



**Louisiana Center for
Health Innovation**

University of Louisiana at Lafayette®

2024-2025

Annual Report



UNIVERSITY of
LOUISIANA
LAFAYETTE®

**Informatics
Research Institute**



BETTER **TOGETHER.**
INNOVATING HEALTH.
EMPOWERING **COMMUNITIES.**





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ANNUAL SUMMARY

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Welcome To Our Center

The Message From Our Director



Advancing, Strengthening, and Expanding

As I reflect on this first full year leading the **Louisiana Center for Health Innovation (LCHI)**, I am filled with gratitude for the extraordinary work of our dedicated team. Together, we have advanced research, strengthened workforce pathways, and built partnerships that are already shaping the future of health and well-being across Louisiana.

This has been a year of transformation not only for LCHI but also for research, higher education, healthcare, and public health more broadly. At a time when our state and nation face urgent challenges—workforce shortages, shifting health priorities, and the need for innovation—LCHI has demonstrated how collaboration, resilience, and vision can generate lasting solutions.

Our team's work this year underscores a simple truth: when innovation and collaboration converge, meaningful change follows. Each project—whether mentoring a student, publishing a paper, or partnering with a community organization—adds to the strong foundation we are building for a healthier Louisiana.

Looking ahead, we will continue to grow our research enterprise, deepen workforce development, and expand statewide and global partnerships. Most importantly, we remain committed to ensuring that our work delivers measurable impact for the people and communities we serve.

Better Together. Innovating Health. Empowering Communities.

With gratitude,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gabriela".

Gabriela Wilson, PhD, MSc, FHIMSS, FIAHSI, SNAI

Director, Louisiana Center for Health Innovation
Professor, College of Nursing and Health Sciences
Dr. J. Robert Rivet Endowed Chair & Acadian Ambulance
Service/BORSF Eminent Scholar Endowed Chair in Health Informatics

”

“When innovation and collaboration converge, meaningful change follows.”

– Dr. Gabriela Wilson

Executive Summary

Guided by our 2025–2028 Strategic Plan, we have achieved measurable progress across research, workforce development, community engagement, and thought leadership:

- **Advancing research and scholarship:** Published in *Frontiers in Public Health* and the *International Journal of Medical Informatics*; developed new manuscripts on cancer risk, vaccine hesitancy, and trauma registries; and submitted an invention disclosure for LUNESSA, a novel VR-based behavioral health concept.
- **Strengthening workforce development:** Hosted the first TExBioMed Summer Institute on our campus; mentored undergraduate and graduate students; delivered workshops on PolicyMap, statistics, trauma registries, and social determinants of health (SDOH); and laid the groundwork for a new Trauma Registry education program.
- **Expanding community partnerships:** Collaborated with Southwest Louisiana Health Education Center (SWLAHEC), United Way of Acadiana, Proyecto Hispano, Miles Perret Cancer Services (MPCS), and Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI); engaged with local clinics and hospitals; and reached communities statewide through initiatives such as the Veterans Needs Assessment and VAX-UP.
- **Securing external funding:** Received a Pfizer Global Medical Grant to strengthen maternal immunization education, and advanced new proposals in breast cancer, HIV, and prenatal health.
- **Elevating visibility and leadership:** Organized and hosted the 46th American Romanian Academy Congress at UL Lafayette; co-led the AI 4 Health Outcomes Symposium; and represented UL Lafayette on National Institutes of Health (NIH) study sections as well as through leadership roles with HIMSS and AMIA.



ABOUT THE LOUISIANA CENTER FOR HEALTH INNOVATION

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Mission, Vision, & Core Values

From Strategy to Success

Mission

The Louisiana Center for Health Innovation (LCHI) advances healthcare innovation through **research, education, and collaboration**.

We work to improve health outcomes and develop a skilled workforce to meet the needs of Louisiana and beyond.

Vision

To position Louisiana as a leader in healthcare and life sciences innovation by **leveraging UL Lafayette's research strengths** and building solutions through collaboration and advanced technologies.



Core Values



Innovation

We champion and lead innovative solutions to complex challenges.



Access & Opportunity

We are committed to promoting fair healthcare for all and improving health outcomes.



Collaboration

We believe in the power of partnerships to achieve greater impact.



Excellence

We strive for the highest standards in research, education, and service.

LCHI Team Organizational Overview



**Gabriela Wilson, PhD, MSc,
FHIMSS, FIAHSI, SNAI**

Director



Angie V. Sanchez, MD, MPH

Health Innovation
Officer



Kemiah Owoh

Health Innovation Operations
and Communications
Coordinator



Sadie Smith, MPH

Health Innovation
Research Scientist



Sahithya Sakhamuri, MPH

Health Innovation
Research Associate



Julia Ardoin

Health Communication
Research Associate



LCHI is a part of the Informatics Research Institute (IRI) at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The center contributes to the social good through research in data science to unleash the potential of Big Data in areas such as health, crisis response, community security & resiliency, and smart & connected communities.



LCHI'S **2025-2028** STRATEGIC GOALS

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LCHI's Strategic Goals 2025-2028



Goal 1: Advance Health Innovation

Pioneer health informatics **research, develop projects** that drive public health innovation, and **foster** interdisciplinary **collaborations** that translate findings into practical applications.

Goal 2: Enhance Strategic Workforce Development

Support the development of a skilled **healthcare workforce** through research, academic collaborations, and partnerships with industry and government to inform workforce policies and initiatives in Louisiana.

Goal 3: Expand Community Engagement and Impact

Advance healthcare access and outcomes by conducting community-based research, applying public health informatics, and collaborating with local organizations to promote wellness.

Goal 4: Strengthen Institutional Capacity in Research and Collaboration

Strengthen research capacity, interdisciplinary collaborations, and infrastructure to create a sustainable foundation for healthcare innovation and public health advancements.

Goal 5: Improve Healthcare Outcomes Through Research and Policy Influence

Improve health outcomes through research on social determinants of health, evidence-based policy advocacy, and community-centered solutions that enhance healthcare access.

Goal 1: Advance Health Innovation

100%

Initiate three key research projects in health informatics and public health by end of 2025

LCHI initiated **5** research projects, focusing on the needs of Louisiana Veterans, social vulnerability and cancer risks from air toxins, improving maternal immunization rates in Region 5, the relationship between nutrition and health outcomes, and workforce strategies for Louisiana's trauma registrars.

100%

Secure Partnerships with Five Research Institutions and Healthcare Providers by End of 2026

The Center surpassed its goal by securing partnerships with hospitals, community organizations, and **3** academic institutions from Romania: The National University of Science and Technology, POLITEHNICA Bucharest, Danubius International University, and Titu Maiorescu University.

100%

Publish Research Findings to Inform National Health Outcomes and Data-Driven Solutions by 2027

LCHI is working to enhance national discussions on health outcomes through publications in internationally reputable journals (**3** accepted, **3** under review, and **5** in preparation). These publications contribute to both **Goals 1 and 5**, focusing on research related to health outcomes and SDOH.

 Check for updates

OPEN ACCESS

EDITED BY
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Duke University, United States

REVIEWED BY
Xue Wu,
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United States
Yangyang Zhu,
Harvard Medical School, United States
Yuanxin Teng,

Social vulnerability and cancer risk from air toxins in Louisiana: a spatial analysis of environmental health disparities

Sadie Smith[✉], Sahithya Sakhamuri[✉], Chloe M. Guidry[✉] and Gabriela Mustata Wilson[✉]

Goal 2: Enhance Strategic Workforce Development

100%

Develop Reports and Recommendations for Louisiana's Healthcare Workforce Strategy by 2026

LCHI played a leading role in Louisiana workforce strategies by addressing shortages in Louisiana's healthcare sector.

100%

Build Partnerships with Industry Stakeholders to Support Healthcare Workforce Innovation by 2027

Through the **Healthcare Employment Advancement in Louisiana (HEAL)** initiative, LCHI collaborated with multiple units across the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, other University of Louisiana System institutions, and statewide partners—including the Louisiana Department of Health, Louisiana Workforce Commission, Board of Regents, and leading healthcare organizations—to strengthen Louisiana's healthcare workforce through education, training, and career advancement opportunities.



LCHI co-organized the 2025 AI4Health Outcomes Symposium, themed 'Trust & Workforce in AI,' with participation from **4** universities. Dr. Gabriela Wilson moderated the 'Workforce Ready' panel, discussing AI's impact on healthcare roles and workforce training.

Goal 3: Expand Community Engagement and Impact



100%

Engage with Three Community Organizations to Develop Health Informatics-driven Projects by the end of 2025

LCHI established partnerships with over **10 community organizations**, including MPCs, SWLAHEC, LPHI, etc.

100%

Conduct Workshops that Provide Education and Resources

The Center hosted **8 workshops** on trauma registry, community-based research, SDOH, and PolicyMap for the faculty and staff of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, as well as the TExBioMed Summer Research Institute participants.



Goal 4: Strengthen Institutional Capacity in Research and Collaboration

100%

Develop a robust research agenda at UL Lafayette for health informatics and public health innovation by 2027

LCHI's 2025-2028 Strategic Plan was released early in 2025 to inform partners, the community, and colleagues of our dedication to our mission, vision, and goals.

IV. Implementation Plan

Action Steps

- Assign Responsibilities**
Assign responsibility to each team member for each strategic goal, ensuring clear accountability and progress tracking.
- Cross-Functional Teams**
To advance each goal, form cross-disciplinary teams of researchers, community stakeholders, and healthcare professionals.
- Regular Progress Reviews**
Schedule quarterly reviews to evaluate progress on key milestones and adapt strategies as needed.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

- Partnerships developed with healthcare providers, academic institutions, and community organizations.
- Number of health informatics and public health research projects initiated.
- Measurable impact on community health outcomes.



[VIEW OUR 2025-2028 STRATEGIC PLAN](#)

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100%

Create three strategic partnerships with national organizations and research institutions by 2026 to expand research opportunities

LCHI continues to advance its strategic partnerships with national organizations, making progress toward its goal of establishing three partnerships by 2026 to expand research opportunities.



In 2025, UL Lafayette became an **approved education partner with HIMSS**. HIMSS is a global nonprofit that advances healthcare through information technology, providing valuable resources for students and faculty. LCHI was instrumental in establishing this partnership.

Goal 5: Improve Healthcare Outcomes Through Research and Policy Influence

100%

Engage with state health policymakers to implement recommendations from LCHI's research by 2027.

The Center participated in Red and White Day, Veterans Day, and UL System Day at the Capitol. We also hosted Dr. Adriana Bankston, a Policy Research Investigator and former congressional policy fellow, for a presentation.

LCHI is committed to achieving the goals in our Strategic Plan by improving operations, engaging the community, and expanding research capacity. Our team is dedicated to promoting responsibility and teamwork throughout the center.





RESEARCH & **STRATEGIC** COLLABORATIONS

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Partnerships & Stakeholders

LCHI maintains strong collaborations across UL Lafayette, including with the Informatics Research Institute, the College of Nursing & Health Sciences, Advanced Student Research, the School of Computing and Informatics, and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. The center also works closely with community partners to advance research, technology, and community-based health initiatives across the region.



University of Louisiana
at Lafayette School of
Computing and
Informatics



United Way of Acadiana



Louisiana Veterans Needs Assessment

In partnership with the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, we launched a statewide initiative to assess the needs of Louisiana's Veterans and their families from May 5th to July 31st, 2025.

Through **3 surveys** for Veterans, families, and Veteran-serving organizations, the project gathered vital insights to guide service improvements. The initiative received over **500 responses** from across the state.



Veterans Day at the Capitol

LCHI also participated in Veterans Day at the Capitol on May 5, 2025, sharing information about the initiative, engaging with community partners, and promoting continued participation and collaboration to support Louisiana's Veteran community.



University News > Statewide initiative to assess needs of Louisiana's military veterans and families

Looking Ahead

We are continuing to work with the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs to analyze the survey data and identify key areas for action to better address the needs of Veterans and their families across Louisiana.

Statewide initiative to assess needs of Louisiana's military veterans and families

PUBLISHED May 5, 2025

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[READ THE ENTIRE PRESS RELEASE](#)

Healthcare Employment Advancement in Louisiana (HEAL)

Healthcare Employment Advancement in Louisiana (HEAL) strengthens Louisiana's healthcare workforce by connecting individuals with education, training, and career opportunities.



Internal Partnerships

HEAL initiative is a partnership between UL Lafayette's Office of the Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Economic Development, the College of Nursing & Health Sciences (CNHS), and the Informatics Research Institute (IRI).

External Partnerships



[VISIT HEALNAVIGATOR.ORG](https://healnavigator.org)



Developing the ECHO Louisiana Community Coalition at LCHI for Maternal Immunization Education



We have partnered with the Southwest Louisiana Area Health Education Center (SWLAHEC) to launch the Empowering Communities for Healthy Outcomes (ECHO) Louisiana Community Coalition, supported by an independent medical grant from **Pfizer's Global Medical Grants & Partnerships Program**.

This initiative aims to **enhance maternal immunization rates in Region 5** by collaborating with expectant mothers, doulas, midwives, and healthcare professionals to develop culturally relevant educational materials. The program, led by Dr. Angie Sanchez and Sadie Smith, MPH, with Dr. Gabriela Wilson serving as Senior Advisor, is scheduled to launch in late 2025.

[READ THE ENTIRE PRESS RELEASE](#)



VAX-UP



In its final year, VAX-UP continued collaborations with community partners, stakeholders, and vaccination providers, building on efforts from the 2023-2024 cycle. The team conducted surveys with stakeholders and community members to examine SDOH data, their impact on overall health outcomes, and their need for support. Additionally, the team worked with pharmacists and vaccine providers to assess the use of LINKS, Louisiana's statewide immunization information system.

The Training and Experiential Learning in Biomedical Informatics (TExBioMed) Summer Institute took place at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in the summer of 2025.

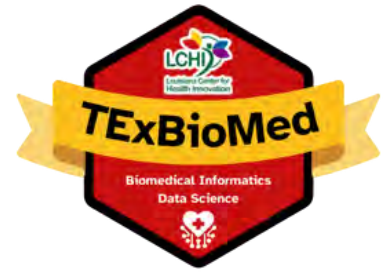
Funded by the National Library of Medicine, **NIH (R25LM014215)**, in collaboration with UL Lafayette's College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Informatics Research Institute, Advanced Student Research, College of Computing and Informatics, University Research, and UL Libraries, this **12-week program** provided **13 undergraduate scholars** with hands-on experience in biomedical, health, and public health informatics, as well as data science. The program featured mentorship, workshops, journal clubs, and research projects.



LCHI Team

The LCHI team presented on topics such as community-based research, social determinants of health, and trauma registry.

Team members included research mentors Dr. Angie Sanchez, Sadie Smith, Sahithya Sakhamuri, and Chloe Guidry. Kemiah Owoh served as Program Coordinator, and Chloe Guidry and Madhu Nalluri worked as TExBioMed Assistants alongside PhD student Muhammad Usama Islam.



Final Presentations and Awards

LCHI concluded its program on August 1, 2025, with students presenting their research projects to the community. A panel of judges from partner organizations, including Ochsner, Our Lady of Lourdes, and UL Lafayette, evaluated the presentations.

The event highlighted **innovative research and collaboration**, with awards given to the top scholars: **Katie Hambrice** earned first place, **Konye Brown** took second place, and **Aseel Ghani** and **Parker Bristow** shared third place.

This project resulted in **1 presentation** and **3 manuscripts to be submitted**.

Katie Hambrice presented "*Geospatial Analysis of Disparities in Access to Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARCs) Using Public Health Informatics*" at the Gulf Coast 2025 Annual Regional Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.



LEARN MORE ABOUT
TExBIOMED

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The TExBioMed Final Presentation and Awards event was sponsored by the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

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Graduate Research Assistants

LCHI welcomed two Graduate Research Assistants to our team this year. Both assisted with several LCHI projects and presentations.



Chloe Guidry, CSTR, CAISS

Graduate Research Assistant

Chloe is currently pursuing an **M.S. in Psychology** and earned her graduate certificate in Population Health at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She is a certified trauma registrar (CSTR) and Abbreviated Injury Scale specialist (CAISS), **one of fewer than five dual-certified professionals in Louisiana**. Chloe was recognized as a 2024-2025 Ragin' Recognition Outstanding Graduate Student, a 2025 Errol Labat Health Information & Technology Scholarship recipient (awarded by the Louisiana HIMSS Chapter), and a 2025 Phi Kappa Phi inductee. Her research focuses on trauma epidemiology, SDOH, and Alzheimer's disease, and she has contributed to multiple publications and conference presentations.

Chloe supports LCHI's cancer- and trauma-related research projects and workforce development initiatives, including the TExBioMed Summer Institute. She has co-led workshops, assisted with publications, and facilitated collaborations with local health systems.



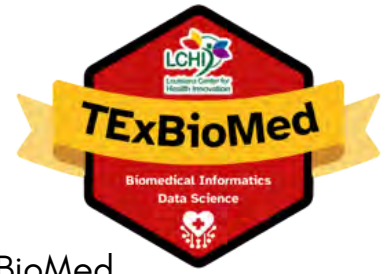
Madhu Nalluri, MSc, PhD Student

Graduate Research Assistant

Madhu is a **PhD student in Computer Science** at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, specializing in **Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning**. She earned her Master's degree in Computer Science from the New York Institute of Technology and her Bachelor's degree in Technology from BV Raju Institute of Technology.

She is contributing to LCHI initiatives by analyzing workforce and SDOH data across Louisiana. She also participated in TExBioMed workshops, journal clubs, and contributed to student poster presentations.

TExBioMed Scholars



The following undergraduates participated in LCHI's 2025 TExBioMed Summer Institute, each completing a hands-on biomedical or public health research project.

Madeline Aymond – *Stress Mitigation Using VR Experiences*

Mentor: Dr. Arun Kulshreshth, *School of Computing & Informatics*

Konye Brown – *Trauma Data: Raising Awareness of a Cornerstone of Trauma Care*

Mentors: Dr. Gabriela Wilson & Chloe Guidry, *Louisiana Center for Health Innovation*

Parker Bristow – *Social Determinants of Cardiovascular Health: A State-Level Comparison Between Louisiana and Minnesota*

Mentors: Dr. Angie Sanchez & Sadie Smith, *Louisiana Center for Health Innovation*

Tyler Dykes – *Louisiana Veterans Needs Assessment*

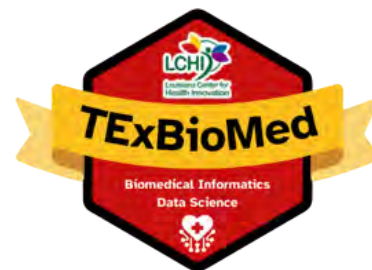
Mentor: Dr. Gabriela Wilson, *Louisiana Center for Health Innovation*



"It opened my eyes to more career opportunities."

- TExBioMed Scholar

TExBioMed Scholars



Aseel Ghani – *HPV on Every Shore: Comparative Genomics of HPV16 and 18*

Mentor: Dr. Gaurav Raikhy, Office of the Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Economic Development

Katie Hambrice – *Geospatial Analysis of Disparities in Access to Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARCs)*

Mentor: Dr. Ravi Teja Bhupatiraju, Center for Applied Artificial Intelligence (CAAI)

Haylee Holt – *When Seconds Matter: Improving Emergency Medical Care for Children with Rare Conditions*

Mentor: Dr. Ismatara Reena, School of Kinesiology

Julia Johnson – *Developing 3D Virtual Reality Environments to Help Relieve Stress*

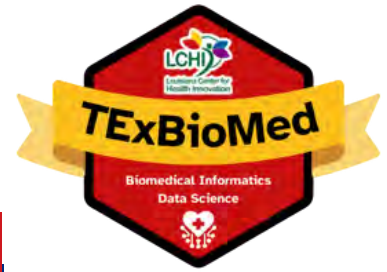
Mentor: Dr. Sonya Hsu, School of Computing and Informatics

Aysa Jordan – *Digital Phenotyping for Early Detection of Cognitive Decline: A Scoping Review of Methodological Approaches and Challenges*

Mentor: Dr. Scott Sittig, College of Nursing and Health Sciences



TExBioMed Scholars



”

“It cleared a lot of the fog that existed and exposed me to even more paths that I could take. I'm so thankful that I was able to be a part of this and I will continue to advocate for programs such as this because of the value that I have seen it has provided me.”

– **TExBioMed Scholar**

Tia Miller – *Food for Thought: Analyzing Food Insecurity in the State of Louisiana*

Mentors: Dr. Jeanne Cartier & Sahithya Sakhamuri, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Louisiana Center for Health Innovation

Morgan Rabun – *Stress Classification Using Wearable-Based Biometric Signals*

Mentor: Dr. Raju Gottumukkala, Center for Applied Artificial Intelligence (CAAI)

Khyla Trail – *Auditing the Data Lifecycle in mHealth Apps: Gaps in Storage, Analysis, and Deletion*

Mentor: Dr. Beenish Chaudhry, School of Computing and Informatics

Kieu Tran – *Deep Learning of U-NET in Image Segmentation*

Mentor: Dr. Hao Zheng, School of Computing and Informatics





PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

LCHI team members delivered over **20** presentations, lectures, and workshops this year, including international keynotes, specialized trainings, scholarly posters, and research talks focused on health outcomes and workforce development. The team also participated in **22** conferences (20 national, 2 international).

Presentations & Workshops

PolicyMap Workshops to Strengthen Data Literacy

In 2025, LCHI led PolicyMap workshops to help faculty, staff, and students visualize health and demographic data. Sessions highlighted practical applications through real-world case studies.

Key Session: Leveraging Data and Maps for Education and Research (College of Nursing & Health Sciences)

- Leads: Dr. Gabriela Wilson, Sadie Smith, Sahithya Sakhamuri, and Chloe Guidry

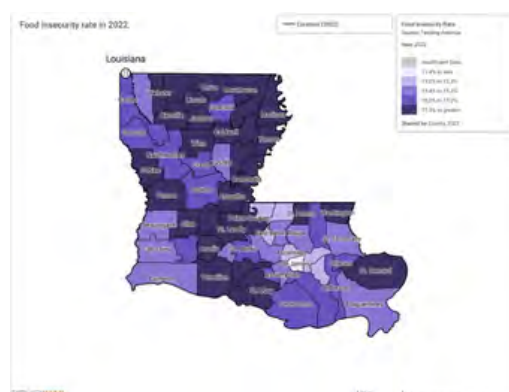
Additional Workshops:

- Psychology faculty - Chloe Guidry
- TExBioMed students - Chloe Guidry

Case Studies:

- HIV in Louisiana - Sadie Smith
- Food Insecurity Focus - Sahithya Sakhamuri

POLICYMAP
►DIG DEEPER



Presentations & Workshops

American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences (ARA) Congress



LCHI achieved significant global visibility by organizing and hosting the 46th American Romanian Academy (ARA) Congress in April 2025.

The ARA Congress was a **two-day interdisciplinary showcase** that brought global scholars and international partners for high-level presentations and discussions. **Three collaboration agreements** were signed between UL Lafayette and the National University of Science and Technology, POLITEHNICA Bucharest, Danubius International University, and Titu Maiorescu University.

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[VIEW THE ARA CONGRESS PRESS RELEASE](#)

Presentations & Workshops

American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences (ARA) Congress

Dr. Gabriela Wilson served as Chair of the Conference, leading efforts that highlighted UL Lafayette's growing global research impact.

The LCHI team contributed to the Congress's success, with Kemiah Owoh managing logistics as Conference Coordinator and researchers Dr. Angie Sanchez, Sadie Smith, Sahithya Sakhamuri, and Chloe Guidry presenting 3 original studies addressing critical health challenges in Louisiana.



Additional distinguished guests included **Mayor-President Monique Boulet** and **Dr. Paul Sanberg, President of the National Academy of Inventors**. The event was hosted in collaboration with **UL Lafayette's Global Engagement Office** and the **Lafayette International Center**.



LCHI ACHIEVEMENTS

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Professional Development

In 2024-2025, the LCHI team engaged in professional development activities to enhance leadership and research skills. This included trauma care and public health training, data analytics workshops, and conference participation, all of which strengthened team expertise and advanced LCHI's mission to improve community health.



Highlights

Executive Leadership:

Dr. Gabriela Wilson completed the Higher Education Resource Services (HERS) Leadership Institute and, alongside team members, continued contributing through professional and advisory roles.

Specialized Training:

Dr. Angie Sanchez, Chloe Guidry, Sahithya Sakhamuri, Sadie Smith, and Kemiah Owoh increased their expertise in trauma care, public health, data mapping, and community health initiatives.

Conferences and Summits:

LCHI participated in the World Health Summit, Fast Track Cities Conference, Advancing Public Health Data Conference, and multiple local research and health-focused summits.

Certifications and Online Courses:

Team members earned credentials in human subjects research, public health analytics, and AI in healthcare, and completed training in RStudio, PolicyMap, and data analysis.

Recognition & Awards



The LCHI team received significant recognition this year, highlighting achievements in leadership, professional contributions, and student research.

Team Recognition

- **Dr. Gabriela Wilson:** **2025 ARA Award of Excellence, ARA Certificate of Recognition**, and named a **UL Lafayette National Academy of Inventors Chapter Member**.
- **Kemiah Owoh:** Awarded an **ARA Certificate of Recognition** for contributions to the American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences Congress.
- **Dr. Angie Sanchez & Sadie Smith:** Received a **2025 Pfizer Global Medical Grants & Partnerships Award** to improve maternal immunization education in Louisiana's Region 5.
- **Sadie Smith:** Led **LCHI's first collaborative peer-reviewed publication**, *Social vulnerability and cancer risk from air toxins in Louisiana: a spatial analysis of environmental health disparities*, published in *Frontiers in Public Health* (May 2025), coauthored by Sadie Smith, Sahithya Sakhamuri, Chloe Wilson, and Dr. Gabriela Wilson.



Recognition & Awards



Graduate Research Awards

- **Chloe Guidry**, Graduate Research Assistant, was named the **2024–2025 Ragin' Recognition Outstanding Graduate Student Winner** by UL Lafayette's Office of Student Engagement & Leadership, recognizing excellence in academic success, organizational involvement, community service, and university representation.
- Chloe also received the **2025 Errol Labat Health Information & Technology Annual Scholarship** from the Louisiana Chapter of HIMSS (\$1,000) for her work in Health Information and Technology.



ANNUAL SUMMARY



Financial Summary

LCHI continued its research and innovation efforts through collaborative initiatives, demonstrating the center's sustained momentum and impact in the field.

Source	Project	Personnel	Dates	Amount
AWARDED				
Pfizer, Inc.	Developing the ECHO Louisiana Community Coalition at LCHI for Maternal Immunization Education	Angie Sanchez, MD, MPH – PI Sadie Smith, MPH – Co-PI Gabriela Wilson, PhD – Senior Advisor Sahithya Sakhamuri, MPH Kemiah Owoh, BS	08/01/2025 – 06/30/2026	\$24,992
National Science Foundation	IUCRC Planning Grant University of Louisiana at Lafayette: Center for Accessible Healthcare through AI-Augmented Decisions (AHeAD)	Raju Gottumukkala, PhD – PI Gabriela Wilson, PhD – Co-PI Xiali (Sharon) Hei, PhD – Co-PI Ravi Teja Bhupatiraju, PhD – Co-PI Scott Sittig, PhD – Co-PI	07/01/2025 – 06/30/2026	\$19,999
National Institutes of Health/ National Library of Medicine (NIH/NLM)	Training and Experiential Learning in Biomedical Informatics (TExBioMed)	Gabriela Wilson, PhD – PI	09/01/2024 – 08/31/2027	\$426,679.95
VAX-UP: A Strategic Partnership for Immunization	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Louisiana Department of Health	Ramesh Kolluru, PhD – PI Henry Chu, PhD – Co-PI Angie Sanchez, MD, MPH Sadie Smith, MPH Sahithya Sakhamuri, MPH Julia Ardoin, BS	07/01/2023 – 06/30/2025	\$9,500,000
TOTAL	\$9,971,670.95			
PENDING				
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Foundation	Developing the Empowering Communities for Health Outcomes (ECHO) Louisiana Community Coalition for Maternal Health	Sadie Smith, MPH – PI Angie Sanchez, MD, MPH – Co-PI Gabriela Wilson, PhD – Senior Advisor Sahithya Sakhamuri, MPH Kemiah Owoh, BS		\$71,638

Publications

Smith, S., Sakhamuri, S., Guidry, C. M., & Mustata Wilson, G. (2025) – Social vulnerability and cancer risk from air toxins in Louisiana: a spatial analysis of environmental health disparities. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 13, Article 1601868.
<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2025.1601868/full>

Sakhamuri, S., Smith, S., Guidry, C. M., & Mustata Wilson, G. (2025). Social vulnerability and environmental cancer risk in Louisiana: a cross-sectional analysis of incidence and airborne environmental exposures. *ARA Journal of Science* ISSN: 3067-8382, 8, 7-27.
<https://www.americanromanianacademy.org/ara-journal>

Ball, M. J., **Mustata Wilson, G.**, Tierney, W. M., Weidanz, J., Hernandez, D., Kim, G. R., & Douglas, J. V. (2024). A perspective on integration and outreach: Guiding concepts in the evolution of health informatics. *International Journal of Medical Informatics*, 192, 105638.
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1386505624003010>

Presentations & Workshops

Dr. Gabriela Mustata Wilson

Wilson, G. M. (2024, November). *Keynote address*. Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Delta Eta Chapter, Lafayette, LA.

Wilson, G. M. (2024, November). Panelist. AMIA Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Wilson, G. M. (2024, December). COVID Information Commons webinar presenter. Columbia University, New York, NY.

Wilson, G. M. (2025, March). *AI for impact: Advancing health access, decoding public sentiment, and transforming education*. The Days of the Iasi Clinical Recovery Hospital, Iasi, Romania.

Wilson, G. M. (2025, April). *Artificial intelligence in healthcare: Transforming nursing facility care through innovation and workforce augmentation*. Louisiana Nursing Homes Association Spring Conference, Baton Rouge, LA.

Wilson, G. M. (2025, April). *Panelist*. Notre Dame School of Nursing Symposium.

Wilson, G. M. (2025, April). *Assessing cancer risk in Louisiana*. 46th American Romanian Academy (ARA) Congress, Lafayette, LA.

Wilson, G. M. (2025, June). Panelist. inSTEM Summit, Science and Technology Medals Foundation, Washington, DC.

Presentations & Workshops

Dr. Angie Sanchez

Sanchez, A. (2024, November). *Diversity, inclusion, and health literacy*. WCG Patient Forum.

Sanchez, A. (2025, February). Panelist, Day of Women and Girls in Science. Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWDS) and the Colombian General Maritime Directorate.

Sanchez, A. (2025, April). Louisiana Community Wellness Connect (VAX-UP results). 46th American Romanian Academy (ARA) Congress, Lafayette, LA.

Sanchez, A. (2025, May). Community-based research. TExBioMed Program, Lafayette, LA.

Sadie Smith

Smith, S. (2025, February). *HIV case study in Louisiana*. University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Nursing Department.

Smith, S. (2025, April). *Social vulnerability and cancer risk*. 46th American Romanian Academy (ARA) Congress, Lafayette, Louisiana.

Smith, S. (2025, May). *SDOH and public health datasets*. TExBioMed Students, Lafayette, LA.

Sahithya Sakhamuri

Sakhamuri, S. (2025, February). *Introduction to PolicyMap and food insecurity case study*. College of Nursing & Health Sciences, University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Sakhamuri, S. (2025, April). *Social vulnerability and environmental cancer risk in Louisiana*. 46th American Romanian Academy (ARA) Congress, Lafayette, LA.

Sakhamuri, S. (2025, May). Introduction to statistics – 101. TExBioMed Program, Lafayette, LA.

Chloe Guidry

Guidry, C. (2025, January). *Tangles, turmoil, and tropical fish: Unraveling the utility of the zebrafish model in Alzheimer's research*. UL Lafayette 3MT® Finals, Lafayette, LA.

Guidry, C. (2025, March). *Tangles and turmoil in a zebrafish model of Alzheimer's disease*. UL Lafayette Psychology Showcase, Lafayette, LA.

Guidry, C. (2025, April). *Tangles and turmoil in a zebrafish model of Alzheimer's disease*. 46th American Romanian Academy (ARA) Conference, Lafayette, LA.

Guidry, C. (2025, May). *PolicyMap: Introduction for behavioral science researchers*. Department of Psychology Faculty, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, LA.

Guidry, C. (2025, May). *PolicyMap in action for biomedical researchers*. TExBioMed Summer Institute, Lafayette, LA.

Guidry, C. (2025, June). *Backbone of informed trauma care: Meet the trauma registry*. TExBioMed Participants, Lafayette, LA.

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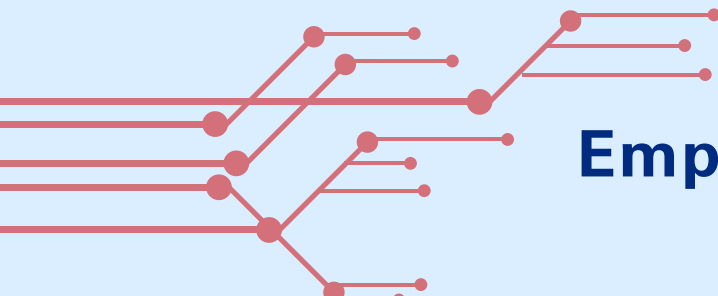


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