Research Committee Strategic Priority Action Plan

Research is an integral part of the Colorado School of Public Health and plays a central role in the school's mission to promote the physical, mental, social, and environmental health of people and communities in the Rocky Mountain Region, across our nation, and globally. Collectively, the faculty across our three universities advance notable research. Our faculty are nationally and internationally recognized for research efforts and expertise in fields such as American Indian & Alaskan Native Health; Occupational Health, Safety, and Wellness; Chronic Disease – Cardiovascular, Diabetes, Obesity, and Cancer; Community-Engaged Research and Interventions; Environmental Epidemiology; Food and Food Systems; Health Policy; and Data Sciences. We excel at training researchers and are committed to expanding our training into the specific niches that are unique to our faculty and their research. Our current research strengths need to be maintained, but also expanded to remain competitive as a leading institution in specific areas of public health research. A challenge to the school is maintaining and building strong research programs that draw on the complementary strengths of the three-campus model. We can address this challenge by developing adequate infrastructure to promote research collaborations across the institutions *(Colorado School of Public Health Strategic Plan 2019-2024)*.

The Research Committee shall provide oversight, review and recommendations about the development, progress and priorities for research conducted by the faculty and students of the School in an advisory capacity to the Associate Dean for Research and to the Faculty Senate. It also investigates new public health research areas and makes recommendations concerning research priorities for the School, identifies new sources of funding and novel funding approaches, and makes recommendations to the Dean regarding policies for the distribution of research funding and indirect cost allocations. The committee shall be broadly representative of the constituencies affected by the Committee's work, as defined in the Committee Policies and Procedures.

Strategic Priority Assigned to the Research Committee: *Sustain and expand existing research strengths*

Expand research funding in core areas of strength:
- American Indian & Alaska Native Health
- Occupational Health, Safety, and Wellness
- Chronic Disease – Cardiovascular, Diabetes, Obesity, and Cancer
- Community-Engaged Research and Interventions
- Environmental Epidemiology
- Food and Food Systems
- Health Policy
- Data Sciences

to address health disparities, prevention research, community-engaged research, and effective approaches for translation and dissemination.* Strategically develop new areas/ infectious disease: e.g. Climate change/global warming.

Lead: Dean, Department Chairs, Center Directors, and the Associate Dean for Research

Phase	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Phase I: Center grant applications	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Phase II. Faculty recruitment	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Phase III. Collaboration across the three institutions of the School of Public Health and the SOM						x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Phase I. Center grants			
Activity	**Resources Required**	**Anticipated Products**	**Timeframe**
Increase the number of center grants by administratively supporting team science.	0.5 to 1 FTE administrative support; $500 payments to external reviewers; dedicated budget personnel. Reserve fund for institutional support for team science grants ($60,000-$100,000 per grant).	3 Center grants submitted in priority areas of research	January - ongoing
Phase II. Faculty recruitment			
Activity	**Resources Required**	**Anticipated Products**	**Timeframe**
Recruit 3 to 5 mid- to senior level faculty to priority units who either have center grants or are given the mandate to expand extramural research program Who identifies priority unit?	$1.5 million per recruit, depending on area	3 to 5 new mid- to senior-level recruits in priority areas	January - ongoing
Increase endowments to attract new faculty and support "big ideas."	$2 million per endowed chair	2 new endowed chairs	Completed.
Phase III. Collaboration across the three institutions of the School of Public Health and the SOM			
Activity	**Resources Required**	**Anticipated Products**	**Timeframe**
Facilitate partnerships across 3 institutions and SOM through ongoing pilot project program aimed toward center grant applications	$50,000 to $100,000 pilot grants	3 to 5 Collaborative peer-review external grant applications emerging from pilot grants to address priority areas	June - ongoing

Strategic Priority Assigned to the Research Committee: *Sustain and expand existing research strengths*

Expand research infrastructure to facilitate all aspects of grant development (including support for junior faculty) and performance across the institutions.

Lead: Dean, Department Chairs, Center Directors, and the Associate Dean for Research

Phase	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Phase I: Overview and Reporting of Research Portfolio				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Phase II. Infrastructural Support					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Phase III. Institutional Support	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Phase I: Overview and Reporting of Research Portfolio			
Activity	**Resources Required**	**Anticipated Products**	**Timeframe**
Establish a grant tracking and reporting system to measure progress; identify resubmissions, investigators who require assistance with funding. Research Dashboard established; Cayuse	Currently unclear. Software development through collaboration with SOM (most likely)	Dashboard Report - Establish and track routine grant metrics (grants submitted, awarded, etc) and publication impact. Steady growth from year to year	Completed.
Track DEI/structural racism grants	InfoEd questions on grant submissions	InfoEd data and report	May - ongoing

Phase II. Infrastructural Support			
Activity	**Resources Required**	**Anticipated Products**	**Timeframe**
Pre- and post-award software to support grant management	$45,000 per year (previous cost of Cayuse maintenance and project managers)	Widespread adoption of new grant management tool; Zero grant overages	May - ongoing
Unit level administrators	0.5 FTEs	Budget expertise in each unit; grant preparation, review awarded grants	May - ongoing
Grant templates, reviewers, training/mentoring junior faculty	Training free through ORDE or minimal support through brown bag lunches; add research as part of faculty development	Module within orientation and faculty development Grant templates for multiple grant mechanisms 2-4 brown bag lunches/year	January - ongoing

Increase information to faculty about grant opportunities on campus and access to shared resources	0.5 FTE administrative support per department/unit		Completed.
Infrastructure for training grants Leadership to prioritize proposals - staff needed	0.5 FTE to create tables and support submission	1-2 training grant submissions in areas of priority	May - ongoing

Phase III. Institutional Support

Activity	Resources Required	Anticipated Products	Timeframe
Ongoing pilot project program	3 grants awarded annually at $30,000/grant	3 grants/year	Ongoing.
Institutional support for large grants	>$100,000 for center grant applications; partnerships may offset costs	See objective 1 (Expand research funding in core areas of strength)	Ongoing.
Centralized bridge funding to support successful investigators with a temporary lapse in funding.	$50,000/year annual awards made to investigators with a fundable or "close" grant score	Establishment of bridge funding pool and mechanism to review and award	Ongoing.
Provide institutional support for faculty to participate in the KL2 program	Protected time and $$	2 to 3 KL2 scholars	Ongoing.