

Standard 8 – Element 8.1

Evidence Submission

Research/Scholarly Strategic Plan

A copy of the Strategic Plan for Research and Scholarly Activity is provided in this document

DYOUVILLE UNIVERSITY
PROPOSED COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

**Research and Scholarly Activity
Strategic Plan**

February 21, 2025

Table of Contents

Introduction

1. Our Purpose
2. Goals and Objectives
3. Research Priorities
4. DYU-COM Research Committee
5. Facility Infrastructure
6. Faculty Participation
7. Objectives for Research and Scholarly Activity
8. Student Research Goals and Outcomes
9. Funding, Grants, and Collaboration
10. Assessment, Reporting, and Communication
11. Conclusion

DYU-COM Strategic Plan for Research and Scholarly Activity

This research and scholarly activity strategic plan outlines our commitment to advancing medical knowledge and fostering innovation through rigorous research and scholarly endeavors. This plan serves as a roadmap for enhancing our research capabilities, promoting collaborative scholarly activities, and integrating cutting-edge discoveries into our educational framework. By setting clear objectives and strategic priorities, we aim to support the professional growth of our faculty, engage students in meaningful research opportunities, and contribute to the broader field of osteopathic medicine. Our overarching goal is to have faculty facilitating the environment whereby to engage our medical students in contributing to osteopathic medicine and science, and develop into life-long learners, empathic well-rounded physicians, and leaders of the community.

1. Our Purpose

The intent of this plan is to facilitate the incremental expansion of research activity over ten (10) years, starting with the years before the arrival of students, continuing through four (4) years of medical education, and reviewing and implementing change over the subsequent years until excellence is achieved and sustained. In keeping with the DYU-COM mission of education and catering to the underserved in the surrounding community and the Western New York region, DYU-COM will promote research and scholarly activity that directly and indirectly benefits this community.

To achieve this purpose, DYU-COM will have a Research Committee which will provide guidance to students and faculty and will be the center for initiating research proposals, overseeing training, and providing assessment and feedback. The proposed DYU-COM Research Committee will work in conjunction with the Center for Doctoral Studies and Research (CDSR) and the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at D'Youville University to further supervise and support all initiatives, funding and grants, both intramural and extramural. DYU-COM's collaboration with the CDSR will also provide a larger forum for sharing research outcomes and cultivating a professional learning community.

2. Goals and Objectives

This section articulates our primary goals for enhancing research culture, infrastructure, and collaboration across disciplines, with a particular focus on cultural competencies and health disparities. By establishing clear goals and objectives, we aim to drive progress, support the development of groundbreaking research, and integrate scholarly activities into our educational and clinical programs. These goals and objectives are designed to align with our

overarching DYU-COM Strategic Plan and position us to overtime become a leader advancing the field of osteopathic medicine.

- Achieving research and scholarly activity to contribute to the improvement of health in the community of Buffalo and Western New York.
- Create enthusiasm and competence among medical students in DYU-COM in conducting research; create life-long learners and participants in advancing osteopathic medicine.
- Contribute to osteopathic medicine, healthcare, and science locally, nationally, and internationally.
- Provide a center for faculty to excel in their research projects and contribute to scholarly activity, including guiding osteopathic medical students.
- Secure funding and grants and encourage students to learn the process of research and further enhance the development of research equipment and facilities.
- Focus on health disparities and provide opportunities to students and faculty of diverse backgrounds.
- Develop a culture among our students to conduct research responsibly and safely.
- Develop a culture among of our students that hosts interprofessional and multidisciplinary participation.

3. Research Priorities

By defining our research priorities, we aim to concentrate resources, foster collaboration, and guide our faculty and students towards the most impactful scholarly activities that may enhance patient care, inform best practices, and contribute to the broader scientific community. These research priorities reflect our commitment to addressing the most significant and relevant issues in healthcare and advancing medical knowledge in a way that benefits both our community and the global medical field. DYU-COM’s four (4) major research priorities are as follows:

Cultural Competency & Community Health Disparities	Improvements in Clinical Medicine
Biomedical and Foundational Sciences	Osteopathic Principles/Practice & Manipulative Medicine

4. DYU-COM Research Committee

The Research Committee will play a crucial role in evaluating research proposals, allocating resources, and fostering an environment that encourages innovation and scholarly excellence. This section introduces the research committee's composition, responsibilities, and jurisdiction of authority in relation to the Parent Institution.

The DYU-COM Research Committee shall consist of Eight (8) members and currently be Chaired by the Associate Dean of Pre-Clinical Medical Education. Two (2) administrative members will be included from the Parent Institution: The Director of the Center for Doctoral Studies and the Executive Director Sponsored Programs & Research. Five (5) additional members will be appointed by the DYU-COM Dean [two (4) faculty and one (1) staff]. The staff member shall be a non-voting member of the committee.

Stakeholder Group	Quantity/Description
Chairs	Associate Dean, Pre-Clinical Medical Education
Administration	(2) Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director, Center for Doctor Studies and Research • Executive Director Sponsored Programs & Research
Faculty	(4) Faculty members
Staff	(1) Staff

Currently, the following members makeup the DYU-COM Research Committee:

- (Chair)Associate Dean of Preclinical Education. **Dr. Pandit, MD**
- Director of Center for Doctoral Studies and Research **Fehmi Damkaci, PhD**
- Executive Director Sponsored Programs & Research.....**Lindsey Diulus, PhD**
- Faculty members.....**Dr. Ray, MD**
Adekunle Sanyaolu, PhD
Dr. Camposeo, DO
Dr. Danto, DO
- Staff member**Henry Boateng, PhD**

The Committee is responsible for making decisions relative to the equitable use of research facilities controlled by DYU-COM; distribution of internal funds to support new and continuing research endeavors; establishment and maintenance of student research initiatives; and all other matters that may be referred to the committee by the DYU-COM Dean.

The DYU-COM Research Committee shall be supportive of decisions made by the IRB, however, the committee shall not be responsible for the activities of the IRB and rather shall

adopt all Parent Institution policies and protocols related to this matter, to uphold institutional equity and ensure compliance with all laws and regulations of the local, state, and federal governments.

5. Facilities Infrastructure

This section details the physical and technological resources necessary to foster a thriving research environment. It addresses the provision of wet and dry research labs, patient rooms for clinical trials, space for collaboration and multidisciplinary discussion, space dedicated to the promotion of research in social sciences, and computer labs. The specific facilities available throughout the university where students and faculty can conduct research include but are not limited to:

Wet and Dry Bench Research: There are 5+ research labs capable of hosting cell culture research with hoods with HEPA filters in the D'Youville Academic Center and Pauline M. ALT buildings. These facilities provide the appropriate safety resources such as handwashing stations, as well as emergency eyewash and showers. Equipment safety within these spaces will be strictly maintained and additional spaces of this style will be developed over the course of the 10-year plan.

Patient Rooms for Clinical Trials: There are 15+ patient rooms for clinical trials, patient observation, and interviews available in multiple buildings throughout the campus. These spaces are currently available by reservation only. Over this 10-year plan, DYU-COM plans to more than double the capacity for this type of facility.

Collaborative Lounges for Multidisciplinary Discussion: There are 45+ spaces to host small-group research discussions, collaborations, and lectures. These spaces are available for reservations, but many can also be used on an as-needed, first-come, first-serve basis.

Social Sciences Research: The facilities demand for social sciences research is much less stringent, as often a standard faculty office with an internet connection is all that is needed. However, the Center for Doctoral Studies and Research provides a class-A office space location to conduct this type of work, collaborate, and discuss research in a professional learning community with other faculty and doctoral students. Some of the significant and related ongoing research projects include the research domains of biomechanics, social and community aspects of healthcare, and interprofessional healthcare pedagogical research.

Computer Labs: There are 4 computer labs located on campus: three (3) medium-sized labs in the School of Arts, Science and Education and one (1) large lab in the Montante Family Library. All these labs are equipped with computers that have SPSS software installed for free usage by students and faculty to complete data analytics work.

6. Faculty Participation

Both pre-clinical and clinical faculty will actively participate in research and scholarly activity. With specific regard to student research, faculty will serve as mentors, guiding students at every step, starting with instruction in research methodology, then subsequently guiding students through the submission of the research plan and ensuring compliance with IRB protocols and Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) training.

Application Process:

Faculty can apply for funding via Research Seed Grants typically in two application cycles per year. They can apply for equipment once a year. Projects developed by junior faculty, along with students, as well as those that align with the College of Osteopathic Medicine's strategic plan and goals, will have priority. An online application form as used at the parent institution should be filled out. The final decision for approval will lie with the research committee.

Once research projects begin, faculty will have the responsibility of supervising and ensuring that safety and ethical requirements are maintained, and that proposed research plans are being followed. Eventually, faculty will assist students in analyzing the results and assessing the outcomes of their work during poster presentations and publication.

Faculty on the DYU-COM Research Committee will ultimately be responsible for supervising, approving, and guiding the remediation of all research proposals within DYU-COM. They will also be responsible for assessment and feedback, upon request. Individual faculty will be encouraged to work on additional research projects to enhance the research culture at DYU-COM and collaborate with significant affiliates like Catholic Health, the University at Buffalo, and the Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

7. 10-Year Objectives for Research and Scholarly Activity

The following table illustrates a projection of the overall objectives of research and scholarly activities on the 10-year horizon for DYU-COM.

Timeline	Objectives
<p>Prior to arrival of the first student cohort (Fall 2026)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty hiring particularly of those with experience and interest in research • Develop a Research Committee • In conjunction with CDSR and active research faculty at D'Youville University, develop projects and funding relevant to students • Work on and secure intramural funding as well as funding from external sources
<p>OMS I - IV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruct students in Research Methodology • Mentor and guide students in participation and completion of research projects • Faculty planning and participation in Research and Scholarly activity to develop DYU-COM as an Osteopathic Center of Excellence • Collaborate with other DYU departments and research centers
<p>Years 1 to 10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop strong research activities and resources contributing to an Osteopathic Center of Excellence • Review annually and implement improvement plans Receive feedback from students, faculty, and funding constituents and apply them to the Office of Research

8. Student Research Goals and Outcomes

In addition to the overall 10-year objectives for research and scholarly activity, DYU-COM has established a year-by-year plan for student research goals and outcomes to be implemented during their four years of study as an osteopathic medical student.

Year	Goals	Outcomes
OMS 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to Research Methodology, Biostatistics, and Epidemiology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good understanding of the scientific methods, and ethical conduct; development of plan for four years of research and scholarly activity
OMS 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systems-based knowledge of foundational and clinical medicine Introduction to faculty mentors, research projects, and funding opportunities; IRB & CITI training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify faculty mentor(s) and discuss plan for research Submit a letter of intent and research proposal May start their project at this stage
OMS 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students participate in a research project either longitudinally or during a mandatory 4-week block Identify and troubleshoot problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Research Project in OMM/ OPP/ Biomedical Sciences/ Clinical aspects
OMS 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarize and present all research and scholarly activity in the four years of medical school, individually or in groups Presentation of research findings on Research Day With the help of Faculty mentors, develop articles for publication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take ownership and pride in achievements in all scholarly activities Students who are further interested can continue research at DYU/affiliated research centers Become well-rounded clinicians and scholars

9. Funding, Grants, and Collaboration

Securing financial support and fostering partnerships is essential for advancing research and scholarly activity. This section highlights our strategies for identifying and pursuing funding opportunities, including grants, sponsorships, and external research awards, as well as building collaborative relationships with other academic institutions, industry partners, and healthcare organizations. By detailing our approach to funding acquisition and collaborative

efforts, we aim to enhance our research capacity, drive innovative projects, and support the development of impactful scholarly work.

Research funding is planned to be allocated from both internal and external sources. In terms of internal funding, DYU-COM has prepared a Research and Scholarly Activity Budget (see also: **Standard 8.2**), which includes research funding for seed grants and student/faculty research projects. Examples of potential external funding sources include but are not limited to the following list of related healthcare-focused organizations:

- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
- U.S. Department of Education
- American Heart Association
- American Diabetes Association
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Susan Komen Foundation
- Office of Minority Health

In addition, DYU-COM will pursue external funding from the U.S. Department of Defense for more involved and long-term projects in the most important disease domains, the biomedical sciences, and community health. For Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine and osteopathic medical education studies, support may be requested from the American Osteopathic Association and AACOM. For more advanced research projects, funding will be applied for at the National Institutes of Health and National Cancer Institute.

Support for grant applications will be made available to DYU-COM through the grant's office at its Parent Institution. D'Youville University has a dedicated team of both in-house staff and third-party contractors who specialize in applying for a wide variety of funding sources, including state, federal, and private foundation applications. D'Youville has a long history of obtaining substantial grants for the Health Professions, most recently a \$3.2 million grant from the Health Resources and Service Administration.

DYU-COM also plans to partner with other institutions like Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Community Health Centers of Buffalo, and Stony Brook University on projects and initiatives that promote student participation in research focused on clinical and community medicine, biomedical sciences, and the research priority of cultural competence and health disparities. Conversations with these institutes regarding potential opportunities and collaborations are in progress and are expected to strengthen exponentially as students matriculate through the DYU-COM program.

10. Assessment, Reporting, and Communication

Systematic assessment of research activities, tracking progress towards strategic goals, and reporting findings to key stakeholders is essential for the incremental growth of research and scholarly activity at DYU-COM. Clear and consistent communication is critical for disseminating research outcomes, sharing best practices, and fostering a culture of continuous engagement and improvement.

The Research Committee will be responsible for the assessment, reporting, and communication of research and scholarly activity outcomes at DYU-COM. These activities will be comprehensively executed on an annual basis, however, will also take place to varying degrees at the end of each research project. Both students and faculty mentors will be given feedback from the DYU-COM Research Committee and various channels of communication, including website news, digital displays, and email, will be used to disseminate the accomplishments of researchers, as needed.

Reporting on research and scholarly activity will flow from the DYU-COM Research Committee to the Office of the Dean. The Dean in turn will pass on significant accomplishments and projects worthy of highlighting to other communication channels at the Parent Institution, such as the D'Youville Research Review and presentations to the Board of Trustees. Publications accepted to indexed journals and presentations at industry conferences will be the major outlets for communicating research and scholarly activity outcomes to the external community.

11. Conclusion

This plan provides a synthesis of our strategic vision, purpose, goals and objectives, key research priorities, facilities, and actionable steps to be taken over the next 10 years of activity at DYU-COM, which includes the focus on cultural competency and health disparities. The plan also outlines the role of the faculty in research and scholarly activity, as well as the composition, roles, and responsibilities of the DYU-COM Research Committee—a body formed to stimulate and oversee research, including its assessment, reporting, and communication.

By reflecting on this strategic plan as a framework for directing efforts, we will incrementally increase the research output and culture of scholarly activities within its community. Through this strategic plan, we aim to position ourselves at the forefront of medical research and attract best-in-class students and faculty to DYU-COM.

More information is available at:

<https://www.dyu.edu/academics/schools-and-departments/proposed-college-osteopathic-medicine/dyu-com-policies-procedures>

DYU-OM Policies & Procedures

Home > Academics > Schools and Departments > Proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine > DYU-OM Policies & Procedures

Policies & Procedures

- Professionalism Policy
- Classroom Safety Plan
- Student Supervision Policy
- Program Learning Outcomes
- Degree Completion Policy
- Faculty Appointments Policy
- Research Strategic Plan
- Student Research Policy
- IRB Policies
- Admission Requirements
- Academic Standards
- Technical Standards
- Transfer Policy
- Financial Aid
- Mental Health Awareness
- Student Health Services
- Recusal Policy
- Student Health Insurance

DYU-OM Policy & Procedures

- DYU-OM Completion of COCA Survey Policy
- DYU-OM Policy and Procedures on Comparability Across Clinical Education Sites

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