

ATHLETIC TRAINING

RESEARCH AGENDA

The purpose of the Athletic Training Research Agenda is to identify research priorities and unify research with clinical practice to improve patient care and advance the profession. The inter-association task force used a mixed-method research approach. Through focus groups, content analysis expert review and the survey of athletic trainers, the research priorities were identified.

HEALTH CARE COMPETENCY

Applying effective interventions (e.g., rehabilitation, modalities, pharmacology)

Establishing evidence to support return-to-life/play/work decisions

Preventing musculoskeletal injuries

Recognizing and referring patients with behavioral and mental health conditions

Reducing public health risks across the lifespan (e.g., sudden death, concussion, osteoarthritis)



HEALTH CARE ECONOMICS

Demonstrating return on investment, cost effectiveness and revenue generation associated with employing athletic trainers

Establishing appropriate patient-practitioner ratios to ensure patient safety and high-quality care

Evaluating the ability to minimize health care costs for patients and maximize efficiency of patient care across the lifespan



VITALITY OF THE PROFESSION

Advancing the reputation of the profession and the value of an athletic trainer

Determining the effectiveness of interprofessional practice

Evaluating the medical model and independent medical care free of influence or bias

Exploring solutions to improve work-life balance

Improving retention of athletic trainers

Investigating issues related to diversity in the profession



HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Determining the effectiveness of standardized communication and/or electronic medical record systems in clinical practice

Generating, analyzing, and applying "big data" to inform clinical decisions

Evaluating comprehensive point-of-care data that includes patient- and clinician-rated outcome measures

Improving medical documentation compliance and quality



HEALTH PROFESSION EDUCATION

Exploring educational pathways for developing clinical specialists

Exploring methods to maintain and advance competence

Investigating and advancing teaching and learning in professional preparation

