2,086 STUDENTS

30+ ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

1 UNIVERSITY

MISSION
To serve humanity through the interprofessional education of health and biomedical professionals, and the discovery of knowledge dedicated to improving wellness.

VISION
To be the premier interprofessional health sciences university.

CORE VALUES
Civility · Diversity · Excellence · Innovation Integrity · Scholarship · Teamwork

LIFE in DISCOVERY
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January 2020–June 2022
THE RFU DIFFERENCE
THE ROSALIND FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY DIFFERENCE

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

At Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, we believe in breaking down academic barriers. We take an interprofessional approach to education, so our students learn from and work with peers in other programs from the beginning of their time here.

That’s especially important, as healthcare teams play an increasingly vital role in patient care. At RFU, we prepare students for the future by integrating collaboration and teamwork into education. Having more than 30 graduate health professions and science programs in one university creates great opportunities to do that.

Additionally, each first-year student in our clinical programs takes the Foundations for Interprofessional Practice course which starts during the fall quarter. This class, which acts as the introduction for an integrated, interprofessional education experience, brings students from virtually all academic programs together to learn from one another, get oriented to the culture of health care and start interacting in small, interprofessional teams.

DR. WILLIAM M. SCHOLL COLLEGE OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE

OUR MISSION

To educate podiatric medical students in an interprofessional environment that emphasizes excellence in academics, patient care, and research, in preparation for residency training.

Scholl College has a great reputation thanks to a well-rounded medical curriculum, a passion for interprofessional health care and an enthusiasm for applying new technologies.

A LEADER IN RESEARCH

The Center for Lower Extremity Ambulatory Research (CLEAR) conducts groundbreaking research with special emphasis on diabetic foot, limb preservation and fall prevention. Thanks to the work of this research institution, the Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine is the first podiatric medical school to be awarded a prestigious National Institutes of Health T35 research training grant.
INTRODUCTION
We are happy to present the third issue of the Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine's biennial Research and Scholarship Report. The period covered by this report was one of unprecedented challenges imposed by COVID-19, and the practice of research was not exempt from pandemic-related disruptions. Nonetheless, our faculty, staff and student researchers remained committed to excellence in their scholastic pursuits, adapting existing lines of work to maintain safety standards amidst the global pandemic while also developing new lines of investigation and skillsets. The success of these efforts is evidenced by the publications, presentations and funded grants cataloged in this report.

In reflecting on the accomplishments of the college, we are grateful for the philanthropic partners who invested in our success. As calendar year 2021 came to a close, the university received a transformational grant of $1,200,000 from The Dr. Scholl Foundation. In addition to allocations for Scholl College scholarships and clinical equipment, this grant provided $250,000 for the college’s Human Performance Laboratory to upgrade and expand laboratory resources. The impact of this grant and many other donations has helped to ensure the laboratory’s ability to retain its status as a state-of-the-art facility for the objective quantification of human movement. In addition to the college’s biomechanical research portfolio associated with the Human Performance Laboratory, the college continues to excel in its clinical and translational research pursuits in collaboration with the Rosalind Franklin University Health Clinics and other clinical partners. This research affords podiatric patients access to the latest therapeutics and helps to drive the evolution of podiatric practice and teaching.

In closing, we would like to emphasize the college’s vision. The vision reads, “The college will be the leader in the education of podiatric medical students, curricular development, research in lower extremity health and service to the community.” The current Research and Scholarship Report exemplifies our fervent commitment to realizing that vision, even in the face of unforeseen challenges. We hope you share our pride in the accomplishments of the college over the last few years and our excitement for those to come in the future.

Stephanie Wu, DPM, MSc, FACFAS
Dean, Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine
Professor, Podiatric Medicine and Surgery
Professor, Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine

Noah Rosenblatt, PhD
Associate Dean of Research, Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine
Associate Professor, Podiatric Medicine and Surgery

Christopher Connaboy, PhD
Director, Center for Lower Extremity Ambulatory Research
Associate Professor, Podiatric Medicine and Surgery
Led by Stephanie Wu, DPM, MSc, FACFAS, professor and dean of Scholl College, Scholl College became the first podiatric medical school to be awarded a National Institutes of Health (NIH) T35 research training grant. Funding through this grant mechanism has been secured to support the Summer Research Program from 2008 to 2024.
Podiatric medical students at Scholl College who are interested in conducting research during the summer between their first and second years are encouraged to pursue a summer research fellowship. Students work closely with faculty mentors throughout the eight-week fellowship, then present their findings to the university community at a poster session held in the fall. Moreover, students commonly have the opportunity to present their research at regional, national and international scientific conferences.

**SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

- Provide each podiatric medical student with individual hands-on experience in scientific research directed by one or more faculty mentors.
- Provide an environment for basic, translational or clinical research, based on the individual interests of the students.
- Provide podiatric medical students with an opportunity to maintain involvement in research over the course of their academic medical career.
- Provide podiatric medical students with educational training in data collection, data analysis, grant writing, oral presentations, written reports and computer skills.
- Provide podiatric medical students with opportunities to explore career options in medical research, as well as career development through interaction with role models, advisors and mentors.
- Identify and foster exceptional trainees with the potential to pursue careers in biomedical research.
- Foster among the trainees a sense of belonging to a community of scientists.
ADDITIONAL RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES AT SCHOLL COLLEGE

Scholl College is proud to offer numerous opportunities for its students to participate in elite-level research. World-renowned leaders in their field serve as mentors to those students interested in conducting research. Students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of research foci including basic and translational sciences, biomechanics, medicine and surgery. There are four primary formal programs through which students partake in research. Those include the Summer Research Program (see page 9), the Swanson Independent Scholar Program, the master’s degree in tissue repair and wound healing, and the DPM/PhD combined degree program.
Established in 1994, this program was created to memorialize Walter C. Swanson, DPM ’26, an alumnus of Scholl College whose family foundation was an original benefactor of the Scholl College Program.

PURPOSE: The Swanson Independent Scholar Program allows the highly motivated student to participate in the research process from beginning to end. Swanson Scholars receive extra training in research methodology, preparation of manuscripts and grant writing. Due to the extensive time commitment and strict academic standards required by this program, only the most highly qualified and dedicated students are accepted. Historically, Swanson Scholars become highly sought after for the most competitive residency programs in the country.

**MSc DEGREE IN TISSUE REPAIR AND WOUND HEALING**

This is a conjoined program with Cardiff University (formerly the University of Wales). The pursuit of the MSc degree in wound healing typically occurs in the second and third years of podiatric medical school, and includes a combination of didactic and online coursework. Students are required to attend a five-day study block in years one and two at Cardiff University. The remaining coursework can be completed online.

PURPOSE: This unique study-abroad program has been designed for exceptional students who are interested in pursuing this program. Cardiff is a premier university in Wales and is the only university to offer the MSc in tissue repair and wound healing. All clinical work to support the master’s thesis is conducted at the Rosalind Franklin University Health Clinics, under the supervision of CLEAR faculty. The opportunity to earn a master’s degree in wound healing through this unique program is one more way that Scholl College continues to supplement the traditional knowledge and practice of a DPM with innovative, relevant training.

**DPM/PhD DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM**

This program is specially designed for students interested in pursuing a career in research or who would like clinical or basic science research to play a significant role in their future podiatric practice. Each student participating in this program is required to meet the academic requirements of both Scholl College and the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at RFU.

PURPOSE: To provide students with highly advanced research training that complements the clinical training provided at Scholl College. This program is geared toward individuals interested in a career in research or academics, in conjunction with podiatric medicine. The application process for this dual degree program cannot begin until a student has matriculated into the DPM program at Scholl College.
Publication in scholarly journals affords researchers the opportunity to share their results with their fellow healthcare providers and scientists. The peer-review process, conducted by other experts in the field, ensures that the research meets the high standards required for publication. The following list of peer-reviewed publications includes titles both within and beyond the discipline of podiatric medicine — a testament to the interprofessional nature of research conducted by faculty and students at Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine.


**Bold** = Scholl College student, Asterisk* = Scholl College faculty member, Double Asterisk** = Rosalind Franklin faculty member (CHP, CMS, Pharmacy)


**Bold** = Scholl College student, **Asterisk** = Scholl College faculty member, **Double Asterisk** = Rosalind Franklin faculty member (CHP, CMS, Pharmacy)


BOOK CHAPTERS AND NON–PEER–REVIEWED PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS

Faculty members at Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine are experts in a range of specialties, from biomechanics and surgery to diabetic wound care and amputation prevention. The breadth of their expertise is reflected in the books containing chapters authored by these faculty members, listed here.
BOOK CHAPTERS


NON–PEER–REVIEWED PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS


The sharing of knowledge inspires continued discovery. Conferences and seminars held at the local, national and international levels provide a forum for researchers to share their own findings, as well as learn from their peers. Faculty and students from Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine attend an impressive number of these professional conferences to share their research through oral or poster presentations, as seen in the following list.


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POSTERS


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**POSTERS**


**Bold** = Scholl College student, Asterisk* = Scholl College faculty member, Double Asterisk** = Rosalind Franklin faculty member (CHP, CMS, Pharmacy)
WHERE IN THE WORLD HAS CLEAR PRESENTED?
Knowledge makes the greatest impact when it is shared. Each year, faculty and students from Scholl College and its Center for Lower Extremity Ambulatory Research (CLEAR) travel across the country and around the world to share their research findings with clinicians and scientists representing a variety of disciplines. Below is a snapshot of all the places our researchers have visited since the inception of CLEAR in 2004, putting into action the mission of Rosalind Franklin University — to serve humanity through the interprofessional education of health and biomedical professionals, and the discovery of knowledge dedicated to improving wellness.

Circles with enclosed numbers indicate the number of presentations given in the corresponding region; smaller markers on the map lacking an enclosed number represent individual presentations given at the respective locations.
SPONSORED RESEARCH

From fall prevention to diabetic wound healing, the research conducted at Scholl College and its Center for Lower Extremity Ambulatory Research (CLEAR) has real-world applications that improve the health and well-being of patients with both acute and chronic illnesses. Much of this work is supported through grants from organizations that demand the highest standards in research excellence, including the National Institutes of Health.
**SPONSORED RESEARCH**


Wu SC*. A Phase II Double-Blind, Randomized, Placebo Controlled Study to Assess the Efficacy and Safety of AMG0001 to Improve Ulcer Healing and Perfusion in Subjects Who Have Peripheral Ischemic Ulcers of the Lower Extremity. AnGes USA, Inc. April 2020 - April 2023.


**Bold** = Scholl College student, **Asterisk** = Scholl College faculty member, **Double Asterisk** = Rosalind Franklin faculty member (CHP, CMS, Pharmacy)
Instrumentation in the Human Performance Lab allows for analyses of movement such as linear/angular displacements of body segments and associated velocities/accelerations. The lab is also equipped to investigate the kinetics, or forces, associated with movement. Equipment related to quantifying plantar pressure during shod and unshod walking is also critical to work performed in the lab.
**CLEAR RESEARCH**

Christopher Connaboy, PhD: Human performance optimization with a specific focus on movement, coordination and the perceptuo-motor processes involved in performing skilled actions in elite warfighters/athletes, astronauts and clinical populations.

Ryan Crews, PhD, CCRP: Research upon the role of biomechanics and physical activity in the development and treatment of injury/disease, with a particular emphasis on diabetic complications of the lower extremities.

Adam Fleischer, DPM, MPH, FACFAS: Clinical research that explores patient and provider factors that are associated with positive outcomes in elective and non–elective foot/ankle surgery, as well as health economics research, and lower extremity therapies that may improve balance and reduce fall risk.

Leland Jaffe, DPM, FACFAS, CWSP: Clinical research into the treatment of chronic ulcerations and diabetic complications (wounds, neurological, musculoskeletal and vascular) of the lower extremities.

Noah Rosenblatt, PhD: Biomechanics of locomotion and stability in association with the prevention of falls and promotion of mobility in community-dwelling older adults, with a focus on the impact of prosthetic usage and improving outcomes for users of lower limb prostheses.

Stephanie Wu, DPM, MSc, FACFAS: Clinical and translational research into the risk factors, treatment and prevention of diabetic complications (wounds, neurological, musculoskeletal and vascular) of the lower extremities.

Sai Yalla, PhD: Instrumentation specialist performing applied biomechanics research using innovative body-worn sensors to evaluate human gait, balance, muscle activity and patient compliance.
THE PERSONAL SIDE OF HEALTH CARE

Our mission is “To educate podiatric medical students in an interprofessional environment that emphasizes excellence in academics, patient care, and research, in preparation for residency training.”

Scholl College has a great reputation thanks to a well-rounded medical curriculum, a passion for interprofessional health care and an enthusiasm for applying new technologies.

EXCELLENT MEDICAL CARE IS THE PRODUCT OF A GREAT TEAM

We teach that patients are not only at the center of the model of care, but also active members of that team. Our students learn that outcomes improve through positive patient interactions and clear communication. During their didactic training, our students sharpen those interactions, along with their critical reasoning and communication skills, in our simulation labs.

STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES

The RFU 97-acre campus is home to cutting-edge technology and facilities used throughout the curriculum to develop and master clinical performance. This includes a simulation-based virtual health system, as well as laboratory and classroom spaces that promote team development and interactive learning.

INNOVATION AND RESEARCH PARK

Opened in Spring 2020, the Innovation and Research Park includes 100,000 square feet of space designed to increase the free exchange of ideas and the sharing of expertise and scientific tools.

SIMULATION LABS

Our dynamic learning labs are designed to allow students to practice in a near-real virtual health system. Facilities include a simulated 14-room outpatient clinic, emergency department and critical care environments, inpatient rooms, an operating room and clinical procedures lab, physical assessment and diagnostic training labs, and even a simulated clinical pathology lab.

ROTHSTEIN WARDEN CENTENNIAL LEARNING CENTER

This state-of-the-art building includes classrooms that were designed to provide highly engaging and interactive learning experiences. Instruction in this environment promotes critical thinking and collaboration through team-based and problem-based learning activities.

A LEADER IN RESEARCH

The Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine is the first and only podiatric medical school to be awarded a prestigious National Institutes of Health T35 research training grant.
CREATE YOUR IMPACT.

YOU CAN SHAPE THE FUTURE OF
THE DR. WILLIAM M. SCHOLL COLLEGE OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE

BUOYED BY YOUR SUPPORT, we are:

• Redoubling our commitment to student scholarships so that we can remove the economic barriers of students’ aspirations.

• Encouraging active mentorship that builds bridges of professional insight between Scholl College students and our experienced alumni.

• Supporting the evolution of podiatric practice with a focus on the changing needs of more vulnerable populations, emerging research on balance and the lower extremities and on new challenges posed by active lifestyles.

Together, we can strengthen our podiatric medical workforce and advance the discovery of knowledge dedicated to improving wellness.

PARTNER WITH US TO MAKE AN IMPACT.

SUPPORT PODIATRIC MEDICAL EDUCATION by contributing online

https://rfu.ms/impactscholl

Please consider a recurring gift, which empowers our students and faculty and funds our top priorities.
DR. WILLIAM M. SCHOLL
COLLEGE OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE

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847-578-8420