributions of our medical students."

The papers provide a good overview of the institutional experience and response, from an important case report about four family members infected with the virus, to a play-by-play of the quick ramp-up in testing capability, to an explanation of COVID-19 hotlines and symptom-tracker programs.

"Each demonstrates astute problem-solving, a strong commitment to patient welfare, willingness to contribute to solutions, flexibility and, in most cases, extremely positive outcomes," McFadden says. ●



RESEARCH

Responding to Novel and Ongoing Challenges

The research undertaken at Ochsner Health is always focused on evidence and patient outcomes. As the largest academic medical center in Louisiana, Ochsner had more than 8,900 patients enrolled in 760 clinical trials in 2019. Our research impacts care delivered at the patient bedside and responds to our communities' greatest needs.

Clinical trials, like our prevention and treatment trials for COVID-19, can lead to therapeutic breakthroughs and bring hope to patients nationwide. As our communities, nation and world have faced a pandemic unprecedented in our lifetime, our research studies and clinical trials also examine health disparities, the efficacy and safety of monoclonal antibody treatments and the effects of prophylactic hydroxychloroquine treatment for high-risk healthcare workers.

Our commitment to meeting the needs of patients in the communities we serve and tackling the most pressing health challenges of the modern age drive the work we do – whether we are studying treatment options for a public health crisis, designing novel precision therapies or analyzing data to answer critical clinical questions. The entire Ochsner Research team, from physician-scientists to residents to medical students, is dedicated to continuously improving patient care, treatment outcomes and community health.



Ochsner had more than **8,900** patients enrolled in **760** clinical trials in 2019.



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RESEARCH

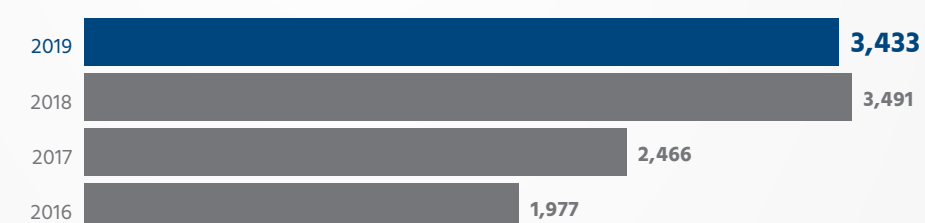
AT A GLANCE

Ochsner Research continued to manage a significant number of trials and patients in 2019 while redesigning our administrative leadership teams to support greater growth in the near future. Researchers brought in **\$2.6 million more** in grant funding in 2019 versus the previous year.

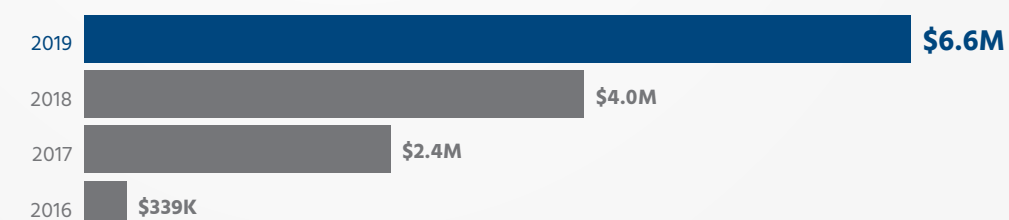
Active Clinical Trials



Patients Enrolled in Clinical Therapeutic Trials



Grant Funding





A Swift Research Response to COVID-19

In January 2020, when Ochsner Health launched a new Research Center of Excellence, Medical Specialties, no one could have envisioned the test that would be thrust upon it when the COVID-19 pandemic struck just two months later. But the Research Medical Director and the Director of Clinical Research who lead it, along with its clinician-researchers and administrators, rose to the occasion.

“Dr. Julia Garcia-Diaz and Samantha Bright, the new dyad, nimbly and swiftly mobilized our resources and energy into decisive actions that brought therapeutic COVID-19 clinical trials across the spectrum of the pandemic crisis,” says W. Mark Roberts, MD, Ochsner’s new Dean of Research. “In two of these multi-country trials, Ochsner was at the leading edge of research contributions,

enrolling the first U.S. subject (and third in the world) in one and the first subject in the world in the other. Additionally, our Center for Outcomes and Health Services Research promptly established a library of COVID-19-infected patients’ clinical information, which served as the basis for nearly 40 projects that have led to a far greater understanding of patient risk factors.”

A Focus on Treatment and Prevention

COVACTA/EMPACTA/REMDACTA studies at Ochsner tested the safety and efficacy of tocilizumab on patients with severe COVID-19 pneumonia. Tocilizumab belongs to a class of drugs known as interleukin-6 (IL-6) blockers and works by blocking an inflammatory substance made by the body. The drug is intended to “calm the storm” of cytokine release syndrome. The REMDACTA study compared the drug’s safety and efficacy when combined with the antiviral remdesivir vs. a placebo. There were more than 400 enrollees (across more than 100 institutions) in each trial, and the last one is still ongoing.

“There are hundreds of trials with drugs trying to ameliorate the cytokine storm. Some have shown early promising results, but no one has gotten to market with this indication yet,” says Julia Garcia-Diaz, MD, Director of Clinical Infectious Diseases Research and Medical Subspecialties.

HERO-HCQ: Testing a Potential Preventive Drug

In the early days of the pandemic, hydroxychloroquine – an antimalarial, immunosuppressive drug – was studied as a possible treatment for the damaging overactive immune response to COVID-19. The Healthcare Worker Exposure Response and Outcomes of Hydroxychloroquine (HERO-HCQ) trial explored the viability of hydroxychloroquine as a prophylactic treatment for high-risk healthcare workers. Ochsner enrolled 49 participants.

“Healthcare workers were called upon to put themselves on the front line of this pandemic,” says Julie M. Castex, APRN, who served as the HERO-HCQ principal investigator at Ochsner. “Just like we owed it to them to provide them with personal protective equipment, we owed it to them to look at research for treatments that might prevent them from contracting the illness.”

Beyond clinical trials, Ochsner’s Biobank collected COVID-19 patient specimens, leading to studies that characterized the nature of the virus to better understand and correlate its biology with the clinical course observed in infected patients.

Identifying and Understanding Racial Disparities

In May, the first study examining racial disparities in COVID-19 – led by Eboni Price-Haywood, MD, MPH, Director of the Center for Outcomes and Health Services



Members of the HERO-HCQ team explored proactive treatments for preventing contraction of COVID-19 in high-risk staff members.

Research – was published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*. The study team found that among a large cohort in Louisiana, 76.9% of the patients who were hospitalized with COVID-19 and 70.6% of those who died were Black, whereas Black people compose only 31% of the Ochsner Health population. But the team concluded that Black race was not associated with higher in-hospital mortality than white race, after adjustment for differences in sociodemographic and clinical characteristics.

Analyzing medical records data from Ochsner Health patients who tested positive for COVID-19 between March 1 and April 11, the team found that Black patients bore a disproportionate share of COVID-19 infections, hospitalization, ICU and medical ventilation needs, and death. These patients also seemed to be sicker at the time of COVID-19 testing and more likely to be tested in the emergency department.

Black patients had higher rates of obesity, diabetes, hypertension and chronic kidney disease. They were three times more likely to be on Medicaid and two times more likely to live in low-income areas. When the team accounted for sociodemographic factors and severe illness indicators, race was not a significant risk factor for in-hospital death.

“The disparities we observed among Black and low-income individuals that predispose patients to poor outcomes once hospitalized for any acute illness have been well-documented for decades in Louisiana and nationwide,” Eboni Price-Haywood, MD, MPH, says. “Awareness of these factors should guide the health system’s, public health officials’ and the government’s response to the pandemic – and beyond. Data generates knowledge that in turn helps us build the right solutions for the community.” ●

NEWS AND RECOGNITIONS



Welcome to W. Mark Roberts, MD, Ochsner's New Dean of Research

W. Mark Roberts, MD, joined Ochsner Academics as the new Dean of Research in 2019, with a focus on enhancing Ochsner's clinical trials, translational research, and outcomes and health services research.

W. Mark Roberts, MD, earned his medical degree from the University of Missouri – Kansas City School of Medicine and completed his pediatrics residency training with Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City and his fellowship in pediatric hematology/oncology with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. He also has a Master of Medical Management degree from the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business.

Most recently, he served as Administrator of Clinical Research for St. Luke's Health System. His recognitions include America's Top Pediatricians in 2010, Cambridge Who's Who Among Executives and Professionals 2008–2009, Best Doctors in America 2005–2008 and America's Top Oncologists 2007.

W. Mark Roberts, MD, brings years of clinical research leadership to his role as Dean of Research.



Ochsner HRPP Receives Full Reaccreditation

Ochsner's Human Research Protection Program was awarded full reaccreditation for research studies involving human participants for an additional five-year period by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs. AAHRPP accreditation verifies that an organization follows rigorous standards for ethics, quality and protections for human research. In addition to this important achievement, Ochsner's HRPP received an Area of Distinction award for its annual observation of the consent process for all coordinators.



Creating More Space for Critical Clinical Research

Ochsner Baptist's new Clinical Trials Unit location offers more space for Ochsner and community investigators to conduct research studies and therapeutic Phase 1 and 2 clinical trials. Now located on the sixth floor in the Napoleon Medical Plaza (Suite 620) at Ochsner Baptist, the CTU provides a welcoming patient environment and expanded research space, featuring:

- Four patient examination rooms
- An infusion room
- Patient monitoring space
- Dedicated space for physician researchers
- An enhanced workspace for Clinical Research Coordinators

Currently, the CTU is home to research studies and trials focused on pain management, endocrinology, women's health and cardiology, and researchers participate in Biobank collection protocols. The CTU's access to Ochsner resources facilitates clinical research that meets the highest safety and quality standards.

Lydia Bazzano, MD, Appointed Executive Chair of Ochsner IRB

Internal Medicine Physician Lydia Bazzano, MD, was named as the Executive Chair of the Ochsner Institutional Review Board. In this position, she will manage the Ochsner Human Research Protection Program and provide oversight and guidance to the IRB. She succeeds Joseph Breault, MD, who retired from the post after serving the IRB for 18 years and advocating for human research protection.



Lydia Bazzano, MD



Joseph Breault, MD

Ochsner Research Hosts ACRP Fall Symposium

Ochsner Research sponsored the Association of Clinical Research Professionals Southeast Louisiana chapter's Fall Symposium: *Building a Bridge to Better Clinical Research*, on Nov. 8, 2019. During the symposium, held at Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans attendees gained valuable insight into clinical research topics such as professional development for clinical research professionals, FDA standards and guidelines, how to prepare an organization for the changing landscape of clinical research and more.

AWARDS AND GRANT STUDIES



Mount Sinai Researcher Receives Alton Ochsner Award Relating Smoking and Disease

Paul J. Kenny, PhD, Ward-Coleman Professor and Chair of the Nash Family Department of Neuroscience at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, was honored with the 35th annual Alton Ochsner Award Relating Smoking and Disease. He has conducted innovative studies of the neural and biochemical correlates of nicotine addiction, developed therapies based on these insights and defined the relation of nicotine addiction to the pancreas and diabetes.

This Ochsner Health award recognizes scientists who have made major contributions regarding the relationship between smoking and disease, along with the development of innovative treatment modalities. The award is named in honor of Alton Ochsner, MD, our co-founder, who in 1939 published the first evidence indicating that tobacco smoking was the major cause of lung cancer.

Dementia Care Ecosystem Supports Patients and Caregivers



Ochsner's Brain Health and Cognitive Disorders Program, under the direction of Robert John Sawyer, II, PhD, has implemented the Care Ecosystem through a generous \$500,000 philanthropic grant. This program provides education and support to people with dementia and their care partners to improve home care and reduce the need for risky, expensive emergency or hospital-based services. The Care Ecosystem program includes discussions and education about managing difficult behaviors, safety strategies, tips to help caregivers manage stress and stay well, and resources related to advanced care planning and local community services. More than 100 participants are already enrolled in this program.



Research Partnership With Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center Shreveport Expands

In the third quarter of 2019, Ochsner Academics continued to see the partnership between Ochsner Health and LSU Health Shreveport strengthen with the awarding of the first jointly funded collaborative research grants. The first award went to Ari Cohen, MD, Medical Director of the Multi-Organ Transplant Institute, and Paul Thevenot, PhD, Assistant Research Scientist, Translational Transplant Research, in collaboration with A. Wayne Orr, PhD, Director and Professor of the Division of Research, Department of Pathology and Translational Pathobiology and Director of the Center for Cardiovascular Diseases and Sciences at LSU Health Shreveport, for "Novel Mediators of Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease." The second award went to Li Li, MD, Director of the Translational Cancer Research Program, and Nancy Leidenheimer, PhD, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at LSU Health Shreveport, for "GABAA Receptor Pi Subunit in Colorectal Cancer Progression in Louisiana Patient Populations."

Ochsner Completes Phase 1 Study of Donor EBV-specific T-cells for Multiple Sclerosis

In 2018, Michael Pender, MD, a neurologist at The University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, invited Bridget Bagert, MD, Director of the Ochsner Multiple Sclerosis Center, to participate in a Phase 1 study of ATA188, a groundbreaking new treatment for multiple sclerosis.

The ATA188 clinical trial, sponsored by Atara Biotherapeutics, is based on a new understanding of the role of Epstein-Barr virus in multiple sclerosis. It is the first precision medicine treatment trial conducted for multiple sclerosis. ATA188 is designed to specifically address multiple sclerosis patients' inability to manage EBV. T-cells collected from healthy donors and stimulated in the laboratory to recognize EBV proteins are infused into research participants with the goal of controlling EBV infection.

At the Ochsner Multiple Sclerosis Center, the first of four patients with multiple sclerosis was enrolled in the ATA188 trial in May 2019. Each study participant received two 15-day cycles of EBV-specific T-cell therapy. Initial safety and efficacy results on ATA188 have been favorable and were presented at the annual meeting of the European Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis in Stockholm, Sweden, in September 2019. A Phase 1B study of ATA188 is being planned internationally, and Ochsner will again be a study site.

Ochsner Becomes a Premier Pfizer Research Site

Ochsner Research obtained Pfizer INSPIRE site status, which establishes Ochsner as a premier Pfizer Research site and creates an efficient, mutually beneficial long-term research partnership. This exciting partnership allows for sharing of investigator networks and infrastructure. On Sept. 28, 2019, 45 Ochsner and Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center Shreveport physician scientists, researchers and research leaders participated in a Pfizer Investigator Training Program, which covered the entire clinical trials process, from the planning stages through trial closure activities.

LA CaTS Grant Supports Hepatic Encephalopathy Research



A \$50,000 grant in National Institutes of Health funds from the Louisiana Clinical and Translational Science Center will enable Amy Feehan, PhD, Research Scientist at Ochsner, to conduct research related to hepatic encephalopathy. Working with colleagues at Duke and Tulane universities, she will seek to determine whether compounds in the blood can predict whether someone with hepatic encephalopathy will benefit from treatment with a fecal microbiota transplant. This is the first time an Ochsner investigator received a LA CaTS pilot grant.

Ochsner Researcher Wins Adaptive Biotechnologies Corporation Young Investigator Award

Kelley Nunez, PhD, a research scientist at Ochsner Health, received a \$5,000 grant to use for her research focused on hepatocellular carcinoma, an aggressive malignancy ideally diagnosed during early stages and treated with curative liver transplantation. Patients with hepatocellular carcinoma receive tumor-directed therapy to prevent tumor progression while awaiting liver transplantation. She is investigating the T-cell receptor repertoire of patients at baseline, post-TDT, and prior to receiving a liver transplant or seeing tumor progression to test the hypothesis that depleted T-cell counts result in lower TCR diversity with decreased tumor recognition.



EDUCATION

Continued Success in the Continuum of Medical Education

Ochsner Health's educational culture prepares aspiring healthcare professionals and practicing physicians to meet ever-evolving healthcare challenges with confidence, think innovatively, focus on wellness, and, above all, put patients first. Our investment in educating the highest-quality healthcare providers steeped in compassion is evident in everything from our outreach programs for college students interested in healthcare; to our medical and allied health education programs, residencies and fellowships; to continuing medical education programs that help our providers stay at the forefront of evidence-based care.

Our partnership with The University of Queensland is now in its 11th year and offers a medical education unlike any in the world. Crucial partnerships with other Louisiana schools allow us to educate students to become physicians, physician assistants and radiologic technologists. Ochsner continues to add new residency programs, like emergency medicine, and now trains approximately 300 residents and fellows a year. We were thrilled to welcome the inaugural class of the Xavier University Physician Assistant Program, in partnership with Ochsner, in January.

We are continuously embracing technology as a means of engaging with those we educate and forging stronger connections between healthcare professionals, their patients and their communities, even in challenging times. And Ochsner's continuing medical education offerings continue to reach even more physicians in Louisiana and the Gulf States region, providing important and valuable information to healthcare professionals.

Each year, Ochsner trains approximately

300

residents and fellows



Play a Part in Preparing Top Providers

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

EDUCATION

BY THE NUMBERS

Education is one of the pillars of Ochsner Health's mission, critical to shaping the future of healthcare and delivering the highest-quality evidence-based care in our communities. Here are some educational highlights over the last year:



As of January 2020, there were **540** medical students enrolled in The University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School program.

670 allied health students received their clinical education at Ochsner.

291 residents and fellows were trained in 2019–2020 in Ochsner programs.

29,051 learners participated in **1,269** scenarios at the Ochsner Clinical Simulation and Patient Safety Center.

16,545 physicians attended **141** Ochsner Health CME activities, and **55,000+** CME credits were issued in 2019.

The Xavier University Physician Assistant Program, in partnership with Ochsner, is projected to grow to **79** students by January 2021.

Honoring UQ OCS Student Milestones: Culmination and White Coat Ceremonies

The University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School celebrated its 2019 graduating class at the program’s culmination ceremony on Nov. 23, 2019, at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

The 113 graduating students successfully completed two years of medical school curriculum in Brisbane, Australia, at UQ and two years of clinical study with Ochsner Health at UQ OCS in New Orleans.

“We are incredibly proud of everything the members of this year’s graduating class have accomplished and cannot wait to see where the future takes them next,” says Leonardo Seoane, MD, Chief Academic Officer, Ochsner Health.

William W. Pinsky, MD, FAAP, FACC, President and CEO of the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates and Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research, delivered the keynote address. He previously served as Executive Vice President and

Chief Academic Officer of Ochsner Health and retains an Honorary Professor title from UQ.

During the culmination ceremony, the following students were recognized with individual awards:

- **Sajan Gill** – Internal Medicine, American College of Physicians
- **James Fabiszak** – E. Edward Martin, Jr. Family Medicine Award
- **Olivia Manayan** – OB/GYN
- **Claire Natsios** – Pediatrics
- **Alexander Horwitz** – Psychiatry
- **Raza Ahmad** – Surgery

Post-Graduate Research Fellowship Awards were given to Raza Ahmad, Shourjo Chakravorty, Elizabeth Cho, Gregory Desrosiers, Sajan Gill, Olivia Manayan, Evan O’Keefe and Vipin Varghese. In addition to her medical degree, Sarah Vitug also received a Master of Philosophy degree in Experimental Dermatology from The University of Queensland, Faculty of Medicine.



Several UQ Ochsner Clinical School faculty and residents were recognized with awards of excellence in clinical teaching. Michael Blanchard, MD, from Psychiatry received the Teacher of the Year Award. Resident teaching awards were awarded to the following physicians:

- **Craig Naccari, MD** – Medicine
- **Angela Nakahara, MD** – OB/GYN
- **Hayden Jahn, MD** – Surgery
- **Varsha Thomas, MD** – Pediatrics
- **Andrew Aubin, MD** – Psychiatry

‘A Physical Reminder of the Oath’

On Jan. 11, 2020, the work of the UQ OCS continued as a new class began their second phase of medical school. UQ OCS’s 10th annual White Coat Ceremony honored 116 doctors-in-training, who received their White Coats and Humanism in Medicine pins – displayed on the lapel of each White Coat a visual reminder to keep compassion and empathy at the center of their clinical practice.

Susan T. Hingle, MD, FAMWA, FRCP, MACP, Associate Dean for Human and Organizational Potential and Professor of Medicine at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, served as the keynote speaker. The ceremony concluded with a recitation of the Oath of Clinical Students.

“Receiving a White Coat is a physical reminder of the oath these students have taken to serve, to heal, to lead, to educate and to innovate for their patients – each and every day. It is a privilege for our exceptional faculty at UQ Ochsner Clinical School to play a role in shaping the next generation of physicians,” says Ronald Amedee, MD, Head of School and Dean of Medical Education. ●



The University of Queensland ranked **54th** out of more than 2,000 universities in the 2020 Academic Ranking of World Universities – a testament to academic and professional staff committed to excellence in teaching and research.



Leonardo Seoane, MD, Chief Academic Officer at Ochsner Health, addressing the crowd at the 10-year celebration.

Celebrating 10 Years of UQ Ochsner Clinical School

Ten years ago, Ochsner Health embarked on a partnership so innovative there was nothing else like it in the United States. Together with The University of Queensland Medical School in Brisbane, Australia, Ochsner founded The University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School.

The program trains medical students for two years in the Australian healthcare system, at one of the top medical schools in the world, before they finish their Doctor of Medicine degree with two years in Ochsner’s exceptional clinical learning environment.

Over the past decade, UQ OCS has graduated more than 400 medical students, approximately one-third of whom now practice in Louisiana. UQ OCS averages a 94% match rate through the National Resident Matching Program®, and students go on to train in every specialty at many prestigious institutions across the country.

The UQ OCS program has an emphasis on primary care, mirroring the Australian healthcare system, and to date, 54% of our graduates have chosen a primary care specialty – more than double the U.S. medical school average.



Physician Assistant Program Welcomes Inaugural Class

The Xavier University Physician Assistant Program, in partnership with Ochsner, welcomed its inaugural class in January 2020. In their first semester, Physician Assistant Program students earned an average GPA of 3.65 out of 4, and engagement remained high even as the program transitioned online – using Zoom, ExamID and ExamMonitor – due to COVID-19. Showing their commitment to community health, students participated as volunteers for the COVID-19 Prevalence Study in Baton Rouge.

For fall 2020, Physician Assistant Program students are undertaking a hybrid model of learning in an effort to maintain social distancing on campus.

The Xavier-Ochsner program received provisional national accreditation from the Accreditation Review Commission

on Education for the Physician Assistant. The 28-month program will allow students to receive a master’s degree in health sciences. Following three semesters of classroom instruction, Physician Assistant Program students will complete approximately 2,000 hours of hands-on clinical experience through 11 rotations at various Ochsner facilities. Students will work and study with healthcare professionals across a variety of specialties, including family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, general surgery, emergency medicine, behavioral health and women’s health. The program is projected to grow to 79 students by January 2021 and 119 students by January 2022.

In comparison to those enrolled in other PA programs in the greater New Orleans area, Xavier-Ochsner Physician Assistant Program students excel in preparedness, especially when it comes to their science GPAs and hours of healthcare experience. Students of Asian, African American and Latino descent – traditionally underrepresented groups in the PA profession – make up 38.5%, 12.8% and 5.1% of the Physician Assistant Program’s next class (set to begin in 2021). This diversity is a point of pride for the Xavier-Ochsner program and an area of opportunity to make important impacts in the field. ●

MATCH DAY


AN EXCITING DAY OF CELEBRATION

Match Day is an annual rite of passage in which medical school students from around the globe learn which U.S. residency program the National Resident Matching Program® has matched them to attend for the next chapter of their medical training. Both Graduate Medical Education at Ochsner and The University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School had strong outcomes to celebrate on Match Day 2020.

UQ OCS students matched into residency training programs in a wide variety of specialties at many prestigious institutions, including Duke University, Oregon Health & Science University, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and the University of California, Los Angeles. Those continuing their training in Louisiana matched with Ochsner Health, LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport, LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, Tulane University and East Jefferson General Hospital.

Ochsner Graduate Medical Education

30 Offers **30** ACGME-accredited residency and fellowship programs.

 Filled **100%** of **65** positions offered to students in the National Resident Matching Program.

 Matched students who will fill positions in **8** core programs and **22** subspecialty programs.

The University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School

 Received a **95.4%** match rate through the National Resident Matching Program.

8th Joined the **8th** UQ OCS class in a row to earn a match rate of **90%** or above.

 **29%** matched with a Louisiana-based residency program for their medical training.

ACCOLADES AND SCHOLARSHIPS



Shelly Monks Becomes President of AIAMC

Shelly Monks, System Vice President for Academic Affairs at Ochsner Health, began her term as President of the Board of Directors for the Alliance of Independent Academic Medical Centers on April 1, 2020. She is the first non-physician, and only the second female, president of this organization of independent teaching hospitals.

With more than 20 years of experience in healthcare leadership at academic medical institutions, Monks brings a unique perspective to the connection between healthcare operations, regulations and policy, and the delivery of excellence in the learning environment at every point along the medical education continuum.



Carl Tholen Named Assistant Vice President, Education Operations

Carl Tholen was named the Assistant Vice President of Education Operations. He is a 24-year veteran of Ochsner Health who began his career in Radiology and spent the last 21 years in positions in the Division of Academics, most recently serving as Assistant Vice President for Undergraduate Medical Education. He is a content expert in the administration and delivery of clinical education and was instrumental in the development and growth of The University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School, the creation of the Ochsner Clinical Simulation and Patient Safety Center, and the implementation of the Xavier University Physician Assistant Program, in partnership with Ochsner.



Kathy Jo Carstarphen, MD, Receives AMSA 2020 Women Leaders in Medicine Award

Nominated by two UQ OCS medical students who she mentored during their rotations in internal medicine, Kathy Jo Carstarphen, MD, UQ OCS Senior Lecturer, received a 2020 Women Leaders in Medicine award from the American Medical Student Association. These awards recognize women physicians and educators who are changing the face of medicine through their lives, professions or teaching.



Student Advocate Receives Dr. and Mrs. Roy Gregory Scholarship for Family Medicine

Monica Gillie, an Ochsner Clinical School fourth-year medical student, earned the 2020 Dr. and Mrs. Roy Gregory Scholarship for Family Medicine. Gillie has a longstanding interest in public health program development and advocacy, both locally and overseas. She is co-founder of the Academy of Integrative Health & Medicine New Orleans Chapter and Student Alliance, and she plans to undertake an Integrative Health Fellowship in the future. To promote health advocacy, Gillie volunteers at local high schools teaching reproductive health. She is also a part of the mental health navigation team at the National Alliance on Mental Illness center in New Orleans and serves as a member of the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians' Legislative and Advocacy Committee.



Xavier University Graduate Receives 2020 Ochsner Health Medical School Scholarship

Recent Xavier University of Louisiana graduate Rachel Coleman was awarded the 2020 Ochsner Health Medical School Scholarship for LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport – School of Medicine. The scholarship covers tuition and fees for the four-year medical school program. Coleman graduated with a pre-med major in biology and a double minor in chemistry and Spanish, as well as a certificate in medical Spanish. Born and raised in New Orleans, she is an active volunteer with community organizations, most recently at a local women's health facility where she engaged young women about health topics while shadowing a nurse practitioner.



Medical Student Earns Perla S. Gil, MD Scholarship

Angela Conway, a third-year medical student at the Ochsner Clinical School, received the 2020 Perla S. Gil, MD Scholarship, which was established to enhance diversity at Ochsner and in the medical profession by supporting female OCS students of Hispanic descent. Conway's maternal grandparents immigrated from Mexico in 1949, and her grandfather and his siblings were all inspired by their physician father to pursue careers in medicine. Conway has followed in their footsteps and plans to pursue a career in obstetrics and gynecology or pediatrics after graduation.



Daniel Morin, MD, and George Chimento, MD, Named UQ OCS Clinical School Professors

Only 28 physicians currently hold the title of Professor-Faculty of Medicine at The University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School, and now Daniel Morin, MD, Director of Cardiac Electrophysiology Research and Director of Cardiovascular Research (left), and George Chimento, MD, Department Chairman of Orthopedics, (right) are among them. The title appointment of professor is based on outstanding leadership and outcomes in teaching, research, service and engagement.



UQ OCS GHHS Chapter Receives Exemplary Ranking

The UQ OCS chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society received the Arnold P. Gold Foundation's "Exemplary" chapter ranking for its programs designed to increase engagement and empathy, encourage clinician resilience and team building, teach advocacy and leadership skills, and highlight the importance of compassionate care at all levels of healthcare. The ranking is the highest given by the Gold Foundation to a chapter.

For Students and Staff, Simulation Learning Scenarios Are Key to Real-World Success

Nothing beats hands-on experience. That is why the work of the Ochsner Clinical Simulation and Patient Safety Center is such an asset to our residents, medical students and Ochsner staff – as well as the surrounding community.

Enhanced procedural simulations for students studying emergency medicine, patient safety trainings for newly onboarded nurses, and augmented reality-based lumbar puncture practice were just some of the learning scenarios delivered through the Simulation Center in 2019 and early 2020.



In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, while maintaining distancing and masking, the Simulation Center completed large orientation blocks of simulations for returning medical students and enhanced procedural training. The new Xavier University Physician Assistant Program, in partnership with Ochsner, is progressing with plans to use the Simulation Center extensively for student learning scenarios. And Simulation Center staff continue to develop educational trainings for graduate medical education, including recent full-surgical simulation suite cadaver dissections in conjunction with Tulane University Neurosurgery Professor R. Shane Tubbs, PhD, MS.

Ochsner onboards all newly hired nurses through the Simulation Center, which has developed programs to test novel technology and alerts to aid nurses when caring for patients, as well as ongoing patient safety training. On the research side, the Simulation Center regularly tests innovations in patient care and patient safety, including recent extensive work with Korak Sarkar, MD, from the Ochsner Medical 3D (m3D) lab, using augmented reality for lumbar puncture training.

The Simulation Center has also been involved in multiple aspects of the COVID-19 response. Its programs have helped prepare frontline workers to deal with the virus, tested barriers during intubation and (so far, unnecessary) devices to “split” a ventilator, and aided in measurements of how much aerosolization occurs with nebulizer treatments and noninvasive ventilation, among other initiatives.

In July 2019, the center hosted the National Black Nurses Association’s Summer Youth Institute, a one-day enrichment program, and Simulation Center staff continue to reach out to students interested in healthcare careers, participating in the Ochsner Academics Summer Internship for Students (OASIS) program and virtual simulations for Ochsner STAR Program high school students in summer 2020. ●

Virtual GME Graduation Celebrates Residents and Fellows From a Distance

On June 10, 2020, Ochsner Academics held a unique virtual graduation ceremony to honor physicians completing their specialty training at Ochsner Health. The event marked the completion of intensive Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education-accredited training for 89 medical residents and fellows in Ochsner-sponsored training programs. Graduates, program directors, program managers and family were invited to join through online video conferencing for a special tribute, thank you and champagne toast.

Ronald Amedee, MD, Dean of Medical Education and Head of The University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School, opened the evening with a warm welcome, thanking everyone for joining a celebration that adhered to the need for social distancing in the face of COVID-19. Warner Thomas, President and CEO of Ochsner Health, offered a few words to the graduates, and Leonardo Seoane, MD, Chief Academic Officer of Ochsner Health, delivered his address.

Rajiv Gala, MD, Assistant Designated Institutional Official, presented the special awards of the evening.

The Case Report Writing Award went to third-year Internal Medicine Resident Hind Alrowais, MBBS, for her paper “Septic Shock and Cellulitis Due to *Vibrio Vulnificus* in Gulf Coast.” Fifth-year Adult Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology Resident Jeffrey Cardinale, MD, received the Dean H. Echols Writing Award for his paper “Early Extubation of Cardiac Surgical Patients with the Transverse Thoracic Plane Block and a Multi-Modal Pain Regimen.”

The Outstanding Teacher of the Year 2020 – Hospital Based Program Award went to Logan Kosarek, MD, Adult Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology Program Director. The Outstanding Teacher of the Year 2020 – Medicine Program Award went to Cardiovascular Disease Faculty Member Merrill Stewart, MD.



Top: Ronald Amedee, MD, Dean of Medical Education and Head of The University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School. **Bottom:** Rajiv Gala, MD, Assistant Designated Institutional Official, presents an award at the ceremony.

A special recorded message from ACGME CEO Thomas J. Nasca, MD, congratulated, thanked and encouraged residents and fellows who completed their education this spring in the midst of a global pandemic and cared for patients on the front line during an extraordinary time. ●

NEWS AND RECOGNITIONS

OASIS Evolves to Meet Safety Needs



The Ochsner Academics Summer Internship for Students program provides mentorship and hands-on learning experiences to college students interested in pursuing medical careers. The 2020 class included 14 students from 11 universities across the country. Due to COVID-19, lectures and tours were converted to a virtual format, and appropriate steps were taken to ensure students were able to safely shadow physicians on campus. Over the course of two weeks, the students completed:

- 24 hours of one-on-one, in-clinic physician shadowing
- 27 virtual lecture hours with physicians, medical students, academic leaders and other experts
- 3 hours of hands-on clinical simulation training in the Ochsner Clinical Simulation and Patient Safety Center

The University of Holy Cross Radiologic Technology Program in Affiliation With Ochsner Health Honors the Class of 2020

Five graduates in radiologic technology participated in a virtual graduation on May 17, 2020, following 21 months of professional training in Ochsner Health Radiology departments and the Ochsner Center for Academic Excellence.

Four of the graduates have joined the Ochsner Radiology staff as Registered Technologists, having passed the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists certification examination on their first attempt, upholding the program's 100% first-attempt exam pass rate held since 1972.

OPTIMUS: Increasing Diversity in Medicine

The Ochsner Program To Introduce Medicine to Underrepresented Students was developed with the goal of increasing diversity in medicine and reducing healthcare disparities. Under the guidance of Tamika Webb-Detiege, MD, the program involves working with local K-12 students from racial and ethnic populations underrepresented in the medical profession. The group plans to connect local students with physicians and medical students from underrepresented backgrounds and offer medical school experiences for high school students, as well as a pre-med career conference.

Ochsner Academics Strengthens Exchange Program With South American Schools

In September 2019, Ochsner signed an affiliation agreement for an exchange observation program for medical graduate students with Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá, Colombia, and Universidad CES in Medellin, Antioquia, Colombia. During the 2019-2020 academic year, 19 learners participated in this program. Ochsner has maintained a friendly relationship with these universities since 2007, hosting more than 100 informal rotations for their students.

Academics Excels at 2019 Ochsner Spirit of Leadership Awards



Tamika Webb-Detiege, MD, Receives Physician Academic Contributor of the Year

Tamika Webb-Detiege, MD, Senior Physician in Rheumatology at Ochsner Medical Center – New Orleans, received the **2019 Ochsner Spirit of Leadership Award for Physician Academic Contributor of the Year** in recognition of her overall excellence in several roles. She was named Deputy Head of Admissions and Enrollment for The University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School in July 2020. She is also Head of the Curtis Tyrone Medical Society.

Tamika Webb-Detiege, MD, previously served as Director of Admissions for UQ OCS and became the school's content expert for multiple mini interviewing, a technique UQ OCS uses to select new medical students.



Carl Tholen, AVP, Education Operations, Ochsner Health; Kathleen Kennedy, Dean, College of Pharmacy, Xavier University; Varsha Gusman, Director, Physician Assistant Program, Xavier University; Anne McCall, Provost and Senior Vice President, Academic Affairs, Xavier University; Shelly Monks, System VP, Academic Affairs, Ochsner Health; Marguerite Giguette, Associate Provost and Chief Institutional Research Officer, Xavier University

Physician Assistant Program Receives Project of the Year: Clinical

The new Xavier University Physician Assistant Program, in partnership with Ochsner Health, received the **2019 Ochsner Spirit of Leadership Project of the Year: Clinical**. Born from the need to address the workforce shortage of clinical care providers, especially in the Gulf South, the program launched in a very accelerated timeline. The program received provisional accreditation in November 2019. This 98-credit hour, 28-month, year-round program has a 12-month consecutive didactic phase and a 16-month consecutive clinical phase.

Beyond providing quality technical training in an integrated group practice, the curriculum at Ochsner centers on compassionate dedication to the patient, innovative thinking and a proactive focus on wellness. It prepares PAs to deliver superior care, put patients first and meet healthcare needs in a community-focused way.



Jeremiah Newsom, MD, Becomes New Medical Director for CME

In his new role as Medical Director for Continuing Medical Education, Jeremiah Newsom, MD, will collaborate with the Department of Continuing Medical Education and physician CME activity directors. He will direct educational activities for practicing physicians and other clinicians in Regularly Scheduled Series courses, live educational activities and internet-enduring materials to ensure their current competency and medical knowledge. In addition, he will provide leadership to ensure Ochsner’s compliance with requirements of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education. With Ochsner since July 2012, Jeremiah Newsom, MD, also currently serves as the Section Head for the Department of Hospital Medicine at Ochsner Medical Center – Kenner, the Medical Director for Ochsner Extended Care Hospital and the Medical Director for Recruitment for the Department of Hospital Medicine.

In 2019

141

CME activities were offered

16,545

MDs attended Ochsner Health CME activities

55,000+

CME credits were issued



CME Goes Virtual

Within 30 days of closures necessitated by COVID-19, Ochsner moved more than 30 Regularly Scheduled Series courses to a virtual platform to eliminate disruptions in learning and care. By summer 2020, more than 40 Regularly Scheduled Series courses were taking place, with some moving back to in-person sessions.



The Ochsner Journal

Since its inception in 1999, the *Ochsner Journal* has provided a wide range of peer-reviewed, timely and practical information, including original research, literature reviews, reports on quality improvement projects and innovative programs, editorials, case reports, letters and other articles that span the spectrum of medical practice and scientific research. This year’s summer issue took timeliness to the next level, turning out a special section on Ochsner’s COVID-19 response on a very tight production timeline. “We are extremely proud to have been able to document the extraordinary response at Ochsner to this extraordinary time,” says Kathleen McFadden, Managing Editor.

Visit ochsnerjournal.org to read current and archived issues from featured contributors and see content published ahead of print.

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering a Research Pioneer



Edward D. Frohlich, MD, an Alton Ochsner Distinguished Scientist, passed away on Aug. 16, 2019, at age 87, but his legacy as a pioneer in investigative clinical and experimental hypertension research and an esteemed physician lives on. A member of the Ochsner Health family for more than 40 years, Edward D. Frohlich, MD, joined the health system as a young physician when very little was known about hypertensive disease. Over the course of his career, he established an international reputation for his innovative and critical research into this condition, especially regarding the relationship between high blood pressure and heart failure. His work helped elevate Ochsner as a premier research institution on the international stage. The Edward D. Frohlich Distinguished Chair Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School was established in honor of his significant contributions. Today, hypertension is a manageable and preventable chronic disease, thanks in large part to his foundational work.

Honoring a Standout Physician-Scientist



David Margolin, MD, who passed away on April 26, 2020, at age 57, is remembered at Ochsner Health and in the communities he served for his remarkable contributions to research and medicine, especially his work on colon and rectal cancers. As Director of Colon and Rectal Surgery Research at Ochsner, he worked closely with the scientists of the Institute for Translational Research – Cancer Laboratory to develop mouse orthotopic transplant models of human colorectal tissue in order to test whether experimental drugs could reduce cancer cell growth and metastases. David Margolin, MD, published more than 70 papers on a variety of topics, including colorectal cancers and stem cells, laparoscopic colon and rectal surgery, and inflammatory bowel disease. His achievements – as an outstanding mentor and colleague, a strong advocate for Ochsner’s role as a top academic medical center and a researcher who worked tirelessly to advance our understanding of colon and rectal cancer – will not be forgotten.



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