



*The* UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA.

*Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost*

February 23, 2026

Dear Colleagues,

As Oklahoma's largest research engine and the state's leading recipient of funding from the National Institutes of Health, the University of Oklahoma carries a profound responsibility to advance discoveries that change lives. Today, I am delighted to share significant news that reflects the accelerating momentum of research across our academic health enterprise.

**According to the latest Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research rankings, the OU Health Campus has achieved a No. 98 national ranking in funding from the NIH – the highest in our history and the first time any Oklahoma institution has entered the Top 100.** With this achievement, OU now stands among the top 3.6% of the 2,702 institutions and entities nationwide that receive NIH funding.

In just three years, OU has jumped 31 spots in the Blue Ridge rankings, and during that same period, our NIH funding increased nearly 35%. In federal fiscal year 2025 alone, OU Health Campus researchers received \$80.9 million in NIH support, as classified by Blue Ridge. This sustained growth reflects not only our increasing competitiveness for federal research support, but also the expanding scope and impact of the work happening across our campuses.

The **College of Medicine** received \$72.2 million in NIH funding in FFY2025 – the largest amount in its history – and now ranks No. 65 among 145 medical colleges nationwide, placing it firmly in the top half nationally. Over the past four years, the college has advanced 13 positions in national standing. Notably, 12 departments are nationally ranked in NIH funding, including four in the Top 25 in their respective disciplines. A full list appears at the end of this message.

The **Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing** rose to No. 46 among 85 nursing schools nationwide, while the **College of Pharmacy** advanced to No. 52 among its peers, and the **Hudson College of Public Health** also stands at No. 52 in the country – underscoring the breadth and strength of NIH-funded research across our enterprise.

Across our campuses, our faculty, researchers, and staff are translating discovery into measurable impact – improving patient care, accelerating the search for cures, deepening scientific understanding, and contributing meaningfully to Oklahoma's economy. Most importantly, this continued rise in NIH funding reflects the growing expanse of research that serves people and communities across our state and advances health outcomes where they are needed most.

Recognized as the gold standard for benchmarking biomedical research institutions, the Blue Ridge rankings affirm the strength and collaboration of this community and the growing impact of your work across Oklahoma and beyond.

We celebrate this milestone while keeping our eyes locked on the future. Lifting the health of Oklahoma is a cornerstone of OU's "[Lead On, University: The Next Phase](#)" [Strategic Plan](#), which sets a goal to reach the Top 75 in NIH funding by 2030. Entering the Top 100 marks meaningful progress toward that ambition.

Below is a list of nationally ranked College of Medicine departments as reflected in the Blue Ridge rankings.

- In the top 25 are:
  - No. 2 – Family and Preventive Medicine
  - No. 13 – Physiology (including Biochemistry)
  - No. 22 – Obstetrics and Gynecology
  - No. 23 – Neurosurgery
  
- Making the top 50 nationally are:
  - No. 31 – Urology
  - No. 33 – Ophthalmology
  - No. 40 – Microbiology and Immunology
  - No. 43 – Cell Biology
  - No. 44 – Surgery
  
- Also ranked are:
  - No. 52 – Pediatrics
  - No. 56 – Pathology
  - No. 64 – Internal Medicine

Thank you for your dedication to discovery, innovation, and service. This achievement belongs to you.

Sincerely,



Gary E. Raskob, Ph.D.  
Senior Vice President and Provost  
OU Health Campus