

Cendara University Research Overview

Cendara University is recognized for its dynamic research environment, promoting innovation, collaboration, and societal impact across diverse fields. The university maintains a portfolio of vibrant research centers, robust funding partnerships, prolific faculty scholarship, and a tradition of distinguished achievements.

Major Research Centers

Center for Interdisciplinary Innovation (CII)

Established: 2023

Director: Dr. Lucia Benton

Mission: Fostering entrepreneurship and cross-disciplinary solutions to challenges such as climate change, urban development, and digital transformation.

Current Projects:

- Urban Resilience Initiative (collaborative project with the City of Riverdale) - Adaptive Learning Technologies in Higher Education - Community-Based Clean Water Solutions
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Cendara Institute for Biomedical Research (CIBR)

Founded: 1997

Director: Dr. Sven Rahmani

Focus Areas: Cancer biology, regenerative medicine, neurodegenerative disease.

Affiliations: Cendara University Hospital; national pharmaceutical partners

Current Projects:

- “Genomic Approaches in Alzheimer’s Prevention” (NIH-funded) - Stem Cell Therapy for Type 1 Diabetes - Collaborative Drug Discovery Grants with Lantion Pharmaceuticals
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Center for Global Studies (CGS)

Established: 1998

Director: Prof. Ye-Jin Hwang

Research Priorities: Migration and diaspora, global public health, comparative education

Programs:

- International policy analysis in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme - Global Vaccine Outreach Assessment - Transnational Education Models Study

Santoro Digital Humanities Lab

Founded: 2016

Director: Dr. Elliott Voss

Purpose: Integration of digital tools and computational analysis into humanities research

Highlights:

- Mapping Lost Languages Project (funded by Mellon Foundation) - Interactive Digital Oral Histories initiative - Curation of Virtual Reality Literature Exhibits

Center for Sustainable Futures

Founded: 2010

Director: Dr. Anika Mbogo

Core Research Themes: Renewable energy, climate adaptation, environmental policy

Facilities: 300 kW Solar Array Testbed, Green Roofs Pilot Project

Flagship Initiatives:

- Smart Microgrid Demonstration (Department of Energy/DOE grant) - Urban Biodiversity Index
- Regional Clean Energy Policy Forum

Research Funding Sources

Cendara University secures significant research funding from diverse public and private sources. In FY2023-24, total competitive research funding reached \$53.8 million. Key sources include:

Government and Public Agencies

- **National Institutes of Health (NIH):** Multi-year awards for genomics, public health, and neuroscience (total \$14.9M)
- **National Science Foundation (NSF):** Grants supporting engineering education and computational social science (\$9.3M)
- **Department of Energy (DOE):** Funding for sustainability and renewable energy research (\$6.7M)
- **State of Lendera Research Council:** Ongoing support for emerging faculty and seed research (\$2.1M)

Private Foundations & Industry

- **Mellon Foundation:** Digital humanities innovation (\$1.8M)

- **Gardner Health Trust:** Biomedical device research (\$2.4M)
- **Lanton Pharmaceuticals, Inc.:** Joint neuropharmacology research agreements (\$3.2M)
- **EcoPower Solutions:** Industry partnership for campus microgrid testbed (\$1.1M)

University & Alumni Support

- **Cendara Innovation Fund:** Awarding internal research seed grants (\$2.7M)
- **Alumni Endowed Research Chairs:** Five chairs funded in environmental studies, engineering, education, business, and biology

Faculty Publications and Scholarly Output

Cendara faculty are actively engaged in producing influential scholarship across all major disciplines. In 2023 alone, faculty authored:

- **412** peer-reviewed journal articles
- **19** scholarly books and monographs
- **34** book chapters
- **77** conference proceedings papers
- **9** patents filed

Recent Notable Publications:

| Author(s) | Title | Journal/Publisher | Year |
|-------------------------------|--|---|------|
| Dr. Maya Lin & Dr. Sunil Nair | “Adaptive Solar Grid Optimization in Urban Campuses” | <i>Energy & Environment</i> | 2024 |
| Prof. Yasmin Daoud | <i>Narrating the Nation: Migration Memory in Modern Literature</i> | University of Holden Press | 2023 |
| Dr. Haruto Sakamoto | “Neuronal Pathways in Early Alzheimer’s: A Longitudinal Study” | <i>Journal of Neuroscience Advances</i> | 2024 |
| Dr. Lana Okoro & team | “Virtual Reality for Cultural Preservation: A Case Study” | <i>Digital Humanities Quarterly</i> | 2023 |
| Dr. Felix Olsen | “Understanding Stem Cell Differentiation in Diabetic Models” | <i>Cell Regeneration</i> | 2023 |
| Prof. Marla Hayes | “The Impact of Microgrid Policies on Regional Energy Markets” | <i>Journal of Policy Research</i> | 2023 |

| Author(s) | Title | Journal/Publisher | Year |
|--------------------|---|---------------------------------------|------|
| Dr. Emiliano Vidal | “Smart Wearable Sensors for Public Health Surveillance” | <i>Biomedical Engineering Letters</i> | 2024 |

Scholarly Achievements

Cendara University faculty and research teams have made a mark through high-impact discoveries, awards, and leadership in academic and public forums.

Recent Highlights (2022–2024):

- **Dr. Haruto Sakamoto** awarded the 2023 Lendera Prize in Neuroscience for breakthrough Alzheimer’s research.
- **Urban Resilience Initiative** (CII) awarded silver in the American Planning Association’s 2024 Innovation Awards.
- **Dr. Maya Lin** named to the National Academy of Engineering, 2024 cohort.
- **Prof. Yasmin Daoud’s book** *Narrating the Nation* selected as a finalist for the 2023 Griffin Literary Award.
- **Center for Sustainable Futures** led Cendara to rank #9 in the 2023 Green Campuses Index.
- **Santoro Digital Humanities Lab’s** “Mapping Lost Languages” recognized as a 2023 Digital Heritage Project of Distinction by the Digital Humanities Council.
- **Dr. Emily Shong** elected President of the Lendera State Psychological Association.
- **Dr. Anika Mbogo** appointed to the National Science Foundation’s Renewable Energy Advisory Panel, 2023-26.
- **Patents Awarded:**
 - Rapid Saliva-Based COVID-19 Test Kit (CIBR, 2022)
 - Microgrid Control Algorithm for Distributed Solar Arrays (2023)
 - Augmented Reality Fieldwork Platform for Education (Digital Humanities, 2023)

Research Culture and Support

Cendara University cultivates research through:

- Annual Research Week (April): Showcases student and faculty projects, hosts public lectures, and sponsors the “Cendara Prize for Undergraduate Research.”

- Competitive internal research grants and mentoring for junior faculty.
 - Graduate Research Fellowships (41 awarded in 2023–24).
 - Active support from the Office of Research and Innovation, including workshops on grant writing, ethics, and public engagement.
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Notable Recent Events

- **2023:** Inaugural Cendara Interdisciplinary Research Symposium attracted 400+ participants, including representatives from academia, industry, and government.
 - **2024:** Launch of the “Global Health Futures Lecture Series” by CGS, featuring Nobel laureate Dr. Maria Sosa.
 - **2023:** “Innovation in Action” Hackathon at CII—teams developed solutions addressing urban heat islands, accessible public transit, and disaster recovery communications.
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Cendara University’s research enterprise is propelled by a culture of curiosity, diversity, and community-focused innovation. As it continues to expand its research footprint, the university remains steadfast in its goal: translating knowledge into real-world impact for the 21st century and beyond.