A.T. STILL RESEARCH INSTITUTE RESEARCHERS

A. DIRECTOR—A.T. STILL RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND CENTER DIRECTOR—STILL OSTEOPATHIC RESEARCH CENTER

Brian F. Degenhardt, DO/C-SPOMM
Director of the A. T. Still Research Institute
Assistant Vice President for Osteopathic Research
Center Director, Still Osteopathic Research Center
Associate Professor, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine (KCOM)

Research Interests:
Dr. Degenhardt’s research experience includes osteopathic cranial manipulation to the management of recurrent Otitis Media; osteopathic clinical research on osteoarthritis of the knees; evaluating the effects of osteopathic manipulation on infant feeding; efficacy of OMT in the treatment of obstetrical back pain; efficacy of OMT to improve immune response to the influenza vaccine in elderly; and the efficacy of specific osteopathic evaluation and treatment in the management of low-back-pain patients with non-physiological sacroiliac somatic dysfunction. Dr. Degenhardt is current chairperson of the External Board of Scientific Counselors for the Texas Osteopathic Research Center, the AAO Board of Governors, and the Louisa Burns Osteopathic Research Committee. The following are some of his current research projects.

1. Current Research Studies under Dr. Degenhardt’s Leadership

   a. Blood Marker Study

   **TITLE:** Investigation of Biochemical Markers for the Effect of OMT

   **PRINCIPAL/CO-INVESTIGATORS:**
   - Nissar A. Darmani, PhD, Principal Investigator; Professor, Pharmacology
   - Brian F. Degenhardt, DO/C-SPOMM, Director of the A. T. Still Research Institute, Assistant Vice President for Osteopathic Research, Center Director, Still Osteopathic Research Center, Associate Professor, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine (KCOM)
   - Lex C. Towns, PhD, Co-Investigator; Division Chairperson and Professor, Anatomy

   **FUNDING SOURCE:** KCOM Strategic Research Initiative

   **FUNDING AMOUNT:** $27,470

   **DATES:** July 1, 2002, to June 30, 2004
STATUS: Data is being analyzed. Preliminary analysis suggests that future studies will need to examine different biomarkers in the blood.
b. Inter-examiner Reliability Study

**TITLE:** Developing Instrumentation for Objectifying Interexaminer Reliability

**PRINCIPAL/CO-INVESTIGATORS:**
- Brian F. Degenhardt, DO/C-SPOMM, Director of the A. T. Still Research Institute, Assistant Vice President for Osteopathic Research, Center Director, Still Osteopathic Research Center, Associate Professor, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine (KCOM)
- Eric J. Snider, DO, Co-Investigator; Assistant Professor, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine
- Karen T. Snider, DO, Co-Investigator; Assistant Professor, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine

**FUNDING SOURCE:** KCOM Strategic Research Initiative

**FUNDING AMOUNT:** $49,500

**DATES:** July 1, 2002, to June 30, 2003

**STATUS:** A camera system for analyzing tests performed in the standing position has been developed. Pilot inter- and intraexaminer reliability studies have been performed. As the next step, extensive inter- and intrareliability studies began in August 2003, one month post funding. Development of a camera system for tests performed on reclining patients and for evaluating motion testing is ongoing. The study is currently in progress.

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B. CENTER DIRECTOR—HEALTHY AGING RESEARCH CENTER

**Donald R. Noll, DO/FACOI**
Center Director, Healthy Aging Research Center
Associate Professor and Chair, Internal Medicine/Geriatrics, Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine
**Research Interests:**

Dr. Noll’s research interests include the application of osteopathic manipulation for clinical problems in the elderly, (e.g., pneumonia, COPD, and influenza; nutrition, and Alzheimer's disease). He is currently the PI of a groundbreaking NIH research grant entitled “Efficacy of Osteopathic Manipulation in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease” and an AOA-funded research project entitled “Immediate Efficacy of OMT on Pulmonary Function Parameters in the Elderly with Obstructive Lung Disease.” Dr. Noll is a member of the AOA and the American Geriatric Society (AGS) and became a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Internists (ACOI) in 2000. In July 2001, Dr. Noll was also recognized as a guest of honor at the Federation of International Manual Medicine Conference. Dr. Noll will begin training colleagues for the grant project “The Multi-Center Osteopathic Pneumonia Study in the Elderly” in February 2004. The following are some of his current research projects.
1. Current Research Studies under Dr. Noll’s Leadership
   a. Multi-Center Osteopathic Pneumonia Study in the Elderly (MOPSE)

   *This multi-center grant represents the most complex and extensive of all research projects within the osteopathic profession to date.*
TITLE: Multi-Center Osteopathic Pneumonia Study in the Elderly

PRINCIPAL/CO-INVESTIGATORS:

Kirkville College of Osteopathic Medicine (KCOM), Kirkville, MO
- Donald R. Noll, DO, FACOI, Project Principal Investigator and Site Principal Investigator; Chair Associate Professor, Internal Medicine and Geriatrics
- Brian F. Degenhardt, DO/C-SPOMM, Director of the A. T. Still Research Institute, Assistant Vice President for Osteopathic Research, Center Director, Still Osteopathic Research Center, Associate Professor, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine

University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth, TX
- Carole Davis, DO, MPH, MBA, Site Principal Investigator; Assistant Professor, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine
- David A. Brickey, DO, FCCP, Site Co-Investigator; Associate Professor and Chief, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine

University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-School of Osteopathic Medicine, Stratford, NJ
- Thomas F. Morley, DO, FACOI, FCCP, Site Principal Investigator; Professor, Medicine
- David C. Mason, DO, Site Co-Investigator; Assistant Professor, Osteoscience, Family Medicine

Mount Clemens General Hospital, Mount Clemens, MI
- Kari A. Hortos, DO, FACOI, Site Principal Investigator; VP for Medical Education and Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine
- Lori A. Dillard, DO, Site Co-Investigator; Assistant Professor, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM)

Doctors Ohio Health Hospital, Columbus, OH
- Fran Blais, DO, Site Principal Investigator; OMM

FUNDING SOURCES:
- Osteopathic Heritage Foundation (Ohio)
- Brentwood Foundation (Ohio)
- Foundation for Osteopathic Health Services (Maryland)
- Muskegon General Osteopathic Foundation (Michigan)
- Colorado Springs Osteopathic Foundation (Colorado)
- Quad City Osteopathic Foundation (Iowa)
- Northwest Oklahoma Osteopathic Foundation (Oklahoma)
- Osteopathic Institute of the South (Georgia)

FUNDING AMOUNT: Approximately $1.5 Million (Pending)

DATES: February 2004, to February 2006

STATUS: Funding anticipated March 1, 2004. A timeline for site visits and training has been tentatively created, starting with making a training video in late February 2004, and visiting the Texas site in late March 2004. (See timeline beginning on page 22 for more information about MOPSE study implementation)
b. Efficacy of Osteopathic Manipulation in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

| TITLE: R21 Project: Efficacy of Osteopathic Manipulation in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease |
| PRINCIPAL/CO-INVESTIGATORS: |
| • Donald R. Noll, DO, FACOI, Project Principal Investigator; Division Chairperson and Associate Professor, Internal Medicine and Geriatrics |
| • Brian F. Degenhardt, DO/C-SPOMM, Director of the A. T. Still Research Institute, Assistant Vice President for Osteopathic Research, Center Director, Still Osteopathic Research Center, Associate Professor, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine (KCOM) |
| • Rene J. McGovern, PhD, Co-Investigator; Associate Professor, Neurobehavioral Sciences and Family Medicine/Community Health |
| FUNDING SOURCE: National Institutes of Health/National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine |
| FUNDING AMOUNT: $147,003 |
| DATES: April 1, 2002, to March 31, 2002 |
| OTHER RESEARCH ACTIVITIES: |
| October 2003: Completed the Manual of Operations and Procedures (MOP) for the Multi-Center Osteopathic Study on Pneumonia in the Elderly (MOPSE) and met with his research team in New Orleans, LA, before the American Osteopathic Association meeting. |
| November 2003: Began work with third year medical student Kent Burr to compare thinking about responses to 10 questions in medical practice between DOs and MDs: Is there truly a difference in thinking? |
Karen T. Snider, DO
Assistant Professor, Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine
Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine

Research Interests:
Dr. Snider’s research interests have included developing instrumentation for objectifying interexaminer reliability, evaluation of the relationship between impaired vertebral mobility and bone mineral density, and interexaminer reliability of osteopathic palpatory evaluation of the lumbar spine. Additionally, she is currently performing more extensive prospective research on the relationship of impaired vertebral mobility and localized vertebral BMD, as well as the persistence of somatic dysfunction in untreated patients. She is currently board certified in neuromusculoskeletal medicine and osteopathic manipulative medicine. The following is a current research project of Dr. Snider’s.

1. Current Research Studies under Dr. Karen Snider’s Leadership

   a. Lumbar Study: Bone Mineral Density in the Lumbar Spine

   **TITLE:** The Effect of OMT on Somatic Dysfunction, Bone Mineral Density, and Degenerative Changes in the Lumbar Spine

   **PRINCIPAL/CO-INVESTIGATORS:**
   - Karen T. Snider, DO, Principal Investigator; Assistant Professor, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine
   - Eric J. Snider, DO, Co-Investigator; Assistant Professor, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine
   - Brian F. Degenhardt, DO/C-SPOMM, Director of the A. T. Still Research Institute, Assistant Vice President for Osteopathic Research, Center Director, Still Osteopathic Research Center, Associate Professor, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine (KCOM)
   - Douglas C. Burton, MD, Co-Investigator; Assistant Professor, Orthopedics, Kansas University Medical Center

   **FUNDING SOURCE:** KCOM Strategic Research Initiative

   **FUNDING AMOUNT:** $69,125

   **DATES:** March 1, 2004, to April 1, 2005

   **STATUS:** The project, in its first month of funding, is in the process of being
launched.
VIII. ADDITIONAL CLINICAL RESEARCHERS

A. ERIC J. SNIDER, DO

Eric J. Snider, DO
Assistant Professor, Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine
Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine

Research Interests:
Dr. Snider’s research interests include the development of instrumentation for objectifying interexaminer reliability, evaluation of the relationship between impaired vertebral mobility and bone mineral density, interexaminer reliability of osteopathic palpatory evaluation of the lumbar spine, and persistence of segmental variation of bone mineral density in the lumbar spine. He is currently board eligible in osteopathic neuromusculoskeletal medicine and is a member of Phi Sigma Alpha (National Osteopathic Honor Society) and numerous professional osteopathic associations.

B. RENE J. MCGOVNERN, PhD

Rene J. McGovern, PhD
Associate Professor, Department of Neurobehavioral Sciences and Family Medicine, Preventive Medicine, and Community Health
Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine

Research Interests:
Dr. McGovern’s research interests lie in mental health treatment in primary care (e.g., Elderlynk); rehabilitation medicine and geriatrics; and osteopathic manipulative medicine and aging. She is a licensed counseling psychologist who has specialized training in behavioral medicine and geriatrics, with extensive clinical and research experience with chronic illness. She also completed the Geriatric Scholars Program co-sponsored by the Missouri and Illinois Geriatric Education Center (St. Louis University) and Missouri Area Health Education Centers. As project director, Dr. McGovern has directed the ElderLynk project since its inception, including hiring and supervising the ElderLynk staff, managing the overall operation of the grant project with input from the ElderLynk Advisory Board, and steering the proposed capacity expansion and research plans. Dr. McGovern has submitted two papers and given three presentations during the last six months (two of which were by invitation). Dr. McGovern recently hosted sleep expert Christina McRae, PhD, to facilitate behavioral interventions with elderly patients who have sleep disorders.
IX. **EMERGING CLINICAL RESEARCHERS**

A. **JULIA E. MCNABB, DO, FAAFP**

Julia E. McNabb, DO, FAAFP  
Assistant Dean, Missouri Region, Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine, Preventive Medicine, and Community Health, Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Research Interests:**
Dr. McNabb has a focused interest in educational research. She currently has four identifiable projects in development, and three articles submitted for publication. Her projects are: cultivation and improvement of standardized patients, obtaining training from a consultant (from Truman State University) formally trained in theater or education; improvement of SOAP Notes through instigation of communication training in the first and second undergraduate years; investigation as to whether mentorship of new physicians reduces incidents of Board discipline; development of computer software (a CD-ROM with a game) to assist third year students on rotation with case study examinations; and development of assessment tool to compare History and Physical write-ups done by students who examined patients alone, versus students who were accompanied by an interprofessional skills team (such as social workers, nurses, pharmacists, etc.). Dr. McNabb also is interested in looking at case studies which have physician and nurse input in order to determine a rubric for standardizing and calibrating a good, standardized, interdisciplinary case. This project will also be integrated into Standardized Patient exercises to make portrayals more representative of real life experience.

B. **PAUL D. PETRY, DO, FACOP**

Paul D. Petry, DO, FACOP  
Assistant Professor, Department of Maternal Child Health  
Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine
Research Interests:
Paul Petry, DO, combines a busy clinical practice with a concern for his young patients with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), particularly those who suffer from primary insomnia. Although he can medicate his patients to help them sleep, he would prefer to use behavioral interventions. His research interests include: behavior interventions which may be substituted for pharmaceutical solutions to sleep disorders, effect of a bedtime ritual (or lack thereof) on primary insomnia in children with ADHD, development of survey for pediatric patients with primary insomnia, and isolation of commonalities among pediatric ADHD patients with primary insomnia, in order to target research questions for a double-blinded clinical trial.
C.  JOHN C. COLLINS, DO

John C. Collins, DO
Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine, Preventive Medicine, and Community Health, Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine

Research Interests:
Dr. Collins research interests include: the relationship between somatic dysfunction of the foot and low back pain, and efficacy of osteopathic manipulative treatment of this dysfunction to relieve back pain.

Working with Jane Johnson, MA, Director of Research Support, on:
Collins J, et. al:“Can a Dolorimeter be Used on the Navicular Bone of the Foot to Determine Whether Significant Somatic Dysfunction is Present?” J American Osteopathic Association (under development).