



Creating A Center For Integrated Oral Health Research

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Background:

- Academic clinical research is at the core of lifesaving discoveries and drug trials.
- Needs highly trained, calibrated individuals and rigorous testing conditions for high yield.
- Alarming lack of skilled clinical researchers and external support for clinical research.
- Impact is especially severe on young faculty, who have a shrinking potential to achieve successful academic careers.
- Few dental research centers have had sustained success.

Methods:

Identify best practices

Identify peer institutions with CRC

Evaluate success and sustainability (NIH funding, Industry contracts, activity)

Interview deans and center directors to collect data on success and sustainability

Measure needs within COD and across OSU

Develop survey based on peer-institution interviews

Deploy survey to COD and University researchers

Identify and engage stakeholders

Identify industry partners and evaluate needs

Engage with collaborative programs at OSU

Connect with OSU leadership to identify areas of synergy

Purpose:

To design an integrated center for oral health research at OSUCOD.

- Plan:
 - Identify best practices for developing and sustaining a clinical research center.
 - Design a survey for key stakeholders in the college and university to evaluate demand and needs.
 - Analyze results of the survey
 - Consult with existing programs, industry partners and NIH to design and implement a sustainable program.

Results:

- 10/12 peer institutions created a CRC in the past 20 years
- 4 still functioning
- 2 active with >3 grants/contracts
- 0 report financial success
- Several factors contribute to success of a CRC
- Primary factor in sustainability: institutional support
- Oral healthcare industry not a reliable revenue stream

Discussion:

- Next steps
 - Deploy survey
 - Survey results should answer:
 - How many COD researchers conduct clinical studies
 - What are their needs (database, study coordinator, regulatory and compliance issues, calibration etc.)?
 - OSU-wide needs
 - Create a business plan
 - Identify potential income streams

Conclusions :

- Establishing an oral health research center is integral to the research mission of OSUCOD
- Will provide opportunities for expanding research and scholarship portfolio

Selected references:

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