History of Pennington Biomedical Research Center

The vision of the Center was conceived by oilman and philanthropist C.B. "Doc" Pennington. His $125 million gift to Louisiana State University in 1980 provided the resources to put the design in motion. "Doc" Pennington's plan is now pursued in a complex spanning 320,000 square feet of research and administrative space, with an additional 260,000 square feet planned or under construction.

For Additional Information

For further information, to request a speaker for your group, or to be added to our mailing list, contact: Dr. Catherine Champagne, 225-763-2553, or champacm@pbrc.edu

For information or to volunteer for a clinical research study, call 225-763-2596. Visit our Web Page at www.pbrc.edu/wnrp.htm
Women’s Nutrition Research Program
Mission Statement

To promote basic and clinical research related to nutrition and disease prevention in women and to encourage the inclusion of women in clinical research trials.

The Pennington Center’s Women’s Nutrition Research Program promotes research on nutrition and disease prevention in women. The program brings together previously existing research at the Pennington Center and combines these activities with collaborations with scientists at other research centers and health care facilities.

A research, education, and outreach program specifically targeted to women is warranted until recently medical research focused primarily on men. Women were often not represented in clinical research trials unless the studies were of specific concern to women, such as in the areas of breast and ovarian cancer, reproduction, and menopause. There has been a lack of attention to gender differences in regards to nutritional needs, body composition, and the progression of chronic disease. Consequently, the WNRP seeks to address the particular needs of minorities, since minority women are at greater risk for chronic disease.

To complement its research programs, the WNRP offers educational programs, including the annual Irene W. Pennington Wellness Day for Women to address women’s unique health concerns.

HISTORY

The WNRP was established in 1997 in response to the interests of the many researchers at the Pennington Center who were studying issues related to women’s health. Dr. Jennifer Lovejoy coordinated the program until 2003, when Dr. Catherine Champagne was named coordinator. A native of Louisiana, Dr. Champagne is a nutritionist who focuses on dietary habits and food consumption patterns of populations.

A working group with representation from several institutions and area hospitals was formed to plan the program’s directions and activities. WNRP is interested in advancing inter-disciplinary collaborations among investigators at Pennington and other health care and research facilities throughout the state and nation. Furthermore, the WNRP should initiate educational activities to help spread important health messages to women throughout Baton Rouge and Louisiana.