
Fourth Quarter 2024 ATSRI Newsletter

Mission

The mission of A.T. Still Research Institute is to advance compassionate whole person healthcare and wellbeing through unwavering support of premier clinical and translational research and other scholarly work.

Welcome our new ATSRI team members!



Jeneen Panezai, BDS, PhD

I'm from the city of Quetta in southwestern Pakistan. Some fun facts about the region: just around 77 miles north of the city, you will find the world's second-largest juniper forest.



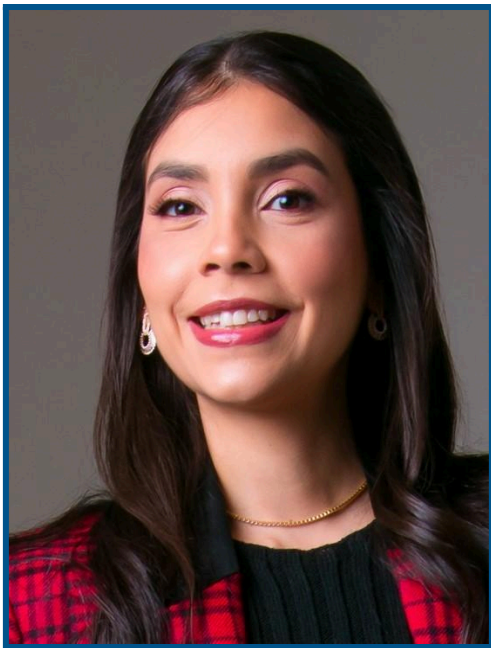
When you're done exploring the forest, you can sit down to eat a delicious apple, as this region accounts for 80% of Pakistan's apple production.

My work at ATSU-MOSDOH, Saint Louis, MO, is a great combination of research and research-related activities, both scholarly and administrative. I get to interact with our MOSDOH Faculty, develop a deeper understanding of their needs and help enhance their engagement in

research while working on my own research ideas which I hopefully aim to translate into successful grants.

I really look forward to actively creating communities of practice in healthcare research, which would include experts and early-stage researchers who can foster connections, enhance domain-specific knowledge, and sustain it through regular activities. I would also like to see more interdisciplinary research collaborations across ATSU campuses.

If I could have a superpower, it would be to be invisible in the blink of an eye so that I could travel everywhere.



Adriana Silva, DMD, MPH, PhD

Hello, I'm Adriana Silva, a dentist with a background in public health. I earned my DMD, MPH, and PhD degrees from the *Universidade Estadual de Feira de Santana* in Brazil. In 2014, I was honored with the *Science Without Borders* Award from the Brazilian federal government, which allowed me to study at Western Kentucky University and the University of Florida for a year during my undergraduate dental studies.

In 2022, I received another award from the Brazilian federal government and joined the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine as a research fellow during my PhD program, where I gained valuable knowledge regarding the study of genetic variants potentially contributing to oral health-systemic health connections.

Throughout my academic journey, I have focused on studying the etiology of complex diseases, particularly oral cancer and orofacial clefts. My research has focused on the interplay between environmental factors, social determinants of health, and genetic variation and how these elements contribute to health and disease within families and populations.

I'm thrilled to be joining ATSU and contributing to its community of excellence. What excites me most about joining ATSU is the opportunity to collaborate with talented professionals and be part of an institution dedicated to innovation, education, and community health. I'm particularly looking forward to engaging in projects that encompass research, teaching, and supporting students in reaching their full potential.

If I could have any superpower, it would be the ability to heal by touch—not only because it aligns with my passion for healthcare but also because I believe in making a positive, immediate impact on people’s lives.

I’m truly excited to start this new chapter and look forward to contributing to ATSU’s mission.

2024 Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research Symposium



On November 16, 2024, researchers gathered on the A.T. Still University Kirksville campus and within our online Gathertown conference center for the 16th Annual Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research Symposium (IBRS). With the theme “Cultivating Collaboration – Nurturing the Seeds of Innovation,” this hybrid event brought together over 265 attendees from across the U.S., including students, faculty, and researchers. Highlights included 115 engaging posters and oral presentations, and a keynote by [Dr. Chad Cook](#) from Duke University. This vibrant exchange of ideas even caught local news coverage!

Watch the news story here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdl55y8LLWe5QipnbqDtte2biqcd4DGelT0BCWgcNMwXR1Dxw/viewform>

Article:

<https://ktvo.com/news/local/research-symposium-sparks-collaboration-innovation-at-at-still-university#>

Congratulations to our 2024 winners

Overall Student Competition Winner

- Presenter: Madisen Bromfman, Truman State University
 - Author: Madisen Bromfman, Truman State University
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- Sponsor: Bill Miller, ATSU
 - Project: *Computational inhibition of the KIX protein to treat acute myeloid leukemia*

First Runner-Up, Overall Student Competition Winner

- Presenter: Diana Mahmoodi, ASDOH
- Author: Diana Mahmoodi, ASDOH; Tamer El-Gendy, ASDOH; Ahmed Mahrous, ASDOH
- Sponsor: Tamer El-Gendy, ASDOH
- Project: *Zirconia Value Discrepancy Post-Sintering Compared to Manufacturer's value*

Jack Magruder Research Award

- Presenter: Christine Chen (Truman State University)
- Author: Christine Chen (Truman State University)
- Sponsor: Bill Miller (A.T. Still University)
- Project: *Studying disaggregation effects of polyphenols on Amyloid Beta in silico*

Neil J. Sargentini Memorial Award

- Presenter: Ethan Schlegel, KCOM
- Author(s): Ethan Schlegel, KCOM; Keith Elmslie, KCOM; Jeong Sook Kim-Han, KCOM
- Sponsor: Keith Elmslie, KCOM
- Project: *Synergistic Enhancement of NaV1.9 Current by Muscle Metabolites*

MAOPS President – Chris A. Paynter, DO – Clinical Graduate Student Research Award

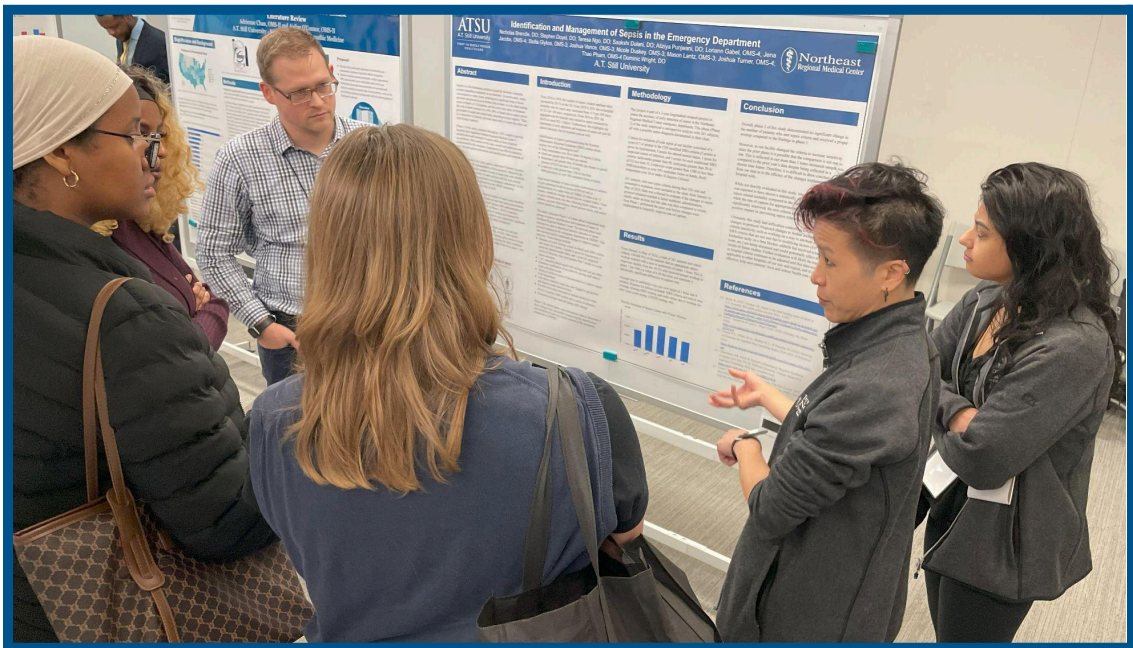
- Presenter: Patrick Chan, Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Author(s): Patrick Chan, Kansas COM; Aliasgher Sabir, Kansas COM; Miraj Rawal, Kansas COM; Kevin Ha, Kansas Health Science University; Vaidik Patel, Kansas COM
- Sponsor: Cameron Jeter (Kansas COM)
- Project: *Walking With Parkinson's*

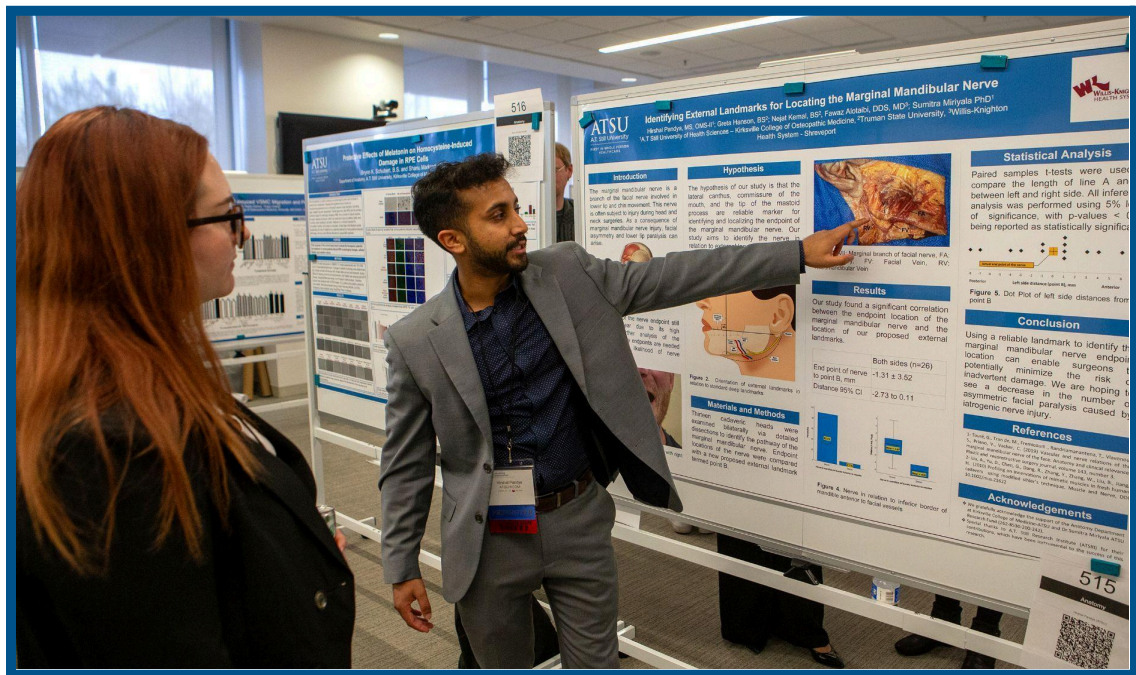
Max Gutensohn Award

- Presenter: Alan Boruch (NRMCC)
- Author(s): Kayla Chomko, NSU Health Neuroscience Institute; Lauren Tabor-Grey, NSU Health Neuroscience Institute; Eduardo Locatelli, NSU Health Neuroscience Institute
- Sponsor: Bruce Young, KCOM
- Project: *Transcutaneous Spinal Stimulation in Patients with PLS: A Pilot Study*

Best Oral Presentation

- Presenter: Hannah Lee, ASDOH
 - Author(s): Hannah Lee, ASDOH; Ann Spolarich, ASDOH; Mitzi Wasden, ASDOH; Sara Karlin, ASDOH; Joseph Creech, ASDOH; Stefanie Sotello, ASDOH
 - Sponsor: Joseph Creech, ASDOH; Stefanie Sotello, ASDOH; Sara Karlin, ASDOH; Mitzi Wasden, ASDOH; Ann Spolarich, ASDOH
 - Project: *Computational inhibition of the KIX protein to treat acute myeloid leukemia*
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Advancing Skills in Osteopathy: A Novel Palpation Training Program

The Advancing Skills in Osteopathy (ASO) program incorporates modern scientific instrumentation to objectively assess key characteristics of diagnostic palpation, making it the most advanced palpation training available in the field of manipulative medicine. This innovative program is further enriched by a unique opportunity to engage with the history of osteopathy at its birthplace, Kirksville, Missouri. The ASO program aims to enhance diagnostic palpation skills and thus improve patient care in ways that reflect the pioneering work of Dr. Andrew Taylor Still.

The ASO program offers flexible course options with durations of 10, 20, or 30 hours, tailored to meet the unique needs of the sponsoring institutions, schools, departments, or residency programs. Each course offers individualized and group feedback, focusing on key techniques such as landmark localization, positional asymmetry assessment, motion testing, and tissue texture characterization.

In 2025, there will be two 10-hour courses in May, along with two 30-hour courses (one in May and one in August). A 20-hour pre-conference workshop will also take place in October as part of the Founder's Day Celebration and Continuing Education program. Dates will be published in early 2025.

Please visit [the ATSRI website](#) for more information.

Mayo Clinic Osteopathic Research and Education (MORE) Conference

The annual Mayo Clinic Osteopathic Research and Education (MORE) Conference was held in Eau Claire, WI, on September 13 and 14. The first day focused on training residents, particularly in primary care, while the second day was designed for practicing physicians at all stages of their careers. For the second consecutive year, Dr. Brian Degenhardt and his research team from the Center for Research in OMM at the AT Still Research Institute led objective, instrumented, hands-on training workshops. Additionally, Dr. Degenhardt co-presented on two key research topics: one on *Current Controversies in OMM Research* and the other with Dr. Steven Stacey, DO, director of osteopathic education at the La Crosse-Mayo Family Medicine Residency and a member of DO-Touch.NET, on *Increasing Osteopathic Research Capacity*.

Conference on Osteopathic Research and Knowledge (CORK)

The inaugural Conference on Osteopathic Research and Knowledge (CORK), held on June 22–23 at NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine, set a new standard for advancing osteopathic research. This two-day event celebrated the contributions of foundational researchers while spotlighting cutting-edge studies shaping the future of osteopathic medicine.

Participants, from students to seasoned practitioners, engaged in lectures, small-group breakout sessions, and interactive, hands-on OMT workshops led by globally recognized osteopathic physicians and scientists.

The A.T. Still Research Institute supported the event as a sponsor, while the DO-Touch.NET PBRN team showcased their innovative research on Long-COVID, a key focus of the conference. This gathering not only fostered collaboration but also inspired future advancements in osteopathic medicine.

ATSU joins the NCCIH Coalition for Whole Person Health

On November 1, 2024, the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) hosted the Coalition Research Outreach and Education Day on the campus of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This inaugural event marked the launch of the NCCIH Coalition for Whole Person Health, a self-organized coalition of nonprofit organizations that are key stakeholders of NCCIH. These groups represent the voices of patients, communities, and professionals who benefit from NCCIH's work. The coalition aims to raise awareness about NCCIH, NIH, and how research can support integrative, interprofessional, patient-centered, and whole-person care.

Brian Degenhardt, DO, CNMM-OMM, Vice-Chancellor for Osteopathic Research at AT Still University and the Director of the Center for Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Research within the Still Research Institute, represented the University at the event. Over 80 nonprofit organizations from across the United States have joined the coalition, with more than 70 participating in the meeting.

The morning session featured keynote addresses, beginning with Helene Langevin, MD, the Center Director for NCCIH. Dr. Langevin set the tone for the day by discussing NCCIH's leadership in whole person healthcare, highlighting the importance of research in this field, as well as the outcomes from recently funded NCCIH programs and new funding mechanisms. Lanay M. Mudd, PhD, deputy branch chief at NCCIH, provided an update on the REACH (Research Across Complementary and Integrative Health Institutions Virtual Resource Center) grants. These grants aim to strengthen the workforce of clinician-researchers in complementary and integrative health. One key product of the REACH initiative is the development of the Whole Person Health Index, a validated questionnaire designed to measure and track whole-person health.

Elizabeth Ginexi, PhD, and Emrin Horguslougui, PhD, introduced a new initiative focused on

mapping a pathway for research on whole-person health through grants funding Whole Person Research and Coordination Centers. Under Dr. Langevin's leadership, 19 NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices, as well as the Centers for Disease Control and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, have come together to promote whole-person healthcare research. Grace C.Y. Peng, PhD, from the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, presented the work of their community partnerships under the ComPASS (Community Partnerships to Advance Science for Society) program, which uses technology to study ways to reduce health disparities. The session concluded with Benjamin Kligler, MD, MPH, who shared data on the impact of whole health services within the VA system over the past 10 years.

In the afternoon, coalition members participated in breakout sessions to discuss the next steps in building the NCCIH Coalition for Whole Person Health. In the coming year, the coalition will focus on establishing its structure, processes, procedures, and language to unify its diverse members who are committed to supporting whole-person healthcare. Consistent with its identity and mission, AT Still University will actively contribute to this exciting and groundbreaking coalition.

Research Nexus - Spring 2025

Wednesday, January 22, 2025 | Noon MST | 1:00 p.m CST

"REDCap"

Gwyn Kelley-Franklin, MBA

Wednesday, February 5, 2025 | Noon MST | 2:00 p.m CST

"Mentoring students in Research Across Disciplines"

Tamara Mcleod, PhD, ATC, FNATA

Wednesday, February 19, 2025 | Noon MST | 1:00 p.m CST

"Periodontal disease and systemic inflammatory burden"

Jeneen Panezai, DDS, PhD

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 | Noon MST | 1:00 p.m CST

"AI in the Classroom"

Maud Mundava, MLS, MBA, AHIP

Wednesday, March 19, 2025 | Noon MST | 2:00 p.m CDT*

"Evidence-based medicine in whole-person healthcare"

James Keane, DO, MEd, FACOI, FACP

Wednesday, April 2, 2025 | Noon MST | 2:00 p.m CDT

TBD

**Presentations will be one hour later in the central time zone when daylight savings time begins March 9, 2025*

For more information, please visit atsu.edu/a-t-still-research-institute/research-nexus

Contact Us

Are you interested in collaborating or starting your own research? Questions? We want to hear from YOU!

Contact us at atsri@atsu.edu

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