

David Lefer

Dr. Lefer is currently Professor and Director of Translational Research in the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery in the Smidt Heart Institute at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

He previously served as the Director of the LSU Cardiovascular Center of Excellence and Professor of Pharmacology and Cardiology at LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans. Dr. Lefer received his Ph.D. degree in Physiology and Pharmacology from the Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, NC. Dr. Lefer then completed his post-doctoral fellowship training in Molecular Cardiology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore. Dr. Lefer's research program is focused on the investigation of the pathophysiology of acute myocardial infarction and heart failure with the goal of developing novel therapies. Dr. Lefer was one of the pioneers in nitric oxide and hydrogen sulfide physiology and pharmacology and among the first to demonstrate the profound cardioprotective actions of nitric oxide and hydrogen sulfide based therapies. Dr. Lefer's research team is currently focused on developing treatments for cardiometabolic heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF). Dr. Lefer has authored 291 original research articles in peer-reviewed journals and has a strong track record of research support from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Heart Lung and Blood Institute.