

OHSU Physician-Scientist Metrics Program

Physician-scientists, individuals trained in clinical medicine who dedicate a substantial portion of their effort towards scientific discovery, are essential contributors to the health research landscape. For many reasons, and for many years, this group has been shrinking as a percentage of the biomedical workforce. This crisis was a focus of [an NIH task force](#), which recommended developing a workforce dashboard.

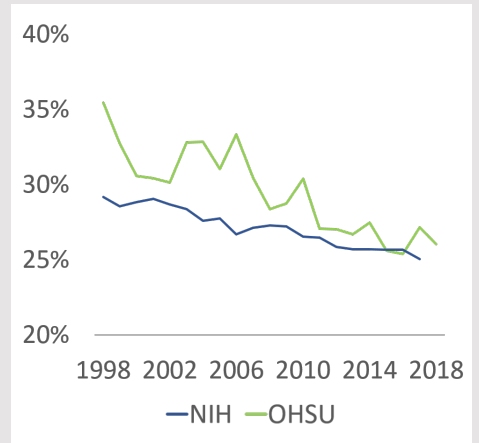
Nearly 5 years ago, OCTRI began tracking the physician-scientist community at OHSU, with the goal of developing such a dashboard that could be used for strategic planning. We defined physician-scientists using the same parameters as the NIH task force to include those holding Research Project Grants from the NIH, although we recognize that this does not reflect the entire physician-scientist community.

Initial results, [published in 2018](#), showed that OHSU was doing well in some areas, but not so well in others. Of special note, OHSU's percentage of women physician-scientists was much lower than the national average. Additionally, OHSU's cadre of physician scientists was older than the national group.

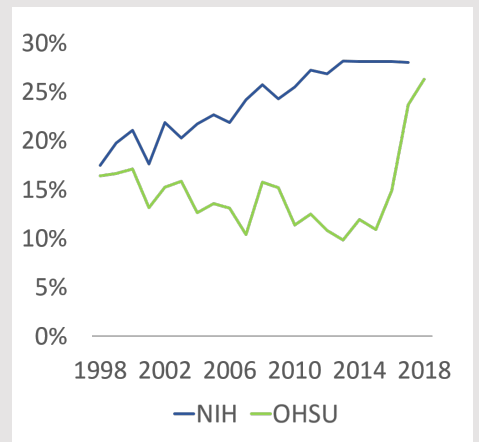
We have now updated our analysis by adding data through 2019 (see right hand column or review full data dashboard [here](#)). The results are encouraging in several ways, but leave other areas for improvement. The percentage of OHSU's physician-scientists who are women increased strikingly from 11% in 2016 to 26% in 2019, coming close to the national average of 28%. While the data cannot show the specific reasons for this improvement, it seems likely that the institutional focus on this deficit played a role. One possible contributor is the increased number of women MD/PhDs among those funded, perhaps reflecting a focus on this group in hiring, as recommended in our publication.

Unfortunately, the percentage of our RPG-holding physician scientists under 51 years of age remains low at 36%, compared with national data showing 64%. We believe that this should be an area of focus for OHSU moving forward. We encourage the institution to use this dashboard for strategic planning, with a goal of maintaining a robust physician-scientist workforce here at OHSU.

PERCENT RESEARCH PROJECT GRANT AWARDEES WHO ARE PHYSICIAN-SCIENTISTS (1998-2019)



PERCENT RESEARCH PROJECT GRANT AWARDEES WHO ARE WOMEN (1998-2019)



PERCENT PHYSICIAN-SCIENTISTS UNDER 51 YRS OLD HOLDING A RESEARCH PROJECT GRANT AWARD (1998-2019)

