



Baptist Health Sciences University College of Osteopathic Medical School (BUCOM) Research and Scholarly Activity Strategic Plan

- A. In executing the conditions of our MOU, BUCOM will engage the resources of The Baptist Clinical Research Institute (BCRI), the Baptist Memorial Medical Group (BMG), Baptist Memorial Medical Education (BMME) and the Baptist Health Sciences University (BHSU) to create a research environment that supports and sustains excellence.

Initiative 1: Partner with like-minded individuals and institutions (in addition to our MOU team) for biomedical, clinical, osteopathic manipulative medicine, osteopathic principles and practices, and educational research in the Mid-South Region of Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi.

BUCOM will work with the BCRI to establish relationships and collaborations within the Tennessee Research Collaboration. Other collaborative relationships will be sought with local universities including the University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University. MOUs will be sought from these groups to increase research output.

Initiative 2: Optimize laboratory space in the Dudley building and clinical research space to further encourage research and scholarly activity.

Laboratory and clinical research space has been actively sought by BUCOM. The fourth floor in a newly acquired building for the University has already been renovated to support research with a total footprint of approximately 7,500 sq. ft. of laboratory space and support areas. The TriMetis vivarium ([Biospecimen Acquisition, GLP Facility, Consulting | TriMetis \(trimetisls.com\)](#)) located across the street from this laboratory space will serve as a partner for non-clinical research. The Baptist Clinical Research Institute houses a 10,000 square foot clinical research facility which will work closely with BUCOM faculty and students to develop projects.

Initiative 3: Provide professional development and mentoring for research faculty and students.

The Associate Dean for Research, working alongside the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the Director of the BCRI, will develop a series of seminars for faculty. Topics will include grant writing, information about writing an Institutional Review Board (IRB) submission, and finding a research mentor. A clearinghouse will be developed so that physician faculty can find members of the BRCI who have similar research interests. Students will be mentored during their 2-year longitudinal Research Principles course in the OMS-1 and -2 years. They will be assigned a research mentor through the BUCOM/BCRI partnership and work towards developing and presenting a scholarly project prior to graduation.

Initiative 4: Identify and cultivate sources of funding for research. Leverage internal funding (foundation and budgeted funds) and external funding (ex. NIH, NSF and other local and national funding).

BCRI already holds a significant portfolio of funded research, including National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation (NSF) grants. BUCOM faculty will work directly with BCRI grant writing experts to explore funding sources which may dovetail with their research interest. BUCOM will set aside funds to be used as in-kind dollars to help with matching funds.



Initiative 5: Provide scheduled research and scholarly work opportunities for faculty to allow dedicated time for this work leading to conference presentations, manuscript production and publications.

Faculty may negotiate a portion of their full time equivalent (FTE) status to be dedicated to research, with approval of the BUCOM Dean. Faculty will be required to develop a research proposal, work with specialists at BCRI, and agree on a deliverable product, be it a book chapter, publication, original research, or presentation at a national or international meeting. BUCOM has established a pool of money in the annual budget to help offset costs for faculty who are invited to present their original projects at a professional meeting.

- B. Build upon the established basic science (pre-clinical) research ongoing at Baptist Health Sciences University (BHSU) and our partners per the MOU.

Initiative 1: Recruit additional faculty of varied research experience and areas of interest.

BUCOM faculty will partner with other BHSU faculty who share areas of research interest. BUCOM will have at least three (3) faculty who present original research at the annual BHSU Research Convocation.

Initiative 2: Encourage faculty to actively investigate the physiological processes thought to be active in the mechanism of action of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM).

The Chair of OMM and faculty in the OMM department will mentor physician and basic science faculty to develop small, blinded trials that can be done through the OMM Clinic on a variety of OMM topics.

Initiative 3: Ensure research methods and interpretation are included in the COM curriculum (see BUCOM policy COMBOD.1003, Student Participation in Research and Scholarly Activity) for specific methods.

- C. Utilize all of the organizations in the MOU to provide multidisciplinary, longitudinal opportunities for BUCOM/BHSU faculty to participate in clinical trials.

Initiative 1: Encourage involvement in ongoing trials within the system.

Quarterly research meetings will be set up with stakeholders in BMHCC and BCRI.

Initiative 2: Utilize the Osteopathic Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine (ONMM) Clinic as a location for investigation of the effects of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine in a community setting.

The Chair of OMM, faculty in the ONMM clinic and Associate Dean for Research will work with the Director of BCRI to identify opportunities for primary clinical research on OMM topics.

Initiative 3: Mentor faculty in study design, poster preparation and podium presentations as continued development in a lifelong career of contributing to the knowledge base of medicine.

BUCOM will work closely with BCRI to develop quarterly seminar for faculty reviewing study design, sample size determination, best practices for literature searches, and writing research proposals.



- D. Provide a continuous opportunity for students (BUCOM and BHSU undergraduate students) to gain experience with research and scholarly work (Please see BUCOM policy COMBOD.1003 on Student Participation in Research and Scholarly Activity for details).

Initiative 1: Develop a longitudinal curriculum for research to ensure students have a solid foundation in a system of literature review, the methods used in producing a manuscript, preparing a poster and presenting a case.

BUCOM medical students will experience a four (4) year longitudinal immersive research experience. The topics in the Research Principles are listed below:

Research Principles I: OMED 707 (1)

Introduction to the scientific method, research study design, scholarly activity requirements, and basic human subjects' protection in research. Completion of assigned modules for the Belmont Report and CITI training through the Baptist Clinical Research Institute's Institutional Review Board (IRB). Assignment of a research mentor and exploration of initial research project ideas.

Research Principles II: OMED 708 (1)

Introduction to basic biostatistical principles and evaluation of scientific literature. Integration of Journal clubs pertinent to topics discussed in the organ systems and Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine courses. Students continue to work with their research mentors on developing plans for a research proposal or other scholarly activity.

Research Principles III: OMED 757 (2)

Expands upon previously learned research principles, biostatistics, and evidence-based medicine. Continued work with the research mentor and/or personnel from Baptist Clinical Research Institute (BCRI) to continue work on an individual research or scholarly project.

Research Principles IV OMED 758 (2)

Cumulative review of biostatistics, evidence-based medicine, clinical-decision making, and research design in preparation for COMLEX USA Level-1 examination. Continued work with research mentors to hone the project plan for working towards disseminating individual research/scholarly activity.

Initiative 2: Offer opportunities for more advanced instruction to those who desire further opportunities to contribute to generalizable scientific / medical knowledge.

Create an elective summer research program for students wishing to pursue additional research training.

Initiative 3: As part of a robust research culture and as part of the curricular goals, provide opportunities for students to participate in existing and new bench research, clinical research and educational research.

BUCOM students will have a wide variety of options from which to choose when completing their research/scholarly activity requirements for graduation. Students will choose a topic of interest for their project in the OMS-1 year working with an assigned research mentor. Project foci may include survey research, randomized controlled trials, bench research, educational research, community or public-health based projects, academic writing, or quality assurance/quality improvement. Students will be paired with faculty, BCRI or community mentors to help achieve their goals.



Initiative 4: Ensure students complete the required projects in the curriculum and encourage student production of additional manuscripts, posters, case reports and conference presentations that help build their interest in contributing to the medical literature.

Students are encouraged to submit their original research to local, regional and national conferences for presentation. BUCOM will maintain a pool of funds in the annual budget to assist students whose research is accepted at a meeting. Students will follow the BUCOM guidelines for conference attendance (Please see policy COMBOD.1003). The College will also sponsor quarterly poster presentation sessions where students who do not wish to travel can present their research poster or scholarly activity to a group of faculty.