From fall 2021 to summer 2022, the *Ochsner Journal* published a total of 73 articles from seven countries. Of those articles, 59% were from non-Ochsner authors. All articles are reviewed against the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education’s (ACGME) six core competencies, and each issue appears in full in PubMed Central to increase global discoverability and engagement. The past four issues continue to exemplify the medical excellence and innovation that has occurred over the past year.

**New Orleans Saints’ impact on public health**

Physicians examined the correlation between New Orleans Saints football game days and internal medicine admissions at three local hospitals from 2013 to 2020. These findings may help inform public health policies and city and hospital resource and staff allocations around game days.

**Effects of antiplatelet agents/anticoagulants on postoperative complications**

Physicians analyzed the effects of preoperative antiplatelet agents and anticoagulants on postoperative complications in total joint arthroplasties. Using chi-square analysis and the Fisher exact test, they determined that using both medications preoperatively increased the risk for prosthetic joint infections. This discovery can help surgeons better risk-stratify patients and reduce the burden of postoperative complications.

**Shoulder dislocation risks in indoor skydiving**

Physicians presented a case study of a 26-year-old male who suffered a traumatic anterior shoulder dislocation while indoor skydiving. The patient’s instability-causing Hill-Sachs lesion was successfully treated arthroscopically.

**Mastectomy complications in outpatient versus overnight stay cases**

Physicians analyzed mastectomy cases from 2016 to 2018 using the American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program’s Participant Use Data File. The results showed that same-day (SDM) and overnight mastectomies have a similar total risk of wound complications. SDMs may offer reduced risk for 30-day medical complications, readmissions and reoperations, verifying their safety for appropriate patients.

*Ochsner Journal* published submissions from:
United States | India | Canada | Turkey | Mexico | Colombia | Italy

View archived and current issues and content published ahead of print at [ochsnerjournal.org](http://ochsnerjournal.org).
Since 2009, The University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School has offered medical students the opportunity to train for two years in the Australian healthcare system, at one of the top medical schools in the world, and then finish their medical degree with two years in Ochsner’s exceptional clinical learning environment.

“The UQ OCS Experience” feature on pages 8–9 offers a look inside this innovative program, which has graduated 769 students since its inception.

Pictured above from left to right:
- Rachel A. Calix, MD
  UQ OCS class of 2014
- Monique Salazar
  UQ OCS class of 2023
- Amanda Theppote, MD
  UQ OCS class of 2014
- Rohit Rajendran
  UQ OCS class of 2022
- Kathy Jo Carstarphen, MD
  UQ OCS Clerkship Director
According to the Association of American Medical Colleges’ 2021 report, the United States could see an estimated shortage of between 37,800 and 124,000 physicians by 2034. That shortage is projected to be acutely felt in the South.

That’s why, at Ochsner Academics, we are so proud of the incredible success and growth of our University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School and our graduate medical education programs in training physicians “The Ochsner Way” to care for our communities.
Education Partnerships
Make a Difference

This year, we celebrate the 11th University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School graduating class and the continuing success of our innovative, international medical education partnership. Since the school’s inception, 649 of our graduates have matched with residencies in the U.S., and the physicians we’ve trained are practicing in 46 states in 24 specialties. Of our graduates, 190 have chosen residencies in Louisiana and 12 of our graduates are part of group physician practices at Ochsner Health. This year, UQ OCS also received a 98% match rate through the National Resident Matching Program®. It’s the highest rate in the history of the program since we began graduating a significant class size. Also, it far exceeds the national match rate for U.S. medical schools.

In graduate medical education over the last academic year, we’ve added a fellowship in interventional radiology, expanded our surgical residency program and – through our partnership with LSU Health New Orleans – provided clinical training sites for the LSU pediatric dentistry program. We’ve continued to expand existing residency programs with LSU Health Shreveport, including internal medicine, pediatrics, pulmonary critical care, pathology, OB/GYN and interventional radiology. We are also making progress in developing new surgical and internal medicine residency programs in Lafayette.

Additionally, our nursing and allied health partnerships are helping to combat ongoing shortages in those fields, which have been exacerbated by the pandemic. We will be welcoming our third cohort of nursing students into our traditional BSN program with Loyola University New Orleans, and we are planning a new program in midwifery through that partnership. We were also thrilled to graduate our first class of 37 physician assistants through our partnership with Xavier University of Louisiana.

Through all of these programs, we are focused on both building a pipeline of exceptional physicians, nurses and allied health professionals and on our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion to ensure we are training a healthcare workforce that reflects the communities we serve.

Reflecting on a Year of Exceptional Research

We are also incredibly proud of what our research team has accomplished over the last academic year. In 2021, we enrolled over 3,500 patients in clinical trials. Our researchers published 441 peer-reviewed articles, advancing our knowledge of diseases and their treatments. For the 2021 fiscal year, $9.14 million in grants were awarded to Ochsner Health, the most in our history.

Within this report, you will see many examples of the extraordinary research occurring across Ochsner’s Centers of Excellence. We were a key site in a chronic hypertension and pregnancy multicenter trial, the results of which have changed the way we manage high blood pressure in pregnancy. Through the Ochsner-Xavier Institute for Health Equity and Research (OXIHER), we have done meaningful work to increase minority representation in clinical trials, participated in community projects in partnership with the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation to increase awareness around blood cancers in the African American community, and offered programs like Connected MOM, which provides digital solutions to reduce maternal mortality.

Through the Acute Respiratory Illness Surveillance (AcRIS) study, a first-of-its-kind clinical trial in partnership with Pfizer, we recruited patients from 48 states digitally and consented them electronically to download a voice recognition mobile app designed to predict upper respiratory infections from SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19), influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Studies like these are changing the way medicine is practiced and improving lives for patients and communities.

On the horizon, we look forward to growing our cancer clinical trials, working to ensure that patients don’t have to travel far from home to participate in the latest trials. We will focus on precision medicine in the years to come and seek to expand our Phase 1 therapeutic trials.

As always, I want to express my immense pride and gratitude to everyone in Academics, whose professionalism, dedication and innovative spirit allow us to offer our patients and communities better health and brighter futures.
2021 Spirit of Leadership Awards
Recognize Outstanding Leaders

For the past 18 years, the Spirit of Leadership Awards have recognized employees, leaders, physicians and teams for outstanding leadership that reflects Ochsner’s mission, vision and core values.

Nicole McCoin, MD, Chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Ochsner Medical Center, received the 2021 Spirit of Leadership Physician Academic Contributor of the Year award in July 2022. Finalists for this award also included Charles Kantrow, MD, Section Head for Pediatric Education and Medical Director of the Meningomyelocele Team at Ochsner Health Center for Children – New Orleans, and Daniel Morin, MD, Director of Cardiovascular Research and Director of Electrophysiology Research at Ochsner Health.

Eboni Price-Haywood, MD, Medical Director for Ochsner’s Healthy State initiative and the Ochsner-Xavier Institute for Health Equity and Research (OXIHER), was nominated for Philanthropy Partner of the Year.

A collaborative effort among multiple departments within Ochsner Academics – the Acute Respiratory Illness Surveillance by Monitoring Voice and Illness Symptom Changes Using a Mobile Application in a Low-Interventional Decentralized Study (AcRIS) project – was a finalist for Project of the Year: Clinical.
Dr. Vargas Elected to ABCRS Board of Directors

H. David Vargas, MD, was elected to a four-year term on the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery (ABCRS) in October 2021.

ABCRS promotes the health and welfare of patients across the country by setting and enforcing high standards for the certification of colon and rectal surgeons.

Dr. Vargas has been sub-investigator on more than 50 research studies since joining Ochsner in 2012, and he previously served as the Program Director for the Ochsner Health Colon and Rectal Surgery fellowship program.

Dr. Price-Haywood Named System Medical Director for Healthy State

Eboni Price-Haywood, MD, Medical Director for OXIHER, has also been named System Medical Director for Ochsner’s Healthy State initiative.

Dr. Price-Haywood is a general internist and Professor at The University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School (UQ OCS). She has spent her career focusing on disease prevention, health promotion and care delivery improvements, with a focus on advancing health equity. She is a member of the Board of Governors for the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute and previously served as Director of the Center for Outcomes Research at Ochsner.

Dr. Price-Haywood will also continue in her role at OXIHER, leading efforts to improve community health, reduce health inequities, develop innovative healthcare delivery models, and model equitable and respectful care.

UQ OCS Faculty Named Distinguished Honorary Alumni

At the Ochsner Alumni Association’s annual Homecoming in June 2021, two UQ OCS faculty members were named 2022 Distinguished Honorary Alumni: Charles Kantrow, MD, Assistant Dean of Curriculum, and Tamika Webb-Detiege, MD, Assistant Dean of Admissions and Enrollment.
Emergency Medicine Clerkship Director Receives AAEM/RSA Regional Faculty Mentor Award

As Emergency Medicine Clerkship Director at UQ OCS, Ravi R. Chauhan, DO, FAAEM, has oversight of rotation curriculum and overall student experience, including lectures, tutorials, simulation training, mentoring and any other opportunities to enhance learning.

Dr. Chauhan’s accomplishments in this role earned him the 2021–2022 American Academy of Emergency Medicine Resident and Student Association (AAEM/RSA) Regional Faculty Mentor Award for the International region. The award acknowledges an attending faculty member in emergency medicine who has served as an outstanding role model for medical students in their region.

Dr. Chauhan, who also serves as an emergency physician at Ochsner Medical Center and an Assistant Clinical Professor at UQ OCS, received the award at the Annual AAEM Scientific Assembly on April 26, 2022.

Two Ochsner Academics Physicians Named Women of the Year

Julia Garcia-Diaz, MD, and Eboni Price-Haywood, MD, were named CityBusiness Women of the Year for 2021, recognized among 50 women selected from the greater New Orleans region whose successes and contributions have made them catalysts for change and leaders in the community.

Dr. Garcia-Diaz, Director of Clinical Infectious Diseases Research and Medical Subspecialties, was one of the principal investigators for Pfizer/BioNTech SE’s SARS CoV-2 vaccine trials at Ochsner Health, participating with a total of 120 sites around the world. She and her team of clinical research coordinators administered doses and studied data from 230 Ochsner patients across Louisiana.

Dr. Price-Haywood, Medical Director of OXIHER, leads a team developing innovative strategies for improving the overall health of everyone, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

“Saints and Ochsner Hero” Recognized for Vaccine Efforts

Since the pandemic began, Yvens G. Laborde, MD, Medical Director of Global Health Education and Public Health at Ochsner Health and an Associate Professor of Medicine at UQ OCS, has been on the front lines of Ochsner Health’s COVID-19 vaccination events.

At the New Orleans Saints home game on November 25, 2021, Dr. Laborde was honored on the field of the Caesars Superdome for his work leading the Ochsner Equitable Vaccine Distribution Workgroup and serving as part of the Vaccine Task Force. He was recognized in front of thousands of fans as part of the Saints and Ochsner Hero Program, which acknowledges healthcare professionals for their commitment to their patients and the community.
Recognizing Nearly a Decade of Service

After nearly 10 years at Ochsner Health, Shelly Monks, System Vice President of Academic Affairs, made the difficult decision to leave to pursue a new opportunity. During her time with Ochsner, she made significant contributions to the expansion and growth of the Division of Academics.

Monks provided leadership and oversight of the building of the Center for Academic Excellence and the Ochsner Clinical Simulation and Patient Safety Center, as well as renovations of the Richard W. Freeman Research Institute Building. She was integrally involved in several new Academics initiatives, including development of the Office of Grants Management, the Xavier University of Louisiana Physician Assistant Program in partnership with Ochsner Health, and the Loyola University of New Orleans and Ochsner Health Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program. She played a big part in implementing the Ochsner Health Medical School Scholarship for LSU Health Shreveport and the Ochsner Physicians Scholars Program.

Monks was also instrumental in several of Ochsner’s strategic initiatives, such as opening a Family Medicine Residency Program at St. Tammany Parish Hospital, expanding Louisiana State University Eunice nursing programs in partnership with Ochsner Lafayette General, and developing graduate medical education programs sponsored by Ochsner Lafayette General Medical Center. Ochsner Academics is indebted to Shelly Monks for her tireless work. We are excited for her as she transitions to a new opportunity closer to her home.

New Academic Titles Awarded

High-quality medical education and research would not be possible without the dedicated work of those who train the next generation of physicians and advance the science of medicine. To recognize these individuals, UQ awards academic titles to those who make substantial contributions in teaching, research, service and engagement. Ochsner has 362 active UQ title holders. Here are the physicians who received academic titles over the past year:

**Professors**
- Edward McCoul, MD*
- James Milburn, MD
- Eboni Price-Haywood, MD*

**Associate Professors**
- Yashar Eshraghi, MD*
- Nicole McCoin, MD
- Jose Tafur Soto, MD*

**Senior Lecturers**
- Olabode Agaja, MD
- Blair Barton, MD
- Lydia Breskin, MD
- Roberto Calix, MD
- Michael Castine, MD
- Betty Chung, MD
- Matthew Cully, DO
- Ross Dunbar, MD
- Jenny Feng, MD
- Shannon Goode, MD
- Norman Hill, MD
- Daniel Johnson, MD
- William Kethman, MD
- Ashley Newell, MD
- Deepti Reddy, MD
- Karla Rivera, MD*
- Adrian Ruiz, MD
- Erika Smith, MD
- Andrew Steven, MD
- Anna Suessman, DO
- Tong Yang, MD

* These physicians were promoted, as they previously held a different UQ academic title.
The **UQ OCS Experience**

The University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School’s (UQ OCS) 98% match rate in 2022 through the National Resident Matching Program® is the highest in the program’s history and significantly exceeds the national rate for medical schools in the United States. However, this remarkable achievement is hardly the only thing that sets this innovative international program apart from other schools.

**Global, Patient-Centered Perspectives**

“In the first two years of the UQ OCS program, there is a huge emphasis on how to talk to patients,” says Amanda Theppote, MD, an infectious disease specialist at Ochsner Health and UQ OCS alumna. “Connecting with patients helps physicians understand what social and environmental factors influence their wellness, which is essential for determining how patients can best be treated and what other resources might improve their health and well-being.”

After studying abroad in Scotland as an undergraduate, Dr. Theppote was intrigued by the UQ OCS program, which offered a new cultural experience and varied healthcare perspectives.

“I had the opportunity to travel on a rural rotation to Derby in Western Australia, where I worked with the Royal Flying Doctor Service, going into Aboriginal communities to see what limitations they faced in healthcare,” Dr. Theppote says. “I could see parallels to here, how social determinants of health impact access to medicine and outcomes.”

Graham Unis, MD, a third-year internal medicine resident at Ochsner Health and UQ OCS alum, looked at the international experience as an “adventure” for himself and his growing family.

“Our son was born during orientation in the first week of medical school,” Dr. Unis says. “Experiencing Australia’s national healthcare system, one of the best in the world, gave us great insights into healthcare access. UQ OCS also did a phenomenal job of ensuring that we always had clinical experience integrated within our academic studies so when we moved on to residencies, we’d be confident about managing patients on our own.”

Bhumit Desai, MD, a third-year orthopedic surgery resident at Ochsner Health, said he had never left Louisiana before embarking on his UQ OCS education.

“Assimilating to life and learning on a new continent helped me develop skills that were, ultimately, so important in my residency,” Dr. Desai says. “UQ OCS did a really nice job providing us with very supervised hospital and practice settings early on, so we were able to read and empathize with patients and we always had a very good clinical context for what we were covering in didactics.”

Even after Dr. Desai returned to the U.S., he was able to take advantage of another UQ OCS international learning opportunity, a clinical outreach experience that sent Dr. Desai and two other residents to Manipal, India.
In 2022, UQ OCS had a 98% match rate through the National Resident Matching Program®.

“Assimilating to life and learning on a new continent helped me develop skills that were, ultimately, so important in my residency."

Bhumit Desai, MD
“We were immersed with their medical students and involved with clinical outreach including vaccine fairs and medical education in lower socioeconomic areas,” he says. “We also had opportunities to scrub in with orthopedic surgeons there. Seeing how they were able to effectively treat patients in areas where resources were so limited was incredibly cool.”

Supportive Mentors and Inspiring Clinical Placements

According to Kathy Jo “KJ” Carstarphen, MD, an internal medicine physician at Ochsner Health and a Clerkship Director with UQ OCS, in addition to working closely with residents, medical students at UQ OCS also have many opportunities to communicate with attending physicians – a rarity in medical education.

“Supportive Mentors and Inspiring Clinical Placements

Having encouragement and support from respected leaders instilled great confidence in me to achieve my career goals.”

Rachel A. Calix, MD

“At bigger institutions, it’s really the first-year residents or interns who are interacting with the students because the attendings have other responsibilities,” she says. “Many of our physicians are actually sitting down with students doing the didactics and talking through cases.”

In her MedVantage Clinic, Dr. Carstarphen tries to break down silos in healthcare and ensure her UQ OCS students always consider social determinants of health.

“A UQ OCS education is as much as you want it to be,” says Rohit Rajendran, a fourth-year medical student and President of the Ochsner Medical Student Association. He conducts research with Dr. Carstarphen, focused on caring for underserved and underrepresented communities. “If you want to scrub into a case, you can. If you want to do research, learn certain skills or if you have a strong inclination for a specialty, those residents and staff will do their best to ensure you are prepared.”
Third-year student and 2022 Perla S. Gill, MD, Scholarship recipient Monique Salazar says her mentors and clinical placements helped her connect to certain specialties.

“The attendings and residents are great mentors and great humans, which really influences our experience,” Salazar says. “I’ve realized I want to do inpatient work, inspired by my time in the pediatric wards and in learning how to help inpatient psychiatric patients both medically and by talking to them about their experiences.”

As part of the Burns Medical Society, Salazar says she has also received invaluable guidance from Society Head David Galarneau, MD, Medical Director of the Acute Psychiatry Unit and Psychiatry & Behavioral Health Services at Ochsner Health.

At UQ OCS, Rachel A. Calix, MD, now a neuro-ophthalmologist at Ochsner Health, said she found “a very nurturing culture and staff and leadership members who seemed genuinely invested in our professional success.

“Having encouragement and support from respected leaders instilled great confidence in me to achieve my career goals,” Dr. Calix says. “I would recommend the UQ OCS program to individuals who are looking for more than simply a straightforward path to practicing clinical medicine. It is a program which attracts students and graduates physicians who are brave, resilient and seeking both personal and professional growth.”

To learn more about UQ OCS, visit education.ochsner.org/uq-ochsner-clinical-school
Education

The University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School

98% match rate through the National Resident Matching Program® in 2022

Continuing Medical Education

22,176 total physicians attended CME events in 2021

Clinical Simulation & Patient Safety Center

30,422 learners in 2021
Conferences and Symposia

Ochsner Health offered several conferences and symposia throughout the year to ensure our healthcare providers are up to date on the newest research and evidence-based practices integral to high-quality care and to encourage sharing of knowledge with other medical professionals.

2021 Ochsner Regional Neurosciences Symposium

HELD MARCH 18 – 20, 2021

Keynote speaker Avindra Nath, MD, delivered the keynote address, “Neurologic Complications of Coronavirus Infections (including COVID-19).” Dr. Nath is Clinical Director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) at the National Institutes of Health, where he is also Chief of the Section of Infections of the Nervous System, Director of the Translational Center for Neurological Sciences, and Director of the Neuroimmunology and Neurovirology Fellowship Program.

21st Southern Hospital Medicine Conference (SoHMC)

HELD OCTOBER 13 – 16, 2021

This conference included two keynote presentations. The first, by Kimberly Manning, MD, Associate Vice Chair for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at Emory University School of Medicine, was on diversity, equity and inclusion. Eric Howell, MD, MHM, CEO of the Society of Hospital Medicine, delivered the other address, titled “The Pandemic and State of Hospital Medicine.”

Regularly Scheduled Series

Ongoing Regularly Scheduled Series medical education courses are an important part of Ochsner Health’s continuing medical education program. Intended for Ochsner staff, these courses allow healthcare staff to maintain competence and learn about new and developing areas of clinical practice across our medical specialties. Presentations over 12 months focused on medical care treatments, clinical trial outcomes and human protection research best practices.
Culmination Ceremony Held for Class of 2021

The University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School honored its 2021 graduating class at its annual Culmination Ceremony held on November 20, 2021, at The Gayle and Tom Benson Cancer Center on the Ochsner Medical Center – New Orleans campus. Students and faculty attended in person, and the festivities were streamed live to their family, friends and other guests. The keynote address was delivered by Kathryn M. Andolsek, MD, MPH, Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health and Assistant Dean of Premedical Education at Duke University School of Medicine.

The 108 graduating students of the Class of 2021 successfully completed a world-class medical program that offers four years of training and clinical experience across two continents. Several UQ Ochsner Clinical School physicians, residents and graduating students were recognized with awards.

2021 Teacher of the Year
Lauren Bergeron, MD – OB/GYN

Resident Teaching Awards
Amber Sleem, MD – Internal Medicine
Erika Pettis, MD – OB/GYN
Jeffrey Coote, MD – Pediatrics
Varad Deshmukh, MD – Psychiatry
Eduardo Alcantar, MD – Surgery
William Dolan Mitchell, MD – Surgery

Postgraduate Research Fellowship Awards
Sarah Chisholm, MD
Dustin Chalmers, MD
Arielle Kasindi, MD
Nadia Hussein, MD
Jay Shah, MD

Individual Student Awards
Jaye Espinas, MD – Internal Medicine-American College of Physicians Excellence Award
Stanimira Kartolova, MD – Dr. E. Edward Martin, Jr. Family Medicine Award
Nadia Hussein, MD – John Lockwood Ochsner Sr. Surgical Award
Angela Conway, MD – Student Excellence Award for OB/GYN
Morgan Viviano, MD – Student Excellence Award for Pediatrics
Brett Pearce, MD – Student Excellence Award for Psychiatry
Guy Helman, MD – Completion of two degrees – an MD and a PhD – in six years

Kathryn M. Andolsek, MD, MPH, Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health, Assistant Dean of Premedical Education at Duke University School of Medicine gave the keynote address at the Culmination Ceremony.
Doctors-in-Training Receive White Coats

On January 8, 2022, 96 UQ OCS doctors-in-training received their white coats in a virtual ceremony and were honored with Humanism in Medicine pins – a visual symbol displayed on the lapel of each white coat to remind students to keep empathy at the center of clinical practice. The ceremony is a rite of passage for medical students that emphasizes the importance of compassionate patient care from the start of medical training.

Third-Year Student Receives 2022 Perla S. Gill, MD Scholarship

UQ OCS student Monique Salazar was awarded the 2022 Perla S. Gill, MD Scholarship. The award supports female Ochsner Clinical School students of Hispanic descent, a group traditionally underrepresented in the medical profession.

Salazar was born and raised in Miami, Florida, to parents of Cuban-Nicaraguan descent. Her mother emigrated to the United States from Cuba as a young child and her father came from Nicaragua as a teenager. Her paternal great-grandfather was a doctor in Nicaragua.

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

UQ OCS student Rana Mehdizadeh has been named the 2022 recipient of the Dr. and Mrs. Roy Gregory Scholarship for Family Medicine. Mehdizadeh is pursuing a career in family medicine. She graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with degrees in public health and human biology and has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to her community, prioritizing health education and advocacy in underserved communities. She currently serves as the President of the Family Medicine Interest Group, as well as a board member of the New Orleans Adolescent Reproductive Health Project.
On June 9, 2022, the Ochsner Academics Department of Graduate Medical Education hosted its annual House Staff commencement ceremony. During this event, we celebrate and recognize resident and fellow physicians completing their core and specialty training with Ochsner Health. The commencement speaker was Steven Rose, MD, Emeritus Dean and Designated Institutional Official at the Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education.

This year’s event recognized the completion of medical training for 97 residents and fellows in Ochsner-sponsored programs accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), one Podiatry Medicine graduate and 10 Pharmacy residency graduates. An in-person commencement at the Riverview Terrace Room at The Gayle and Tom Benson Cancer Center was possible due to all attendees having received their COVID-19 vaccines. Video livestreaming was available for families, faculty and house staff who were unable to attend in person.

The ceremony opened with comments by Rajiv Gala, MD, Graduate Medical Education Designated Institutional Official; Leonardo Seoane, MD, Chief Academic Officer and Interim CEO, Ochsner Health LSU; Warner Thomas, President & Chief Executive Officer, Ochsner Health; and Ronald Amedee, MD, Dean of Medical Education, Ochsner Health.

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

**2022 HURST B. HATCH OUTSTANDING TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD**
Hospital-Based Medicine – William McKinnon White, MD – Anesthesiology
*•* Surgical Specialties – Mark Meyer, MD – Orthopedic Surgery

**2022 CASE REPORT WRITING AWARD**
Abdulaziz Joury, MD – Cardiology, for his paper titled “Ictal-induced Asystole in a Patient with Temporal Lobe Epilepsy.”

**2022 DEAN H. ECHOLS WRITING AWARD**
Abdulaziz Joury, MD – Cardiology, for his paper titled “Cerebral Protection During Percutaneous Intervention for Left Ventricular Assist Device Outflow Graft Obstruction.”

**2022 EDWARD D. FROHLICH, MD RESEARCH WRITING AWARD**
Vipin Varghese, MD – Internal Medicine, for his paper titled “Concomitant Identification of Muddy Brown Granular Casts and Low FENa in Acute Kidney Injury.”

**2022 RESIDENT TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD**
Saira Amjed, MD – Internal Medicine

**2022 ALTON OCHSNER RESIDENT LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD**
Francis Benn, MD – Electrophysiology

---

**Enrollment in Ochsner-Sponsored GME Programs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Graduates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017–18</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018–19</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019–20</td>
<td>291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020–21</td>
<td>314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021–22</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank a Resident and Fellow Day Celebrated

In February 2022, Ochsner physicians, advanced practice providers and Graduate Medical Education leaders and staff celebrated 319 residents and fellows in 30 Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education-accredited programs for Thank a Resident and Fellow Day and Appreciation Week. Residents and fellows received coffee and smoothie vouchers, catered breakfasts and lunches, king cake, cookies and special gifts, along with heartfelt messages of gratitude from their colleagues.

They are an integral part of the Ochsner healthcare team, and they often serve as indispensable resources for University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School medical students, especially during clinical clerkships. Throughout the pandemic, our residents and fellows have faced even greater challenges and have taken on additional duties, and their dedication makes accomplishing the work we do every day possible.

Ochsner Pharmacy Residency Programs Receive ASHP Accreditation

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Commission on Credentialing and the ASHP Board of Directors approved an eight-year accreditation for Ochsner Pharmacy Residency programs during their Spring 2021 accreditation cycle.

Ten residency programs are available within Ochsner Pharmacy, two of which are partnerships with Louisiana State University. Each residency incorporates innovative clinical practice models and state-of-the-art technology, such as Epic EHR, IV station robotics and the Pyxis MedStation™ ES integrated dispensing platform.

Graduate Medical Education Achieves 100% Match Rate

“We are thrilled that, once again, all positions offered by our Graduate Medical Education Office were filled in this year’s match. Ochsner offers high-quality programs, and our high fill rate record is a testament to the faculty, staff and students who are part of our program,” says Ronald Amedee, MD, Dean of Medical Education and Director of The University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School. “We are excited to welcome residents and fellows from here at our home program as well as from nationally renowned medical schools in Louisiana and across the country.”

100% of positions with students from across the globe participating in this year’s match.

29% of positions were matched with students from within Louisiana.

71% of positions were matched with students from outside of Louisiana.
Ochsner Health has a long history of training the next generation of healthcare professionals, and through partnerships with two Louisiana universities, we are helping to build a pipeline of highly skilled, compassionate and patient-centered healthcare providers. Over the last year, we celebrated some important milestones in these new programs.
35 Class of 2023 PA Students Receive White Coats

On January 29, 2022, the PA program held its second annual White Coat Ceremony for the Class of 2023.

The event, held in Xavier’s University Center, is intended to emphasize the importance of compassionate patient care as PA students embark on their clinical training. The Class of 2023 is a diverse group of students from eight states across the U.S. These PA clinical students are in rotations throughout a variety of Ochsner Health facilities and specialties.

“This program is committed to training you to become the healthcare providers that will make a meaningful impact on healthcare,” said Abdul Khan, MD, Medical Director of the program, who was the keynote speaker at the ceremony.

After receiving their white coats, the 35 students took the PA Professional Oath, as recited by Jill D. Fitzpatrick, PA-C, Director of Clinical Education for the program.

Xavier University Physician Assistant Program, in Partnership With Ochsner, Celebrates Inaugural Graduating Class

On May 7, 2022, the inaugural Class of 2022 Commencement was held for the Xavier University Physician Assistant Program, in partnership with Ochsner. The commencement introduced 37 new physician assistants (PAs) into the field. U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy, MD, served as the commencement speaker.

The 28-month, full-time graduate PA program, which leads to a master’s degree in health sciences, kicked off in 2020. The program includes three semesters of classroom instruction followed by 16 months of clinical training within Ochsner Health.

The PA program’s inaugural graduating class is made up of 13% Black students and a total of 64% minority students. According to the 2020 Statistical Profile of Physician Assistants published by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA), just 3.3% of PAs nationwide are Black. Fifty-six percent of the graduates are also Louisiana residents.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the demand for physician assistants is projected to grow 31% from 2020 to 2030, much faster than the average for all occupations. About 12,200 openings for physician assistants are projected each year, on average, over the decade.

Bill Cassidy, MD, U.S. Senator, delivered the commencement speech.
“We are so very pleased to have this first White Coat Ceremony for our nursing students to emphasize the importance of compassionate, holistic patient care at the very start of their nursing education.”

Sylvia Hartmann, MN
Director of Nursing Academics
Ochsner Health

Loyola-Ochsner Nursing Program Holds First White Coat Ceremony

The Loyola University New Orleans Pre-Licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program, in partnership with Ochsner Health, held its first White Coat Ceremony on October 2, 2021. During the ceremony, 12 second-year students recited an oath to patient care and stepped forward to be “cloaked” by Dean Michelle Collins, Loyola’s new Dean of the College of Nursing and Health.

“We are so very pleased to have this first White Coat Ceremony for our nursing students to emphasize the importance of compassionate, holistic patient care at the very start of their nursing education,” said Sylvia Hartmann, MN, Director of Nursing Academics at Ochsner.

At the time of the ceremony, these nursing students had already completed their first simulation training in the Ochsner Clinical Simulation and Patient Safety Center and were ready to begin clinical rotations within a medical-surgical unit at Ochsner Medical Center.
Xavier Graduate Receives Ochsner Health Medical School Scholarship for LSU Health Shreveport – School of Medicine

Xavier University of Louisiana graduate Aaron Jackson received the 2022 scholarship award, which covers four years of tuition at the LSU Health Shreveport – School of Medicine. Jackson, a first-generation minority college graduate, worked to put himself through college, and also engaged in work-study programs, internships and scientific research. He aims to show young people of color that attending medical school is possible.

Ochsner Academics Holds Summer Internship for Students (OASIS)

The 2022 OASIS program included 17 undergraduate college students representing six universities. OASIS students completed 459 hours of one-on-one shadowing time with Ochsner physicians and advanced practice providers, 24 lecture hours and six hours of clinical simulation training.

OPTIMUS Pipeline Program Hosts Virtual and In-Person Activities

In 2021, Ochsner Program to Introduce Medicine to Underrepresented Students (OPTIMUS) virtual programs included medical simulation events for 52 high school students, a workshop about the heart for 240 students in kindergarten through second grade, and an allied health career panel discussion. In 2022, the program has conducted digestive system experiments with 144 seventh and eighth graders at Homer Plessy Community School in Treme and held a Pre-Med Career Conference for local undergraduates.

Physician Master of Business Administration Program for UQ OCS Students

Three medical students enrolled in 2022 in the new Physician Master of Business Administration Program offered by Loyola University New Orleans. Open to UQ OCS students, the 36-credit hybrid program reflects a shared mission to prepare leaders in healthcare and business.

2022 CURE Summer Internship

After a two-year hiatus, the Collaborative Undergraduate Research Experience (CURE) internship program resumed in 2022. Five science undergraduates from the University of New Orleans engaged in laboratory-based research in Ochsner’s cancer, infectious disease, kidney, neuroscience and rheumatology translational labs. Interns worked one-on-one with physicians and completed research projects.

CURE was launched in 2017 by Kevin Conrad, MD, Senior Physician in Hospital Medicine and UNO alumni, to expose promising science students to impactful careers. Several CURE interns have gone on to study medical, biological and laboratory professions.
Research

Grant Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$9.14M</td>
<td>$7.3M</td>
<td>$6.6M</td>
<td>$4.0M</td>
<td>$2.4M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Active Clinical Trials

- 2017: 705
- 2018: 758
- 2019: 769
- 2020: 718
- 2021: 713

Patients Enrolled

- 2017: 2,466
- 2018: 3,491
- 2019: 3,433
- 2020: 3,498
- 2021: 3,523
Ochsner Academics hosted the 19th Annual Ochsner Research Day on May 26, 2022, with a return to in-person lectures and poster presentations at Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans. This important event showcases the exciting and innovative research conducted across our system by our physicians, scientists, pharmacists, nurses, fellows, residents and medical students.

Research Day featured opening remarks by Leo Seoane, MD, Chief Academic Officer, followed by three research presentations focused on the neurological sciences.

Bridget Bagert, MD, MPH, Director of the Multiple Sclerosis Center and Vice Chair of the Department of Neurology, presented on the role of Epstein-Barr virus in multiple sclerosis.

Kevin Lin, PhD, Associate Professor for the Department of Neurology at LSU Health Shreveport, discussed protein arginine methyltransferases in neurodegenerative pathologies.

Lorenzo Pasquini, PhD, Assistant Professor for Neuroscape at the Neurology Department at the University of California in San Francisco, California, delivered the keynote address, which described functional brain imaging in depression and psychedelic interventions.

There were 135 poster presentations in the Riverview Room of the Gayle and Tom Benson Cancer Center. These are the best presentation winners for the five judged categories:

PHARMACY
Taylor Waguespack, PharmD • Influence of Amiodarone on Warfarin Sensitivity in Patients With a Left Ventricular Assist Device

NURSING
Jessica Peterson, PhD, RN • The Impact of Two-Way Remote Monitoring on Outcomes for Patients With COVID-19

OCHSNER CLINICAL SCHOOL MEDICAL STUDENT
Seth Kazmer, MSc • Pathophysiological Response to SARS-CoV-2 Infection Detected by Infrared Spectroscopy Enables Rapid and Robust Saliva Screening for COVID-19

OCHSNER RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS
Vipin Varghese, MD • Confirmation of Acute Tubular Injury in Patients With "Muddy Brown" Granular Casts in the Urinary Sediment by Kidney Biopsy

2022 POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW
Dustin Chalmers, MD • Urinary Sediment Biomarkers for Diagnosis of Acute Tubular Necrosis
The centers align with institution service lines to increase access to innovative and therapeutic options for our communities and to leverage data to advance our understanding and improve outcomes for our patients. These are some of the key accomplishments by our researchers.

**Cardiology Research Center of Excellence**

Carl “Chip” Lavie, MD, Medical Director of Cardiac Rehabilitation and Prevention, serves as Editor-in-Chief for *Progress in Cardiovascular Diseases*, which raised its Journal Impact Factor (JIF) to 11.3 in 2021. Under Editor-in-Chief Hector Ventura, MD, *Current Problems in Cardiology* improved its JIF to 16.5. Daniel Morin, MD, MPH, Director of Electrophysiology Research and Director of Cardiovascular Research, was named Deputy Editor of *Annals of Internal Medicine: Clinical Cases*.

James Jenkins, MD, FACC, FSCAI, FSVM, Director of Interventional Cardiology Research, led Ochsner’s participation in the RADIANCE II Pivotal Study. Ochsner ranked in the top three in patient recruitment for both U.S. and international sites and was invited to participate in the Hypertension Advisory Board meeting. Clinical Research Coordinators Michael Harrison, Angela Penning and Terri Lopez led the recruitment effort.

Dr. Jenkins also received an R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to support his work with Traci Goodchild, PhD, Director of the Cardiovascular Center Translational Core Laboratory at LSU Health New Orleans. They are investigating the effects of renal denervation in acute myocardial infarction and heart failure in a swine model.

Robert Bober, MD, Director of Molecular Imaging and Nuclear Cardiology, received $117,000 in funding from Bracco Diagnostics Inc. to examine whether different infusion profiles of delivered radiotracer significantly influence myocardial blood flow (MBF) measurements in the new PET/CT camera.

**Medicine Multispecialty Research Center of Excellence**

Within the Medicine Multispecialty Research Center of Excellence, Derek Vonderhaar, MD, led Ochsner’s participation in the national PREPARE II clinical trial, the results of which were included in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA). The trial examined the effect of intravenous fluid bolus administration on cardiovascular collapse among critically ill adults undergoing tracheal intubation with positive pressure ventilation. The *JAMA* 2022 publication is a follow-up to a previously published trial in *The Lancet* in 2019. Both of these trials have shown this intervention to be unhelpful.

Jonathan Hand, MD, was the Principal Investigator for a double-blind, randomized, controlled COVID-19 vaccine study involving teen participants. After receiving two shots, the subjects are monitored and tested for two years to obtain safety, immune response and efficacy data. Ochsner was the only site in Louisiana to participate in the study to test the Pfizer vaccine in adolescents.
Neurosciences Research Center of Excellence

Ochsner was one of eight national sites to offer the Care Ecosystem (CE) program, an award-winning 12-month program that supports individuals with dementia and their caregivers. In 2022, the National Institute on Aging (NIA) funded an RO1 grant, managed by the UCSF Care Ecosystem group, to expand the program. Ochsner will receive funding from June 2022 through May 2025 to increase CE staff and serve more families.

Since arriving in August 2021, Bradley Peet, MD, has launched three new trials focusing on treatment for people with dementia. Jenny Feng, MD, MSc, also joined Ochsner in August 2021 and has begun three new trials evaluating medications for people with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis. Tiffany Eady, MD, PhD, was invited to join the prestigious Critical Care EEG Monitoring Research Consortium (CCEMRC) to improve neurophysiological critical care monitoring practices.

Oncology Research Center of Excellence

Marc Matrana, MD, Co-Director of the Scientific Advisory Board for the Cancer Advocacy Group of Louisiana, Director of the Precision Cancer Therapies (Phase I) Research Program and Associate Director of Clinical Cancer Research, was instrumental in the passing of a Louisiana bill. It mandates insurance coverage for targeted therapies for patients with advanced cancer caused by genetic mutations who have exhausted other options.

The two-day 2021 Multidisciplinary Cancer Update was held November 11–12, 2021. Conference directors included John Cole, MD, FACP, Chairman of Community Oncology Practices at South Shore; Daniel Johnson, MD; Brian Moore, MD, Director of the Ochsner Cancer Institute; and Dr. Matrana. The conference included moderated sessions with presenters discussing numerous areas of oncology.

Dr. Matrana and his clinical trials team enrolled the first patient in the national Strata Sentinel™ trial in March 2022. The trial evaluates the ability of StrataMRD to detect disease recurrence and monitor treatment effectiveness in patients with solid tumors.
Surgery Multispecialty Research Center of Excellence

George Chimento, MD, System Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery, served as Principal Investigator for a research trial to investigate outcomes of one-stage versus two-stage exchange arthroplasty for the management of patients with chronic periprosthetic joint infection (PJI). The hypothesis of this non-inferiority study is that single exchange arthroplasty, if performed in the appropriate patient population, carries an equivocal success rate for the treatment of chronic PJI as two-stage exchange arthroplasty, thereby avoiding the burden of the morbidity/mortality associated with two-stage exchange arthroplasty.

Deryk Jones, MD, Section Head of Sports Medicine, led a Phase III clinical study on the safety and efficacy of MACI® – an experimental product that utilizes a child’s own cells grown from their knee cartilage – in patients with symptomatic cartilaginous knee defects due to acute trauma or osteochondritis dissecans. The study compared MACI’s performance and outcomes in patients aged 10 to 17 years with that of arthroscopic microfracture. Researchers hope to demonstrate that these cells can be safely returned to a child following a knee cartilage injury and can improve the child’s knee symptoms and function.

Transplant Research Center of Excellence

Ari Cohen, MD, Medical Director of Multi-Organ Transplant Institute, Section Head of Transplant Surgery, and Paul Thevenot, PhD, Research Supervisor and Staff Scientist, continued an observational trial focused on improving patient outcomes with early-stage HCC by identifying critical cancer and comorbidity-dependent risk factors for disease progression. The study investigated viable HCC samples in bridge-to-transplant patients to understand how liver-directed therapies may affect tumor signaling pathways. The study was partially supported by an investigator-sponsored research grant with Boston Scientific and an Ochsner/LSU Health Shreveport Collaborative Intramural Research grant.

The project has generated publications in four journals: Frontiers in Oncology; Cancers; Cancer Immunology, Immunotherapy; and American Journal of Physiology–Gastroenterology and Liver Physiology. Research staff also presented study results at the 2022 American Transplant Congress and the 2022 Society of Interventional Oncology Annual Meeting.
Women’s Health Research Center of Excellence

Sherri Longo, MD, Director of Research for Women’s Services, contributed to the national Chronic Hypertension and Pregnancy (CHAP) trial published in the New England Journal of Medicine publication that found that treating high blood pressure during pregnancy is safe and beneficial for both the mother and the developing fetus. After publication, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists issued a statement of intention to update clinical guidance accordingly. The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine also announced that it is reviewing the trial results and will issue revised clinical guidance as appropriate.

2021 Alton Ochsner Award Relating Smoking and Disease

Established in 1986, the annual Alton Ochsner Award Relating Smoking and Disease – named after Alton Ochsner, MD, who published the first evidence linking tobacco smoking to lung cancer in 1939 and co-founded what is now Ochsner Health – honors impactful scientific breakthroughs in understanding the relationship between smoking and disease and the development of cessation strategies. In 2021, two recipients were selected for the award:

Peter G. Shields, MD, Deputy Director of the Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center and thoracic oncologist for Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute, explored biomarkers of exposure and harm, identified phenotypes and gene-environment interactions related to breast and lung cancer risk, and is leading a clinical study of the effects of electronic cigarettes.

K. Michael Cummings, PhD, MPH, Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and member of Hollings Cancer Center’s Cancer Prevention and Control Program at the Medical University of South Carolina, pioneered telephone approaches to promote smoking cessation and helped expose industry practices that encouraged smoking. His latest research assesses the efficacy of local, state, national and international policies related to smoking and identifies pragmatic cessation treatments.
2022 Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

In 2022, postdoctoral research fellowships at The University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School were awarded to five exceptional graduating medical students. These fellowships supported postdoctoral students’ research projects before they began residency, allowing them to work with leading figures across multiple disciplines to make impactful breakthroughs.

Dustin Chalmers, MD • (Mentor) Juan Carlos Velez, MD, System Chair of Nephrology • Urinary Sediment Biomarkers for Diagnosis of Acute Tubular Necrosis

Sarah Chisholm, MD • (Mentor) Frank Williams, MD, Maternal Fetal Medicine • Neonatal Outcomes Following Discontinuation of Routine Maternal Oxygen Supplementation for Non-Reassuring Fetal Status Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Nadia Hussein, MD • (Mentor) George Fuhrman, MD, Vice Chair and Program Director for the Department of Surgery • Investigating the Impact of Timing of Colostomy Closure on Clinical Outcomes

Arielle Kasindi, MD • (Mentor) Jose Posas, III, MD, Director of Neurology Residency Program • Variations in MoCA Scores in Urban vs Rural Settings: Examining Implicit Bias in the Louisiana Rural Cajun Population

Jay Shah, MD • (Mentor) Yashar Eshraghi, MD, Medical Director of Pain Research • Telemedicine: Pain-Free or Painful? Use of VR and Telemedicine in Pain Management in the COVID-19 Era and Beyond.


2022 Outstanding Research by Trainees

Ochsner Academics named five recipients of the 8th Annual Award for Outstanding Research by Trainees in January 2022. These UQ OCS medical students attended the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation (SSCI) and presented their research:


**Harini Priya Rajasekaran** - *Calcineurin Inhibitor Pain Syndrome: The Onset and Distribution of Pain.* H. Rajasekaran, M. Duggan and C. Edwards, New Orleans, La. • Also named a winner of the SAFMR/SSCI Student Research Travel Award.

**Kiana Moussavi** - *The Application of Ultrasound in Diagnosis and Surveillance of Chronic Occipital Neuralgia.* K. Moussavi, E. Azizi, Y. Eshraghi and J. Posas, New Orleans, La. • Also named a winner of the SAFMR/SSCI Student Research Travel Award.


2022 CIRP Awards

Since 2020, the Collaborative Intramural Research Program (CIRP) has supported collaborative research projects featuring one Ochsner researcher and one LSU Health Shreveport faculty member. The program encourages partnerships with principal investigators from different disciplines, awards seed funding to stimulate groundbreaking research in Louisiana and fosters collaboration across institutions.

The research projects selected for a CIRP grant award demonstrate innovation and meaningful collaborations. In 2022, four projects were awarded grants:

**Ari Cohen, MD**, Medical Director at Ochsner Multi-Organ Transplant Institute • **Arif Yurdagul, PhD**, Assistant Professor in Molecular and Cellular Physiology at LSU Health Shreveport • **Defects in Polyamine Homeostasis Are a Diagnostic Biomarker and Potential Therapeutic Target for NASH**

**Jonathan Hand, MD**, Medical Director for the Transplant Infectious Diseases Program at Ochsner Health • **Paulette Pinargote Cornejo, MD**, Associate Program Director of the Infectious Disease Fellowship at LSU Health Shreveport • Clinical and Microbiological Outcomes of Patients With Methicillin-Susceptible Staphylococcus Aureus Bacteremia Exhibiting the Cefazolin Inoculum Effect

**Korak Sarkar, MD**, Director of Ochsner Neurosciences Medical 3D Lab • **J. Steven Alexander, PhD**, Professor of Molecular and Cellular Physiology at LSU Health Shreveport • Imaging-Based 3D Printing for Neuro-Endovascular Planning and Training

**Xin Zhang, MD, PhD**, Staff Scientist at Ochsner Institute of Translational Research • **Samina Hayat, MD**, Director of the Scleroderma and Lupus Clinics at LSU Health Shreveport • Role of Gut Microbiota on Proinflammation and Autoimmunity in Obesity-Associated Lupus
Through the Ochsner-Xavier Institute for Health Equity and Research (OXIHER), Ochsner Health and Xavier University of Louisiana are focused on improving the overall health of our communities, reducing health inequities, developing innovative healthcare delivery models, and modeling equitable and respectful care. OXIHER’s framework is built around five Guiding Principles for improving the health equity and health status of Louisiana.

Some of our key accomplishments under each of these Guiding Principles in the last year included:

**Outcomes Research**
- A Master Data Sharing and Use Agreement that grants Xavier faculty access to Ochsner Health’s electronic medical record data for research
- An Institutional Review Board (IRB) Agreement that enables Xavier’s IRB to rely on Ochsner to review and oversee human subject research
- The hiring of four data scientists who can provide project-specific data analytics for Xavier faculty
- Five $10,000 pilot research grants awarded to Xavier faculty for collaborations with Ochsner investigators

**Population Health**
- Development of an internship for Xavier Master of Public Health students; the first cohort began interning at Ochsner community health centers in May 2022 in the areas of chronic care management, digital medicine, community health and the Medicaid Incentive Program
- Xavier physician assistant student clinical externships at Ochsner community health centers

**Health Education & Health Careers**
- A new Master of Science in Health Informatics (MSHI) degree program at Xavier (courses begin fall 2022)
- Appointment of two Xavier faculty liaisons for health outcomes and informatics research
- Hiring of an assistant professor of health informatics and data science and an assistant professor of health informatics and social informatics

**Community Engagement**
- In 2021: More than 65 events that reached 25,450 attendees, most of which were focused on disseminating COVID-19 information to socially disadvantaged populations via various communication channels, health screenings and COVID-19 vaccinations
- To date in 2022: 28 community outreach and education events with 4,853 attendees

**Health Advocacy**
- Health advocacy and policy work focused on maternal health, digital access, tobacco, education and job opportunities
- Speaking engagements at the Maternal Health Call to Action Summit at the White House
- Assistance with Ochsner’s Maternal Health Briefing, which advocated for increasing access to evidence-based digital health technology

---

**What is OXIHER?**
Funded by a $2.4 million W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant, OXIHER combines the resources of Ochsner and Xavier – working across their network of partner health providers, government entities, insurers, employers, schools and other community organizations – to be a catalyst for moving Louisiana’s overall health ranking in the right direction.

To learn more about OXIHER, visit ochsner.org/institute-for-health-equity-and-research
Ochsner Researchers Rank Among the Top 2% Worldwide in 2021 Report

Researchers at Ochsner Health have been recognized among the top 2% of their fields worldwide, according to a 2021 Stanford University study that ranks researchers based on the impact of their publications. The top 2% includes more than 160,000 researchers out of more than 8 million scientists considered to be active around the globe, representing 22 scientific fields and 176 subfields. Based on data reported in 2021, the following 12 Ochsner researchers were recognized:

- J.R. Biggio, MD, System Chair, Women’s Services, and System Chair, Maternal-Fetal Medicine, at Ochsner Baptist
- Lawrence Blonde, MD, Director, Ochsner Diabetes Clinical Research Unit
- S.B. Deitelzweig, MD, System Department Chair of Hospital Medicine and Vice President of Medical Affairs
- Edward Frohlich, MD, Alton Ochsner Distinguished Scientist (deceased)
- Carl "Chip" Lavie, MD, Ochsner's Medical Director of Cardiac Rehabilitation and Prevention
- Edward McCoul, MD, Rhinology Specialist
- Richard Milani, MD, Chief Clinical Transformation Officer
- George Pankey, MD, Ochsner’s Director of Infectious Diseases Research
- Eboni Price-Haywood, MD, Medical Director for Ochsner-Xavier Institute for Health Equity and Research
- Gabriel Uwaifo, MD, Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism Specialist
- Hector Ventura, MD, Section Head, Heart Failure and Heart Transplant
- Christopher White, MD, System Chairman for Cardiovascular Disease and Director, John Ochsner Heart & Vascular Institute

RESEARCHER RECOGNITION

Dr. Lavie’s 1,000th Paper Featured on PubMed

Carl “Chip” Lavie, MD, reached a new milestone – his 1,000th research paper was indexed on PubMed.

Developed by the National Library of Medicine, PubMed comprises more than 33 million citations for biomedical literature from MEDLINE, life science journals and online books. Dr. Lavie’s published works include individual publications as well as collaborations with colleagues at Ochsner and across the nation. His 1,000th paper, “Development and Validation of a Multivariable Risk Prediction Model for COVID-19 Mortality in the Southern United States,” appeared on PubMed in December 2021.
Ochsner Publications

Below is a selection of Ochsner-affiliated published research, based on the power of the study, the prestige of the journal, the number of Ochsner authors per study and/or an Ochsner physician-researcher’s status as first author. The citations below omit any non-Ochsner-affiliated authors and contributors.

Christopher J White
Impact of Chronic Kidney Disease on Revascularization and Outcomes in Patients with ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction
American Journal of Cardiology. 2021 Jul 1;150:15–23.

George Therapondos
Antiviral Therapy Reduces Risk of Cirrhosis in Noncirrhotic HBV Patients Among 4 Urban Safety-Net Health Systems

Aditya Bansal, Stephen Pepitone, Armin Schubert
Institutional preparedness strategies for heart failure, durable left ventricular assist device, and heart transplant patients during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic

Selim R Krim
Haemodynamic-guided management of heart failure (GUIDE-HF): a randomised controlled trial

David J Houghton, Ashley Laroche
Effect of Urate-Elevating Inosine on Early Parkinson Disease Progression: The SURE-PD3 Randomized Clinical Trial

Partha Sardar
Mechanical Complications in ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) Based on Different Reperfusion Strategies
American Journal of Cardiology. 2021 Oct 1;156:79–84.

Amy K Feehan, Cruz Velasco, Jeffrey H Burton, Eboni G Price-Haywood, Leonardo Seoane
Community versus individual risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection in two municipalities of Louisiana, USA: An assessment of Area Deprivation Index (ADI) paired with seroprevalence data over time
PLOS ONE. 2021 Nov 30;16(11):e0260164.

Stephen Lindsey
The Safety and Immunologic Effectiveness of the Live Varicella-Zoster Vaccine in Patients Receiving Tumor Necrosis Factor Inhibitor Therapy: A Randomized Controlled Trial

Eboni G Price-Haywood
Remdesivir for Severe Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Versus a Cohort Receiving Standard of Care

Hector O Ventura
Race and Ethnicity in Heart Failure: JACC Focus Seminar 8/9

Derek J Vonderhaar
Effect of Use of a Bougie vs Endotracheal Tube With Stylet on Successful Intubation on the First Attempt Among Critically Ill Patients Undergoing Tracheal Intubation: A Randomized Clinical Trial
During summer 2021, Ochsner Medical Library installed a full-text linking tool on 34,000 Ochsner computers for quicker staff access to institutionally subscribed content across 700+ publisher websites, PubMed, and even Wikipedia. The tool also connects to the Medical Library’s document delivery service for requesting paywalled articles.
You can be part of our mission to lead the region in solutions for high-quality clinical and hospital patient care.

As we continue medical training for the next generation, endowed professorships are necessary to expand our reach with students, residents, fellows and programs in allied health. Financial support is also needed to fund research to expand treatment therapies across all disciplines – from precision medicine to population health – and to study paths toward building a healthier and more equitable region. Both education and research efforts at Ochsner Academics require protected time, physical spaces, equipment, analytics and more to be successful.

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