

Office for Research & Graduate Education

Research News

The Great Balancing Act

Gary Pierzynski, Associate Dean for Research & Graduate Education

For research, 2020 will be remembered as the year of the great balancing act. How do we minimize the damage to our research programs while assuring that active research activities do not contribute to illness for ourselves, students, staff, or members of our households? The health issues are clearly the top priority and I greatly appreciate the cooperation as we rapidly came under increasing restrictions as to what activities we could maintain. My respect for the breadth and depth of the research that goes on in CFAES has only increased as I have addressed hundreds of questions about specific projects and the desire to continue.

As hard as it is, we must stop nearly all of our work in the best interest of helping to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Our progress will be slowed for sure, but we will assess the damage when the crisis is over, determine the best strategy for moving forward at that time, and get back up to speed as quickly as we can. Fortunately, granting agencies have already indicated leniency, tenure clocks have been paused, and it will be essential for us to work with our graduate students to minimize the delays in their progress. The need for our research is even more evident now and I am confident we will return to our previous levels of productivity and impact soon.

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.

Ohio Department of Agriculture, Specialty Crop Program

The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program provides funding for projects to enhance the competitiveness of crops such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, and nursery crops.

Deadline: April 30, 2020

COVID-19 Funding Opportunities

As the COVID-19 situation develops, the CFAES Office for Research & Graduate Education will compile relevant funding opportunities for our research community.

Deadline: Ongoing

AFRI Deadlines

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative has numerous program area priorities in the three Requests for Applications (RFAs) for fiscal year 2020.

Deadline: Program areas have separate deadlines, view [here](#).

[View All Funding](#)

News

Interdisciplinary Research Seed Grant Program Extended

Given the current COVID-19 pandemic, the deadline for the Infectious Disease Institute (IDI) Interdisciplinary Research Seed Grant Program applications is being extended to Friday, April 24, 2020. While the purpose of the program will remain to foster interdisciplinary research, IDI also encourages proposals addressing SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19.

Update on University Sponsored Travel

To clarify and expand on previous decisions, the university has suspended all university-sponsored international and non-essential domestic travel until further notice. All travel that has been scheduled through 6/30/20 must be cancelled and no new travel may be booked until further notice (as of 3/23/20).

Request a Research/Extension Exemption

The state of Ohio is under a “Stay at Home” order effective through at least April 6. This order may be extended, however, there are exemptions for activities that influence the entire food supply chain, ranging from agricultural production to grocery stores remaining open. Much of the Research and Extension work done by CFAES supports the food supply chain and natural resource base. We have sought exemption for a very limited number of CFAES Research & Extension activities in support of critical areas.

Signature Authority

Reminder: only a handful of people in the University are authorized to sign legally binding documents for sponsored projects on behalf of OSU. Contact Lori Kaser with questions.

New Financial Controls Enacted

Ohio State has implemented new controls on cash reserves and restrictions on procurement spending, as well as a temporary hiring pause, as financially prudent steps in response to the coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19).

Workday Release Update

Due to the uncertainty of the coronavirus outbreak, the University has made the difficult decision to extend the initial Workday releases by 6 months.

FY21 Fringe Rate Changes for Sponsored Projects

Faculty - 23.4%

Staff - 31.5%

Specials/ODP - 13.9%

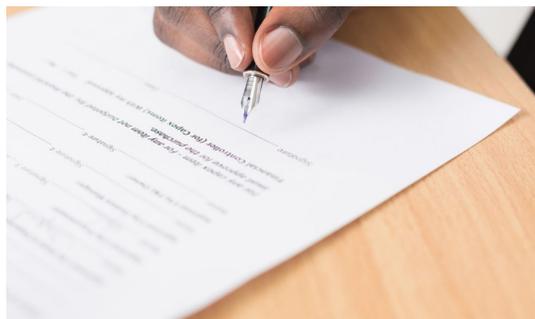
Students - 11.5%

Updates

CFAES Hemp Research

We have issued guidance on moving forward with your hemp project

[Read it Here](#)



No-Cost Extensions on Sponsored Projects

Request a No-Cost Extension (NCE) due to COVID-19

[Learn More](#)

Recent Awards

- **Tom Worley – Piketon South Center; \$1,100,000: Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), OH Development Services Agency.**
- **Chieri Kubota, Mark Kroggel – HCS; \$433,172: Improving the profitability and sustainability of indoor leafy-greens production, Michigan State University.**
- **William Peterman – SENR; \$78,000: Effects of wildfire on salamander populations, National Park Services.**
- **Judit Puskas – FABE; \$113,128: Collaborative research: Polymer macrocycles A novel topology to control dynamics of rubbery materials, U.S. Department of Energy.**
- **Oswaldo Campanella – FST; \$22,686: Innovative green clean-in-place technology with micro-bubbles, Purdue University.**
- **Theresa Ferrari – Extension; \$22,000: Ohio 4-H health heroes: Advocates for healthy living (Walmart healthy habits), National 4-H Council.**
- **Richard Dick – SENR; \$43,881: Optimized shrub system (OSS): An innovation for improving cowpea yields and strengthening smallholder resilience in Senegal, Michigan State University.**
- **Henry Klaiber – AEDE; \$352,097: Thriving agricultural systems in urbanized landscapes, Penn State University.**
- **Hannah Scott, Tom Worley – Piketon South Center; \$161,632: 2019 North Central Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education (SARE), University of Minnesota.**

Award Notification

As a reminder for federally funded awards, you are required to **disclose in writing to OSU's Office of Technology Commercialization all inventions** conceived or first actually reduced to practice in the performance of work under this award. In accordance with the 1/16/20 email from Dr. Morley Stone, all PIs and Co-Is on federally funded awards are required to sign a one-time agreement acknowledging assignment of IP rights to Ohio State. New project numbers will not be assigned until the agreement has been signed by each PI/Co-I.

Upcoming Events

April 6-10
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Qualtrics & Excel - Program Registration & Data Management

Collecting, managing, evaluating, and reporting on information about our clientele with Qualtrics & Excel.

April 8 - May 27
Wednesdays from 12:30 - 1:00

Staying well and calm in the midst of the COVID-19 storm

Build important knowledge and skills to sustain your well-being as we experience the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

April 7
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Purchasing on Sponsored Programs

Introduction to the similarities and differences of purchasing on sponsored programs and general funds.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Research & Graduate Ed.



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