

RESEARCH PILLAR: Department of Surgery Strategic

Be the region's most valued surgical research asset

Research Strategic Plan 2021-2024 for the Department of Surgery at UF on the Jacksonville campus is being developed in pursuit of the common mission of UF and UF Health— *to heal, to comfort, to educate and to discover through quality health care, elimination of health disparities, medical education, innovation and research*. The strategic plan is developed as a guide to a) describe overall goals and specific objectives b) assess research activity within the Department of Surgery c) suggest strategies and activities to achieve goals and objectives and d) propose timelines to achieve goals and objectives.

The **purpose** of this research strategic plan is to state the goals, define objectives and implement activities and strategies to increase the conduct of meritorious research in Department of Surgery. The initial themes/components shown below will collectively contribute to the increase of research in our department and will be modified based on the initial assessment conducted by the research strategic planning taskforce/committee. This plan serves as a “live” document given its role to help document and guide the progress of reaching the overall goals for scholarship, *to increase research, increase funding for research and increase dissemination of research findings*.

This research strategic plan, while specifically developed to increase research activities and outcomes (i.e., reach and impact) in the Department of Surgery at the UF, Jacksonville campus, is developed in full consistency with the overall research and scholarly goals of the University of Florida, the College of Medicine, and the Office of Research Affairs on the Jacksonville (urban) campus.

Research Priorities and Mission of the University of Florida Office of Research Affairs: The departmental leadership seeks to create a culture that promotes research, team value and collaboration. Research areas and health interests are vast given the wide impact and integral nature of surgery within the health paradigm/ecosystem. The list below captures some of the existing areas of research within the surgery department with the goal to further expand this list to include additional areas of research interests from faculty and staff. As such, this research strategic plan is developed based on the overall research priorities of UF.

Precision Medicine

Health Equity

Population Health

Cancer: Cancer treatment/outcomes and survivorship, machine learning

Mental Health: Wellness

Acute Critical Care: Firearm injury prevention/outcomes, postoperative delirium, thromboembolic events, vascular repair/outcomes,

Aging: elderly trauma care; frailty emergency general surgery

Focus Area	Goals/Objectives	Activities/Strategies	Research Objectives to Meet
Core Metrics			
Collaboration	<p>Increase number of faculty who are participating on some level or type of research</p> <p>Increase inter- and intra-department collaboration on research activities</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Determine faculty's interests and current level of research interest participation Work with PIs to determine potentially interdisciplinary opportunities for planned research Create research collaborative teams to include, at a minimum, a senior faculty member, junior faculty member, and a trainee. Post active (website or F- drive) projects for easy access Share research updates @ department meetings Utilize Office of Research Affairs (ORA) resources on most research projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of faculty on active projects # of collaborative teams created
Research Readiness	<p>Obtain Institutional Review Board approval for the conduct of research</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify faculty who need to complete training Identify faculty who need to register for a myIRB account Audit of faculty training to identify gaps of required IRB training Include IRB training / requirements as part of new-hire orientation (HR) Monitor faculty progress and assist to completion Assist with recognizing and connecting available administrative resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of faculty receive research packet with required and suggested trainings 100% of faculty complete IRB basic training 100% of faculty have myIRB accounts
Education	<p>Increase knowledge about the conduct and administration of research within DOS and at UF (Jacksonville)</p> <p>Provide educational opportunities to understand and apply research within DOS</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Host/collaborate with ORA to provide educational sessions for research relevant topics by assessing needs and topics of interests Increase Research Grand Rounds from annual to quarterly Share educational opportunities available internal and external to the university 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of educational seminars provided and topics covered # of faculty attending seminars # of faculty having mybib # of faculty having updated biosketches Monthly email communication of upcoming educational opportunities
Funded Research	<p>Increase funding support of research</p> <p>Increase funded research by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3% by end of academic year 2022-23 5% in three years (2025-26) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Determine current level of research funding Review unfunded studies to determine potentially fundable opportunities Identify funding opportunities for eligible faculty that align with their research interest Assist with the submission of grant proposals Create a grant submission checklist to assist with administrative and scientific processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of grants submitted (external to department) # of grants submitted (external to university) Type of grants submitted # of grants funded Types of grants funded
Dissemination: Publications and Presentations	<p>Increase peer-reviewed <u>presentations</u> per faculty</p> <p>Increase peer-reviewed <u>publications</u> per faculty</p>	<p><u>Presentations</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide funding support for faculty and staff to share their research by presenting abstracts at national and international conferences Assist with identifying scientific and academic conferences for faculty to submit <p><u>Publications</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Assist with identifying reputable, peer-reviewed journals for potential publication Assist with reviewing/providing feedback with developing manuscripts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of abstracts/manuscripts submitted # of abstracts/manuscripts accepted for presentation Types of abstracts/manuscripts submitted Types of abstracts/manuscripts accepted for presentation # of faculty serving as lead author # of faculty serving as co-author # of faculty serving as senior (last) author

Promotion and tenure	<p>Have faculty promoted to next academic rank</p> <p>Support faculty through the promotion and tenure process</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formalize mentoring with Associate Chair for Research for faculty interested in making funded research a significant proportion of their career 2. Create system to assist faculty with meeting timelines for promotion and tenure 3. Assist with data acquisition through quarterly requests for publications, presentations, grant submissions and awards and/or other notable accomplishments and recognitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # of faculty applying for promotion - # of faculty promoted to higher academic rank - # of faculty submitting quarterly - # of faculty on tenure track
Ongoing Research Portfolio	<p>Meet or exceed accrual goals for all research projects conducted within department</p> <p>Increase recruitment/enrollment to open clinical trials</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify active ongoing IRB-approved studies within the department categorized by existing areas of research priorities <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Develop a proactive approach/robust system to track eligibility of potential participants for active research projects <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2 a. Conduct a recruitment audit 2 b. Work with the Clinical Research Office to identify potential opportunities for clinical trial participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # of eligible participants enrolled into active research projects - # of referrals from CRO
Promotion/Marketing	<p>Expand use of social media/media amplification of research (work with marketing/branding)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participate in ORA's Research Symposium 2. Host annual conference that highlights faculty and resident research 3. Expand and maintain department website to include highlighted research/faculty 4. Include areas of research priority on department webpage 5. Perform quarterly updates to website 6. Select research/researchers to highlight on department webpage 7. Post research stories on social media (i.e., twitter; Facebook, department website) 8. Collaborate with UF communication to highlight department research via social media and other public communication venues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - % of faculty participate in ORA's research symposium - X% of residents participate in ORA's research symposium - Conducted/completed Annual conference - Updated DOS website - ## of faculty featured in DOS website - ## of stories promoted on social media