



Dear faculty and staff,

During the past academic year, defining ATSU's research-scholarly activity future was a focus initiative in which all faculty and staff were invited to participate. Under Dr. John Heard's stewardship, a white paper was published with recommendations to be incorporated into the University's 2016-20 strategic planning process. Many of the recommendations received were so good it makes sense to begin some sooner than later. Below are three recommendations ATSU will institute during fiscal years 2014-15 or 2015-16.

1. Increase and ensure funding of ATSU faculty scholarly activity opportunities.

ATSU will move from primarily relying on endowment returns to fund internal grant scholarly activity. Beginning current fiscal year 2014-15, \$200,000 per year will be available for faculty to apply through ATSU's internal grants program.

2. Current federal research funding continues to focus on improving patient and population health outcomes. ATSU will join forces with National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to develop collaborative research opportunities. NACHC and HRSA support ATSU in many ways including access to clinical rotations; introductions to potential funding partners; residency development; data gathering; student scholarship opportunities; and national exposure of our schools, programs, faculty, and students.

ATSU will earmark up to \$350,000 for internal grant funding. Funds will be available beginning current fiscal year, 2014-15, and available until exhausted.

Areas for scholarly activity under this program may include:

- Developing, implementing, and assessing evidence-based medicine guidelines.
- Diagnosing, preventing, and treating diabetes, obesity, skin cancer, metabolic syndrome, traumatic brain injury/concussions, spine pain, and HIV/AIDS.
- Participating with and evaluating "Smiles for Life" activities.
- Measuring and encouraging physical activity and its impact on health and wellness.
- Designing, organizing, and evaluating population management teams and patient navigator models.

- Proposals are encouraged to feature interprofessional cooperation, intercampus partnering, collaboration between basic and clinical scientists, and incorporation of clinical teaching sites.

3. Continue and expand support for University faculty participating in scholarly activity.

ATSU will produce a bi-annual print and digital magazine focusing on scholarly activity and participating faculty. First publication, fiscal year 2015-16.

Beginning fiscal year 2015-16, an additional \$20,000 in travel funds will be available for faculty presenting her/his scholarly activity during conferences.

Create a "Scholarship Day/Week" promoting diverse forms of research with faculty serving as peer reviewers for internal presentations. Beginning current fiscal year \$2,500 (\$7,500 total) is immediately available for each campus and College of Graduate Health Studies.

Fund a capital budget for research to provide a standardized process for purchasing new and replacing equipment. Beginning fiscal year 2015-16, \$25,000 for each campus will be available.

Recognize faculty publishing scholarly activity in peer-reviewed journals. Beginning fiscal year 2015-16, \$10,000 will be available.

Mentoring program for faculty interested in scholarly activity. Beginning fiscal year 2015-16, \$10,000 will be available.

Additional recommendations will be incorporated into the strategic planning process.

Details on making application for these funds will be forthcoming from the Department of Research, Grants, and Information Systems.

Thank you to each of you for participating in development of ATSU's research priorities.

Yours in service,



Craig M. Phelps, DO
President
A.T. Still University of Health Sciences