

Louisiana Cancer Research Center  
Board of Directors Meeting  
A Hybrid Meeting was held  
On May 29, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

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

**Dr. Lee Hamm**, Senior Vice President & Dean, School of Medicine, Tulane University, Chairman  
**Dr. Richard DiCarlo**, Dean, School of Medicine, LSU Health, Vice-Chairman  
**Ms. Barbara Goodson**, Executive Director, Firefighters' Retirement System, Secretary/Treasurer  
**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. Florastine Payton-Stewart**, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, Xavier University

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

**Dr. Brian Boulmay**, Professor of Clinical Medicine, Hematology and Oncology, LSU Health  
**Ms. Paige Carter**, Chief Business Development Officer, Louisiana Economic Development  
**Dr. Brian Moore**, Director, Ochsner Cancer Institute  
**Ms. Pamela Ryan**  
**Ms. Carroll Suggs**

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  
Ms. Stephanie Wiebke, Sr. Program Manager, Xavier University  
Mr. Terrell Neal, CFO, Louisiana Public Health Institute  
Ms. Shelina Davis, CEO, Louisiana Public Health Institute  
Dr. Michael Celestin, Director, Tobacco Control Initiative, LSU Health  
Dr. Earl Benjamin-Robinson, Director, TFL and COE, LCRC  
Dr. Prescott Deininger, Associate Director, Basic Science, Tulane Cancer Center

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

**Dr. Hamm** requested approval of the minutes of the Marh 27, 2025 Board meeting.

A motion was made by **Dr. Delafontaine** and seconded by **Dr. DiCarlo**  
RESOLVED, with all in favor, to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2025, Board meeting.

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

**Ms. Goodson** stated that Mr. Graffagnini would present the FY25 Budget to Actual summary.  
Mr. Graffagnini presented the Budget to the Actuals for all budget components.  
**Ms. Goodson** concluded the Finance Committee report.

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

Dr. Grant and Dr. Miele presented a joint update on LCRC Research:

They highlighted recently recruited faculty:

- Shalini Kulasingam, PhD, MPH, Director of Center for Cancer Prevention & Control at Celia Scott Weatherhead School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine & Associate Director of Population Sciences for Tulane Cancer Center & LCRC;
- Arunava Roy MSc, PhD, Assistant Professor, department of Interdisciplinary Oncology at LSU HSC - New Orleans and LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center.
- Trayambak Pathak, PhD, Assistant Professor, department of Interdisciplinary Oncology at LSU HSC - New Orleans and LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center.

The Association of Cancer Center Administrators named New Orleans to host the 2027 Annual Conference. Mr. Davisson and Ms. Falconer were selected as the 2027 Conference Co-Chairs. This is the annual meeting for flagship organizations for administrators from NCI-designated and aspirational cancer centers across the country. Hosting the meeting brings national attention to our region and highlights our leadership in cancer research and administration. This is an opportunity for us to drive the agenda/speakers and highlight the impact that LCRC has on cancer research in Louisiana.

The 2025 annual scientific retreat was held at Xavier University on Tuesday, May 20, 2025. There were over 250 attendees. Ninety-eight abstracts were submitted with sixty-six posters selected to be presented. The lunch keynote presentation featured two speakers from the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

They provided an update on the status of NIH funding challenges and the administration's budget request. The current bill proposes a 40% cut in the NIH budget. Multiple professional organizations (including AACI and AIRI of which LCRC are members) are engaged in a joint working group to develop recommendations for improving the indirect (F&A) cost system.

Dr. Grant then presented his suggestion to conduct a review of the Tobacco Cessation Program. He suggested bringing in an outside expert, Eric Donny, PhD. Dr. Donny is a Federally funded tobacco cessation expert and the founding Director of the Tobacco Control Center of Excellence, Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center. The Co-Directors suggested that he could assist in evaluating the current programs in context of current standards, changes in tobacco use, loss of Federal support for Quitline; and develop a tobacco cessation research component.

A motion was made by **Ms. Goodson** and seconded by **Dr. Delafontaine**.

RESOLVED, with all in favor, to endorse the engagement of the Tobacco Cessation colleague to conduct a review of the program for LCRC and report on findings. The fee will be honorarium compensation.

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

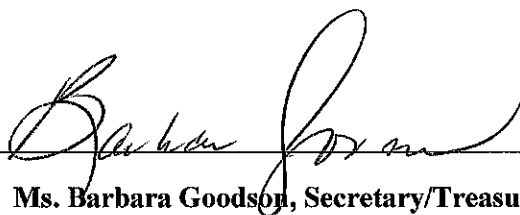
Mr. Davisson provided recent highlights of LCRC activities. The Office of Community Engagement held its third annual Promising Practices Conference in Shreveport. The 2025 SUCRE fellows arrive on June 2 to begin their eight-week research experience. Seven of the eleven fellows are from within the state. LCRC's membership has reached 347 Members Statewide. LCRC has recently expanded access to the centralized data system EVAL that manages membership data and metrics. Through this expansion to designated institutional administrators, the data quality will be improved and the data management decentralized. Finally, Mr. Davisson provided an update on recent facilities-related activities: the 10th Floor Air Handler Repair has been completed; the RFP for the Domestic Water Pump Replacement is Complete; the RFP for replacing the building heat exchangers has been

released; and two insurance claims are being pursued to repair damage from two recent car accidents impacting the LCRC grounds.

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

**Dr. Hamm** called for any new business. There was none.

With no further discussion or business, the meeting adjourned.



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