

Dr. Thomas Carton, Chief Data and Strategy Officer at the Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI), leads multiple teams that conduct various types of research that span health services, quality improvement, and population health. As Principal Investigator of the Research Action for Health Network (REACHnet), he leads a multi-institutional and multidisciplinary team that is creating a regional informatics, patient engagement, and research infrastructure to efficiently conduct comparative effectiveness research. Both positions underscore the importance of collaborative work grounded in frequent communication, careful planning and budgeting, realistic research objectives, and mentoring within and beyond my organization. His research sits at the intersection of Electronic Health Record (EHR)-based disease surveillance and patient-centered, observational cohort studies and can generally be classified as population science—cutting across various topics in chronic and infectious disease.

Dr. Carton has held multiple leadership positions within PCORnet (the National Patient-Centered Clinical Research Network), including Chair of the PCORnet Steering Committee and leader or co-leader of working groups on data linkage, health services and public health research, research innovations, and cross-network collaborative research. Locally, he is Executive Director of a community health information exchange, PelEX, that aims to coordinate patient care across clinical, public services, and criminal justice domains while providing actionable data to members across sectors. He is also an Adjunct Professor in Global Health Systems and Development at the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, where he teaches Master of Clinical Research students and mentors post-doctoral fellows and junior faculty in multisite, patient-centered research.