STANDARD 8 - SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

ELEMENT 8.1 Research and Scholarly Activity

The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine regularly conducts strategic planning to maintain and advance its research and scholarly activities. Current planning as outlined in the TCOM procedure for Scholarly Production (effective July 2017) is intended to assure that TCOM and the Health Science Center provide the necessary resources and organization needed to advance knowledge through research and scholarly contributions in the basic biomedical sciences, clinical medicine, and osteopathic principles and practice.

Strategic planning for research and scholarly activity at TCOM is aligned with the broader Health Science Center goals established by SEE 2020 Roadmap relating to learning and discovery. These goals are to increase research expenditures by 5% in 2018, with a target of $55 million in research expenditures by 2020. To help meet these goals, TCOM has focused its research planning in the following centers or departments:

- Osteopathic Research Center
- Family Medicine
- Geriatrics and Internal Medicine
- Pediatrics

The strategic plans for each unit are briefly outlined below.

Osteopathic Research Center (ORC)
The primary goal of the ORC currently involves expansion of its PRECISION Pain Research Registry to serve as a resource for research and scholarly activity relating to prevention and treatment of chronic low back pain. Its target is to enroll a total of 500 patients in PRECISION by August 31, 2018. This will be accomplished by using current grant funds from the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation, American Osteopathic Association, and Institute for Patient Safety to support research staff and recruitment activities. Additionally, an inter-professional Board of Directors (8 members) is being assembled for PRECISION to help plan the direction of future research activities, including establishment of an affiliated TCOM student service and research organization (tentatively designated as the Precision Medicine Club).

Department of Family Medicine (FM)
This department, which also houses faculty in Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM), is developing a three-year plan to expand its research resources, infrastructure, and collaborations. An important element of this plan involves promotion of department research activities among TCOM students and community partners. A survey is being developed to administer to department faculty by Spring 2018 to assess research expertise, interests, and initiatives. A key resource within FM is the NorTex Primary Care Research Network. There is ongoing planning to integrate FM and OMM clinical services with a broader program inter-professional program, including clinical research.

Department of Geriatrics and Internal Medicine (GIM)
This department is developing a tactical initiative to increase faculty capacity for research projects and related activities. A needs assessment will be initiated in the current academic year to direct faculty training over the next two years in developing, conducting, and publishing research. An important element of this needs assessment and training effort will be to effectively collaborate with academic,
healthcare, and community partners. In addition to TCOM students, graduate students and staff will be recruited to enhance GIM research activities.

**Department of Pediatrics (PED)**
This department is developing a tactical initiative to extend its ongoing research environment to TCOM students as a vehicle for learning the research process and developing a scholarly work product. It plans to leverage its off-campus collaborations with Cook Children’s Medical Center, John Peter Smith Health Network, and other community partners to create research opportunities in the areas of adult/young adolescent medicine, maternal/women’s health, and health disparities. The PED plan involves identifying research mentors from the Health Science Center and partnering community institutions to match to aspiring TCOM student researchers based on areas of mutual interest involving translational, clinical, or community-based research. An important element of the plan is to prepare TCOM students to present their research at meetings and publish the results.

A public link to the relevant TCOM procedure for Scholarly Production that underlies this research and scholarly activity plan is available at: https://www.unthsc.edu/texas-college-of-osteopathic-medicine/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/TCOM-Procedures-2018.1.pdf#page=39

Evidentiary data for this standard and element are provided in five tables:
- TCOM Research Grant Awards FY17 (September 2016 – August 2017)
- TCOM Research Grant Proposals FY17 (September 2016 – August 2017)
- TCOM Clinical Trial Awards FY17 (September 2016 – August 2017)
- TCOM Clinical Trial Proposals FY17 (September 2016 – August 2017)
- TCOM Faculty Publications FY17 (September 2016 – August 2017)

*It should be noted that TCOM students may participate in various aspects of faculty research; however they cannot submit grant proposals or clinical trial applications. Additionally, students infrequently co-author publications with faculty. Hence, “0” has been entered for student participation in each of the tables above. Generally, poster presentations at the annual Research Appreciation Day at the Health Science Center are a better gauge of resident and student research involvement. A total of 32 residents and 120 students presented posters in FY17.*