

Project on Osteopathic Medicine and Empathy

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Project in Osteopathic Medicine and Empathy

Two Nationwide Studies

1. *A cross-sectional study of empathy in colleges of osteopathic medicine.*
2. *A longitudinal study of changes in empathy in osteopathic medical students.*

Major Goals of the Cross-Sectional Study

- Providing national norm tables of empathy scores for osteopathic medical students by year in medical school (years 1, 2, 3 4) and gender (men, women).
- Comparisons of osteopathic medical students by demographic variables (gender, age, ethnicity).
- Comparisons of findings to those from allopathic medical schools.
- Psychometrics of the JSE in osteopathic medical students (coefficient alpha, corrected item-total score correlations, underlying factors, etc.).

Major Goals of the Longitudinal Study

- Examining changes in empathy as students progress through medical school (for total sample and by demographic variables).
- Degree of changes by underlying factors of the JSE (Perspective Taking, Compassionate Care, Standing in Patient Shoes).
- Comparisons of findings with those from allopathic medical schools.



Providing School's Own Empathy Data to Each Participating Medical School

- Each medical school will receive scores on the JSE for each of its students who complete the JSE (including students' ID codes) in spreadsheets or Excel files.
- Medical schools will be encouraged to use the empathy data to test their own research hypotheses (e.g., association between empathy scores and ratings of students' clinical competence, performance on examinations, OSCE assessments, specialty preferences, etc.).
- Such internal research can lead to publications in peer-reviewed journals, contributing to academic promotions and also augment the prestige of the participating schools.



Benefits for Participating Medical Schools

Data Bank for Each Participating School

Generating a repository of students' empathy scores (*data bank* for each participating medical school) to study the associations between empathy, and:

- measures of academic performance
- licensing examinations
- clinical competence ratings
- OSCE assessments
- Indicators of professionalism
- exposure to specific educational programs
- demographics
- specialty interest
- etc.



Benefits for Participating Medical Schools

1. Participating schools will receive tabulated data empathy scores for their own students, and for all other schools combined (confidential report to each school).
2. Participating schools will receive empathy scores for their students in password-protected excel files for their own research (e.g., addressing their research questions and hypotheses, assessing their educational programs, etc.).
3. Faculty of participating schools will be encouraged to use their empathy data to for publication and academic promotion, such research, which also augment the prestige of participating medical schools.

Research and Education Council

- A research and education council (chaired by Dr. Calabrese) will be formed to encourage research and foster education of empathy among project participants.
- Council membership will be selected from faculty, students, and AACOM representatives.
- One of the goals will be to develop an agenda which should be given priority to be addressed by the profession.
- Another goal will be to develop a robust educational agenda which can serve to enhance formal and informal educational activities for enhancing empathy at the curricular level.

Activity Phases

Year 1

Organization	Study/ Design	IRB Clearance	Online Testing & Development	Data Collection	Data Analysis	Status Report	Manuscript
1/1/2017 - 6/30/2017				7/11/2017 - 12/31/2017			
AACOM	X	X	X				
Cleveland Clinic	X	X	X			X	
Jefferson	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Each Medical School	X	X	X	X			
Students				X			



Year 2

Organization	Study/ Design	IRB Clearance	Online Testing & Development	Data Collection	Data Analysis	Status Report	Manuscript
1/1/2018 - 12/30/2018							
AACOM							X
Cleveland Clinic						X	X
Jefferson		Renew		X	X	X	X
Each Medical School		Renew		X			
Students				X			



Year 3

Organization	Study/ Design	IRB Clearance	Online Testing & Development	Data Collection	Data Analysis	Status Report	Manuscript
1/1/2019 - 12/31/2019							
AACOM							
Cleveland Clinic						X	
Jefferson		Renew?		X	X	X	
Each Medical School		Renew?		X			
Students				X			

Year 4

Organization	Study/ Design	IRB Clearance	Online Testing & Development	Data Collection	Data Analysis	Status Report	Manuscript
1/1/2020 - 12/31/2020							
AACOM							X
Cleveland Clinic						X	X
Jefferson		Renew?		X	X	X	X
Each Medical School		Renew?		X			
Students				X			

Year 5

Organization	Study/ Design	IRB Clearance	Online Testing & Development	Data Collection	Data Analysis	Status Report	Manuscript
1/1/2020 - 12/31/2020							
AACOM							X
Cleveland Clinic							X
Jefferson		Renew		X	X		X
Each Medical School		Renew		X			
Students				X			