

University of Florida College of Medicine

# Research Advisory Committee



## Purpose

Research is a key mission of the University of Florida College of Medicine (COM) and the Office of Research (OR) is charged broadly with improving the research landscape in COM. The Research Advisory Committee (RAC) is a structured, collaborative body which provides expert guidance and recommendations to the COM Senior Associate Dean for Research. RAC operates at a high strategic level and acts a sounding board for OR initiatives by providing front line knowledge and critical feedback. RAC members stimulate robust, strategic conversations at meetings, where various viewpoints are welcome, and assist with leading or co-leading research initiatives.

## RAC meetings and projects will provide critical assistance in executing the OR strategic plan's five strategies:



### **STRATEGY 1: BOLD COLLABORATIONS**

We will foster bold collaborations across the university, local communities, state government, and industry partners to drive innovative research that advances scientific knowledge and improves health for all.



### **STRATEGY 2: RESILIENT COMMUNITY**

We will be a resilient community of great people — a highly-skilled world-class research workforce embedded in a culture that fosters creativity, curiosity, problem-solving, collaboration, and sustainability.



### **STRATEGY 3: WORLD-CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE**

We will build a cutting-edge infrastructure as well as investigator-focused research services and operations to facilitate scientific excellence.



### **STRATEGY 4: TRANSFORMED CLINICAL RESEARCH**

We will support a state-of-the-art sustainable clinical research enterprise to perform high-quality, high-impact research that improves clinical care, value, access, and outcomes.



### **STRATEGY 5: SUSTAINABLE VALUE TRANSLATION**

We will create transparent, holistic, and data-driven performance measures and engage in strategic alliances on national, state, and local levels with industry, government, and communities.

## Membership

The current Member Roster can be found listed on the next page and on the OR website.

The COM Senior Associate Dean of Research and the Assistant Deans for Research serve as ex officio members of RAC. Other RAC members are appointed by the Senior Associate Dean for Research to serve two- or three-year terms. RAC members should represent the breadth of research domains in COM (basic, clinical, data) and career stages.

As terms expire, new members may be nominated by current committee members, department chairs, or the Dean.

## Responsibilities

RAC provides input to the COM Senior Associate Dean for Research and the Assistant Deans on a variety of topics. Duties include:

- Assisting with setting the research agenda for COM by providing input on strategic research initiatives, major requests for research program allocations, or core research facilities;
- Improving research business operations;
- Sharing new ideas or opportunities that others may not be aware of;
- Assisting with competitive landscape assessments;
- Identifying leaders for large grant proposals to aid long-term planning;
- Optimize research communication strategies.
- Ultimately, RAC assists the Senior Associate Dean for Research to improve the quality and diversity of research funding in COM and help improve the quality of life for COM researchers

RAC meetings are held approximately quarterly. Members are expected to attend meetings.

Current Members (appointed, as of May 2024) are listed below.

Name	Representing	Department	Title and Roles
Scott Berceci M.D., Ph.D.	Medical Student Education	Surgery	Professor and Vice Chair of Research
Jiang Bian Ph.D.	Artificial Intelligence	HOBI	Professor, Division Director Biomedical Informatics; Chief Data Scientist and Chief Research Information Officer, UF Health
Jennifer Lynn Bizon, Ph.D.	Neurosciences	Neuroscience	Chair, Neuroscience
David C. Bloom, Ph.D.	Strategic Alliances	Molecular Genetics & Microbiology	Chair, MGM
Katharina Busl, M.D., M.S.	Clinical Trials	Neurology	Prof., Neurology and Neurosurgery, Assoc Chair Clinical Operations (Neurology), Division Chief Neurocritical Care
Erica Dale, Ph.D.	Junior Faculty Excellence	Physiology and Aging	Asst. Prof., Physiology and Aging
Matthew Disney, Ph.D.	Scripps/UF Alliance	Chemistry (Scripps)	Chair, Chemistry, Scripps Biomedical Research
George L. Drusano, Ph.D.	Lake Nona/UF Alliance		Dir., Institute for Therapeutic Innovation (Lake Nona)
Karyn Esser, Ph.D.	Physiology and Aging	Physiology and Aging	Chair, Physiology and Aging

Name	Representing	Department	Title and Roles
Matthew Gentry, Ph.D	Large-scale Program Development	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	Chair, Biochemistry
Brian Hoh, M.D., MBA	Surgical Sciences	Neurosurgery	Chair, Neurosurgery
Carol Mathews, M.D.	Outpatient Clinical Research	Psychiatry	Chair, Psychiatry
Lyle L. Moldawer, Ph.D.	Translational Clinical Research	Surgery	Dir., Sepsis and Critical Illness Research Center
Rashmin Savani, M.B., Ch.B.	Pediatrics	Pediatrics	Chair, Pediatrics
Elizabeth Ann Shenkman, Ph.D.	Implementation Science	HOBI	Chair, HOBI
Daniel W. Wesson, Ph.D.	Animal Research, Pharmacology	Pharmacology	Chair, Pharmacology
Azra Bihorac, M.D., M.S.	Senior Associate Dean	Dean's Office	Sr Assoc Dean for Research
Todd Brusko, Ph.D.	Assistant Dean	Pathology	Asst. Dean for Basic Science Research

Name	Representing	Department	Title and Roles
Elias Sayour, M.D., Ph.D.	Assistant Dean	Neurosurgery	Asst. Dean for Clinical Science Research
Eileen Handberg, Ph.D., ARNP	Clinical Research Hub	Medicine, Cardiology	Director, Clinical Research Hub
Jonathan Bird, Ph.D.	Representative for Faculty Council	Pharmacology	Faculty Council representative
Duane Mitchell, M.D., Ph.D.	CTSI	Neurosurgery	Assoc. Dean for Clinical Research
Katherine Blackburn, MSPH	Office of Research		Asst Director, Strategic Research Initiatives
Elizabeth Palmer, Ph.D.	Office of Research		Asst Director, Workforce Training and Development
May Khanna, Ph.D.	Assistant Dean	Pharmacology	Asst Dean for Entrepreneurship and Innovation
Marah Berry	Office of Research		Director, Office of Research
Benjamin Griffith, MBA	Office of Research		Asst Director, Data
Jeremy Schmidt, MHA	Office of Research		Asst Director, Finance