
Fourth 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.

2025 Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research Symposium



On Saturday, November 15, 2025, the 17th annual Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research Symposium (IBRS) took place at the Kirksville, Missouri campus, successfully integrating both in-person and virtual features.

Embracing the theme "Research Innovation in Action," the symposium focused on driving advancements in biomedical knowledge and enhancing global well-being. The event was hosted by the A.T. Still Research Institute (ATSRI).

The symposium featured Jeffrey C. Winer, MD, MA, MSHS, MHIIM, FAAP, as the keynote speaker. Dr. Winer is the chief medical informatics officer at Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare and an adjunct associate professor at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, and is known for integrating clinical expertise, data science, and health informatics to advance healthcare. His talk, titled "**Innovating Scholarship by Going Back to Basics**," left the audience feeling inspired and motivated to pursue scholarly work.

The IBRS brought together researchers, students, faculty, alumni, residents, and staff from 20 different institutions. A total of 230 individuals checked in for the event (186 in person and 44 online), with 313 total registrations.

The occasion showcased 122 poster presentations and 6 oral presentations (3 in-person and 3 virtual), highlighting the breadth of research across the disciplines.

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Team

The success of IBRS 2025 was made possible by the incredible dedication of our volunteer judges and staff. We are profoundly grateful to the 41 judges who shared their time and expertise—both in person and virtually—to provide invaluable feedback to our presenters. Our deepest thanks also go to the volunteers and staff whose tireless behind-the-scenes work ensured every detail of the day ran smoothly. Your commitment to fostering research innovation is what truly makes this event a highlight of the year.

Congratulations to Our 2025 Winners

Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (MAOPS) 1st Place Overall Student Competition Winner

- Poster presenter: Nicholas Noyce (Still Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institution [OPTI])
- Author: Nicholas Noyce (Still OPTI), Brock Davis (Still OPTI), David Cleaver (Still OPTI)
- Project: *When Cancer Changes Costume: The importance of full body skin checks*

MAOPS Rising Star Student Competition Winner

- Poster Presenter: Sydney Christopherson (A.T. Still University)
- Author: Sydney Christopherson (A.T. Still University)
- Sponsor: Pinak Shah (Mountain View Hospital)
- Project: *An Undiagnosed Case of Persistent Leukocytosis and Multisystem Involvement*

Jack Magruder Research Award

- Poster Presenter: Dagmawit Kebede (Truman State University)
- Author: Bill Miller (A.T. Still University), Haleluya Merga (Truman State University) Makda Gebreegziabher (Truman State University), Arsema Woldeamanuel (Truman State University)
- Sponsor: Bill Miller (A.T. Still University)
- Project: *Allosteric Inhibition of MMP-9 in Silico as a Potential Cancer Therapeutic*

Neil J. Sargentini Memorial Award

- Poster Presenter: Sydney Christopherson (A.T. Still University) Ashley Quintana (A.T. Still University)
- Author: Sydney Christopherson (A.T. Still University), Ashley Quintana (A.T. Still University)
- Sponsor: Pinak Shah (Mountain View Hospital)
- Project: *HRT and Autoimmunity: What We Know and Where Research Must Go*

Max Gutensohn Award

- Poster Presenter: Alan Boruch (Northeast Regional Medical Center)
- Author: Alan Boruch (Northeast Regional Medical Center), Brian Degenhardt (A.T. Still University)
- Sponsor: Brian Degenhardt (A.T. Still University)
- Project: *Osteopathic Manipulative Therapy in an Infant with Inclusion Cell Disease*

Best Oral Presentation

- Oral presenter: Madison Richards (A.T. Still University)
 - Author: Madison Richards (A.T. Still University)
 - Sponsor: Karl Jepsen (University of Michigan)
 - Project: *Reevaluating the Cortical Fraction*
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Graduate Case Report

- Poster presenter: Sydney Christopherson (A.T. Still University)
- Author: Sydney Christopherson (A.T. Still University)
- Sponsor: Pinak Shah (Mountain View Hospital)
- Project: *An Undiagnosed Case of Persistent Leukocytosis and Multisystem Involvement*

MAOPS President Clinical Graduate Student Research Award

- Poster presenter: Ava Thielman (A.T. Still University)
- Author(s): Ava Thielman (A.T. Still University), Lydia Lundquist (A.T. Still University), Brooke Johnson (A.T. Still University), Ahmed Baghdady (Henry Ford Warren-Madison Heights), David Siegel (Henry Ford Warren-Madison Heights)
- Project: *A Rare Case Presentation of Merkel Cell Carcinoma*



Clinician Researcher Development Program (CRDP) - Summer Internship Application OPEN!

We are excited to announce that the application window for the Clinician Researcher Development Program (CRDP) Summer Research Internship is officially open! This intensive program runs from May 28 to July 24, 2026.

The application can be found on the ATSU Jobs page here: <https://recruiting.paylocity.com/Recruiting/Jobs/Details/2911886>

Application Deadline: Prospective student interns must submit their applications by December 31st.

Interested ATSR faculty members who would like to mentor a research intern during this period are encouraged to reach out! Please email atsri@atsu.edu to express your interest and receive more information about the mentoring commitment.

For more information and requirements, visit atsu.edu/crdp.

ATSR Member Research Spotlight

Jeffrey Andrion, PT, BSPT, PhD, has dedicated his career to the intersection of physical therapy and social justice. From founding the Kaakbay Rehabilitation Center in the Philippines to his 24-year tenure at the University of Toronto, Dr. Andrion's work has always centered on underserved communities. Now a vital member of the ATSU-ASHS faculty, he continues to

champion whole person healthcare—a mission that has guided his practice for over 17 years. We are proud to highlight his most recent scholarly contributions.

As a professor, Dr. Andrion hopes to encourage his students to become physical therapists who can be “global citizens,” which, as he explains, means not only being sensitive to social issues, but also becoming responsive to these issues so they contribute positively to a constantly-changing world and develop a deeper understanding of whole person healthcare.

[Critical theory and cultural competency in medical OI projects: lessons from Pacific Islander communities - PubMed](#)

[Amplifying Silenced Voices: A Critical Reflection on Challenges Facing Occupational Therapy Academics With Multiple Minoritized Identities - PubMed](#)

“I didn’t come to work in a coffee shop”: The Untold Stories of Transnational Physiotherapists in Canada. In C. Hebron, R. Galvaan, K.S. Groven, & P. Thille (Eds.), [Inviting Movements in Physiotherapy: An Anthology of Critical Scholarship](#), University of Manitoba Press.



CHC Poster Presentation at Southwestern Primary Care Research & Innovation

Researchers and faculty from A.T. Still University and El Rio Health recently represented their institutions at the **2nd Annual Southwestern Primary Care Research & Innovation Summit held in Tucson, Arizona**. The collaborative team presented a research poster highlighting advancements in primary care, fostering a dialogue on healthcare improvements within the region.

The project brought together a diverse group of experts, including professor and researcher Daniel Smith, PhD, and Vincent Ait Ouamara, MPH, Emily LaFentres, MPH, and Subash Acharya, MPH, from ATSU’s College of Graduate Health Studies. Joining them were Nitish Bhargava, BS, from ATSU-Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Lisa Soltani, MD, PhD, representing El Rio Health.

By bridging the gap between academic research and clinical practice, this team underscored the importance of interdisciplinary cooperation in addressing modern public health challenges. Their participation at the summit reinforces ATSU and El Rio Health’s shared commitment to driving innovation and excellence in primary care throughout the Southwest.

Their project, titled ***“Impact of Cost Sharing on Self-Measured Blood Pressure (SMBP), Patient Cost, and Prescription Abandonment for Home BP Monitors in a Large Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)”***, explored how cost-sharing policies affect patient adherence to home blood pressure monitoring, the financial burden on patients, and the rate of prescription abandonment.

Their impactful research was recognized with the **Relevance Award** at the conference, underscoring the project’s importance and potential to drive meaningful change in underserved medical communities.

See the poster here:

<https://custom.cvent.com/1a0e62c1083e41ee897047e768dbcb05/files/0a4c67737b7c46378781f4c4baa2dc99.pdf>

This presentation can also be viewed on the ATSRI YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vYoUd9xM4E>

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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