2025-2026 CMSRU Standing Committee Report Out
Committee: CMSRU Research Committee
Committee Chair: Christopher Jones

Members

Christopher Jones
Valeria Carabetta
Young Hong
Krystal Hunter
Alla Kushnir
Diana Martinez
Ernie Post
Puneet Sahota
Jonathon Rendina
Darren Boehning (ex officio)
Note: Lori Feldman-Winter and Jim Holaska completed their terms at the end of the 2024-2025 cycle.

Meeting Dates

September 9, 2025
February 13, 2026

2025-2026 Highlights of Committee Work

The Research Committee welcomed two new members this year, Drs. Ernie Post and Puneet Sahota, and was charged for the 2025-2026 academic year by Dr. Reboli, who highlighted recent advances in the research enterprise across the institution, including development of a research strategic plan for CMSRU. The committee continued its established schedule of twice -early meetings.

Research Infrastructure and Space:

The availability of laboratory space to support basic biomedical and translational research within CMSRU remains a top priority. Dr. Boehning and the committee have continued working to identify and develop space within the Medical Education Building and the Joint Health Sciences Center.

New PhD Program in Cancer Cell Biology and Genomics:

The committee received updates throughout the year on the development of a new PhD program in Cancer Cell Biology and Genomics, the first such program based in Camden. The program, a collaborative effort involving CMSRU, the Coriell Institute, and MD Anderson Cancer Center, is designed to admit four to five students annually, reaching a steady state of 20 students.

Academic Affiliations and ORCID Compliance:

The committee has worked to support efforts aimed at standardizing institutional affiliations on scholarly products for both BMS and clinical faculty. These efforts include working with individual

departments to increase ORCID registration among faculty and addressing inconsistencies in how CMSRU and Cooper affiliations appear in publications.

Medical Student Summer Research and Capstone Projects:

Dr. Post led ongoing discussion of the summer research and Capstone project programs for medical students, covering application timelines, mentor matching, funding, and faculty participation. Faculty are queried for project opportunities in December, with a compiled list of research opportunities distributed to M1 students in February; approximately 25 stipends of $2,500 are available annually. The committee seeks to promote faculty participation in the annual capstone 'speed dating' mentor event, held again this year at 5pm on September 29th in the CMSRU MPR.

2026-2027 Future Goals and Plans

- Finalize and distribute a standardized academic affiliation guide, and continue efforts to reach 100% faculty ORCID registration in coordination with Cooper University Health Care.
- Monitor and support launch of the new PhD program in Cancer Cell Biology and Genomics.
- Continue to expand and improve laboratory space and research infrastructure, including planning for use of the Coriell building as wet lab space.
- Identify sustainable and diversified funding sources for the M1 summer research stipend program
- Improve faculty participation and responsiveness in Capstone mentorship and grading, and expand faculty engagement in the fall mentor-matching event.