Office for Research & Graduate Education

Research News

Update on Research Activities
Gary Pierzynski, Associate Dean for Research & Graduate Education

Much has happened recently with regard to the pandemic. President Johnson announced that we should plan on maximizing our in-person course offerings this fall, new COVID infections have been going down, COVID vaccinations are slowly gaining speed, and a third vaccine received emergency use approval the last weekend of February. These are all positive signs that we are moving toward whatever the new normal will be although, as always, everything is contingent upon how the pandemic plays out. The new variants of the COVID virus may result in increased COVID infections, especially if we let our guard down too soon. To that end, I wanted to provide a quick update on research activities as we move toward summer activities and begin planning for the fall semester.

At present, we will not be requiring research activities to be approved through the exemption process as we did last spring. Department chairs and unit leaders are responsible for monitoring activities to ensure that appropriate safety measures are used in all research activities, including occupancy densities in buildings and use of personal protection equipment. Staff members supporting our research stations and central research services still need extra time to perform their normal duties due to the necessary safety requirements, and therefore have reduced capacity. Please be patient and communicate your needs well in advance to avoid negative issues. Individuals are personally responsible for maintaining proper safety measures. Last October I noted that we had successfully ramped up research activities across OSU without any increases in COVID infections, that continues, and let's try to maintain that excellent safety record. Thank you for all of your efforts for the CFAES research enterprise.

2021 (Virtual) Annual Research Poster Competition - Call for Judges

CFAES is pleased to announce the 2021 CFAES Annual Research Conference (Virtual) Poster Competition. All posters and recorded presentations will be judged from 3/29-4/4. These online materials will undergo a review during which they will be scored. Evaluations will be based on the abstract, poster content, design, and the recorded Sway presentation. Judges may register online by 3/17/21. Faculty members, postdocs and graduate students from all departments are invited to judge the research poster presentations. Judges will be asked to judge 4-6 presentations and posters. Questions? Please contact Dr. Pat R. Whittington.6 or Kayla Arnold.1065.

New! Growing Research Opportunities (GRO) Academy

The Office of Research invites self-nominations from all colleges to a new leadership development program: the Growing Research Opportunities (GRO) Academy. This program will equip faculty with skills needed to lead complex, interdisciplinary collaborations in pursuit of external funding. The GRO Academy is part of a developing set of multi-faceted programs designed to foster intellectually diverse, collaborative research across academic domains, catalyze new scholarly pursuits, and help generate compelling future funding proposals. The GRO Academy includes eight, 90-minute sessions and is primarily aimed at mid-career faculty, although tenured/tenure track faculty of any rank may self-nominate. Learn More

Funding Opportunities

As funding opportunities are announced we will compile a full list of opportunities on our website. The web page will be updated periodically as new opportunities are discovered.

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) - ARPA-E's OPEN 2021

In support of the Biden Administration's climate innovation agenda, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced up to $100 million in funding for transformative clean energy technology research and development via ARPA-E's OPEN 2021 funding opportunity.

Concept Paper Deadline: April 6, 2021

Ohio Sea Grant Issues Request for Proposals for 2022-2024 Research Projects

Ohio Sea Grant is requesting pre-proposals for one- to two-year research projects on Great Lakes issues with significance to Lake Erie and its watershed. Pre-proposals must be submitted online by 5 p.m. on 3/25/21. Main priorities for funding include: Aquaculture, Marine Debris and Emerging Contaminants, Economics and Coastal Community Development, Climate Change Resiliency, Healthy Coastal Ecosystems, and Hypoxia.

Pre-Proposal Deadline: March 25, 2021

AFRI for New Investigators

New Investigator grant opportunities are offered in the AFRI Foundational and Applied Science Request for Applications. This RFA covers two grant review cycles, one with 2021 deadlines and one with 2022 deadlines. Applications received under the 2021 deadlines receive funding from FY 2021 and FY 2022 budgets will be used. For the 2022 review cycle, funding from FY 2022 and FY 2023 budgets.

View All Funding Opportunities

News

Register for the CFAES Annual Research Conference

The CFAES Annual Research Conference will take place on Thursday, April 8, 2021 (virtually) beginning at 12:30 pm and concluding at 2 pm. The agenda will consist of a question and answer session with Dr. Rattan Lal, 2020 World Food Prize Laureate, announcements of the research award winners, an update on the CFAES research enterprise, and the annual poster competition for graduate and undergraduate students.

Register Now

Workday – Principal Investigators Dashboard

The reports on this dashboard are based on the principal investigator or co-investigator roles assigned to the user logged in and viewing the information. View the available reports at: https://admin.resources.osu.edu/workday/workday-for-managers-and-leaders/reporting-summary-for-principal-investigators

The Enterprise Project recorded several courses that are now available in video format in BuckeyeLearn. Here are two that might be of interest: Workday: Grant Management Reporting and Analysis and Workday: The Grant Management Dashboard for Principal Investigator.

NIH Resource: Writing a Winning Application—Write To Excite

Create a winning application by keeping its audience—your peer reviewers—in mind as you anticipate and address their questions about your project's significance and innovation. Check It Out

New F&A Rates to go into Effect July 1

Ohio State has completed negotiations with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on a new 4-year Facilities and Administrative (F&A) rate agreement. These new rates should be used in proposals for awards that begin on or after July 1, 2021 and will apply through the end of Fiscal Year 2024 or until a new agreement is established. The Office of Sponsored Programs will work with sponsors to obtain the new F&A rate on current awards whenever possible. However, if additional funds cannot be obtained, direct costs will be protected and will not be reduced to cover the increase in the F&A rate, unless it is required by a sponsor.
Learn More

New Institutional Data Website Launched

The Office of Research recently formed the Office of Strategic and Competitive Intelligence (OSCI) focused on supporting the university's research and academic enterprise by providing data analytics services on the research landscape, funding trends, and industry intelligence. The office also includes the institutional research team that supports the university's accreditation process and external data reporting. OSCI recently launched a collaborative campus data resource, facts.osu.edu, which provides access to validated and publicly reported institutional data. This site will continue to evolve as new data is released and new dashboards are developed. Please email us if you have suggestions for future dashboards and other data analytics projects
Visit Website

SCRI Seeks Industry Relevance Reviewers

NIFA's Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) program is seeking representatives from the specialty crop industry to serve as reviewers of industry relevance for SCRI applications. The specialty crop industry requested a separate relevancy review, and Congress included this requirement in the 2014 Farm Bill. The additional review ensures that proposals submitted for scientific merit review are focused on topics that are current and relevant to industry needs.

NIFA is seeking help from the specialty crop industry to help us accomplish this review. We have need for industry representatives from these areas: fruiting vegetables, produce food safety, turf, pollinators, tropical crops, non-fruit tree crops, coffee, mushrooms, and hops.

What is required:

- Read and evaluate up to 15 Stakeholder Relevance Statements and submit reviews in NIFA's online Peer Review System. There is no need to travel to participate.
- Participate in a review panel conference call of approximately one hour to agree on ranking of proposals with each topic group.
- The estimated time commitment is between 10 to 15 hours.
- We are currently filling gaps for the 2021 process.

To volunteer, contact one of the following NIFA staff members, Dr. Tom Bewick or Megan O'Reilly.

Please note: Those who are part of a team submitting a proposal to SCRI in the current year cannot serve on the relevancy review team. If you are interested in participating in future years, contact the staff members listed above, and you will be added to a database of potential reviewers.

New Investigator Grants

An individual beginning a career, who does not have an extensive scientific publication record, and has less than five years postgraduate career-track experience, is encouraged to submit as a New Investigator for research, education, and/or extension activities. New Investigator grant opportunities are described below. The new investigator may not have received competitively awarded Federal research funds as Project Director, except for pre- or postdoctoral grants and AFRI Seed Grants. However, Federal funding an applicant received as Co-PD of previously awarded competitive grants does not count against New Investigator eligibility.

Starting in FY 2021, there are two types of New Investigator Grants available:

- The first is a **Standard Grant** (i.e., New Investigator Standard Grant), which is a Standard Grant application in all respects, except that the Project Director (PD) meets the eligibility criteria described previously for New Investigators. These are reviewed with all other Standard Grant applications submitted to the respective program area priority, with special consideration given by NIFA program staff to funding of New Investigator Standard Grant applications that fall below the funding line. In these cases, the New Investigator box must be checked under FASE on the AFRI Project Type form.
- Individuals qualifying as New Investigators are also eligible to apply for a **Seed Grant** (i.e., New Investigator Seed Grants described subsequently) regardless of institutional affiliation and eligibility for Strengthening Grants.
- An individual applicant may submit only one Seed Grant as PD during the current fiscal year.
- New Investigators also may only receive one New Investigator Seed Grant as PD during their career.
- New Investigator Seed Grant applications will be reviewed with other Seed Grant applications submitted to the respective program area priority with special consideration given to funding of New Investigator Seed Grant applications.
- In these cases, both the New Investigator and Seed Grant boxes should be checked under FASE on the AFRI Project Type form.
- More information about seed grants is located on the AFRI RFA Resources page under AFRI Grant Types in the attachments list.

For either type of New Investigator Grant, eligibility requirements for a New Investigator apply only to the PD and not to Co-PDs or collaborators.

If you still have questions, please consult the AFRI Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) Grants for New Investigators Frequently Asked Questions or email afri@usda.gov.

Grant Writing 101: Writing a Grant Proposal for Private Funders

Join the Office of Foundation Relations on March 9 at 3 p.m. to learn about writing effective grant proposals, identifying potential funders and navigating the application process. While the focus of this training is on private foundations, much of the information is applicable to proposal development and grant-seeking broadly. Check It Out

R&GE Award Management Resources

Check out the new Award Management page of the R&GE website.
It includes guidance on:
- Project Initiation
- Subawards/Subcontracts
- Requesting a Preliminary Project Number
- Project Performance
- Procurement (Purchases)
- Financial Statements
- No-Cost Extensions (NCE)
- Project Closeout

Check It Out

Recent Awards - CFAES R&GE Internal Grants Program

New Researcher Incentive Program

Guilherme Signorini – HCS, Luis Canas – ENT, Alex Lindsey – HCS, Amanda Bowling – ACEL: Specialty Crop Growers Attitudes and Motivations Towards Biopesticides

Ye Xia – Plant Path: Functional study of the role of the tomato cuticle in conferring defense against biotic stress

Ryan Winston – FABE, Sarah Short – ENT: Protecting Public Health through Vector Control and Stormwater Treatment: Locating Vulnerabilities in Stormwater Infrastructure that Support Mosquito Reproduction

Megan Meuti (Nicol) – ENT, Laura Pomeroy – EHS: Determining the relative contributions of mosquito biting behavior and seasonal responses in West Nile virus transmission

Melanie Lewis Ivey – Plant Path, Sally Miller – Plant Path, Pierce Paul – Plant Path: Impact of plant health and disease management practices on azole fungicide resistance development in Aspergillus fumigatus

Risa Pesapane – SENR, William Peterman – SENR: Predict-a-tick: A multi-scale modeling framework for predicting tick distribution and guiding surveillance

Rachel Gabor – SENR, Mazeika Sullivan – SENR: The Contribution of Microplastic to the Carbon Budget of Headwater Streams

Immediate Needs Program

Pierluigi Bonello – Plant Path, Chris Taylor – Plant Path: Micro-biotic DNA and RNA analysis to identify the true cause of beech leaf disease

Christopher Tonra – SENR, Steve Matthews – SENR: Assessing the risk to migratory birds of offshore wind on Lake Erie: prevalence and spatial distribution of lake-crossing behavior

Timothy McDermot – OSU Extension, Risa Pesapane – SENR: Tiny tick as giant threats: Evaluating the risk of tick-borne pathogens to humans and animals in Ohio agriculture

Guo-Liang Wang – Plant Path, Venkat Gopalan – Biochemistry, Vicki Wysocki – Chemistry: Exploiting ribonuclease P to engineer fungal-resistant rice and wheat cultivars

Qiuhong Wang – CFAH, Linda Saif – CFAH, Dehua Pei – Chemistry: Development of novel antiviral drug and vaccine candidates to fight COVID-19
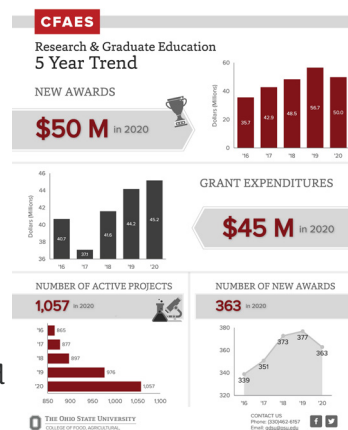
Joshua Blakeslee – HCS, Guo-Liang Wang – Plant Path, Emmanouil Chatzakis – FST: Identification of novel metabolites for plant resistance

Intellectual Property Accelerator Program

Gireesh Rajashekara – CFAH: Lactobacillus rhamnosus GG (LGG) and its derived peptides to reduce avian pathogenic Escherichia coli (APEC) and Salmonella infections in poultry

New CFAES Research Inforgraphics Available

The CFAES Office for Research and Graduate Education has released the 5-Year Research Trend and individual departmental research infographics. Research infographics highlight CFAES research expenditures, submissions, awards, and projects taking place over the course of the past fiscal year. This is the first year for the 5-year and the departmental infographics, which will be released annually in the future as a summation of the accomplishments of the researchers working in our college. Questions regarding any data listed in the infographics can be directed to Lori Kaser.37. Check It Out

Educational Opportunities

Foreign Engagement with Research and Collaborations: An Evolving Environment

This webinar will provide an overview of current research security concerns, disclosure requirements ,and resources. 3/23 | 2-3 p.m.

Learn More

Advancing Culturally Responsive Research and Researchers Conference

An opportunity for discussion of the ways research methods impact cultural relevance and sustainability of scholarly research. 6/2-4

Learn More

Upcoming Events

March 1-4 Various	**USDA AFRI Informational Webinars** Learn more about funding opportunities in the USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)
March 2 1:00-3:30 p.m.	**NSF Webinar** What NSF is (and isn't), the history/structure, funding mechanisms and opportunities, and tips for success
Thursdays in March 12:00-1:00 p.m.	**Library Research and Writing Workshops** Freshen up your research and writing skills with the Wooster Campus Research Library