

The Foundation for Osteopathic Research and Continuous Education has emerged to improve health and the delivery of care through the promotion and utilization of Osteopathic medicine and its approach.

Mission

The mission of the Foundation is to:

- Identify, develop, fund, and manage research initiatives in Osteopathic medicine, specifically the use of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) and Osteopathic Principles and Practice (OPP)
- Ensure that funded research results in translation to clinical practice that expands the capacity of DO, MD, and other clinical professionals to improve clinical outcomes and patient care

Values

Osteopathic medicine is rooted in the philosophy that health is the natural state of the body, and that the structure and function of the body are dependent upon one another for the maintenance of health and resistance to disease. The philosophic and scientific basis of the Osteopathic approach is reflected in the following

defined set of values:

- The individual's inherent capacity for the maintenance of health and recovery from disease
- Restoration of the body's structure to its normal state that supports function and the capacity to heal itself
- Holistic care recognizing the integral role of body, mind, and spirit in health and disease
- The physician-patient relationship as a collaboration through which both engage to support the patient's inherent capacity to heal

Research

FORCE supports research to develop an evidence-base for the use of the Osteopathic approach in the maintenance of health and treatment of disease. One source for this evidence-base resides within the Practice Based Research Network (PBRN), established by FORCE and Dr. Brian Degenhardt at A.T. Still University. PBRN is an observation study that brings together large numbers of physicians and patients to...

- Track the effect of the Osteopathic approach in a real-world, clinical practice setting
- Analyze data for evidence of the benefit of the Osteopathic approach in the maintenance of health and treatment of disease

Findings from this initiative can lead to larger research projects that can be advanced by translation of its findings into patient care.

To ensure its research meets rigorous scientific standards, FORCE populates its protocol design and project management teams with experts in the design, implementation, and publication phase of each study. FORCE research initiatives will pursue collaborations with major research institutions, colleges of Osteopathic medicine, and individual researchers whose work meets the standards set by the Foundation.

Translation to Patient Care

Findings from research supported by FORCE that show Osteopathic relevance in the maintenance of health and treatment of disease are translated into training and educational programs that teach the physician and clinical community the best practice to improve clinical outcomes and the delivery of patient care. Programs will be offered to residents and practicing physicians by the American Academy of Osteopathy, and made available by FORCE to the colleges of Osteopathic medicine to educate the student community.