

Louisiana Cancer Research Center  
Board of Directors Meeting  
A Hybrid Meeting was held  
on July 31, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

The following members of the Board of Directors were in attendance:

**Dr. Richard DiCarlo**, Dean, School of Medicine, LSU Health, Chairman  
**Dr. Lee Hamm**, Senior Vice President & Dean, School of Medicine, Tulane University, Vice-Chairman  
**Ms. Barbara Goodson**, Executive Director, Firefighters' Retirement System, Secretary/Treasurer  
**Dr. Brian Boulmay**, Professor of Clinical Medicine, Hematology and Oncology, LSU Health  
**Ms. Paige Carter**, Chief Business Development Officer, Louisiana Economic Development  
**Dr. Patrice Delafontaine**, Executive Dean, School of Medicine, Tulane University  
**Mr. Walter Leger, Jr.**, Senior Partner, Leger & Shaw Attorneys and Counselors  
**Mr. Darren Mire**, Member, Board of Regents; Director of Valuation, Orleans Parish Assessor's Office  
**Dr. Brian Moore**, Director, Ochsner Cancer Institute  
**Ms. Pamela Ryan**  
**Ms. Carroll Suggs**

The following members of the Board of Directors were not in attendance.

**Dr. Florastine Payton-Stewart**, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, Xavier University

Also, present were:

Mr. Paige Sensenbrenner, Senior Partner, Adams & Reese, Legal Counsel, LCRC  
Dr. Stefan Grant, Co-Director, LCRC, Director, Tulane Cancer Center, Tulane University  
Dr. Lucio Miele, Co-Director, LCRC, Director, LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center, LSU Health  
Mr. Sven Davisson, Chief Administrative Officer, LCRC  
Ms. Deborah Reeder, Chief Financial Officer, LCRC  
Mr. Ryan Graffagnini, Controller, LCRC  
Ms. Tammy Vaccaro, Sr. Research Administrator, Tulane Cancer Center & Radiation Oncology  
Ms. Lee Sabatini, Director, External Affairs, LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center, LSU Health  
Dr. Michael Celestin, Director, Tobacco Control Initiative, LSU Health  
Dr. Earl Benjamin-Robinson, Director, TFL and COE, LCRC  
Ms. Seanne Falconer, Executive Director, Tulane Cancer Center  
Ms. Melanie Cross, Director of Communication & Engagement, Tulane Cancer Center  
Ms. Janice Williams-Lucas, Business Manager, LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center, LSU Health  
Dr. Donna Williams, Associate Dean for Practice and Community Engagement, LSU SPH  
Dr. Christopher Williams, Professor, Chair of Basic Pharmaceutical Sciences, Xavier University

**Dr. Hamm** called the meeting to order. The roll was called and there was a quorum.

**Dr. Hamm** called for the Election of the Officers.

A motion was made by **Ms. Suggs** and seconded by **Dr. Delafontaine** to nominate Officers of the Board as follows:

**Dr. DiCarlo** was nominated to serve as Chairman of the Board.

RESOLVED with all in favor, **Dr. DiCarlo** will serve as Chairman of the Board

**Dr. Hamm** was nominated to serve as Vice Chairman of the Board.  
RESOLVED with all in favor, **Dr. Hamm** will serve as Vice Chairman of the Board

**Ms. Goodson** was nominated to serve as Secretary/Treasurer of the Board.  
RESOLVED with all in favor, **Ms. Goodson** will serve as Secretary/Treasurer of the Board

**Dr. DiCarlo** requested approval of the minutes of June 26, 2025, Board meeting.

A motion was made by **Dr. Hamm** and seconded by **Ms. Suggs**  
RESOLVED, with all in favor, to approve the minutes of June 26, 2025, Board meeting.

**Dr. DiCarlo** called for the Finance Committee Report.

Ms. Reeder presented the proposed Agreement between the Louisiana Cancer Research Center (LCRC) and the LSU Health Sciences Center – School of Public Health (LSUHSC-SPH) to create, maintain, administer, and manage the Louisiana Tobacco Control Initiative (TCI) in accordance with R.S. 47:841.1(C)(1). The proposed agreement covers a three-year term, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028.

The only substantive change to the agreement is the addition of an acknowledgment clause requiring recognition of LCRC in all reports, publications, presentations, and other related materials.

A motion was made by Ms. Goodson and seconded by Mr. Leger.  
RESOLVED, with all in favor, to approve the Agreement with LSUHSC-SPH for the Louisiana Tobacco Control Initiative (TCI).

Ms. Reeder presented a draft Operating Agreement between the Louisiana Cancer Research Center (LCRC) and LSU Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) to serve as the template for all institutional operating agreements. All other member agreements will be substantially similar.

The updated operating agreements include the addition of an acknowledgment clause, required state and federal provisions, and minor revisions to standard terms and conditions. Each institution's agreement will also incorporate institution-specific terms as applicable. If substantive changes are proposed, the agreement for that institution will be brought back before the Board for review and approval.

The proposed agreement covers a three-year term, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028.

A motion was made by **Dr. DiCarlo** and seconded by **Dr. Delafontaine** for the Board to conditionally approve the Operating Agreement template as presented. The motion further provided that, if any substantive modifications are made to the presented draft template, the respective institution's Operating Agreement will be resubmitted to the Board for approval, with all modifications clearly identified.

RESOLVED, with all in favor, to grant conditional approval of the Operating Agreement template with stipulation as noted.

**Ms. Goodson** provided an update on the FY26 budgets, which were included in the meeting materials and presented at the Finance Committee meeting held on July 23. Each institution presented its respective budget, goals, and objectives. Following a question-and-answer period, the Finance Committee voted to approve the budgets for recommendation to the full Board.

Ms. Reeder presented the FY26 budget summary which encompasses all budgets recommended for approval. The total amount requested for approval is \$17,352,135.

Ms. Reeder noted that the Central, Shared Services, and Tobacco-Free Living (TFL) budget proposals are deferred.

A motion was made by **Ms. Goodson** and seconded by **Dr. Delafontaine** to approve the FY26 budgets, goals, and objectives as recommended.

RESOLVED, with all in favor, to approve the FY26 budgets, goals, and objectives as recommended.

**Ms. Goodson** concluded the Finance Committee report.

**Dr. DiCarlo** called for the Research Update report.

Drs. Miele and Grant provided an update on the research program. They highlighted recent papers derived from the SUCRE initiative. For the 2023 program, Amy Liu and her colleagues published their study titled “Investigating Risk Factors for Racial Disparity in E-Cigarette Use with the PATH Study” in the journal *Stats* (vol. 7, pp. 613–626, 2024). For the 2024 program, Randy Hamilton and collaborators have had their paper, “Mediation Analysis to Investigate Differences in Prostate Cancer Diagnosis Stage Through Environmental Risk Factors in Louisiana,” accepted for publication by *Current Oncology* (2025).

The meeting continued with research updates from Tulane University. Dr. Chiung-Keui Huang was awarded a five-year, \$1.56 million NIH NIAAA R01 grant for liver cancer research. Dr. Elizabeth Martin secured a two-year, \$280,500 NIH NCI R21 grant focused on triple-negative breast cancer. Additional grants from the Ladies Leukemia League were awarded to Dr. Van Barnes (\$27,000 for mantle cell lymphoma), Dr. Zhen Lin (\$35,000 for the development of a drug targeting EBV-associated lymphoma), and Dr. Hua Lu (\$35,000 to investigate malfunctioning pathways in blood cancers).

Regarding NCI designation milestones, the finalized LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center five-year Strategic Action Plan has been distributed to Interim President Dr. Lee and his staff. The Cancer Center has also appointed a data tracking and evaluation specialist, who is tasked with maintaining the membership list in EVAL and developing dashboards to monitor research program progress in funding, publications, and intra- and inter-programmatic collaboration.

The restructuring of approximately 130 members from LSU, LSU Health New Orleans, Pennington Biomedical Research Center, and LSU Veterinary Medicine has been completed, organizing them into programs centered around inter-programmatic themes, including inflammation and immunity in cancer, metabolism and cancer, genetics and genomics, as well as environmental, lifestyle, and genetic cancer risk factors.

An NCI-compliant Clinical Trials Office (CTO) has been established, including a PRMS and disease-site group, as well as regulatory support staff. The CTO currently manages more than 100 cancer clinical trials, with 1,067 participants enrolled for 2025. Recruitment efforts for a Medical Director of the CTO are ongoing, along with searches for a Clinical Research Operations Manager and Disease Group Supervisor. The Virtual Research Nurse program continues to expand, supporting clinical trials at rural sites.

The University Medical Center has launched a Phase 1 Unit under the leadership of Dr. Shou-Ching Tang, staffed by a team of five, with five industry-sponsored Phase 1 trials currently enrolling participants. Drs. Jernigan and Moaven have inaugurated an LCMC Health-wide Molecular Tumor Board, which now facilitates collaboration among physicians from LSUHSC, Tulane, and the broader community, and welcomes participation by basic scientists interested in translational research.

Dr. Chris Williams next provided the Xavier research update. Jaya Sridhar has founded a Cancer Research and Education Club for students. The RCMI program remains unaffected by recent federal changes. Ongoing recruitment is underway for two new faculty positions. Multiple proposals have been submitted to the

Department of Defense's breast cancer funding opportunity, and Xavier has initiated the XU-funded "R01 Accelerator" program; the first two participating labs are LCRC members and focus on cancer research.

**Dr. DiCarlo** called for the CAO Update.

Key legislative points included a temporary halt of NIH funding as of July 30, 2025, and its reversal on July 31, 2025. Mr. Davisson noted potential visits by representatives of the Policy Team and discussed activities related to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, chaired by Senator Cassidy. Facilities projects were briefly reviewed, confirming the completion of heat exchanger repairs and issuance of a purchase order for the replacement of domestic water pumps.

**Dr. DiCarlo** called for the CAO Update report.

Mr. Davisson highlighted key legislative updates.

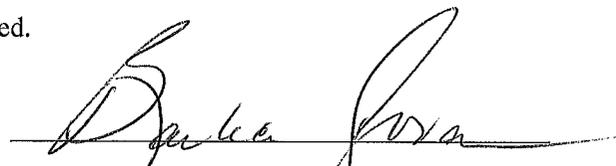
- NIH Funding Halt (Yesterday 7/30/25); Reversal this morning ( 7/31/2025)
- Potential Visit: Representatives of the Policy Team
- Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP), chaired by Senator Cassidy
- Facilities Projects
  - Heat Exchanger Repairs – Completed
  - Domestic Water Pumps Replacement – PO Issued

**Dr. DiCarlo** called for any old business.

**Dr. DiCarlo** called for any new business.

Mr. Sensenbrenner provided an update on the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA). LSU and Tulane are reviewing the language and submitting their institution's recommendations. Once those recommendations have been agreed upon by the institutions, Mr. Sensenbrenner will prepare a "clean" draft and circulate to the Board for review. A special Board meeting via Zoom will be held to discuss and approve the CEA.

With no further discussion or business, the meeting adjourned.



**Ms. Barbara Goodson, Secretary/Treasurer**