
Third Quarter 2025 ATSRI Newsletter

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.

 **SAVE THE DATE! 2025 Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research Symposium**



**RESEARCH
INNOVATION
IN ACTION**

**17th annual Interdisciplinary
Biomedical Research Symposium**
Virtual and in-person conference

SATURDAY, NOV. 15, 2025

Please visit atsu.edu/ibrs for more information.

ATSU | Interdisciplinary Biomedical
Research Symposium

CALLING ALL RESEARCHERS!

Become a Judge at the 17th Annual Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research Symposium

Are you passionate about research and mentorship? We invite you to be a judge at the 17th Annual Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research Symposium (IBRS) on Saturday, November 15, 2025!

Why Participate?

- ✓ Network with top professionals in your field
- ✓ Gain insights into cutting-edge research
- ✓ Play a vital role in shaping the future of emerging researchers

How to Get Involved:

Judging will take place both in person at A.T. Still University in Kirksville, MO, and online in Gathertown. A short orientation and training will be provided along with a judging rubric to guide evaluations. Asynchronous pre-event judging will be conducted in Gathertown for all judges during the week of November 10-14, 2025.

 Want more information? [Add your name to the list here](#) and mark your calendar for November 15, 2025. The IBRS Planning Team will be in touch. Your expertise makes a difference!

NIH Goals and Funding

NIH is adopting a unified strategy to better align priorities and funding across its Institutes and Centers. This approach emphasizes tackling chronic health challenges, embracing next-generation tools—such as artificial intelligence, real-world data platforms, and alternative testing models—enhanced oversight of foreign-funded research, and greater support for replication studies. The goal: deliver impactful and trustworthy biomedical science while responsibly stewarding taxpayer resources. Learn more at <https://www.nih.gov/about-nih/nih-director/statements/advancing-nih-mission-through-unified-strategy>

New Policy Requiring Disclosure of Other Support

ATSU PIs/PDs conducting federally funded research will soon have a new virtual training requirement. NIH issued a new policy mandate ([NOT-OD-25-133](#)) to ensure compliance with federal regulations concerning transparency, research integrity, and protection of US research from foreign government influence.

Research, Grants & Scholarly Innovations (RGSi) has developed a University policy for consideration by the General Orders Review Committee and is working to ensure institutional compliance by the federal October 1, 2025 deadline. The policy will apply to all individuals at ATSU who are designated as senior/key personnel on active or proposed federally funded research projects.

Sponsored Programs will work closely with impacted researchers. ATSU investigators who are engaged in or planning to pursue federally funded research review the policy and reach out to SP for assistance (preaward@atsu.edu).

Welcome Our New ATSRI Team Member - Mary Wang, PhD



Mary Wang
ATSRI Research Biostatistician

Hello everyone, I am Mary Wang. I came from Taiwan originally, and received my PhD in biostatistics from the University of California, Davis. My work at ATSRI allows me to bridge the gap between academic statistical development and its real-world application. By collaborating closely with principal investigators on their medical research, I gain a firsthand understanding of the field's most pressing needs. This practical insight is invaluable, as it directly informs my own original research, ensuring that the novel statistical approaches I develop are not merely theoretical exercises but are genuinely useful tools that can advance scientific discovery.

I like the quote by Albert Einstein - "After a certain high level of technical skill is achieved, science and art tend to coalesce in esthetics, plasticity, and form. The greatest scientists are always artists as well". As a statistician, I try to have a perspective with my work.

On the personal side, I tend to enjoy activities with some artistic elements in it, such as home renovations, cooking, sewing, knitting, crocheting, and music. I am sure great scientists are supposed to do exercise too, but I have not been able to build that into my system yet. 🤸‍♀️

💡 Introducing the ATSU EpiSaliva Biobank: Advancing Oral Health Research Together

We are excited to announce the launch of the EpiSaliva Biobank at A.T. Still University, Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health (ATSU-ASDOH). This new resource is designed to support research in genetic epidemiology and oral health sciences, creating new opportunities for faculty, students, and collaborators to study the complex interactions between genes, environment, and oral diseases. Sample collection is slated to begin in Fall 2025.

What is a Biobank?

A biobank is a secure and structured repository that collects, stores, and manages biological samples (in our case, saliva or DNA), along with associated clinical and epidemiological (behavioral and demographic) data. These resources are invaluable for advancing research, discovering biomarkers, and developing more personalized approaches to prevention and treatment.

How Can the ATSU EpiSaliva Biobank Help You?

- Provide you access to well-organized, ethically collected data to support scholarly research and grant proposals.
- Provide you with hands-on opportunities to participate in real-world data collection, analysis, and study design.
- Support interdisciplinary projects across dental, medical, public health, and basic science fields.

The **ATSU EpiSaliva Biobank** is built on a strong foundation of ethical oversight, data security, and community involvement. All research proposals using biobank data will have to be reviewed by the ATSU Mesa IRB to ensure participant rights and privacy are fully protected.

Whether you're planning a new study or looking to enhance an existing one, the **ATSU EpiSaliva Biobank** is here to support your work. For questions or collaboration inquiries, please reach out to adrianasilva@atsu.edu. We look forward to seeing how the **ATSU EpiSaliva Biobank** will empower our community of scholars and students to advance oral health research.

💡 ATSRI Center for Oral Health Research News

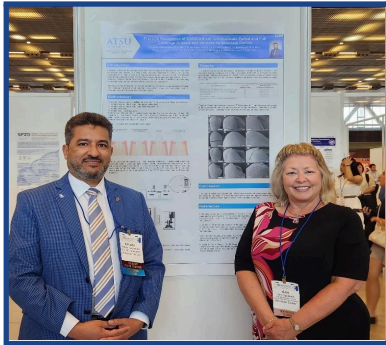


Inder Raj Makin pictured with ATSRI COHR Director Ann Spolarich.

The 103rd General Session & Exhibition of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) was held in conjunction with the Pan European Regional Congress in Barcelona, Spain, from June 25 through June 28, 2025.

Dr. Ann Spolarich, director of the SRI COHR, ended her term as president of the IADR Oral Health Research Group (IADR OHRG). She will now serve as immediate past-president of the OHRG for 2025-2026, and was elected to serve as councilor for the OHRG for a three-year term (2025-2028). ATSU-ASDOH faculty presented two research projects during the scientific poster sessions in Barcelona.

Inder Raj Makin, MD, PhD presented, "Apical Patency-Dependent Flow Characterization with a Computer-Controlled Microflow System".



Alfredo Hernandez pictured with SRI COHR Director Ann Spolarich.

Alfredo Hernandez, DDS, MS presented, "Fracture Resistance of CAD/CAM Lithium Disilicate Partial and Full Coverage Crowns and Veneers for Maxillary Canine".



Dr. Mai-Ly Duong

Mai-Ly Duong, DMD, MPH, MAEd, received an award from the Academy of General Dentistry, presented during the AGD Annual Meeting in Chicago in June. Dr. Duong was recognized for her commitment to lifelong learning and service to dentistry.





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Want to stay on top of the latest research in osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM) but don't have the time to read through dense academic articles? We've got you covered.

DO-Touch.NET is proud to announce the upcoming launch of our new OMM Research Podcast. Each episode, a panel of expert practitioners and researchers will take a deep dive into a specific OMM study. We'll go beyond the abstract to break down the methodology, analyze the findings, and discuss the practical implications for your practice. Our experts will highlight the key takeaways, a study's strengths and weaknesses, and what the research truly means for the future of OMM.

Don't miss a single episode! Join DO-Touch.NET to get a notification as soon as a new podcast is released. Join the conversation and deepen your understanding of the science behind OMM.



From Exposure to Outcomes: A Year of Growth at ATSU

Jeneen Panezai, BDS, PhD

A year and fourteen days—on paper, it doesn't seem very long. Yet, it feels as though much more time has passed. This past year has been full of "firsts," each one shaping meaningful memories.

Exposure

From the very beginning, I was "exposed" to a community of supportive and encouraging colleagues. If this were an epidemiology study, you might say the exposure was high, the dose consistent, and the outcomes—well, overwhelmingly positive. I especially want to recognize MOSDOH Assistant Dean of Research, Dr. Hanan Omar, and ATSRI Director, Dr. Marie Jackson. They lead not only with expertise but also with kindness and collaboration. Their support has been steady and inspiring. A small but powerful example: our regular meetings begin with "How are you?" before "What have you been working on?" That order creates a culture where people feel valued—and when people feel valued, they can do their best work.

Within my first six months, I attended the Mid-Continent and ADEA conferences, served as an IBRS judge, and even gave a talk at Research Nexus. At many institutions, new faculty often struggle to find visibility. At ATSU, I have experienced the opposite—new voices are not only heard, but actively welcomed and encouraged. Surrounded by this culture of openness and possibility, I find myself saying yes to more projects than no—a clear exposure–outcome association if there ever was one.

Outcome

The primary outcome of this past year is simple yet telling: I want to start my workday earlier. Not because I need more time, and not because of unfinished tasks, but because I wake up energized—eager to begin work on a project or develop a new idea. For me, it's the outcome of working with a team that makes you appreciate what you do even more.

Reflection

Looking back, I realize the common confounder running through all these experiences is empathy. In academia and research, empathy is a powerful force—almost like a master key, capable of opening many doors.

Over these past months, I have felt a strong effect modification: motivation grows even stronger when empathy and collaboration intersect. This realization will shape my own leadership approach—how I show up, how I support others, and how I build bridges when the opportunity arises. And if empathy continues to multiply through the influence of leaders like Dr. Omar and Dr. Jackson, then many more, like myself, will become part of a much larger cohort of strong contributors to the healthcare community.

💡 **Become an ATSRI Member!** Submit your application [here](#).

Did you find this newsletter useful? We'd love to hear your thoughts and make it even better!

💡💡💡💡💡 [Groundbreaking Findings!](#) – Engaging, insightful, and a must-read! 📖🔬

💡💡💡 [Needs More Data!](#) – Some interesting points, but I just skimmed the data. 📄😞

💡 [Inconclusive Results...](#) – Might need a stronger hypothesis next time. 🤔📊

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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