INTRODUCTION

Research continues to be a top priority in the educational requirements of Osteopathic Colleges of Medicine (COMs). However, research outputs and funding of Osteopathic institutions are dramatically lower in comparison to Allopathic COMs and other health-related professional programs (1-7). To combat this issue, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) is allocating additional funds to enhance medical student research exposure, and the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) is now requiring the availability of research opportunities to all interested osteopathic medical students for COMs to receive full accreditation.

OBJECTIVES

- Assess the number of Osteopathic COMs that adhere to the new COCA medical student research accreditation guidelines.
- Report differences in opportunities present at Osteopathic COMs that are adhering to AOA accreditation guidelines.

METHODS

- Design a coding sheet
- Search each Osteopathic COM homepage for student research opportunities.
- Assess ease of access to information on each website.
- Record availability of research opportunities, programs, financial incentives, student training, student eligibility, research mentors, administrative oversight, and facilities.

RESULTS

![Graph showing research opportunities online](image)

![Pie chart showing expected motivators](image)

- Research Opportunities Are Designed for...
  - Faculty
  - Students
  - Neither Faculty Nor Students
  - Faculty and Students
  - Students with Faculty Mentorship

CONCLUSION

Osteopathic medical schools are adhering to new COCA guidelines, but there is variance in the quality and quantity of research opportunities, student incentives, and mentors available at each Osteopathic COM. Future studies are necessary to determine if the new COCA accreditation guidelines increase the Osteopathic research outputs. Additionally, studies examining the relationship between research outputs of individual Osteopathic COMs, and the manner in which COMs adhere to the new guidelines will be important indicators for the AOA going forward.

REFERENCES