



# BURRELL COLLEGE *of* OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

**Office of Research & Sponsored Programs  
2025-2029 Research Strategic Plan**



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**BURRELL COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE**  
**MISSION, VISION, GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

**Burrell College Mission Statement**

The Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine educates a diverse osteopathic physician workforce committed to improving the quality and access to healthcare in underserved communities.

!Para la gente y el future! For the people and the future!

**Burrell College Vision Statement**

The Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine will be celebrated for preparing culturally competent physicians dedicated to serving the Southwest, particularly among its Native Americans and Hispanic populations, and further extending locally and nationally to all underrepresented communities served by the College.

**Burrell College Guiding Principles**

1. The College will achieve and maintain accreditation for its academic program(s) through appropriate accrediting bodies.
2. The College provides an evidence-based osteopathic medical education program that enables students to demonstrate the knowledge and competencies required to enter graduate medical education and the practice of osteopathic medicine.
3. The College embraces diversity that fosters inclusiveness and cultural awareness among all learners and educators with the ultimate goal to increase diversity in the regional physician workforce.
4. The College prepares students to effectively address the health needs of diverse populations, with emphasis on the southwest border region, particularly among Hispanic and Native American populations.
5. The College supports faculty and students in their efforts to advance knowledge by creating an atmosphere of inquiry and discovery that inspires excellence in scholarship and medical practice.
6. The College supports the establishment of a healthcare culture that promotes osteopathic principles of wellness and prevention.
7. The College develops new graduate medical education (GME) opportunities with special emphasis on primary care and physician retention in the region.

## Burrell College Office of Research & Sponsored Programs Office Mission, Function, and Organizational Structure

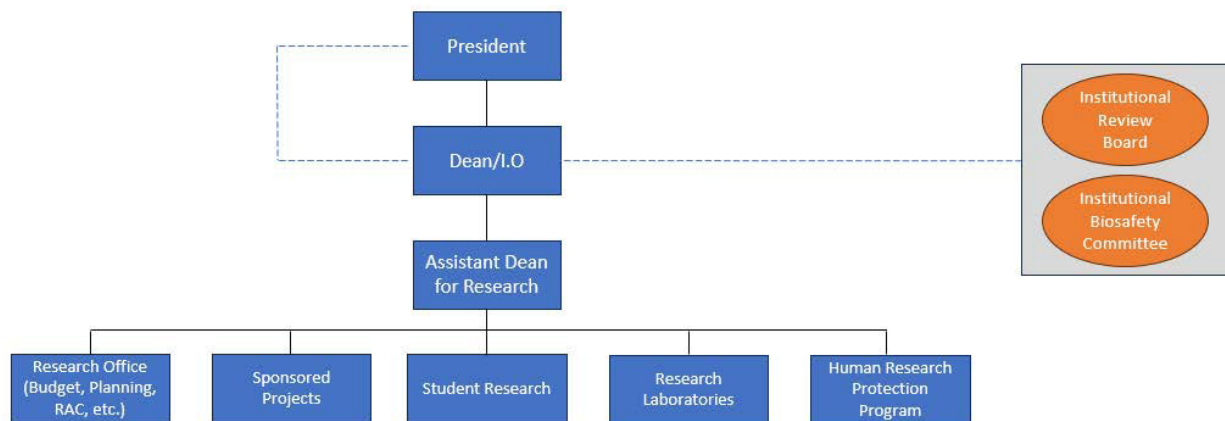
### Research Office Mission

The Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine Office of Research & Sponsored Programs supports faculty and students in their efforts to advance knowledge by creating an atmosphere of inquiry and discovery that inspires excellence in scholarship and medical practice.

### Research Office Function

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) provides organization and infrastructure in support of faculty, staff, and student research activities. ORSP assures that regulatory compliance issues are effectively addressed in ways that facilitate innovation, collaboration, and involvement among Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine researchers and through collaboration with other research entities.

### ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR RESEARCH



### DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESEARCH STRATEGIC PLAN

Research and scholarly activity are of paramount importance in the academic realm of biomedical, clinical, and educational disciplines. The 2025-2029 Research Strategic Plan is the fourth Burrell College Plan designed to be a living document developed by the Assistant Dean for Research with input from the Burrell Research Advisory Council and the Burrell Executive Leadership Team.

### PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH STRATEGIC PLAN

The purpose of the Research Strategic Plan is to define strategies that will advance the goals and activities of the 2025-2029 College Strategic Plan. Indicators of success in achieving the goals of the research strategic plan will be demonstrated by but not limited to the institutional budget for research, programs, staffing and infrastructure; research expenditures; faculty productivity; student/trainee research engagement; and success in partnerships with other research institutions.

## **BURRELL COLLEGE PRIORITY AREAS FOR RESEARCH**

Identified tactical initiatives

### **A. Support the research and creative scholarship opportunities for faculty and students.**

#### **Strategies**

- i. Provide research professional development and educational opportunities for faculty/staff and students on topics ranging from responsible conduct of research, publishing, and grant writing.
- ii. Increase opportunities for trainees to participate in research by,
  1. Expanding Summer Research Experience to include mentored projects from clinical faculty and regional academic centers,
  2. Encourage College faculty to offer opportunities for medical residents to join ongoing research projects,
  3. Identify and recruit students into non-clinical research rotations supervised by college faculty.
- iii. Collaborate with Department Chairs to ensure allocation of research FTE is being met.
- iv. Sponsor and facilitate the formation of a Student Research Interest Group or Club.
- v. Continue development on interprofessional education offerings to include ethical and responsible conduct of research. Incorporate cultural competency and health disparities training into these offerings.

### **B. Provide Comprehensive Support of College's Research Enterprise**

#### **Strategies:**

- i. Develop a robust pre-award through post-award process that is capable of meeting requirements of extramural research sponsors.
- ii. Secure an indirect negotiated rate for federal and foundation grants and contracts.
- iii. Provide opportunities for staff development that supports the Research Office Mission.
- iv. Formalize affiliation agreements for research with Regional Academic Centers and affiliated institutions.
- v. Expand services to faculty researchers offered by the Research Laboratories.
- vi. Continue development of research enterprise in Florida.

### **C. Establish Research Focus Areas for Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine**

#### **Strategies**

- i. Work with College Leadership (President, Dean, Melbourne (FL) Campus Dean, and Department Chairs) on the priority development areas for research.
- ii. Provide opportunities for faculty and staff development consistent with priority areas.
- iii. Provide opportunities for faculty growth in areas related to cultural competency and health disparities research and creative scholarship that includes understanding of regional and local factors throughout Burrell educational system.

Below comments on how the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs can support each of the College's Five Strategic Foci for the upcoming Master Strategic Plan.

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*Strategic Focus One: Learning Environment*

- *Critically review, analyze, revise, and reform the College's existing curriculum in alignment with educational best practices and healthcare demands.*
- *Enhance integration between the pre-clinical and clinical curriculum to enhance continuity and contextual learning.*

ORSP supports the learning environment by training students in all facets of the research enterprise, which forms the basis for healthcare innovation, evidence-based medical and teaching practices, and a continued improvement in our understanding of the human body, in both health and disease. Those students who engage in research at Burrell have an inside-track to "peeking behind the curtain" to see how new insights are gained and new knowledge is generated.

ORSP, through strategic partnerships and synergy with the Office of Community Based Learning, is positioned to play an instrumental role in growing research and scholarship planned with our community partners. ORSP provides resources and personnel to assist with designing and developing research projects and activities at these sites.

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*Strategic Focus Two: Recruitment and Retention*

- *Enhance recruitment and retention strategies while emphasizing the College's identity.*

ORSP supports the College's recruitment and retention by providing a robust set of research experiences for our students. Prospective students frequently inquire about research opportunities, and many students choose to come to Burrell, in part, because of the diverse research opportunities and successes. Our students have been successful locally, regionally, and nationally in presenting their work at scientific conferences, in publishing research articles and case studies, and in winning awards and recognition. Burrell students have won awards at national conferences, such as the annual OMED conference, as well as regional meetings, such as the NM chapter of the American College of Surgeons. These kinds of accolades bring attention to Burrell as a whole, and they place us "on the map" by being a leading-edge institution. This kind of positive attention is a source of pride and accomplishment for all of us, and it spreads to prospective students as well, who see that Burrell is a place they can attend to become a physician-scholar.

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### *Strategic Focus Three: Student Support*

- *Improve student success by providing timely interventions and tailored support through the strategic use of performance data, predictive analyses, and resources.*
- *Expand a holistic, inclusive and sustainable culture of wellness with students, faculty and staff.*

ORSP provides a unique flavor of student support, in that the great majority of students engaged in research develop strong, lasting bonds with one or more faculty members, who often serve as another important mentor in these students' lives. Furthermore, students develop bonds and friendships with each other over the course of the SRE or many other research activities. For many of these students, friendships formed during research activities are critical to their wellbeing and success, not only in research, but in other activities related to their time as a Burrell student as well.

ORSP also has expertise in data and statistical analysis, and as such is able to assist with internal analyses of student performance and outcomes data.

### *Strategic Focus Four: Professional Development and Outreach*

- *Enhance professional development for faculty with a focus on clinical faculty engagement.*

ORSP supports faculty development by providing opportunities, guidance, and intramural funding to support one of major pillars of faculty growth: research and creative scholarship. ORSP offers a robust framework within which research activities are carried out at Burrell, which includes providing laboratory access, grant review and management, peer-review opportunities, to name a few. The office also facilitates student involvement in research opportunities, without asking each faculty to independently navigate all of the regulatory and compliance hurdles on their own.

### *Strategic Focus Five: Growth*

- *Ensure the College meets high standards of quality and compliance while broadening its educational offerings in the health sciences.*

ORSP is well-positioned to support the growth of the college and can supplement the offerings provided with the addition of any number of programs or degrees. As the college grows and diversifies, so too must the research office, to be able to offer meaningful resources and expertise that provide an infrastructure for scholarly activity in whatever new programs come online.