

University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine

The University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine (UNE COM) has continued to improve its biomedical, clinical, and educational research capacity and increase its research productivity. It was one of the first two colleges of osteopathic medicine to receive an 'Exceptional Outcomes' accreditation in 2017, following COCA's review (UNE COM granted Accreditation with Exceptional Outcomes). This is the highest level of accreditation a COM can receive.

I. The UNE COM Research Infrastructure

UNE COM has established/improved its research infrastructure significantly in recent years in order to continue to 1) support faculty/staff in research and scholarly activities, 2) improve the research culture within UNE COM, and 3) promote/facilitate student participation in research and scholarly activities.

1. Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship

The Office of the Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship (ADRS) was created in August 2018. A full-time Coordinator for the Research and Scholarship office was created at this time. The ADRS meets, advises, and develops a research and scholarship plan for UNE COM medical students integrating research and scholarship principles into the curriculum to foster inquiry and lifelong learning. The ADRS also supports developing research and scholarship into our preclinical and clerkship sites at UNE COM. Research and scholarship opportunities are constantly being developed for our medical students with the various Centers of Excellence at UNE. Eg., 1) the Center for Excellence in the Neurosciences, 2) the Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) the Study of Pain and Sensory Function (funded by NIH/NIGMS), 3) the Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning, 4) the

relationships. The ADRS serves on the Dean's Leadership Team (DLT) to advise the Dean on all aspects of UNE COM research and scholarship activities and the development of new opportunities for research and scholarship with external partners.

2. The UNE COM Research and Scholarship Committee
UNE COM created the Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC) in October 2008. In 2018, the ADRS was hired and appointed as the administrator for this committee and a non-voting member (ex officio). The UNE COM RSC is a standing committee of the college and comprises nine members, with a chair and a vice-chair appointed by the committee members. The committee reports to the COM Faculty Assembly (COMFA), and the ADRS reports to the Dean's Leadership Team. The ADRS, COM Research & Scholarship Committee, and Coordinator help to identify research, fellowship, and presentation opportunities for faculty and medical students and disseminate this information across UNE COM. The RSC holds regular monthly meetings, and maintains meeting minutes. The goal of the RSC is to provide a faculty voice and administrate matters pertaining to UNE COM research and scholarship. The mission of RSC is "through the collaborative efforts and creativity of the committee members, our mission is to advance and administer the research and scholarship agenda within the UNE COM to include UNE's Centers of Excellence where appropriate and develop opportunities for research and scholarship education and practice." The UNE COM RSC has five functions:

1. Assist in formulating recommendations and policies including processes or procedures designed to enhance research and scholarship within UNE COM.
2. Develop as appropriate non-degree-granting research endeavors to advance student training in research.
3. Foster and facilitate mentoring of UNE COM students in a variety of research and scholarship activities.
4. Administer and implement the Peter Morgane Student Research Fellowship Program and annual Fall UNE COM Research Forum.
5. Advise the ADRS office on the new medical student research SharePoint site information related to the functions of this committee.

RSC achieves these functions by working with the UNE COM ADRS, UNE COM faculty and staff, UNE COM students, and the Office of UNE's Associate Provost for Research and Scholarship. In addition, the ADRS and RSC prepare and distribute a list of Faculty Research Interests to prospective and current UNE COM students to show potential research opportunities that UNE COM students could have, thus further encouraging student participation in research.

3. UNE COM Research Honor Distinction Program
Charged by the UNE COM Curriculum Advisory Committee, the UNE COM Research and Scholarship Committee has completed the UNE COM Research Honor Distinction Program draft policy, which is attached to the following link: [http://www.une.edu/officeofresearchandlearning/2018/02/20/180220-11\(u\)E-5\(e\)](#)

Institution in New England that is part of the National Center for Interprofessional Education and Practice's prestigious Innovation Network. CECE's mission is to prepare students to work collaboratively across disciplines to achieve more successful outcomes as clinical and community team members. IPE touches every health profession program at UNE and, increasingly, many of the arts, sciences, research, and humanities programs. It fosters an inclusive environment where students, faculty, and community partners learn together to advance effective health practices and improve the quality of life for all people. The IPE-focused centers have transformed UNE's education in various health professions, including UNE

Review Board (IRB), the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), and the Institutional Committee on Biosafety (ICB) help ensure both the ethical conduct of research and the protection of the rights and welfare of humans and animals in research performed at UNE. Currently, the IRB oversees approximately 350 active protocols, with UNE COM faculty or personnel responsible for 5-8% of those protocols. In a given month, the IRB receives anywhere from 25-45 submissions, including initial submissions, renewals, and amendments. The IACUC oversees approximately 100 protocols, with the UNE COM faculty or personnel responsible for 70% of those protocols at any time. In a given month, the IACUC receives anywhere from 15-30 submissions from investigators, including initial submissions, renewals, and amendments. The IBC has over ten active exempt protocols involving UNE COM faculty and staff.

IV. Research Facility

All UNE COM faculty, who conduct basic bench research, have assigned lab space and have access to shared major equipment for their research needs. Over the last several years, the UNE COM research faculty have benefited from UNE's overall improvement in its research facilities. These improvements are reflected by the renovated research space both on the fourth floor of Stella Maris Hall and on the second floor of the Pickus Center for Biomedical Research building and growing numbers of core facilities supported by the UNE's Office of R&S and extramural funding.

1. Research Space Renovation

Research space renovations were made in response to UNE's fast growth in biomedical research and the recent hiring of research faculty within UNE COM, and were supported by both UNE's Office of R&S and UNE COM. The fourth floor of Stella Maris Hall was completely renovated in 2013 and now provides research space for three UNE COM faculty who conduct microbiology and drug development research, the COBRE Behavioral Core, and a shared certified radiation room for projects using radioactive materials. The second floor of the Pickus Center for Biomedical Research building was partially renovated to fit the needs of the COBRE histology and imaging core and two new UNE COM faculty who conduct research in cancer immunology and developmental biology. UNE COM evaluates its needs in research space annually and further renovations will be made to accommodate future research needs.

available to other faculty within the UNE community. Frequently, decisions on equipment purchase (including some of the UNE core equipment mentioned above) are made according to the needs of the faculty member, as recommended by Chairs of Biomedical and Clinical Sciences

V. Time Allocation and Funding support for Faculty Research

1. Time and Effort Allocation

To ensure faculty have protected time to pursue research and scholarship activities, UNE COM has been innovative and flexible when assigning percentage effort (teaching, research, and service) to its faculty. Responsibility

Teaching and Learning (CETL) encourage faculty to investigate a teaching component to advance teaching practice and student learning.

COBRE pilot project grants, provided by the COBRE Center for the Study of Pain and SensoryF, support faculty pilot projects related to understanding the neurobiology of pain. Projects should acquire preliminary data for NIH R01/R15/R21/SBIR/STTR or comparable grant applications and publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Core facility grants: CEN has developed additional funding opportunities to support individual researchers to take advantage of the resources within UNE's core facilities.

VI. Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Program in Research (OPTI)

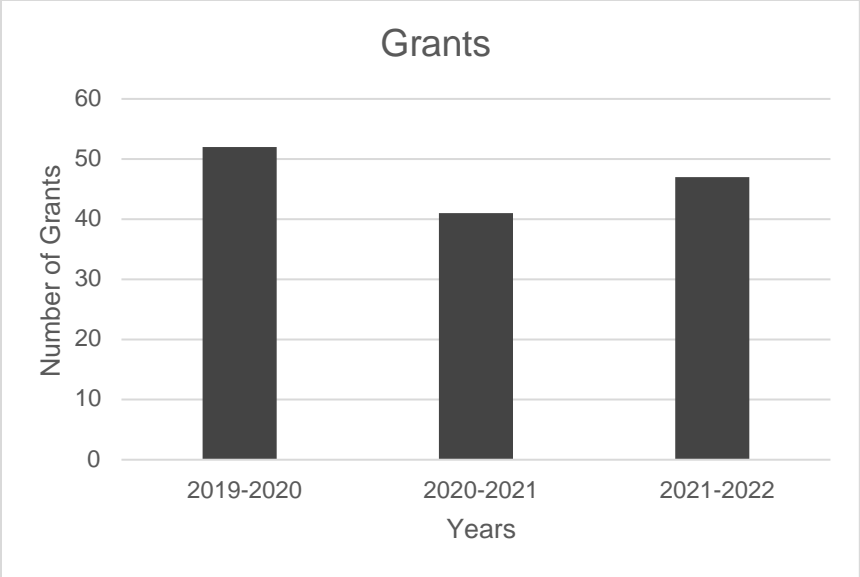
UNE COM's Northeast Osteopathic Medical Education Network (NEOMEN) is a robust research support tool for its residents. An online research methodology course, available asynchronously, vetted, and proctored by UNE COM professors, exists for those residents being first introduced to research. Each Institution runs its own IRB for research on its campus and provides specific research requirements to its residents. Once a year, NEOMEN hosts a research forum open to both UNE COM students and NEOMEN residents. It has consistently grown in size and is now mandated by many of the NEOMEN sites for residents during their final postgraduate year. The forum is unique in that all abstracts are reviewed and corrections sought before acceptance, but if corrections are made, all abstracts are accepted. Original research is emphasized through a cash award for the top three resident and student category winners. A lecture on the state of research or specialized research topics is given as part of the awards ceremony. Finally, significant faculty research occurs at each of our NEOMEN sites, and students and residents participate, but infrastructure and administration are institution specific and not NEOMEN-centric.

VII. Productivity of Research and Scholarship Activities

The combination of the UNE COM faculty's passion and dedication in research, and UNE COM's consistent support for research and scholarship activities has resulted in tremendous accomplishments for its faculty in various areas. UNE COM faculty have demonstrated their ability to make significant contributions to advancing knowledge and developing osteopathic medicine through scientific research. Research productivity of UNE COM faculty is highlighted in the following areas.

1. Federal, State and Contract Grants

Fifty-two UNE COM faculty led grants in 2019-2020, 41 grants in 2020-2021 and 47 grants in 2021-2022. These awards represent federal (NIH, NSF and HERSA), state grants and private contractors. The total grant award for UNE COM was \$284,176,805 during the period of June 2019 to May 2022.



2. Student Scholarly Activities

Over 50% of our UNE COM medical students participated in research and scholarly activities.

