

**Contact:** Tina Martinez  
318-840-5522  
[tina.martinez@ochsner.org](mailto:tina.martinez@ochsner.org)

LSU physician contact: Lisa Babin  
318-675-8769  
[lbabi6@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:lbabi6@lsuhsc.edu)

## **Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport Named as only Louisiana Site for Pivotal Clinical Trial Testing Minimally Invasive Approach to Extracorporeal Carbon Dioxide Removal for Patients Experiencing Acute COPD Exacerbations**

Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport has joined the VENT-AVOID Trial, a pivotal clinical trial sponsored by ALung Technologies (Pittsburgh, PA). The VENT-AVOID Trial is a prospective, multi-center, randomized, controlled, two-arm trial of the Hemolung Respiratory Assist System (Hemolung RAS), an investigational medical device that provides low-flow extracorporeal CO<sub>2</sub> removal, or ECCO<sub>2</sub>R, for the treatment of adults with acute hypercapnic respiratory failure due to a severe exacerbation of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The VENT-AVOID Trial is a landmark trial of ECCO<sub>2</sub>R for treating patients with COPD exacerbations.

The Hemolung RAS is a dialysis-like device that provides extracorporeal lung support using a 15.5 French central venous catheter for patients experiencing acute hypercapnic respiratory failure. The VENT-AVOID Trial will evaluate the safety and efficacy of the Hemolung RAS in providing ECCO<sub>2</sub>R as an alternative or supplement to invasive mechanical ventilation for patients experiencing severe COPD exacerbations. The trial is being conducted under an Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. LSU Health Shreveport physicians will conduct trials at Ochsner LSU Health Academic Medical Center.

Eligible patients will be randomized to one of two treatment arms. Patients in the first treatment arm (the Investigational Arm) will receive lung support with the Hemolung RAS plus standard-of-care mechanical ventilation. Patients in the second treatment arm (the Control Arm) will receive standard-of-care mechanical ventilation alone. The primary outcome measure for the trial is the number of ventilator-free days measured from the time the patient is randomized to a treatment arm through 60 days post-randomization.

According to the American Lung Association, COPD affects 30 million Americans and is the third leading cause of death in the United States behind cancer and heart disease. Acute exacerbations, defined as a sudden worsening of COPD symptoms, are a major cause of morbidity and mortality in COPD patients.

For patients with severe exacerbations, high levels of carbon dioxide can result in respiratory failure and the need for intubation and mechanical ventilation as life saving measures. ECCO<sub>2</sub>R therapy with the Hemolung RAS allows carbon dioxide to be removed from the blood independently of the lungs with the aim of facilitating the avoidance or reduction of intubation and invasive mechanical ventilation.

For more information about the VENT-AVOID Trial, visit <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03255057>.

*On Oct. 1, 2018, Ochsner Health System (Ochsner) and LSU Health Shreveport jointly formed **Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport** to oversee and coordinate activities between the health sciences center and the healthcare delivery system in Shreveport and Monroe, La. Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport is a public private partnership with a vision to improve health and well-being of its communities, access to care, quality, and facilities, expand patient-centered technology, grow the medical school, and enhance research in North Louisiana by building on the strengths of Ochsner and LSU Health Shreveport. Under the new structure, Ochsner brings their nationally-recognized expertise to the management of operations for partner hospitals in Shreveport and Monroe, clinics and the clinical activity of the LSUHSC-S Faculty Group Practice. LSU will continue to successfully oversee the LSUHSC-S School of Medicine, School of Allied Health Professions, School of Graduate Studies, Graduate Medical Education, and all research.*

*Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport includes North Louisiana's only Level 1 Trauma Center at its 452-bed hospital in Shreveport, La. The organization also operates a 244-bed hospital in Monroe, La. With more than 3,400 employees and the Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport Physician Group of approximately 500 physicians, Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport serves more than 135,000 patients with more than 600,000 visits annually.*

To find out more about Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport, please visit [www.ochsnerlsuhs.org](http://www.ochsnerlsuhs.org).