Obesity Research Cluster
Founding Director: Dr. Naima Moustaid-Moussa

History
The Texas Tech University Obesity Research Cluster (ORC) was established in Spring 2013. This collaborative research cluster was initiated by Dr. Naima Moustaid-Moussa and Dean Linda Hoover, College of Human Sciences, along with the Office of the Vice President for Research. As part of the Texas Tech University System, the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Biomedical Sciences, have taken an active role in this research collaboration. In Fall 2014, the ORC was awarded a President Cluster Hire Tier 2 Funding.

Vision Statement
Achieve national leadership and recognition in interdisciplinary obesity research and education.

Mission Statement
Develop interdisciplinary basic clinical and community translational research to prevent and treat obesity along with its related complications using innovative collaborations and strategic partnerships.

Values
- Integrity and trust
- Respect for interdisciplinary teamwork and diversity
- Mentoring and training
- Compassion and dedication
- Multidisciplinary and dynamic knowledge development and dissemination

Purpose
The purpose of the Obesity Research Cluster is to foster and enhance interdisciplinary basic clinical and community translational research; to understand the causes and complications of obesity; and develop methods that will help prevent and treat obesity along with its related complications.

- Research conducted within this research cluster includes both basic, clinical and community research that will inform and advance strategies to prevent, treat and reduce obesity and its metabolic complications.
- ORC researchers use diverse state of the art approaches ranging from cellular and molecular studies, to animal models of obesity and metabolic disorders and human subjects for clinical interventions. Further, ORC community-based participatory research addresses the complexity of obesity from the biological, behavioral, environmental and societal aspects.
Objectives

• Increase productive collaborations within the TTU System, initially between TTU and TTUHSC, and expanding to the West Texas region and state of Texas agencies. Such collaborations will lead to increased publications and funded grant proposals.
• Increase undergraduate, graduate and health care students as well as postdoc training in basic, clinical and community research on obesity and its related conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer.

These objectives will help increase our research base and allow us to attract additional and larger research funding from federal agencies and foundations.

Participating Units

Texas Tech University

Center for Biotechnology and Genomics
College of Arts and Sciences
• Biological Sciences
• The Institute of Environment and Human Health
• Environmental Toxicology
• Health Exercise and Sports Studies
• Psychology

College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
• Agricultural and Applied Economics
• Animal and Food Sciences

College of Engineering

College of Human Sciences
• Center for Adolescent Resiliency
• Center for Collegiate Recovery Communities
• Community, Family and Addiction Sciences
• Nutritional Sciences
• Personal Financial Planning

College of Media & Communications

Participating Units

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

School of Biomedical Sciences
• Cell Biology and Biochemistry

School of Medicine
• Obstetrics and Gynecology
• Pediatrics
• Pathology
• Surgery

School of Nursing

Strategic Priorities

• Strategic Priority 1: Research and Creative Scholarship
• Strategic Priority 2: Academic Environment (faculty, students, postdocs and healthcare trainees success and diversity)
• Strategic Priority 3: Outreach and Multidisciplinary Collaborations (internal and external, including international)

For more information:
www.depts.ttu.edu/hs/obesityresearch/