



Robert Bearden, PhD

Director of Research, Technology
and Innovation

Smith & Nephew

A cell biologist by training, Robert's journey in the medical field began at an early age, as the son of a small practice veterinarian. Growing up in this environment, he developed a strong sense of compassion and a deep desire to contribute to the medical field. After completing his undergraduate studies at Texas A&M University, he embarked on a career supporting trauma and reconstructive orthopedic surgeries as a representative of Smith + Nephew. In this role, he worked closely with orthopedic surgeons, helping to evaluate surgical techniques and implant designs to support product development.

In pursuit of further knowledge and expertise, Robert decided to pursue a doctorate in biomedical science and regenerative medicine. His doctoral research was focused on enhancing the understanding of disease pathophysiology, promoting the healing cascade, and augmenting current standard of care practices. His contributions to the field earned him recognition in multiple peer-reviewed journals and medical textbooks.

Following the successful completion of his doctorate, Robert was invited back to Smith + Nephew as a Medical Science Liaison. Over the years, he steadily took on additional responsibilities, becoming Director of Global Content Development for medical education and later a Director of Research and Development in Biologics and Regenerative Medicine. In this role, he leads a team of researchers, supporting the product development process in the wound, orthopedic, and sports medicine sectors.