

Did you know that the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) is one of only two osteopathic medical schools with a R25 Research Education Project Partnership Grant from the National Institutes of Health-National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NIH-NCCAM)? The other osteopathic medical school that has a grant under this mechanism is the A.T. Still University-Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine (ATSU) in Kirksville, MO.

There are nine NCCAM R25 grants around the country in various stages of progress.

The principal investigator (PI) at UNTHSC is des Anges Crusier, PhD, MPA, who serves as Executive Director of the Mental Sciences Institute, and as the Director of Research Education for The Osteopathic Research Center. Other project team members include Bruce Dubin, DO, JD, Vice Dean of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM), Patricia Gwartz, PhD, Assistant Dean, UNTHSC Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Scott Stoll, DO, PhD, Chair of the TCOM Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, and John Licciardone, DO, MS, MBA, Executive Director of the Osteopathic Research Center and Associate Dean for Clinical Research for TCOM, to name a few.

The UNTHSC R25 project completed its second year in July. NCCAM required that the first year (2007-08) be dedicated to planning prior to being awarded the funding for three years of implementation. The UNTHSC passed its site visit in 2008 and have had one year of implementation.

Did you know that the R25 project at UNTHSC has funds to support:

1. Research education for medical students
2. Faculty development opportunities in teaching research and EBM/EIP to medical students
3. Research activities in manual medicine and CAM that increase understanding and appreciation of research among osteopathic medical students.

Collaborative and multidisciplinary education and research is a theme of the research education initiatives in this UNTHSC R25, with a focus on, but not exclusively for, manual medicine, physical medicine, and other body-based medical therapies such as yoga, acupuncture and some other physical therapies.

There are several benefits from this R25 such as resources from the International Association of Medical Science Educators (<http://www.iamse.org/index.htm>) and Design-A-Case (<http://designacase.org/>).

The R25 grant at A.T. Still University (ATSU) focuses on training osteopathic medical students, faculty, interns and residents, and practicing physicians in evidence-based medicine concepts. The principal investigator at ATSU is Stephen Laird, DO, MHPE, FACOS, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and a graduate of TCOM. ATSU is completing its third year of four. To learn more about the ATSU R25 grant, please visit this link.

http://www.atsu.edu/communications/news_releases/atsukcomreceivesnihresearcheducationgrant.htm

For more information about UNTHSC's project, please contact Dr. Cruser (dcruser@hsc.unt.edu) or Jessica Ingram, MPH (jingram@hsc.unt.edu).