### APPENDIX 2

**CHECKLIST FOR DETERMINING IF RESEARCH PROJECT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOU AND FEASIBLE**

The following questions will guide your thinking about the feasibility of a research project. These are not the only questions you should ask but a good starting point.

#### A. WHAT KIND OF RESEARCH SHOULD I DO?

- □ Examine existing data for trends; explore differences in populations; analyze and describe in a correlational study the relationship between presenting problems, diagnostic findings, and treatment interventions?
- □ A clinical trial? (use a treatment group only or a controlled trial?)
- □ A case control study?
- □ A review of the literature in a specific disease process or treatment?
- □ An arm of an existing research project?
- □ Replicating another ongoing study or a portion of an ongoing study?
- □ Basic science or clinical science?
- □ Other?

_________________________________________________________________________

#### B. TIME AND RESOURCES?

- □ Do I have easy access to data or patients?
- □ Who are the available experts or mentors with the time and experience to guide and support my research?
- □ What will I need and expect from that person or persons?
- □ How long do I have or want to take to conduct this research?
- □ Other: ________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

#### C. DATA ACCESS OPTIONS

- □ Am I generating pilot data?
- □ Are pilot data available that can guide my research design development?
- □ Is there pilot data that can be analyzed in a different way?
- □ Is there existing data in an electronic form that I can analyze such as a national survey or other national or local data base?
- □ Other

_________________________________________________________________________

#### D. END POINTS AND PRODUCTS

- □ Will I publish or present the findings?
- □ What is the benefit or value to osteopathic medicine or health care consumers?
- □ Is there a cost-benefit issue to address for this research project?
- □ What do I expect of myself during and after the project?
- □ Other ________________________________________________________________
E. OTHER RESOURCES

☐ Do I have a biostatistician available to consult on data management and analysis?
☐ Am I trained in Human Subjects protection issues, IRB procedures, and/or have access to a clinical research coordinator to assist in data collection, and study reports/reviews?
☐ Other

F. MY OWN SKILLS

☐ Do I want to do this?
☐ Do I have or can I acquire the basic skill and knowledge to accomplish my goals for this research project?
☐ Am I committed to doing this research project?
☐ Other

The next step is the design phase. Information about this can be found in other sections of the manual.

Note: The most often cited reason for not completing a study is lack of an adequate number of subjects. Rarely do published reports state that all subjects enrolled completed the trial. Furthermore some studies do not achieve their enrollment goals. Be very careful about this. It is a significant investment of time and other resources, and a potential source of frustration.

Checklist from:
The University of North Texas Health Science Center Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine