

Tulane plays lead role in major diabetes drug trial

June 17, 2016 11:45 AM

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Dr. Vivian Fonseca, Tullis-Tulane Alumni Chair in Diabetes and professor of medicine, helped design and guide the LEADER study as it was implemented internationally across 410 sites. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

When American Diabetes Association officials gathered in New Orleans earlier this week and [announced results](#) of a major international drug trial, most of the focus was on the finding that the glucose-lowering drug Liraglutide reduces cardiovascular events by 13 percent for high-risk type 2 diabetes patients.

The trial, called [Liraglutide Effect and Action in Diabetes – Evaluation of Cardiovascular Outcome Results](#) (LEADER), hit a benchmark that didn't make headlines, but astonished the research community. It showed a phenomenally high patient follow-up rate of 99.7 percent despite spanning five years, 410 sites in 32 countries and involving 9,340 patients.