



General Assembly – July 24, 2026 – Destin, FL

LSU Health New Orleans School of Medicine

Department of Family Medicine

Department Chair: Emilio Russo, MD, FAAFP

In January of 2026, in conjunction with Louisiana Blue Foundation and the South Louisiana Family Medicine Residency Learning Network, LSU Family Medicine participated in “Quality Matters-Annual Conference of the South Louisiana Family Medicine Residency Learning Network. The conference brought together family medicine faculty, residents, primary care leaders, educators, and clinical team members from across south Louisiana who are committed to strengthening the state’s current primary care workforce and developing that of the future. Centered on quality improvement and population health in primary care in the context of residency education, the meeting emphasized faculty development, practical QI skill-building, identifying opportunities for change, testing interventions, and sustaining meaningful improvements in real-world practice settings. Additionally, the conference offered novel opportunities for collaboration and shared learning among peers and stakeholders working to improve population health outcomes across Louisiana. Featured speakers included Russell Kohl, MD, FAAP, Chief Medical Officer and Chief Operating Officer at TMF Health Quality Institute, and Monica Newton, DO, Director of the Northeast Georgia Medical Center Family Medicine Residency Program, President of the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians, and leader within the Georgia Residency Collaborative, in addition to esteemed faculty from the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans .

Congratulations to Earl Soileau MD, our most senior and esteemed faculty member for the better part of 30 years in Lake Charles who received a well-deserved academic promotion to the rank of Associate Professor of Clinical Family Medicine! Dr. Soileau has been a leader in the care of the youth of southwest Louisiana and integral to the development of generations of Family Medicine physicians. He active member of the American Academy of Family Physicians and is board certified in Family Medicine and Adolescent medicine by the American board of family medicine.

Congratulations to David Mohr MD, our long-time faculty and assistant professor of clinical at LSU rural family medicine in Bogalusa who received academic promotion to the rank of Associate Professor of Clinical Family Medicine! Dr Mohr’s contributions to the community of Bogalusa and LSU are well-established, and this recognition is well-deserved.

The department would like to welcome Dr. Nora Lamartine, Assistant Professor of Clinical Family Medicine and core faculty member, to our program at Ochsner Medical Center Kenner. She is a former residency program director and graduate of fellowship in family medicine obstetrics as well as board-certified family physician dedicated to graduate medical education and women and children’s health. She previously worked at an FQHC and small regional hospital in rural New Mexico for 7 years where she served as founding director and faculty member. Her experience and expertise are an incredible addition to our already outstanding team in Kenner.

In 2025-2026, the department of family medicine’s commitment to and presence in undergraduate medical education was strengthened by the addition Dr. Rick Streiffer as our family medicine student “specialty advisor” and Dr. Sagie Henig “senior student rotation director” working toward continued excellence in medical student education at the direction of our vice-chair of UME Dr. Pamela Wiseman.

In July and December 2026, the department will once again host a regional Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO) course, sponsored by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), at the LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans. This expanded slate of courses attempts to not only improve maternal-child care in Louisiana but respond to an emerging need by our statewide community of educators to the new mandate of the ACGME requiring that all family medicine residents be certified as ALSO providers before graduation. We extend our sincere gratitude to the departmental faculty and other contributors who generously share their time and expertise. Their commitment ensures the continued

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success of this high-impact, outcome-driven training—benefiting not only the participants but also strengthening our department, our institution and our state.

LSUHSC Primary Care Programs—Match Report 2026:

Rural Scholar Track Class of 2026

Alexandra Hebert – University of Illinois – Chicago, IL – Family Medicine
Christopher Hilgert – Via Christi – Wichita, Kansas – Family Medicine
Anna Latoff – LSUHSC – Lafayette, LA – Family Medicine
Caroline Mire Jodon – LSUHSC – Lafayette, LA – Family Medicine
Vivian Mire – LSU Shreveport – Shreveport, LA – OB/GYN
Catherine Torry Thibodaux – LSUHSC – Lafayette, LA – Family Medicine
Aarti Vadalía – Southwest Mississippi Regional – McComb, MS – Family Medicine

Primary Care Scholar Program Class of 2026

Clark Fletchinger – LSU SOM New Orleans – New Orleans, LA — Medicine - Pediatrics

The Primary Care Programs division has created opportunities for promising pre-medical undergraduates to gain part-time job experience through the Student Medical Scribe Program. This program is intended to train junior and senior undergraduate students to assist practicing physicians at our LSUSOM primary care training sites. In addition to learning about primary care medicine in a physician's office and documenting physician-patient encounters in real time, the students receive an hourly wage equivalent to that of a student worker. All interested applicants can contact the Primary Care Programs Office at primarycare@lsuhsc.edu for additional information. Dr. Paula Brantley coordinates the primary care program, but also primary care based translational research, professional, and ethical development of residents and students, research design and methodology, and objective assessment and evaluation.

Finally, in 2025 brought the introduction of our preceptor incentive program (PIP). This program offers as a measure of appreciation both a gratis faculty appointment with LSU and a small financial incentive to community-based family physicians who offer their precious time and expertise to our family medicine clerkship students throughout the academic year. Regardless of your location in Louisiana, please do not hesitate to contact the department at 504-568-1288 if you are interested in participating in this opportunity.

There is no doubt that we as a department are forever grateful to the many LAFP members that have chosen with both excellence and generosity to teach our LSU students over the years. Despite these committed mentors, we continue to find ourselves in perpetual need of community preceptors to host and inspire our third-year family medicine clerkship students. It is a great way to share the knowledge and experience you have accumulated, and the students are always appreciative and eager to learn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emilio Russo, MD
Department Chair, LSU Family Medicine