KYCOM Research Strategic Plan 2025-2030

Prepared by:

KYCOM Research Committee

Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine

Mission and Research Strategy

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Mission Statement

The University of Pikeville, Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine (KYCOM) Research mission is to build and sustain research activity for faculty and KYCOM students that promotes lifelong inquiry and enhances community wellness. This mission reaffirms KYCOM's commitment to improving healthcare access and outcomes in underserved Appalachian regions through collaborative efforts in education, scholarly inquiry, and service-based engagement.

Research Strategic Plan

General Timeline and Milestones:

 KYCOM Research Committee's Research Strategic Plan encompasses a period of 3-5 years. The Plan will be reviewed every three years based on the following Milestones:

Goal 1: Enhance Faculty and Student Research Engagement

Objectives

- Expand Student Research Fellowship and Summer Scholars Program
- Provide mentorship and grant-writing workshops
- Recognize research excellence through awards and promotion criteria
- Introducing workshops on AI, telehealth, and digital health research tools to prepare faculty and students for technology-enabled inquiry

Strategies

- Support 2-3 faculty members annually via Intramural grant funding
- Enroll 21 Summer Research Fellow Students per year
- Conduct at least one grant-writing workshop annually
- Continue annual KYCOM Research Excellence Award
- Host at least one technology-focused research training session annually (AI analytics, telehealth platforms, wearable monitoring).

Goal 2: Increase Research Output and External Funding

Objectives

- Target NIH and Kentucky INBRE funding opportunities
- Encourage interdisciplinary and multi-institutional collaborations

KYCOM Research Strategy

- Develop a grant pre-review and editing service
- Track and report research productivity annually
- Pursue HRSA rural health grants, NCCIH osteopathic research grants, and Appalachian Regional Commission funding to support health disparities and telemedicine projects

Strategies
- Submit a grant proposal to NIH or other government funding agencies within 2-3 years of receiving an intramural grant
- Establish 5 new collaborations by 2028, identified by co-authored grants or co-authored papers with individuals at other institutions.
- Join the Appalachian Translational Research Network (ATRN) and secure at least 2 multi-institutional collaborative projects by 2029.

Goal 3: Advance Research in Priority Biomedical and Educational Areas

Objectives

- Develop a research program in an impactful way for rural Kentucky. This will focus on areas most affecting Kentuckians, including:
  - Cancer Prevention and Treatment
  - Aging and Memory
  - Medical Education and Rural Medicine
  - Telehealth and Remote Care Research
  - Precision Public Health and Genomics
  - Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine
  - Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health
  - Women's Health
  - Novel Therapeutics

- Encourage interdisciplinary collaboration across these domains

Strategies
- Launch 4 new faculty-led research projects annually across the focus areas
- Publish at least 1 peer-reviewed article annually in these
- Engage at least 5 students per year in related research projects
- Present 2 recognition awards during the summer research fellowship
- Highlight research in these focus areas at the annual Symposium

- Introduce an annual "Innovation in Medical Education Research Award" recognizing breakthrough researchers & their work

Goal 4: Advance Research in Cultural Competency and Health Disparities

Objectives
- Promote community-based participatory research (CBPR)
- Support projects addressing rural health, minority health, and social determinants
- Integrate cultural competency into student research training
- Partner with regional health organizations and tribal health systems
- Evaluate the effectiveness of telemedicine and wearable monitoring interventions on reducing disparities in access to care

Strategies
- Fund 2 health disparities projects per year
- Organize a lecture as a special topic on cultural competency research in the OSM1 Curriculum
- Establish at least 1 community research partnership with regional organizations by 2028
- Conduct one student-led outcomes study per year on digital health or telehealth in rural communities

Goal 5: Enhance Faculty Professional Development and Institutional Research Visibility

Objectives:

- Provide annual funding and administrative support for faculty to attend national and international conferences relevant to their research and teaching areas
- Establish a structured faculty development program that includes workshops, seminars, and mentorship.
- Host an annual KYCOM Research Symposium to showcase faculty and student research and foster collaboration.
- Establish faculty exchange and mentorship partnerships with research-intensive institutions (e.g., University of Kentucky, Marshall University, Virginia Tech) for training in AI, data analytics, and translational research

Strategies:

- Conduct 4 faculty development workshops annually.
- Organize 1 research Symposium per academic year.
- Achieve 90% faculty participation in at least one workshop per year.
- Collect post-event feedback with an average satisfaction score of ≥4/5.
- Invite at least 1 faculty member from R1 or R2 academic research institutions to provide a lecture on medically relevant research activity per year (the KYCOM will provide travel support). This lecture would be open to faculty and students.
- Report annually on national recognition of KYCOM research, measured by student/faculty presentations at significant conferences and multi-institutional publications.

SWOT Analysis

Strengths
Internal Factors ➕

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- **Clear Mission Alignment**
- **Structured Goals and Strategies:**
- **Faculty and Student Engagement:**
- **Funding Support**
- **Technology Integration**

Opportunities
External Factors

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

- **Regional Collaboration**
- **Emerging Research Areas**
- **Community-Based Research**
- **Student Involvement**

INTERNAL | **EXTERNAL**

POSITIVE

Weaknesses
Internal Factors ➖

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7.

- **Limited Quantitative Targets**
- **Resource Constraints**
- **Dependence on External Funding**

Threats
External Factors 🚫

1.
2.
3.
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5.

- **Competitive Funding Landscape**
- **Faculty Bandwidth**
- **Technological Barriers**
- **Sustainability Concerns**

NEGATIVE