

Letter: Story disappoints ex-CAMD official

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I am commenting on the Oct. 19 story "CAMD at risk after cut" by Jordan Blum of The Advocate's Capitol news bureau.

I was very disappointed in this story, not so much because CAMD is at risk, but because the implication is that CAMD is at risk because it fell down on its original mission to be the core of a "research park and a business recruiting tool."

The concept of a synchrotron radiation facility as a core for a research park and as a business recruiting tool has been dead and buried for more than a decade. Let's not continue to beat the donkey! There are more than 50 operating synchrotron facilities worldwide, and none of them are operating because their programmatic core raison d'être is being a magnet for new business opportunities.

CAMD's business plan for the past decade has centered on its excellence in research. As was noted in Blum's article, CAMD researchers have garnered over \$8 million in yearly research support and obtained a new U.S. Department of Energy research center with \$12.5 million in funding as well as grants for a new wiggler and an X-ray radiographic facility in partnership with the Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center.

CAMD is at the center of a renaissance in new, outstanding scientific research in Louisiana and in the United States. I pray this new funding will provide the administrators at LSU with the incentive and impetus to find the additional funding for CAMD's continuing operation that it may continue to be the foundation of outstanding research at LSU and in Louisiana.

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past interim director of CAMD
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