



**SEARCH FOR THE  
Associate Director for Population Sciences LSU-LCMC Cancer Center  
New Orleans**

**THE SEARCH**

In 2022, the President of Louisiana State University (LSU), William F. Tate IV, PhD, announced the university's formalized partnership with its academic medical center, LCMC Health, to aggressively pursue NCI designation and serve as *the* Cancer Center for Louisiana, a state with one of the highest cancer rates and disparities in the country. President Tate's announcement was the culmination of a multi-year assessment and development process that was jointly led by the Chancellor of LSU's comprehensive health sciences campus in New Orleans (LSU-HSC-NO) and the president of LCMC Health. To transition from planning and development to active pursuit, LSU and LCMC Health recruited an experienced academic surgical oncologist, John H. Stewart, IV, MD, MBA to lead the accelerated process. Cancer Center efforts are being funded through a combination of LSU and LCMC resources.

As Center Director, Dr. Stewart is now forming his senior leadership team through internal and external recruitment and is developing other foundational elements, while actively engaging members and leaders across LSU, LCMC, and the state. The Cancer Center now seeks a committed and innovative leader with expertise in cancer-related population sciences research to serve as the Associate Director for Population Sciences. This transformative role will be formally housed at the Health Sciences campus in New Orleans. Reflecting its commitment, LCMC Health has already committed \$125 million over five years for cancer research; additional funding will come from LSU, philanthropy, and private sources. This groundbreaking partnership solidifies the unified organization and plans for success. This includes support of cutting-edge research most relevant to the state's residents, education and outreach, clinical trials through an integrated state network, and innovative opportunities for diverse students to build careers in cancer.

With its academic medical center partner, LCMC Health, LSU has committed to becoming the designated NCI-designated Cancer Center for Louisiana, a state with one of the worst cancer burdens in the country. As stated by President Tate, the state's flagship university has an inherent commitment and responsibility to elevate our state," and to 'transform the lives of our fellow Louisianans.'" Unprecedented institutional commitments and investments will advance basic science and discoveries in cancer, while providing greater opportunities for progressive treatments and promoting efforts in cancer

prevention.

The AD will be charged with developing a comprehensive vision for population-based research in cancer that builds on the Cancer Center’s existing strengths and further develops its ability to serve the diverse communities across the state. To achieve this vision, the AD will intentionally nurture existing

relationships across the university as well as those with external communities/partners, to strategically facilitate cross-disciplinary research, including reverse translation, that advances the mission of the Cancer Center. Partnering with senior leadership of the Cancer Center, colleagues, and community stakeholders, the AD will recruit and develop exceptional team of diverse population scientists who are together focused impacting the cancer burden, underserved and under-researched communities, through novel research, dissemination, educational opportunities, and policy change.

The AD will position the Center, within the state, nationally, and globally, as a leading research institute for improving population health and reducing disparities through cutting-edge collaborative research and discovery. The successful candidate will possess impressive academic credentials and will qualify for a faculty appointment at the rank of associate or full professor; s/he will have a proven track record of federally funded cancer research, academic recognition, mentorship, and team science. The AD must be an exceptional leader who is ready to build a powerful research program and galvanize a growing team of investigators whom the AD will recruit, retain, and develop. The selected candidate will be a magnet for attracting top talent, be adept at collaboration, and possess exceptional leadership and communication skills.

The AD will shape the cancer prevention and control research agenda, while fostering NIH and other relevant peer-reviewed -research based on diverse cancer-related issues that persist across the state. The new AD comes in at a vital time to build a program of lasting impact and has the unique opportunity to significantly contribute to increasing the health of the state and to establishing scalable initiatives that may serve as a model for driving innovative research and fostering implementation and policy change.

LSU-LCMC Cancer Center has engaged Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist with this important search. All applications, inquiries, and nominations should be directed to the search firm as indicated at the end of this document.

### **LSU-LCMC CANCER CENTER**

In a highly innovative and creative partnership, LCMC Health came together with LSU for a groundbreaking initial \$125 million, five-year investment, to ensure the first and only National Cancer Institute (NCI) Designation in the region. Through this partnership, cancer research and innovative approaches to training and education will serve as a catalyst to the quality of cancer care in Louisiana, the Gulf South, and beyond. This partnership stands on the mutual dedication to serving the unique needs of the communities, through healthcare delivery, research, and education.

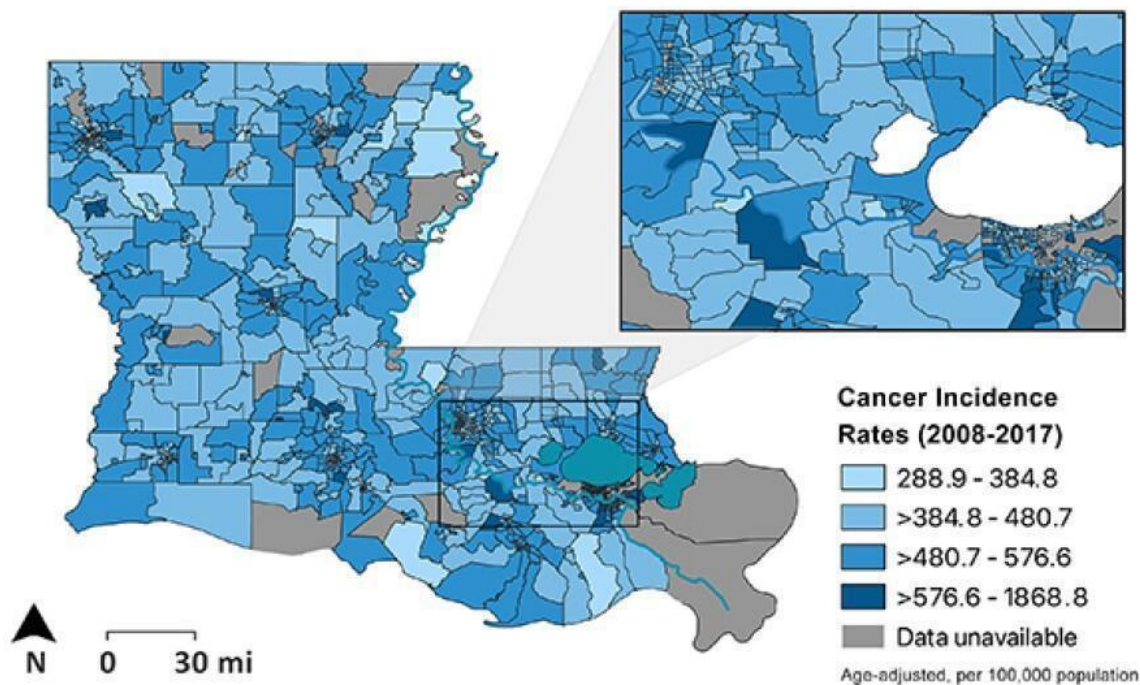
The timing is vital, as grave factors and other distinct disparities within the state, sit at the helm of the unique variables and challenges which are causing higher rates of cancer in low-income communities in Louisiana. Louisiana has the 7th highest cancer rate in the United States. Residents and the population in the surrounding region are suffering as Louisiana has the fifth highest overall cancer mortality rate in the

nation, with 218.2 per 100,000 Louisianans dying from the disease annually.

The mission of the partnership is to harness an insatiable quest to alleviate the burden of cancer across the catchment area, the state of Louisiana, and beyond, through interdisciplinary discovery, compassionate care, and training of individuals to fight inequities through engagement, respect, and conviction.

In pursuit of this mission, the LSU-LCMC Cancer Center’s strategic priorities are to:

- Facilitate high-impact transdisciplinary research that drives improvements in patient outcomes;
- Become a leader in proactive engagement and facilitation of meaningful research in partnership with communities of high social vulnerabilities and disparities in cancer; and
- Develop an integrated learning pipeline that excites and trains cancer researchers and health professionals, attracts more under-represented groups to the field and emphasizes transdisciplinary, translational research.



The LSU-LCMC Cancer Center operates in one of the most unique demographic environments in the United States.

At the helm of this great mission for LSU-LCMC Cancer Center, is the leadership of Dr. John H. Stewart. As Center Director, Dr. Stewart has set the overall mission, vision, and direction for the multidisciplinary cancer center and cancer clinical research programs. Working alongside him is Dr. Ochoa, who leads the only statewide cancer clinical trials program in Louisiana and serves as the Deputy Director of the LSU Health-LCMC Cancer Center. Together with their team, they have developed robust cancer clinical trial programs

and continue to leverage resources to build an innovative and targeted cancer enterprise that will usher in the NCI Designation. The Center’s work will focus on identifying key contributing factors (social determinants)

to poor health in the region, quantifying the degree and severity of these issues, and developing proactive and responsive strategies to address them and thereby improve the health of the citizens. Under visionary leadership, the AD will recruit researchers to aid in the movement toward NCI Designation and impact the quality of life at every entry point of health. It is expected that the work of the Center will provide a national model for how population health interventions can work.

Specific goals of the Center are as follows:

Identify socio-economic and cultural factors that influence the research surrounding the health of the population;

Develop policies that address the impact of these factors;

Responsible for bilateral communication between LSU-LCMC Cancer Center and the population of the catchment area;

Foster transdisciplinary cancer research;

Recommend innovative solutions to complex public health issues.

## **THE PARTNERS**

### **LSU Health New Orleans Health Sciences Center**

LSU Health New Orleans (LSU-NO-HSC) is Louisiana’s most comprehensive academic health sciences center, known for the quality of its academic and training programs. LSU-NO-HSC is responsible for the education of most of Louisiana’s healthcare professionals. Founded in 1931 with a mission of training outstanding doctors, committed to caring for the underserved, while providing excellent healthcare for the people of Louisiana. What began as a small School of Medicine has now morphed into a major Health Sciences Center with five other schools (Dentistry, Nursing, Allied Health, Public Health, and Graduate Studies), and eight research Centers of Excellence established by the Louisiana State University Board of Regents, whose faculty, residents and students align in the commitment to advance medical science with exciting discoveries in the laboratory, researching new treatments and understanding how the delivery system can improve health equity.

### **LCMC Health**

LCMC Health was founded by Louisiana’s first freestanding children’s hospital and has since grown into an expansive healthcare system that serves the unique needs of the communities that make up New Orleans, the Gulf Coast, and beyond. LCMC Health offers six hospital locations: [Children’s Hospital](#), [East Jefferson General Hospital](#), [New Orleans East Hospital](#), [Touro](#), [University Medical Center New Orleans](#), and [West Jefferson Medical Center](#). Through all six locations, they deliver world-class care through a network of urgent care centers across the greater New Orleans area. With over 2,800 board-certified physicians, they

not only serve those in need but conduct comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA) to identify the most significant needs across the region and develop strategies to address them.

At the helm of leadership is Greg Feirn, who serves as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at LCMC Health. As CEO, Greg provides strategic leadership to advance the system’s mission and Dr. John Heaton is the President and Chief Medical Officer for LCMC Health. He is an integral piece of the Population Health department.

## **LSU**

Located near the Mississippi River and sitting on more than 1,000 acres in the southern part of the city, LSU is surrounded by five historic and beautiful lakes, referred to as the "LSU lakes". LSU is 1 of 24 Universities nationwide that hold a land-grant, sea-grant, and space-grant designation. They have sixteen division 1 athletic teams and 1 of 8 Universities in the country to house a law school, dental school, veterinary school, and an MBA program. The University has had a \$5.1 billion economic impact on Louisiana. The campus is home to two Indian mounds created by Native Americans over 5,000 years ago, located near the northwest corner of campus.

The university is strong in biological sciences, chemistry, civil and environmental engineering, English, French Studies, history, mass communication, mathematics, mechanical engineering, and physics. At the Graduate level, LSU is strong in engineering, agriculture, history, and library science as its' most appropriate fields for exchange students.

## **ABOUT NEW ORLEANS**

Located along the Mississippi River in the southeastern region of Louisiana. With a population of 383,997 according to the 2020 U.S. census, it is the most populous city in Louisiana and the twelfth- most populous city in the Southeastern part of the United States. New Orleans is considered an economic and commercial hub and is world-renowned for its music, cuisine, and annual celebrations and festivals, such as Mardi Gras. New Orleans is a cross-cultural and multilingual heritage.

New Orleans was severely affected by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, which flooded more than 80% of the city, killed more than 1,800 people, and displaced thousands of residents. Since Katrina, major growth and rebuilding efforts have led to a rebound in the city's population.

## **THE ROLE**

The Associate Director will be a builder, an innovative executive leader, and population sciences expert. They will bring robust interest and direction in transforming health care in the region. The AD will be responsible for the bilateral communication between LSU-LCMC Cancer Center members and the population of the catchment area. They will be expected to develop a program that will identify multi-level drivers of cancer risk, research and develop interventions and improve outcomes for survivors.

The AD will foster research in areas that align with strategic growth, such as population precision health, social determinates of health, dissemination and implementation science, health equity research, community-based research, early detection and screening, telehealth, health services research, system management, and cancer control, and cancer survivorship research.

## LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The primary opportunities and challenges for the Associate Director will include the following:

### ***Provide scientific leadership to the population sciences and policy pillar of an aspiring NCI Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center.***

The AD will be an innovative visionary, who establishes and builds a shared understanding of vision while aligning the resources for organizational development in population sciences and policy. The perspective of the AD will be broad and all-encompassing, from recruiting investigators and determining the overall direction of the research program, to building and strengthening relationships with a wide variety of community partners. The AD will drive, support, and facilitate interdisciplinary networks and research across the LSU-LCMC community to move the efforts forward. The AD will model and encourage proactive outreach across disciplines, discourage silos, and support a culture of teamwork to ensure the most robust and influential teams are formed. The person needs to be fundamentally rooted in understanding and advancing research focused on improving the health of underserved populations. The AD will develop innovative screening programs and come prepared to put in the work to build the program and a team, a person committed to garnering the reputation of a change agent.

### ***Translate data and research into implementation.***

Using the data analyses and other information gleaned from the research of the Center, the AD and Center staff will provide recommendations for cutting-edge programs and will collaborate with community leaders to encourage and support the movement from treating disease to promoting prevention and lifestyle change. The AD must articulate what is needed and utilize the robust information at their disposal. They interface with empathy and an understanding of racial disparities especially when it comes to healthcare. The AD will drive the agenda forward, building infrastructure and providing support for the completion of projects. The AD will ensure that results and findings generated from research conducted through the Center will be disseminated broadly through peer-reviewed articles and presentations.

### ***Serve as a transformative spokesperson for the Center and establish community involvement.***

The AD will serve as a compelling and persuasive spokesperson for the Center and its far-reaching effects on the population. The AD will partner with the community leaders and partners, to build upon the existing programs and bolster culturally relevant research efforts toward a better understanding of the underlying causes of cancer in these communities and developing effective interventions that improve their health outcomes. They will represent the work of the Center and its stakeholders in a variety of settings both locally and nationally. The AD will build strong local support as well as speak genuinely and enthusiastically to relevant communities. As such, it is expected that the AD will develop and maintain a local presence and commitment to the growth and prosperity of the region. They must bring an understanding of the population of Louisiana and be able to speak to those within the community to establish partnerships.

***Support and catalyze the pursuit of integrated science and develop future funding streams.***

The AD will work to create an environment that promotes outstanding research, achieves synergy among a diverse group of faculty members and researchers, and supports the ambitious pursuit of ongoing external funding. This individual will be a strong mentor who nurtures a climate that encourages, and establishes rigorous, innovative, and interdisciplinary scientific excellence. The AD will also guide and mentor junior faculty—in the context of their engagement with the Cancer Center. The AD will help develop their relevant interests and skills while supporting them in achieving their professional and scientific goals, including the attainment of extramural support from NIH, and other funding sources. The AD will work closely with faculty and staff to plan and develop a grant portfolio and will coordinate efforts to create and fund major, multi-investigator research programs that span the campus. Once secured, the AD will build a supportive organizational structure for success, expansion, and a result-driven track record.

***Build, recruit and lead an effective team and organizational structure.***

In support of this initiative, the Associate Director will be provided with the resources to create, build, and implement growth, while developing an integration strategy. The AD will develop a vision for a robust population sciences research program that both builds on the Cancer Center’s existing strengths and develops its capacity to serve the diverse communities that reside within the catchment area. The perspective of the AD will be broad and all-encompassing, from recruiting investigators and determining the overall direction of the research program to building and strengthening relationships with a wide variety of community partners and funding streams. The AD will prioritize the recruitment of promising scientists and lend expertise to a growing team. They will prioritize the continuity of patient care and community outreach programs that lend towards a deeper understanding of how to prevent, treat, or protect the population served.

**THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE**

The successful candidate will have strong health services research experience, along with a proven ability to develop and implement a strategic and proactive vision for scientific excellence in alignment with the mission of the Center. They will possess the finesse and political acumen to execute such a vision in a highly collaborative and inclusive fashion which demonstrates integrity, intelligence, creativity, and accountability. The Associate Director must be able to both think at a big-picture level and execute in a hands-on way, to build with a “roll-up your sleeves” mentality while working in conjunction with community stakeholders and colleagues in a collegial, intellectually rigorous, learning-based culture that maintains a tangible commitment to the mission. A proven track record of securing and leading externally supported research along with an equally robust record of peer-reviewed publications is expected. An ability and desire to work collaboratively with both internal and external colleagues is essential while experience in training and mentoring is preferred.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND QUALITIES**

The successful candidate will be an outstanding scientist and leader with the intellectual stature and vision to invigorate a team of investigators. The ideal candidate will have demonstrated leadership and administrative abilities, outstanding personal research accomplishments, and a documented record of

funded research. The candidate must hold a terminal degree (e.g., MD, Ph.D., ScD, or DrPH) and should qualify for the rank of associate or full professor at LSU-NO. Ideally, candidates for this position will possess many, if not all, of the following characteristics:

- Internationally recognized researcher with a proven track record of independent, federally funded, community-based research and high-impact publications in cancer population health.
- MD, MD/Ph.D. or Ph.D. degree in relevant field; understanding of cancer population health, particularly in underserved populations.
- Credentials to support an appointment at the associate professor or professor level
- Experience with successfully obtaining individual and programmatic NIH grants
- An innovative and progressive leader who thinks "outside the box" and challenges the status quo for strategies to achieve growth in a changing research environment
- An agile thinker capable of navigating a complex and multifaceted campus environment with a collaborative, interdisciplinary, and team-oriented mindset.
- An excellent communicator and listener with the leadership presence to unite and inspire a diverse group of faculty and staff around a clearly articulated vision
- A leader with high emotional intelligence and good interpersonal skills; someone who embodies the LSU-LCMC Cancer Center’s core values and characteristics
- Contributions to scholarship and research, community advocacy, teaching, and service (e.g., mentoring, recruitment, community action, research on issues related to diversity, social inequalities, and social justice) that show a commitment to diversity and equal opportunity.

**TO APPLY:**

Inquiries, nominations, and applications should be sent in strict confidence to:

Dan Rodas, Partner  
Ivy Couch, Associate  
Isaacson, Miller  
[www.imsearch.com/8707](http://www.imsearch.com/8707)

*LSU Health Sciences Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer for females, minorities, individuals with disabilities, and protected veterans*