Facilities

The Carver College of Medicine consists of twelve buildings containing 1.6 million square feet of space with one building (College of Medicine Administration Building) dedicated to administrative departments only. The other eleven buildings house research activities which include research centers, programs and institutes, as well as the Core Research Facilities which are a collection of centralized laboratories dedicated to developing and providing state-of-the-art research resources to facilitate biomedical research. They are available on a fee-for-service basis to the entire health sciences community along with outside entities.

The Medical Education Research Facility houses medical education space and research laboratories, including the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Institute for Vision Research. It also contains the college's four learning communities. The communities group students who are at different stages in their medical education, encouraging peer-to-peer learning and emphasizing leadership and community service. Each learning community features small-group rooms, study and social spaces, computer workstations, a kitchen area, and staff offices. The Medical Education Research Facility also houses the Performance-Based Assessment Program, which evaluates students' clinical and communication skills by reviewing simulated physician-patient encounters recorded in mock patient examination suites.

Students acquire clinical skills experience at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics, the VA Iowa City Health Care, and in affiliated hospitals and ambulatory care centers throughout Iowa. University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics serves as a tertiary care center for Iowa and portions of adjoining states. Many patients are referred to University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics for care and treatment not available in their home communities.

Eckstein Medical Research Building is the home of the Iowa Institute of Human Genetics Genomics Division, Viral Vector Core Facility, Flow Cytometry Facility, and the Biomedical Research Store.

The five basic science departments are housed in the Bowen Science Building and include the Departments of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Microbiology and Immunology, Molecular Physiology and Biophysics, and Pharmacology.

The Medical Education Building houses research and educational space for the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science. It also houses research space for the Department of Psychiatry and is the home of the Office of Consultation and Research in Medical Education (OCRME). OCRME is staffed by education specialists from a range of disciplines who serve the faculty, staff, and administrators in all Carver College of Medicine programs. The office provides educational consultation, initiates and cooperates in educational research endeavors, and conducts faculty development activities.

There are teaching laboratories located in the Medical Education Building, the Bowen Science Building, and the Medical Research Facility.

Other buildings that house a wide range of College of Medicine departments, administration, and research activities are the Carver Biomedical Research Building, Westlawn,
Medical Laboratories, the Medical Research Facility, the Medical Research Center, and the Multi-Tenant Facility. The newest building, completed in 2014, is the Pappajohn Biomedical Discovery Building. The Iowa Neuroscience Institute is located on the first and second floors of the building. Third and fourth floors house the Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Research Center and the Abboud Cardiovascular Research Center, on the fifth floor is the Auditory Research Group, and on the sixth floor is the Lung Biology and Cystic Fibrosis Research Center. The Iowa Institute for Biomedical Imaging is on the lower basement levels housing the 7 Tesla MRI scanner (one of few such devices in the U.S.), 3T along with several smaller devices, and a 3D visualization lab. All researchers in this building are chosen by the Pappajohn Biomedical Institute in which scientists from across the University collaborate to explore high-risk/high-yield scientific questions in the life sciences with the goal of advancing treatments for a wide array of human diseases.

**Interdisciplinary Programs and Centers**

The college's interdisciplinary programs and centers draw strength from college faculty members and the facilities available to them, without regard to departmental units or to the distinction between graduate and postgraduate training. For more information, contact the vice dean for research.

The following centers are subdivisions of the Carver College of Medicine.

**Alzheimer's Disease Research Center**

The Alzheimer's Disease Research Center studies Alzheimer's disease and related neurological conditions from the viewpoint of neuroanatomy, neuroimaging, neuropsychology, and neurochemistry. The center's purposes are to improve the diagnosis and treatment of these conditions, to disseminate information on new research to the public, and to contribute to a better understanding of the neural basis of cognition.

**Carver Genetic Testing Laboratory**

The John and Marcia Carver Nonprofit Genetic Testing Laboratory provides genetic testing for rare eye diseases, especially diseases so rare that commercial tests are unavailable for them. The laboratory's test results provide information to patients and their families while keeping the tests affordable.

**Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center**

The Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center (HCCC) coordinates the efforts of University of Iowa faculty and staff in research, education, and clinical programs related to all aspects of cancer. The HCCC is recognized by the National Cancer Institute as an NCI-designated cancer center and has comprehensive status, a designation that recognizes the depth and breadth of interdisciplinary cancer research activity taking place at the University of Iowa.

**UI Heart and Vascular Center**

The UI Heart and Vascular Center coordinates research and training programs related to cardiovascular diseases. It encompasses several programs: Program Project Grant on Integrative Neurobiology of Cardiovascular Function, Program Project Grant on Cerebral Blood Vessels, Program Project Grant on Oxidative Mechanisms in Vascular Disease, Program Project Grant on Genetic and Signaling Mechanisms in the Central Regulation of Blood Pressure, Program Project Grant on Airway Physiology and Pathophysiology in a Porcine CF Model, Program Project Grant on Gene Therapy for Cystic Fibrosis Lung Disease, a Leducq Foundation Consortium grant, and a Cystic Fibrosis Foundation research and development program. It also coordinates several training programs and a program of other interdisciplinary research supported by a number of individual project grants. The center occupies two floors of cardiovascular research laboratories and administrative offices in the Medical Research Center.