

# Research & Scholarly Activity Strategic Plan

## **TCOM Vision**

Changing the way health care is delivered.

## **TCOM Mission**

Create solutions for a healthier community by preparing tomorrow's patient-centered physicians and scientists and **advancing the continuum of medical knowledge, discovery, and osteopathic health care.**

In fulfillment of its mission, the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine shall:

- Recruit and support a diverse student body with the academic and humanistic qualifications to become accomplished osteopathic physicians dedicated to patient care and the diverse communities they will serve;
- Provide a curriculum that is evidence-based and grounded in the learning sciences;
- Offer clinical experiences that prepare its graduates for diverse careers in medical practice;
- **Promote scientific discovery through mentored research;**
- Create opportunities for postdoctoral education in support of the health care workforce in the State of Texas.

In fulfillment of its mission, the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine research collaborative shall:

- Provide research education, experiences, and opportunities through structured didactic programs and mentored research.
- Advance scientific discovery for the diverse communities we serve to promote patient-centered research to improve quality of life.
- Foster collaborative research initiatives in which basic, translational, and clinical researchers discover fundamental insights into human health and apply the discoveries to healthcare.

## **Goals and Objectives:**

**Goal 1:** Encourage and provide TCOM student opportunities for mentored scholarly activity. Key to this goal are organized research programs that include:

### Pediatric and Women's Health

Aims to advance research in Pediatrics and Women's Health by providing evidence-based training to future health care professionals in clinical, community, and translational research. Determined to disseminate our scholarly work to cultivate healthier communities and health equity.

### Center for Older adults

The Center for Older Adults is an interdisciplinary team guided by values and committed – through education, research, and care – to improving the quality of life and promoting optimal aging for the older adults we serve.

### Osteopathic Research Center

Aims to conduct research on the clinical aspects of osteopathic medicine, including osteopathic manipulative treatment. To create innovation where science meets practice. This includes conducting research on the epidemiology and treatment of chronic pain.

Institute for Translational Research

Aims to create innovative ways to test for and treat Alzheimer's by collaborating with leading scientists from around the world to (1) develop innovative ways to test for and treat Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases as well as (2) to address health disparities in Alzheimer's Disease.

Health Science Research Microcredential

This microcredential represents efforts above and beyond in the field of health sciences research. There are a variety of research experiences available for health sciences students, however many times these experiences do not culminate in a formal presentation or journal article that demonstrates the student's aptitude for research.

Earners of this microcredential have demonstrated their capacity to conduct health sciences research by their participation in an extensive research program at or approved by the University of North Texas Health Science Center and presentation of research to a local or national conference.

Honors Research Practicum (HRP)

The HRP has an overarching goal of providing lifelong competency in research methods and is open to second-year students on a competitive basis. The practicum includes twenty hours of research didactics, a hypothesis-driven research project under the direction of a research mentor, and a scholarly presentation at the Health Science Center's annual Research Appreciation Day.

Research Elective Rotations

Students wishing to conduct research during their medical school career are allowed to receive credit for one Research elective rotation. During this month rotation students work with a mentor towards scholarly activity in a discipline of their choice.

DO/PHD Program

For TCOM students interested in a more rigorous research experience dual-degree programs in partnership with the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences or the School of Public Health are available that lead to a DO/Ph.D., DO/MS, or DO/MPH upon completion.

Outcome Measures of success:

# of students involved in each program and scholarly activity counts per year – COCA table 8.

**Goal 2:** Increase available research infrastructure in support of increasing sponsored funding.

- Provide grant writing assistance through the office of the Associate Dean for Research.
- Provide dedicated IRB and compliance support.
- Establish partnerships to provide additional resources for scholarly activity.
- Recruit TCOM faculty in collaboration with HSC Research Institutes

Outcome Measures of success:

Creation of a TCOM Research Leaders group to:

- Assist with grant writing for faculty who are early career or new researchers
- Create and support departmental retrospective electronic medical chart review IRB protocols. Identify partnerships and provide grant writing support.
- Increase TCOM faculty research FTE.

**Goal 3:** Build collaborative research capacity between Public Health and TCOM departments

Strategies:

- Add Public Health representatives to the TCOM Research Leaders group.
- Identify shared research priorities (e.g., health disparities, primary care outcomes, population health, preventive medicine).
- Host networking sessions and research roundtables.

Outcome Measures of Success:

- Addition of 1-2 representatives to the current TCOM Research Leaders committee.
- Host 1-2 networking sessions and identify 2-3 shared research area.

**Goal 4:** Increase visibility, communication, and shared identity between Public Health and TCOM

Strategies

- Update and integrate all faculty research profiles on the new UNT Health Web site.
- Annual retreat focused on collaborative science, shared priorities, and research dissemination.

Outcome Measures of Success

- Annual retreat attendance numbers increase year-over-year.
- Documentation of increased collaborative activities/events per academic year.
- Add Public Health faculty to the TCOM Research Dashboard.