CURRICULUM VITAE (ABBREVIATED)

Nicole R. Villemarette-Pittman, PhD
Mobile: (504) 442-5928 | nicole@interactivedev.com | NicoleVP.com
ORCID: 0000-0002-8071-2918 | h-index: 17 | i10-index: 19

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Research executive ready to lead enterprise clinical research and innovation for an academic medical center or integrated health system. Brings 20+ years of building, scaling, and turning around research operations. Former Interim System Director of Clinical Research with oversight of 175 staff, 550 trials, and 10,000+ participants a year. Concurrently led clinical research across Cardiology, Neurosciences, BioDesign, and regional multispecialty programs at Ochsner Health, with responsibility for seven teams and six research cost centers (each generating $500k to $2.5M in revenue) conducting 150 trials annually.

Core Competencies: Research Enterprise Strategy · Clinical Trials Operations and Finance · Regulatory Compliance · Workforce Development · Innovation & Commercialization · Industry Partnerships · Academic Leadership

SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

- Turned Cardiology and Neurosciences research from negative to positive margins within 12 months (revenue up 54% and 51%); 2026 projected year-end profit of $422k across both programs.
- Led 175 staff, 550 trials, and 10,000+ participants a year as Interim System Director.
- Built a paid, ACRP competency-based research internship into a systemwide talent pipeline: 83% of graduates placed, 67% retained at one year.
- Secured 58 externally funded studies and grants totaling ~$7.7M.
- Quadrupled early-phase Neurosciences trials in 3 years.
- Led the multidisciplinary cell and gene therapy research operations team, recruiting research nurses and coordinators from four subspecialties to support more than a dozen clinical teams in bringing cellular therapies to patients.

PRIMARY LEADERSHIP ROLES — OCHSNER HEALTH

6/2024 – 10/2026 **Director, Clinical Research, Regional Multispecialty**, Baton Rouge & Lafayette, LA

- Restructured Multispecialty Research across Louisiana to grow the clinical trials network.
- Completed the transition of the Shreveport research program and built research capacity in Baton Rouge and Lafayette.
- Positioned the Lafayette Clinical Trial Unit to open Q4 2026 and Baton Rouge for a Center of Excellence designation.

5/2024 – 2/2025 **Interim System Director, Clinical Research**, New Orleans, LA

- Led systemwide clinical research operations during an executive leadership transition, partnering with the Chief Scientific Officer, Vice Chief Scientific Officer, and Chief Academic Officer.
- Provided leadership for 175 direct and indirect staff spanning research operations, clinical trials, regulatory, infrastructure, workforce development, and investigator support; created a communication and education strategy for 30 supervisors, managers, and directors.
- Expanded the Ochsner clinical trials network throughout Louisiana while establishing enterprise priorities, policies, resource strategies, and operating infrastructure.

6/2022 – 10/2026 **Director, Clinical Research Internship Program**, New Orleans, LA

- Created a paid, full-time, ACRP competency-based research internship in response to rising research turnover and unfilled positions.

- Scaled the program into a systemwide talent pipeline: 83% of graduates placed; 67% still employed at one year.

4/2022 – 10/2026 **Director, Ochsner BioDesign Lab**, New Orleans, LA

- Grew a small team of biomedical engineers, project managers, and software developers into a system resource for 3-D surgical planning models, AI-assisted medical image segmentation, and medical extended reality applications.
- Partnered with external collaborators to evaluate and deploy new technologies.

1/2022 – 10/2026 **Director, Clinical Research, Cardiology & Neurosciences**, New Orleans, LA

- Led strategy, finance, infrastructure, and trial operations for two Centers of Excellence; quadrupled early-phase trials in Neurosciences over 3 years.
- Turned margins from negative to positive within 12 months: Cardiology revenue up 54% and margin up $52k; Neurosciences revenue up 51% and margin up $254k. 2026 projected year-end profit: $146k Cardiology (8% of revenue), $276k Neurosciences (12% of revenue).

KEY APPOINTMENTS — LSU HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER, NEW ORLEANS

2015 – 2022	Program Coordinator, Epilepsy Fellowship (2018–2022) and Clinical Neurophysiology Fellowship (2015–2018).
2008 – 2022	Administrative Director, Research Development, Department of Neurology. Negotiated and administered all clinical trial contracts and budgets; oversaw study operations, compliance, regulatory, and staff training.
2005 – 2022	Research Core Director, LSUHSC Epilepsy Center. Built the epilepsy research program; authored Louisiana Board of Regents designation, renewal, and funding applications; prepared the NAEC Level 4 certification reports.

SELECTED HEALTHCARE INNOVATION & COMMERCIALIZATION PROJECTS (2022–2026)

- AI-assisted image segmentation to accelerate 3-D model development (neurovascular, kidney, liver)
- Optokinetic Virtual Environment for treatment of vestibulopathies, BioDesign Lab and Ochsner Neurorehabilitation (*Frontiers in Medicine*, 2026)
- Machine learning classification of mitral regurgitation in echocardiograms (iCardio)
- EMG sleeve converting muscle signals to computer commands for people with spinal cord injury ($182,362 in funding)
- Ultrasound image sorting tool for Maternal Fetal Medicine (Research Day 2025 category winner)

RESEARCH FUNDING

PI, Co-I, Sub-I, Project Director, or coordinator on 58 externally funded industry, federal, foundation, and philanthropic studies (2005–present; ~$7.7M total), plus 29 internally funded investigator-initiated studies.

Selected recent awards and submissions:

1. ISGylation Assessment in People with ALS. Sponsor: Department of Defense: HT942526ALSRPCOBA (Ochsner Site PI), 2027–2029; $50,000. **Pending (Submitted 9/2026)**
2. A Blood-Based Biomarker–Anchored Implementation Initiative to Operationalize Equitable, Sustainable, and Scalable Alzheimer's Disease Diagnostic Pathways in Primary Care. Sponsor: Lilly Healthcare Improvement Grant (Co-I), 2026–2028; $428,000. **Pending (Submitted 8/2026)**
3. Path to Healthcare Improvement: Alzheimer's Learning Collaborative. Application submitted with Emory and UT-San Antonio through the American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA). Sponsor: Lilly Healthcare Improvement Grant (Ochsner PI), 2026–2028; $340,906. **Pending (Submitted 7/2026)**
4. Quality Metrics for Guidelines Adherence for Migraine in Pregnancy and Post-partum. Sponsor: Pfizer: Headache & Migraine Competitive Grant Program: Quality Improvement Solutions for the Diagnosis and Management of Migraine and Headache Disorders (Project Director), 2026–2027; $209,601. **Funded**

5. Cold and Compression After Rotator Cuff Repair: A Randomized, Controlled Trial. Breg, Inc. (Sub-I), 2026–2027; $355,250. **Funded**
6. Impact of Cold and Compression After Total Knee Replacement on Pain Control: A Randomized, Controlled Trial. Breg, Inc. (Sub-I), 2025–2027; $328,948. **Funded**
7. Bilateral Carotid Occlusion TAVR. Ochsner Cardiovascular Research Fund (Project Director), 2026–2028; $287,992. **Funded**
8. An Assistive Device for Restoring Function Lost to Spinal Cord Injury, Phases I–II. Bollinger Advanced Spine Center & Ochsner BioDesign Lab (Project Director), 2025–2026; $182,362. **Funded**
9. Retrospective Evaluation of Suzetrigine on Opioid Utilization After Total Knee Arthroplasty. Vertex Pharmaceuticals (PI), 2025–2026; $55,700. **Funded**
10. Development, Execution, and Evaluation of an Urgent Care Migraine Management Algorithm. Pfizer (Project Director), 2024–2025; $220,136. **Funded**

ACADEMIC AND EDITORIAL APPOINTMENTS

9/2025 – 10/2026	Associate Professor of Biomedical Sciences, Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine
8/2022 – 10/2026	Associate Professor (Hon), University of Queensland Medical School, Australia
7/2015 – present	Gratis Faculty (2022–present); Associate Professor – Research (2020–2022); Assistant Professor – Research (2015–2020), Department of Neurology, LSUHSC
7/2013 – present	Managing Editor, *Journal of the Neurological Sciences* (Official Journal of the World Federation of Neurology). Manages peer review and decisions for >3,900 submissions annually; oversees special issues; reports to Editorial Board and Elsevier.

SELECTED INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP AND COMMITTEE SERVICE

2026	Member, Cell & Gene Therapy Leadership Committee
2026	Member, Neurosciences Executive Committee
2025 – 2026	Lead, Multidisciplinary Cellular Therapies Research Operations Team
2025 – 2026	Member, Faculty Appointments, Promotions and Tenure Committee, Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine
2025 – 2026	Member, Internal Innovation Core Team, Ochsner Health
2025 – 2026	Co-Chair, Committee to Develop a 3-Year Strategic Plan for National Recognition of each Research Center of Excellence
2025 – 2026	Co-Chair, Committee to Develop a Data Infrastructure Plan for each Research Center of Excellence
2025 – 2026	Co-Chair, Physician Research Steering Committee Academic Culture Work Group
2023 – 2026	Research Liaison, Nursing Research Council, Ochsner Health
2023 – 2026	Co-Chair, Neurosciences Research Advisory Council
2023 – 2026	Lead, Research Operations Business Continuity Response Team
2022 – 2026	Co-Chair, Scientific Review Committee, Ochsner Health Research
2022 – 2026	Member, Research Executive Committee, Division of Academics

EDUCATION

2003	PhD, Applied Biopsychology — University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA
2000	MS, Applied Biopsychology — University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA
1998	BS, Psychology — University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA

TEACHING AND MENTORING

2025 – 2026	Lecturer, Research Curriculum, University of Queensland–Ochsner Medical School
2025 – 2026	Nursing PhD Dissertation Research Mentor, LSUHSC
2023 – 2026	Lecturer, Annual GCP Lecture Series, Ochsner Human Research Protection Program
2016 – 2022	Mentor to 10 Clinical Neurophysiology and Epilepsy Fellows, LSUHSC
2012 – 2022	Project Supervisor for 49 resident/fellow quality improvement projects, LSUHSC (First Place, LSUHSC QI Forum 2018)
2010 – 2022	Lecturer, AAN Evidence-Based Medicine Series, LSUHSC
2009 – 2022	Lecturer, Neurology Resident/Fellow Lecture Series, LSUHSC

SELECTED INVITED PRESENTATIONS

11/2025	Breakout Session Speaker, "Emergency Preparedness for Institutional Leadership: You Need a Plan!" PRIM&R Annual International Conference, Baltimore, MD
10/2019	Visiting Distinguished Lecturer, "Building a Comprehensive Clinical Research Program: A Personal Model for Growth." Multiple Sclerosis & Neuroimmunology Center, The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School, Austin, TX

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

28 refereed journal articles, 1 book, 1 book chapter, 36 published abstracts, and 61 scientific presentations.
Selected publications:

1. Sarkar K, Delpy K, Skelton S, Slayden A, **Villemarette-Pittman NR**. (2026). Design and preliminary evaluation of a VR-based optokinetic stimuli system for vestibular rehabilitation: insights from clinical end users. *Frontiers in Medicine*, 13:1766706.
2. Frohman EM, **Villemarette-Pittman NR**, et al. (2021). Application of an evidence-based, out-patient treatment strategy for COVID-19: Multidisciplinary medical practice principles to prevent severe disease. *Journal of the Neurological Sciences*, 426, 117463.
3. El-Abassi R, Soliman M, **Villemarette-Pittman NR**, England J. (2021). CNS Whipple's Disease. In R. Hasbun, K.C. Bloch & A. Bhimraj (Eds.), *Neurological Complications of Infectious Disease* (pp. 351–364). Current Clinical Neurology. Cham: Humana.
4. Nair DR, … **Villemarette-Pittman NR**, et al. (2020). Nine-year prospective efficacy and safety of brain-responsive neurostimulation for focal epilepsy. *Neurology*, 95(9), e1244–e1256.
5. Frohman EM, **Villemarette-Pittman NR**, et al. (2020). Part II. High-dose methotrexate with leucovorin rescue for severe COVID-19. *Journal of the Neurological Sciences*, 415, 116935.
6. Devier DJ, **Villemarette-Pittman NR**, et al. (2010). Predictive utility of type and duration of symptoms at initial presentation in patients with mild cognitive impairment. *Dementia and Geriatric Cognitive Disorders*, 30, 238–244.
7. Dash PD, **Villemarette-Pittman NR**. (2005). *Alzheimer's Disease*. St. Paul, MN: AAN Press.
8. **Villemarette-Pittman NR**, Stanford MS, Houston RJ, Greve KW, Mathias CW. (2004). Obsessive compulsive personality disorder and behavioral disinhibition. *Journal of Psychology*, 138, 5–22.

HONORS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2026	Semifinalist Judge, BioChallenge, New Orleans BioInnovation Center
2026	Ochsner Neuroscience Institute Unsung Hero Award
2022 – present	Co-Founder & Vice-President, Louisiana Epilepsy Care and Research Consortium
2021 – present	Board Member, Louisiana Epilepsy Foundation
2002	Andrew S. Wensel Distinguished Graduate Student Award, University of New Orleans

Full curriculum vitae available upon request.