FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 12, 2025
Contact: XOCOMpr@xula.edu

Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine Announces Inaugural Leadership Team and Faculty
XOCOM has been granted candidate status, moving closer to preliminary accreditation

NEW ORLEANS – The Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine (XOCOM) has announced its inaugural leadership team, a significant milestone as the new medical school advances its goal of training the next generation of physicians, addressing physician workforce shortages and improving health outcomes for local communities by building the healthcare workforce of the future. The announcement coincides with significant progress in the college of medicine's accreditation process.

XOCOM has appointed a team of distinguished associate deans to guide the development of its medical education, clinical affairs, student affairs, financial and research offices. The new leadership includes:

- Rajiv B. Gala, MD, FACOG, associate dean for education and academic affairs
- Brian Moore, MD, FACS, associate dean for clinical affairs
- Eboni Price-Haywood, MD, MPH, MMM, FACP, associate dean for health equity and public health
- Tamika Webb-Detiege, MD, FACP, FACR, RhMSUS, CCD, associate dean for student affairs
- Randal Langford, CPA and Edward Phillips, CPA, co-associate deans for finance and administration
- Nneka Ifejika, MD, MPH, and Kaneisha Bailey Akinpelumi, co-interim associate deans for research

Additionally, XOCOM has selected more than 200 faculty members from Xavier University of Louisiana and Ochsner Health and announced its XOCOM Faculty Assembly, the primary faculty body for shared governance that addresses key issues affecting XOCOM's academic mission.

The creation of XOCOM's leadership team comes as Xavier celebrates its centennial year and announces the formation of the Dr. J.W. Carmichael Jr. Premedical Society, a giving society dedicated to funding pre-med initiatives and mentorship opportunities for medical professionals.

"Building on the legacies of Xavier University of Louisiana and Ochsner Health, we are proud to move forward with the launch of a state-of-the-art medical school that will provide more opportunities to students interested in pursuing careers in medicine, create better health outcomes for our communities and advance healthcare education," said Leonardo Seoane, MD, FACP, founding dean for the Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine. "XOCOM will be a transformative school, graduating physicians who are not only remarkable scientists and medical trailblazers, but also compassionate caregivers. Together we are committed to shaping a curriculum that embodies excellence, fosters groundbreaking research, and trains the next generation of physician-scientists to discover solutions and develop therapies that will make a lasting impact on the communities we serve."

XOCOM has announced the following Faculty Assembly Standing Committees, which will play a crucial role in reviewing policies, making recommendations to the Dean's Cabinet, and helping uphold the highest standards in education, admissions, and faculty development:

- Admissions Committee
- Curriculum Committee
- Faculty Appointments, Promotions and Tenure Committee
- Faculty Steering Committee

Additionally, XOCOM has formed an Office of Community Empowerment, hired a chief of staff and management team, and formed a marketing and communications team. The formation of these leadership teams marks a critical step forward for XOCOM. The institution has also been granted candidate status by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), the official accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as the notable authority for the accreditation of medical education programs leading to the MD degree. This advancement allows XOCOM to proceed with a survey visit at its location within the BioDistrict New Orleans, moving the school closer to preliminary accreditation.

XOCOM builds on a longstanding partnership between Xavier and Ochsner, two institutions committed to advancing healthcare excellence and education. When it opens, XOCOM will be the fifth allopathic historically Black college and university (HBCU) medical school in the nation and the only one in the Gulf South. It is committed to creating a strong physician workforce to improve health for communities throughout the country and help address the projected physician shortage. In a 2024 report, the Association of American Medical Colleges projected that physician demand will grow faster than supply, leading to a total shortage of up to 86,000 physicians by 2036. It is estimated that Louisiana will rank third in the nation for physician shortages by 2030.

Xavier is ranked among the top HBCUs nationwide and is a national leader in STEM and health sciences, known for sending its students on to become successful doctors. Ochsner is a top educator of physicians and leading academic healthcare system in the Gulf South. XOCOM will build upon Xavier's mission to promote a more just and humane society by preparing its students to assume roles of leadership and service in a global society, and Ochsner's vision to inspire healthier lives and stronger communities.

To learn more, please visit https://www.xula.edu/xocom/about.html

###

About the Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine

The Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine (XOCOM) was formed in 2024 through partnership between Xavier University of Louisiana (Xavier), a leading historically Black university and college (HBCU), and Ochsner Health (Ochsner), a leading academic health system in the Gulf South. XOCOM will expand the physician workforce and provide new opportunities for more students seeking careers in medicine in New Orleans' downtown area as part of the BioDistrict, a development district that is growing biosciences and the local economy. XOCOM will feature curriculum emphasizing interdisciplinary collaboration, clinical proficiency, and compassionate patient care, equipping graduates with the skills and knowledge to address the complex healthcare challenges of the 21st century. Established in 1925 by Saint Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, Xavier is ranked among the top HBCUs in the nation, is a national leader in STEM and health sciences and has been a leading institution in sending its students to graduate from medical schools each year. Additionally, Xavier's College of Pharmacy is among the top producers of African American pharmacists in the United States. Established in 1942, Ochsner is the leading academic nonprofit healthcare provider in the Gulf South that delivers expert care at 46 hospitals and more than 370 health and urgent care centers. In 2025, Ochsner is honored to provide 36 accredited and 12 non-ACGME-accredited programs for more than 370 residents and fellows. XOCOM will open after receiving accreditation, building upon Xavier's mission to promote a more just and humane society by preparing its students to assume roles of leadership and service in a global society, and Ochsner's vision to inspire healthier lives and stronger communities. For more information about XOCOM, visit Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine | Xavier University of Louisiana.