

Arkansas Colleges of Health Education

Research Institute Health & Wellness Center

Strategic Plan

2024-2025



ACHE RESEARCH HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

STRATEGIC PLAN

- To develop an aspiring vision for coordinating and sustaining innovative research that is in line with the overall missions, goals, and strategic plan of ACHE.
- To present a comprehensive integrated plan for bench research, health, and wellness that enhances ACHE's educational experience and institutional ranking through academic research and community engagement.
- To outline the vision of an overall Research Institute Health and Wellness Center structure that fosters collaboration with regional, national, and international stakeholders and maximizes the existing and future resources while empowering our students, faculty, and staff to succeed in research, health, and wellness.

ACHE Mission Statement

The mission of the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education is to educate and train a diverse group of highly competent and compassionate healthcare professionals; to create health and research support facilities; and to provide healthy living environments to improve the lives of others.

Research Institute Health and Wellness Center Mission Statement

To utilize innovative research and scientific collaborations in the nation as well as worldwide for the advancement of health and wellness in our communities and to educate the most highly skilled and compassionate healthcare professionals.

ACHE Research Institute Health and Wellness Center Core Objectives

1. Provide a healthcare and research facility that attracts and promotes the most highly qualified faculty, staff, and students to ACHE.
2. Advance translational research with faculty and staff collaboration from basic biomedical science to preclinical, clinical, and community focused healthcare applications.
3. Foster ACHE students' recruitment, retention, graduation and placement through evidence-based learning and active participation in mentored and independent transformative research from the benchtop to the bedside and to the community.
4. Promote healthy living and quality of life to engage local, regional, and national communities within the context of all ACHE translational research activities.

Objective #1

PROVIDE A RESEARCH HEALTH AND WELLNESS FACILITY THAT ATTRACTS AND PROMOTES THE MOST HIGHLY QUALIFIED FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS TO ACHE.

Objective #1 will be accomplished by implementing the following strategies:

- I. Facilitate scientific excellence by providing state of the art modern infrastructure and support services from health and wellness through basic and clinical research.
 - a. Assist faculty with an established Office of Grants Management in acquiring basic and clinical research grants and identify creative support for research intensive faculty to succeed and compete in transformative research at the highest levels.
 - b. Provide financial support for purchase and maintenance of cutting-edge technology and instrumentation to support ongoing and future basic research, clinical research, and health and wellness community initiatives.
 - c. Completion of constructing a state-of-the art vivarium, adjoining bench research space and an integrated Clinical Research Center, Rehabilitation Research Center and basic bench research space that houses research Centers of Oncology, Metabolic Disorders and Diabetes, Cardiovascular Research, and Neuroscience, Aviation & Aerospace Medicine.
- II. Promote ACHE's participation in and hosting of national and international conferences and symposia.
 - a. Provide collaborative research opportunities among ACHE and national scientists.
 - i. Exploration of funding opportunities for clinical and basic science research with active faculty.
 - ii. Provide opportunity for ACHE faculty and staff to present scholarly work at their own institution.
 - iii. Host annual ACHE Research Symposia that expand healthcare and research collaborations.

- iv. ACHE research symposia presentations will focus on developing avenues of research that promote integrative, cutting-edge health and scientific research that integrate, the disciplines of clinical medicine, occupational therapy and physical therapy.

Objective #2

ADVANCE TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH WITH FACULTY AND STAFF COLLABORATION FROM BASIC BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE TO PRECLINICAL, CLINICAL, AND COMMUNITY APPLICATIONS.

Objective #2 will be accomplished by implementing the following strategies:

- I. Facilitate collaboration between ACHE and regional organizations to promote interactive research pursuits and advance healthcare.
 - a. Promote collaborative basic and clinical research among the ACHE Research Institute Health and Wellness Center and local and regional hospitals as well as other regional healthcare organization such as the Mercy Hospital System and the Choctaw Healthcare system.
 - b. Expand opportunities for strategic collaborative agreements among ACHE and leading biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries.
 - c. Utilize the Research Institute Health and Wellness Center as a mechanism to recruit biotechnology industries into biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries into incubator laboratories.
- II. Formulate avenues that promote collaborative agreements between regional and local academic organizations and ACHE. Support collaborative translational research efforts.
 - a. Identify and support research areas that have synergy and collaboration among basic science and clinical faculty members and organizations promoting health and wellness.
 - b. Foster research mentorship among faculty to regularly meet and provide research collaboration, mentorship, and expansion of funding opportunities.
 - c. Develop regional partnerships with research institutes and medical centers that facilitate additional resources and collaborations for faculty and student research development and promote focused, collaborative funding opportunities.
- III. Identify and disseminate opportunities for extramural research support and provide effective guidance for faculty and students in the grant application process through the office of Grants Management.
 - a. Develop and perform regular faculty grant writing workshops and webinars with extramural grant funding agencies.

Objective #3

FOSTER ACHE STUDENTS' LEARNING AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN MENTORED AND INDEPENDENT TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH FROM THE BENCHTOP TO THE BEDSIDE, AND TO THE COMMUNITY.

Objective #3 will be accomplished by implementing the following strategies:

- I. Establish student centered collaborative training programs within the Research Institute Health and Wellness Center.
 - a. Support students in recruitment, retention, graduation, and placement through evidence-based practices of teaching and learning.
 - b. Provide opportunities for ACHE students to experience mentored summer research internships within and outside ACHE facilities that include osteopathic, physical therapy, and occupational therapy students.
 - c. Provide opportunities for ACHE students to conduct research at all levels that are supported by student stipends.
 - d. Investigate collaborative opportunities that utilize dual mentorship for ACHE students to perform research under the supervision of ACHE faculty and external clinical collaborators.
 - e. Construct a strong network of faculty and regional healthcare collaborators to support research projects and case report publications by ACHE students.
- II. Enrich students' research exposure as part of the ACHE programs' curriculum and promote evidence-based learning and research.
 - a. Introduce the philosophy of science, research, health and wellness by providing research activities and programs for ACHE students.
 - b. Establish the ideology of translational research from benchtop to preclinical, and clinical disciplines.
- III. Promote multidisciplinary student research among programs at ACHE.
 - a. Introduce all colleges of ACHE to collaborative research opportunities.
 - b. Facilitate the communication and organization between students and faculty of different colleges at ACHE.

Objective #4

PROMOTE HEALTHY LIVING AND QUALITY OF LIFE TO ENGAGE LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND NATIONAL COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF ACHE TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH.

Objective #4 will be accomplished by implementing the following strategies:

- I. Identify and support focused research initiative areas that support ACHE's mission in improving the lives of others through health focused initiatives.
 - a. Support research areas in which ACHE faculty and staff have the knowledge, strength, and expertise to form collaborative research centers within the school's research umbrella that involve and promote healthy living.
- II. Discern and aid educational activities targeting ACHE's mission of providing healthy living environments to improve the lives of others.
- III. Provide programming and activities for K-16 to educate on lifelong healthy habits.

IV. Research Institute Health and Wellness Center faculty and staff will serve on local, regional, and national committees to further the discussion of healthy lifestyles and quality of life.