

Remarks made at the 2025 University of Missouri Health Sciences Research Day

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Welcome to the annual Health Sciences Research Day!

I know how important research conferences are to generate new ideas, sustain academic connections and develop new connections. It is critical for us to exchange knowledge and develop solutions to our biggest and most important societal challenges that can be impacted by the discovery process.

I believe that the role of the university is to provide an environment to learn and discover so we can better understand the world and the human condition—and then develop solutions that improve the human condition. In addition, the university is a place to teach and prepare students for their careers. These are the two fundamental missions of universities throughout the world, and of course, right here at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

Whenever I have the privilege of attending a conference such as this, I am reminded of the very first organized society for the exchange of ideas.

This was the Royal Society in England, which was established in **1660**—November 28th to be exact—in London.¹⁻³ The formal name was the Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge. And it still exists today! The Royal Society began having gatherings to share exciting results by scientists and other creative minds. They created a scholarly publication, *The Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London*, which still exists today.

The Royal Society has had a profound and lasting influence on the development of the advancement of knowledge.

Modern professional conferences like this one are a legacy of this process that began in the 17th century by promoting collaboration and networking, setting standards and best practices, and providing a forum for advocacy. And just like the Royal Society, as a result of Health Sciences Research Day, we have created a new medical journal, *Missouri Health*, which began in 2024. The abstracts from today's conference will be published in an upcoming issue of *Missouri Health* as have abstracts from our previous conferences.⁴⁻⁶ We encourage you to send in full-length articles for publication in the journal.

Gatherings such as this continue to be exactly what academic exploration is all about, and what we need. Therefore, nothing better demonstrates and explains what the mission of a university is about than discovery forums like the Health Sciences Research Day.

For those who are presenting, congratulations on all the hard work you put into your projects. You have my best wishes as you continue your discovery activities and academic endeavors.

References

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