RAKMHSU Research Strategic Plan [2023-2028]

RAK Medical and Health Sciences University

Reviewed & Edited : September 2023

1.1 Vision:

To be a catalyst for health sciences research to achieve our university goals.

1.2 Mission:

To foster innovation and promote the culture of research excellence by supporting the students, faculty and researchers.

1.3 Core Values:

1. Excellence in innovation
2. Collaboration and interdisciplinary approach
3. Ethical conduct and academic freedom
4. Social impact

1.4 Strategic Goals & Objectives:

Goal 1. Research Excellence and Impact:

Objective 1.1. Foster a culture of research excellence by providing support, resources, and incentives for faculty and researchers.

Goal 2. Research Funding and Support:

Objective 2.1. Diversify and increase external research funding

Objective 2.2. Provide comprehensive research support services

Goal 3. Research Collaboration and Innovation:

Objective 3.1. Promote interdisciplinary collaboration within the university and beyond.

Objective 3.2. Support research commercialization and entrepreneurship

5. RAKMHSU Research Strategic Planning 2023-2028

Objectives	Action Steps
Goal 1: Research Excellence and Impact	
1.1. Foster a culture of research excellence by providing support, resources, and incentives for faculty and researchers.	**1. Develop and implement research mentoring programs for faculty:** a. Establish a mentorship framework to pair junior faculty members with experienced researchers in their field. b. Provide guidance and support to junior faculty in developing research proposals, securing funding, and publishing their work. c. Organize workshops and seminars on research methodologies, grant writing, and effective communication of research findings.
	2. Establish internal grant programs to promote high-risk, high-reward research: a. Create funding mechanisms specifically designed to support innovative and exploratory research projects. b. Encourage interdisciplinary collaborations by requiring researchers from different disciplines to collaborate on grant applications. c. Emphasize the potential societal impact of proposed projects as a criterion for grant selection.
	3. Strengthen collaborations with industry partners to facilitate technology transfer and commercialization of research outcomes: a. Foster strategic partnerships with industry leaders and relevant stakeholders to identify research needs and priorities. b. Establish joint research initiatives with industry partners to address real-world challenges and facilitate knowledge exchange. c. Develop mechanisms for researchers to engage in industry internships, consultancies, and collaborative projects.

	4. **Enhance the university's research infrastructure through strategic investments in state-of-the-art facilities and equipment:** a. Assess the current research infrastructure and identify areas that require improvement or modernization. b. Allocate resources to upgrade existing laboratories, research centers, and core facilities. c. Invest in cutting-edge research equipment and technologies to enable researchers to conduct high-quality and impactful studies. d. Provide training and technical support to researchers to optimize the use of research infrastructure.
Goal 2: Research Funding and Support	
2.1. Diversify and increase external research funding.	**1. Identify and pursue funding opportunities from national and international research agencies:** a. Establish a dedicated team or office responsible for monitoring funding opportunities and disseminating information to faculty and researchers. b. Develop a comprehensive database of funding sources, including government agencies, foundations, and industry-sponsored programs. c. Facilitate workshops and training sessions to educate researchers on effective grant-seeking strategies and proposal writing.
	2. Support faculty in preparing competitive grant proposals through workshops and training sessions: a. Organize workshops and seminars focused on grant writing, budgeting, and project

	management.
	b. Provide individualized guidance and feedback on grant proposals to enhance their competitiveness.
	c. Create a peer-review process where faculty members can review and provide constructive feedback on each other's proposals.
	3. Establish collaborations with funding agencies to co-develop research priorities:
	a. Engage in dialogue with funding agencies to understand their research priorities and align university research strengths accordingly.
	b. Collaborate with funding agencies to organize joint workshops, conferences, or symposiums to foster collaborations and identify potential research opportunities.
	c. Participate in advisory committees or panels of funding agencies to contribute to the shaping of research funding policies and priorities.
	4. Strengthen relationships with philanthropic organizations to secure funding for strategic research initiatives:
	a. Identify and engage with philanthropic organizations that share research interests and objectives with the university.
	b. Develop tailored proposals for philanthropic funding, highlighting the potential societal impact of the research projects.
	c. Cultivate relationships through regular communication, site visits, and acknowledgment of philanthropic support.
2.2. Provide comprehensive research support services.	**1. Enhance research administration processes to streamline grant management and reporting:**
	a. Implement efficient and user-friendly grant management systems to simplify the application, tracking, and reporting processes.

	b. Provide training and support for researchers in navigating grant management systems and compliance requirements. c. Establish clear guidelines and templates for budget preparation, progress reporting, and financial accountability.
	2. Expand the capacity of research support offices to provide assistance in areas such as ethics, data management, and intellectual property: a. Increase staffing and resources in research support offices to meet the growing demand for assistance in areas such as human subject's research, animal research, biosafety, and data management. b. Develop guidelines and training programs to ensure compliance with ethical standards, data protection regulations, and intellectual property rights.
	3. Develop a centralized database for internal and external expertise to facilitate collaboration and resource sharing: a. Create an easily accessible and searchable database of faculty expertise, research interests, and ongoing projects. b. Facilitate networking and collaboration by providing researchers with the tools to identify potential collaborators within the university. c. Explore opportunities for cross-institutional collaboration by sharing expertise databases with external partners or joining existing research networks.
	3. Establish mechanisms to promote and recognize research integrity and responsible conduct of research: a. Develop and implement training programs on research ethics, responsible conduct of research, and plagiarism prevention. b. Implement protocols for the investigation and resolution of research misconduct allegations. c. Recognize and celebrate researchers who

	demonstrate exceptional research integrity and responsible practices.
Goal 3: Research Collaboration and Innovation	
3.1. Promote interdisciplinary collaboration within the university and beyond.	**1. Organize regular interdisciplinary research symposiums and workshops to facilitate networking and knowledge exchange:** a. Plan and host interdisciplinary research events where faculty, researchers, and students from different disciplines can present their work, share ideas, and explore potential collaborations. b. Invite external speakers and experts to provide insights on interdisciplinary research and foster cross-pollination of ideas. c. Facilitate interactive sessions and group activities to encourage collaboration and interdisciplinary problem-solving.
	2. Develop incentives to encourage faculty and researchers to collaborate across disciplines: a. Establish funding programs specifically targeted at interdisciplinary research projects, requiring researchers from different disciplines to collaborate. b. Recognize and reward successful interdisciplinary collaborations through awards, grants, and internal accolades. c. Create interdisciplinary research fellowships or positions to encourage sustained collaboration and exchange of expertise.
	3. Create shared spaces and platforms for researchers to interact and share resources: a. Design and establish physical spaces, such as collaborative work areas or innovation hubs, where researchers from different disciplines can come together to collaborate and exchange ideas. b. Develop online platforms or forums to facilitate virtual collaboration, resource sharing, and discussion among researchers. c. Implement mechanisms to connect researchers with complementary expertise and facilitate matchmaking for interdisciplinary research partnerships

	4. Establish joint appointments and dual-degree programs to foster collaboration with other institutions: a. Forge partnerships with other research institutions, both domestic and international, to enable joint appointments of faculty members and promote collaboration on research projects. b. Collaborate with other universities to develop dual-degree programs that encourage students to engage in interdisciplinary research and pursue degrees in multiple disciplines. c. Explore opportunities for joint research funding applications and joint supervision of graduate students.
3.2. Support research commercialization and entrepreneurship.	**1. Establish a technology transfer office to facilitate the commercialization of research outcomes:** a. Create a dedicated office or team responsible for identifying, protecting, and licensing intellectual property arising from university research. b. Provide resources and expertise to guide researchers through the patenting, licensing, and spin-off processes. c. Develop partnerships with industry and investors to promote the commercialization and transfer of university-developed technologies.
	2. Provide training and mentorship programs for researchers interested in entrepreneurship: a. Offer workshops, boot camps, and courses on entrepreneurship, business development, and technology commercialization. b. Connect researchers with experienced entrepreneurs, industry experts, and business mentors who can provide guidance and support in navigating the entrepreneurial ecosystem. c. Facilitate access to seed funding, incubators, and accelerator programs to support researchers in launching startups based on their research outcomes.

	3. Develop partnerships with incubators, accelerators, and industry networks to support startups based on university research: a. Establish collaborations with local or regional business incubators and accelerators to provide dedicated support to university-affiliated startups. b. Leverage existing industry networks and connections to facilitate access to market opportunities, industry partnerships, and potential investors for research-based startups. c. Facilitate connections between researchers and industry professionals to explore opportunities for collaborative research and technology transfer
	3. Streamline intellectual property processes to expedite patenting and licensing: a. Simplify and accelerate internal procedures for patent filing, evaluation, and licensing of intellectual property. b. Ensure efficient communication and collaboration between researchers, the technology transfer office, and legal experts. c. Regularly review and update intellectual property policies to align with best practices and changing industry standards.