



**Louisiana Center for
Health Innovation**

University of Louisiana at Lafayette®

**Louisiana
Center for
Health
Innovation**

2025-2028

Three-year Strategic Plan



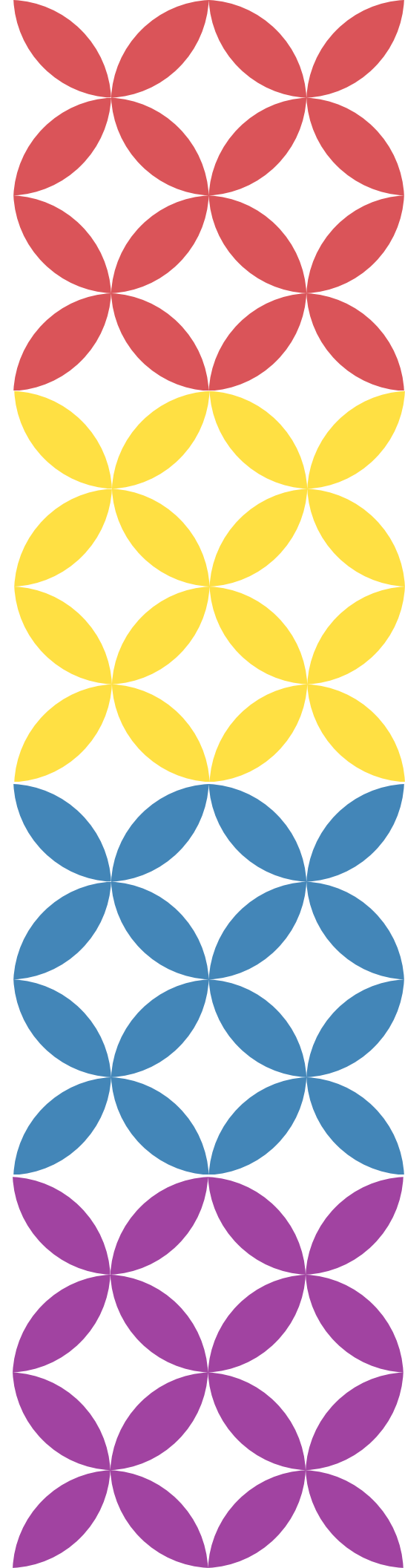
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**Informatics
Research Institute**

Strategic Plan

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Message from the Director

Welcome to the Louisiana Center for Health Innovation (LCHI), where our commitment begins with the community. The most impactful healthcare innovations start by listening to and understanding the needs of the people we serve. At LCHI, our mission is to put the community first by developing research, education, and engagement activities that directly address Louisiana's health challenges.

Our work is grounded in the belief that improving healthcare outcomes requires genuine collaboration with the communities we aim to empower. By partnering with local organizations, industry leaders, and academic institutions, LCHI is uniquely positioned to drive innovation that improves individual health and strengthens our communities' fabric.

Being part of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, a Carnegie R1 research institution, gives us the unique advantage of leveraging cutting-edge resources and expertise to drive health innovation that matters. From developing new models of care delivery to exploring the potential of personalized medicine, LCHI is focused on innovations that will make a tangible difference in people's lives. Our goal is to ensure that the benefits of these advancements reach all members of our community.

We also recognize that healthcare innovation cannot happen in isolation. That's why LCHI is deeply committed to workforce development. We are preparing the next generation of healthcare professionals with the skills and knowledge they need to thrive in an increasingly complex and technology-driven field. By creating educational and training opportunities that align with the needs of our region, we are helping to build a resilient and skilled workforce that will support Louisiana's health sector for years to come.

Our vision is clear: Establish LCHI as a leader in healthcare innovation where the community is at the center of everything we do. We aim to create a model of excellence that other regions can emulate, ensuring that community needs drive health innovation and everyone can benefit from it. As the Cajuns say, "Lâche pas la patate!"—"Don't let go of the potato." This phrase embodies the resilience and determination we at LCHI embrace as we push forward in our mission to innovate health and empower our communities.

We are proud to be part of a broader ecosystem that includes the Accessible Healthcare for AI-Augmented Decisions (AHeAD) Center, Center for Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity (CCIC), the National Incident Management Systems and Advanced Technologies (NIMSAT).

I invite you to join us on this exciting journey. Together, we are stronger, and together, we can achieve more.

Let's Geaux!

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



Mission Statement

The Louisiana Center for Health Innovation (LCHI) transforms healthcare through cutting-edge research, education, and strategic collaboration. We harness the power of data science to drive innovation, improve patient and community outcomes, and build a future-ready workforce for Louisiana and beyond.

Vision Statement

LCHI advances the future of healthcare and life sciences by leveraging UL Lafayette's R1 research excellence to drive innovation, forge strategic partnerships, and develop a resilient, tech-driven workforce that meets the industry's evolving demands.

Core Values

- **Innovation:** We champion and lead the development of innovative solutions to complex health and life sciences challenges.
- **Access and Opportunity:** We are committed to promoting fair access to healthcare and improving healthcare quality and outcomes across all communities
- **Collaboration:** We believe in the power of partnerships to achieve greater impact.
- **Excellence:** We strive for the highest standards in research, education, and service.

Meet the Team



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

Director



Angie V. Sanchez, MD, MPH

Health Innovation Officer



Sadie Smith, MPH

Health Innovation Research Scientist



Sahithya Sakhamuri, MPH

Health Innovation Research Associate



Kemiah Owoh

Health Innovation Operations and Communications Coordinator

Logo



Louisiana Center for Health Innovation
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

This shade of red is the same color code as the vermilion in the UL Lafayette logo. Red is known to signify **perseverance and passion**. The Center is energized and ready to take on anything that comes our way.

Yellow is known to signify **innovation and creativity**. To build solutions for health-related issues in Louisiana, we need to have a "think outside the box" attitude and be ready to confront challenges as they arise.

Blue is known to signify **stability and trust**. As a Center, we want to be seen as a dependable source of aid and information, especially during the most challenging times.

Purple is known to signify **wisdom and respect**. As a Center, we want to value the unique perspectives of our internal and external audiences.

Green is known to signify **growth, health, and sustainability** -- all central to our mission at LCHI.

I. Situational Analysis



Internal Environment

LCHI operates within a strong environment supported by UL Lafayette's R1 research capabilities.

Our internal strengths include a robust network of academic partnerships, experienced faculty and staff, and a growing alignment with state and national healthcare goals.

However, we need a broader alignment between academic research and industry needs and a more diverse funding mechanism for long-term sustainability.

This offers opportunities to expand our focus on interdisciplinary collaboration and health innovation, addressing the growing demand for healthcare and life sciences professionals in Louisiana and beyond.



External Environment

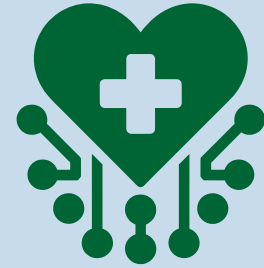
The healthcare landscape continues to evolve, with an increasing focus on biotechnology, digital health, public health informatics, and data-driven healthcare solutions.

Louisiana faces challenges in healthcare access, health outcomes, and workforce shortages. National and state initiatives emphasize the importance of health informatics, workforce development, and strategic healthcare delivery.

LCHI is uniquely positioned to lead research and community initiatives that respond to these external pressures and opportunities.

II. Strategic Goals and Milestones

Goal 1: Advance Health Innovation



LCHI is focused on pioneering research and innovation in healthcare and life sciences, emphasizing health informatics and public health.

- **Health Informatics Research:** Lead research initiatives that explore the use of data analytics, AI, and machine learning to improve healthcare delivery, patient outcomes, and public health decision-making.
- **Public Health Innovation:** Develop projects that apply informatics and technology to address public health challenges, including disease surveillance, and population health management.
- **Collaborative Research Models:** Engage in interdisciplinary collaborations across academic units, industry, and government to co-create healthcare innovations that can be translated into practice.

Milestones:



Initiate three key research projects focused on health informatics and public health **by the end of 2025.**



Secure partnerships with five research institutions and healthcare providers **by the end of 2026** to support collaborative research.



Publish research findings that contribute to national discussions on improving health outcomes and data-driven solutions **by 2027.**

Goal 2: Enhance Strategic Workforce Development



While LCHI does not directly offer academic programs, we play a critical role in supporting the development of a skilled healthcare workforce by fostering collaborations and research that inform educational practices.

- **Workforce Development Research:** Conduct research that identifies workforce gaps in the healthcare and life sciences sectors, providing data-driven insights to shape state and national workforce policies.
- **Collaboration with Academic Units:** Work closely with UL Lafayette’s academic programs and external institutions to align research with healthcare career pathways and workforce development initiatives.
- **Industry and Government Partnerships:** Collaborate with industry stakeholders, government agencies, and educational institutions to develop frameworks that address Louisiana’s healthcare workforce needs.

Milestones:



Complete a statewide workforce needs assessment for the healthcare sector **by 2025.**



Develop reports and recommendations for Louisiana’s healthcare workforce strategy **by 2026.**



Build partnerships with industry stakeholders to support healthcare workforce innovation **by 2027.**

Goal 3: Expand Community Engagement and Impact



LCHI's role in community engagement is integral to improving healthcare access and outcomes across Louisiana.

- **Community-Based Research Initiatives:** Participate in and lead research and community engagement efforts to assess and address healthcare needs, ensuring competent solutions.
- **Public Health Informatics in the Community:** Utilize public health informatics to gather data, monitor health trends, and develop targeted interventions that improve community health outcomes.
- **Stakeholder Collaborations:** Work with community organizations, local healthcare providers, and public health agencies to implement research findings that promote community wellness.

Milestones:



Engage with three community organizations to develop health informatics-driven projects **by the end of 2025**.



Develop a dashboard **by the end of 2026** to guide community organizations, local healthcare providers, and public health agencies.



Conduct/assist with annual community health fairs and workshops that provide education and resources **starting in 2025**.

Goal 4: Strengthen Institutional Capacity in Research and Collaboration



To meet our mission, LCHI will continue to enhance its research capacity, infrastructure, and partnerships, creating a sustainable foundation for health innovation.

- **Interdisciplinary Research Collaborations:** Facilitate research partnerships within UL Lafayette and other research centers to foster interdisciplinary work in healthcare innovation, public health, and health informatics.
- **Grant Funding and External Support:** Pursue funding from national and state agencies, philanthropic organizations, and private sector partners to support LCHI's long-term research agenda.
- **Capacity Building for Health Innovation:** Expand LCHI's infrastructure to support research in emerging areas like biotechnology, biomanufacturing, and public health informatics.

Milestones:



Secure \$3 million in funding **by 2027** to support interdisciplinary research and health informatics projects.



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



Create three strategic partnerships with national research institutions **by 2026** to expand research opportunities.

Goal 5: Improve Healthcare Outcomes Through Research and Policy Influence



LCHI is committed to improving health results through research, partnerships, and advocacy. We will use data and research to inform policy and improve access to healthcare in Louisiana and beyond.

- **Research on Social Determinants of Health:** Conduct research that explores the root causes of varying health results and offers data-driven solutions for policymakers, healthcare providers, and community leaders.
- **Health Policy Advocacy:** Use research findings to advocate for policies that address social determinants of health and improve healthcare access and outcomes.
- **Community-Centered Solutions:** Ensure that research and policy recommendations are grounded in the needs of the communities we serve for competent and effective healthcare practices.

Milestones:



Publish two major research studies on health outcomes and social determinants of health **by 2026.**






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







Organize/participate in annual stakeholder roundtables on health data to facilitate cross-sector collaboration **by 2026.**

III. Stakeholders

Internal Stakeholders

<p>UL Lafayette Research Centers</p> 	<p>Collaborating with other research institutes/centers within UL Lafayette to strengthen health innovation and informatics research.</p>
<p>Faculty and Researchers</p> 	<p>Engaging faculty and staff from various disciplines to support interdisciplinary research and workforce development initiatives.</p>
<p>Students and Interns</p> 	<p>Offering opportunities for students and interns to engage with LCHI's research and community initiatives, building the next generation of healthcare innovators.</p>

External Stakeholders

<p>Healthcare Providers</p> 	<p>Partnering with healthcare organizations to implement research findings and inform practices related to healthcare delivery and informatics.</p>
<p>Government Agencies</p> 	<p>Working with state and national agencies to align LCHI's research with public health and workforce development goals.</p>
<p>Community Organizations</p> 	<p>Collaborating with local and regional groups to ensure that healthcare innovations meet the needs of the community.</p>
<p>Academic Institutions</p> 	<p>Collaborating with other academic institutions on research and workforce development initiatives.</p>

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.




V. Communication Strategy

Internal Communication

-  Regularly share research and project progress updates with faculty, staff, and internal stakeholders through meetings and UL Lafayette's communication channels.
-  Present research findings and initiatives at university events, engaging the broader academic community in health innovation efforts.

External Communication

-  Disseminate research outcomes and health innovation insights to healthcare providers, policymakers, and community leaders through reports, conferences, and publications.
-  Use social media, newsletters, and public events to engage the public and inform stakeholders about LCHI's contributions to healthcare innovation.

VI. Sustainability & Future Directions

Long-Term Sustainability



Funding Strategy

To ensure the long-term sustainability of LCHI's initiatives, pursue a diversified funding strategy, including federal and state grants, private sector partnerships, and philanthropic donations.



Partnerships for Growth

Foster long-term partnerships with healthcare and public health institutions within Louisiana and nationally to expand the reach and impact of LCHI's research and innovations.

Future Opportunities



Expanding Global Partnerships

Collaborate with international research institutions and healthcare organizations to address global healthcare challenges, particularly in health informatics and public health innovation.



Innovation in Emerging Areas

Explore new areas of healthcare innovation, such as genomics, bioinformatics, and personalized medicine, ensuring that LCHI remains at the forefront of research and healthcare transformation.



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lchi.louisiana.edu
lchi@louisiana.edu

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