

## Research Opportunities

### 2026 SMRF Program

Below is a listing of research opportunities that are available for Rowan-Virtua SOM Medical Students who have an interest in submitting applications for approval to participate in the 2026 Summer Medical Research Fellowship Program.

Contact Name/Department	Contact Information	Project Title/Information
<b>Dr. Mohammad Abedin</b> Biomedical Engineering JHSC Camden, Suite 420	Email: <a href="mailto:abedin@rowan.edu">abedin@rowan.edu</a>	We are developing Robossis, a surgical robotic system for long bone fracture surgery. Data analysis, cadaver study, workflow development, VR training.
<b>Dr. Nimish Acharya</b> NJISA Stratford, Science Center, A101	Email: <a href="mailto:acharynk@rowan.edu">acharynk@rowan.edu</a>	Inflammatory changes and cerebrovascular dysfunction are the two most common post-traumatic brain injury (TBI) events responsible for poor prognosis in patients with moderate-severe TBI. Animal experiments run in the Acharya Lab are designed to study the potential beneficial effects of various diets and anti-inflammatory supplements in limiting TBI-induced inflammatory and cerebrovascular changes in patients with moderate-severe TBI.
<b>Dr. Michael Anikin</b> Medical Education & Scholarship; Molecular Biology Stratford, Science Center, Lab A309	Email: <a href="mailto:anikinmi@rowan.edu">anikinmi@rowan.edu</a>	We investigate the molecular mechanisms of mitochondrial RNA metabolism that regulate gene expression in the organelle. Specifically, we study nuclear DNA-encoded protein factors that control the biogenesis of mitochondrial OXPHOS (oxidative phosphorylation) complexes in various yeast species.
<b>Dr. Danielle (Dani) Arigo</b> Psychology Glassboro, Robinson Hall 116 Camden, JHSC 312	Email: <a href="mailto:arigo@rowan.edu">arigo@rowan.edu</a>	Women's health, psychological and social influences on health behavior (e.g., social support, social comparison), digital health, integrated healthcare, chronic illness management, pain experiences.
<b>Dr. Valerie Carabetta</b> Biomedical Sciences Camden, Medical Education Building, 570F	Email: <a href="mailto:carabetta@rowan.edu">carabetta@rowan.edu</a>	The focus of my lab is combatting antibiotic resistance in bacteria. We study highly drug-resistant bacteria and devise new strategies to eliminate them. This includes researching novel combinations of drugs (newly available + standard of care) and the use of bacteriophage as a drug. Additional projects may become available, as we actively collaborate with the Cooper University Hospital ID department.
<b>Dr. Ying Chen</b> Biomedical Engineering Glassboro, Engineering Hall 210	Email: <a href="mailto:chenyin@rowan.edu">chenyin@rowan.edu</a>	Biomaterials, vascular grafts, cardiac patch, 3d printing, electrospinning.
<b>Dr. Margarita David</b> Interprofessional Education Stratford, RMB, Suite 2200	Email: <a href="mailto:davidm7@rowan.edu">davidm7@rowan.edu</a>	Interprofessional Education Projects: Students needs to focus on a patient or community problem that involves members if different specialties.
<b>Dr. Morgan Franco</b> Pediatrics Stratford RMB, Suite 3500	Email: <a href="mailto:francom@rowan.edu">francom@rowan.edu</a>	Quality improvement, case reports, primary care pediatrics, open to project ideas.

<b>Dr. Steve Garwood</b> Medical Education & Scholarship Stratford, Academic Center, Room 219	Email: <a href="mailto:garwoods@rowan.edu">garwoods@rowan.edu</a>	I work with Faculty and Students to improve feedback delivered in educational settings. Providing and Receiving Feedback are essential skills, but there are numerous challenges to active incorporation of best practices.
<b>Dr. Francois Gould</b> Neuroscience Stratford, Science Center A210	Email: <a href="mailto:gouldf@rowan.edu">gouldf@rowan.edu</a>	Projects in the lab include kinematic analysis of feeding mechanics in two models of PD, as well as analysis of motor patterns, and brain histology. I study the neurological and biomechanical basis of dysphagia (pathological swallowing) in animal models of Parkinson's disease.
<b>Dr. Michael Henry</b> Cell and Molecular Biology Stratford, Science Center Rms 305, 320, and 305	Email: <a href="mailto:henrymf@rowan.edu">henrymf@rowan.edu</a>	My lab seeks to better understand the causes of mitochondrial disorders. The Baker's yeast model organism is used to study features of mitochondrial genome expression conserved in humans. We also study the yeast pathogen <i>Candida albicans</i> to identify potential targets for anti-fungals.
<b>Dr. Andrea Iannuzzelli</b> RISN Center Sewell	Email: <a href="mailto:iannuzzelli@rowan.edu">iannuzzelli@rowan.edu</a>	Special Needs Adults (Autism, wellness, lifestyle medicine, preventive care).
<b>Dr. Natarajaseenivasan Kalimuthusamy</b> Neuroscience Stratford, Science Center, B230	Email: <a href="mailto:kalimuthusamy@rowan.edu">kalimuthusamy@rowan.edu</a>	Mitochondria-derived vesicular pathway for selective removal of oxidized cargo during HIV infection and drug abuse. Lipid Metabolism and Mitochondrial Bioenergetics in Neurodegenerative Diseases.
<b>Dr. Archana Kumari</b> Neuroscience Stratford, Science Center, B230	Email: <a href="mailto:kumari@rowan.edu">kumari@rowan.edu</a>	Understanding how HH signaling supports the structural and functional maturation of tongue tissues. We use transgenic mouse models, genotyping, qPCR, immunostainings and imaging to generate the data.
<b>Dr. Jessica Loweth</b> Neuroscience Stratford, Science Center 240	Email: <a href="mailto:loweth@rowan.edu">loweth@rowan.edu</a>	Investigating molecular mechanisms mediating increased risk of prescription opioid misuse following traumatic brain injury.
<b>Dr. Vincent Manna</b> Cell and Molecular Biology Stratford, Science Center	Email: <a href="mailto:mannav6@rowan.edu">mannav6@rowan.edu</a>	Lung cancer and e-cigarette usage; email for more details.
<b>Dr. Daniel Manvich</b> Neuroscience Stratford, Science Center, Room A202	Email: <a href="mailto:manvich@rowan.edu">manvich@rowan.edu</a>	We are an addiction neuroscience laboratory. We employ a diverse array of preclinical methodologies (mostly in rodent models) to investigate the behavioral and neuropharmacological effects of drugs of abuse, primarily psychostimulants and opioids.
<b>Dr. Dmitriy Markov</b> Medical Education and Scholarship Stratford, Science Center, A309	Email: <a href="mailto:markovdm@rowan.edu">markovdm@rowan.edu</a>	Benchwork involving biochemical, molecular biology and genetics methods. Mitochondrial RNA processing in pathogenic yeast.
<b>Dr. Rachel Navarra</b> Neuroscience Stratford, Science Center, 227	Email: <a href="mailto:navarra@rowan.edu">navarra@rowan.edu</a>	Behavioral pharmacology, catecholamine pharmacology, traumatic brain injury.

<b>Dr. Catherine Neary</b> Cell and Molecular Biology Stratford, Science Center, 314	Email: <a href="mailto:nearycl@rowan.edu">nearycl@rowan.edu</a>	Altered metabolism is a hallmark of cancer cells. This provides an opportunity to exploit these differences to eliminate the cancer cells. My primary project investigates the intersection between metabolic stress and cell death signaling.
<b>Dr. Aubrey Olson</b> Family Medicine Stratford, Medical Arts Building	Email: <a href="mailto:troutmam@rowan.edu">troutmam@rowan.edu</a>	Women's health, sports medicine, primary care.
<b>Dr. Dimitri Pestov</b> Cell and Molecular Biology Stratford, Science Center B120	Email: <a href="mailto:pestovdg@rowan.edu">pestovdg@rowan.edu</a>	We are an RNA biology lab focused on ribosomes and translation. One major current project is to develop novel ribosomal RNA-based biomarkers to assess pathological changes in scenarios such as hypoxia, ischemia/reperfusion injury, and inflammatory responses.
<b>Dr. Priya Santhanam</b> Cell and Molecular Biology Stratford, Science Center B130	Email: <a href="mailto:santhanam@rowan.edu">santhanam@rowan.edu</a>	The laboratory works on mitochondrial ion signaling in metabolomic and cardiovascular diseases.
<b>Dr. Peter Schnatz</b> OBGYN Stratford, RMB, Suite 3600	Email: <a href="mailto:schnatz@rowan.edu">schnatz@rowan.edu</a>	Breast Arterial Calcifications (BAC) and coronary artery disease (CAD) (CAD) Looking at the association of BAC & CAD, along with other associated risks related to CAD, Pregnancy outcomes, and depression from the database.
<b>Dr. Clare Stephens</b> Department of Pediatrics Stratford, Tanyard Rd.	Email: <a href="mailto:lipperinc1@rowan.edu">lipperinc1@rowan.edu</a>	Our department is interested in many areas including but not limited to vaccine hesitancy/refusal, healthy sleep habits, technology usage, etc.
<b>Dr. Morgan Yacoe</b> George Family Center for Healing Arts Virtual	Email: <a href="mailto:yacoe@rowan.edu">yacoe@rowan.edu</a>	Arts in Health Research: Our research lab investigates how arts-based interventions can enhance clinical care and well-being for both patients and healthcare teams. Through healing arts studies including the Artist in Residence evaluation, the ArtWise Rx arts-prescription program in the Pain Management Clinic, and The Barnes Foundation's series of short, 20-minute art modules for medical humanities, we examine how creative engagement influences pain, mental health, patient experience, and staff wellness. Our research aims to develop evidence-based, accessible, non-pharmacological approaches that integrate the arts into healthcare settings.

If you have an interest in any of the above projects, please reach out right away to the contact person for that department.

**NOTE:** The **deadline for application submissions** is **(Monday) February 9, 2026.**

The **2026 SMRF Program Instructions/Guidelines and the Application Cover Page** are available at <http://som.rowan.edu/oursom/pipeline/research/smrf.html>

If you have any questions, please contact the Rowan-Virtua SOM Research Office at [somresearch@rowan.edu](mailto:somresearch@rowan.edu).