Research News

Enhancing our Research Enterprise
Gary Pierzynski, Associate Dean for Research & Graduate Education

What is the impact of our research? Some would suggest the impact is the application which can be defined as intentional efforts to apply existing knowledge in contexts beyond academia. It frequently involves translating existing knowledge into a form where it can be easily understood or used by others. While most of us get great satisfaction from publishing our research in a peer-reviewed journal, that is at best an indication of potential impact. Evidence of true impact could include wide-spread adoption of water quality best management practices with measurable improvements in water quality, adoption of improved eating habits with measurable improvement in biometrics, utilization of a food preservation technology by industry, increasing populations for an endangered species or for pollinators, and many more. Often, these are much more difficult to produce than another peer-reviewed journal article, or not easily measured, and involve an exploration of factors outside of our area of expertise that impede adoption or utilization of new knowledge. In fact, identifying and overcoming barriers to adoption and utilization is a research area in itself and may require combining expertise in diverse areas such as genetics, social science, and economics, for example. Of course, as the cornerstone college of a major land grant university, translating research into impact is our strength. Our Extension mission, and more recently the Knowledge Exchange (see https://kx.osu.edu/), are adept at increasing the impact of our research, but cooperation from the research community to ensure that the knowledge covers the last mile is essential.

Another enhancement you will be hearing more about in the near future are efforts to increase our success at competing for major grants and competitive centers. This will involve enhanced institutional support for such endeavors but will also require a more proactive approach on the part of faculty to begin preparations for grant writing much farther in advance than usual. One aspect of being more proactive would be to begin grant preparation well in advance of the release of a request for proposals and resisting our tendency to be motivated by known deadlines. Additional details will be forthcoming. In the meantime, begin thinking about how you can spend more of your time on tasks that do not appear to be urgent right now, but are extremely important in the long run. Please stay healthy and safe. Thank you for your research efforts.

Update on Research Activities

At this time, no additional restrictions on research activities have been implemented.
- Researchers are strongly encouraged to work from home as much as possible, consider pausing existing research, and consider delaying the initiation of any new research activities, particularly if that research involves a significant investment to get started.
- Please only consider continuing work that, if not completed, would result in significant loss or delay of critical research or produce significant delays in the progress of a graduate student or post-doc.
- On-going research with live animals, cultures, incubations, or greenhouse activities should continue.
- Utilize all relevant health and safety precautions.

Research was reopened over the spring and summer without producing significant issues with the spread of COVID, and that success established a record that is allowing us to remain open under the current conditions. Please continue to be vigilant. As always, the situation may change on short notice and we will keep you updated on any developments that impact research.

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.

Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI)

SCRI awards support research & extension that addresses challenges of national, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining food and agriculture, including conventional & organic food production systems.
Deadline: January 26, 2021

Affordable Learning Exchange Grants

ALX awards grants to instructors who want to transform their courses using open and affordable materials. Grant winners will begin work on March 1, 2021, and will implement their revised courses in the '21-'22 academic year.
Deadline: December 21, 2020

Postdoctoral Enrichment Program (PDEP)

PDEP provides a total of $60,000 over three years to support the career development activities for underrepresented minority postdoctoral fellows in a degree-granting institution in the United States or Canada whose training and professional development are guided by mentors committed to helping them advance to stellar careers in biomedical or medical research. This grant is meant to supplement the training of postdocs whose research activities are already supported. It is not a research grant.
Deadline: January 14, 2021

View All Funding Opportunities

News

The Bug Zoo Has a New Name

The board approved naming the bug zoo, which will be located in the Wooster Science Building on the Wooster campus, the United Titanium Bug Zoo in recognition of significant support from C. Michael Reardon and Stephanie Reardon to the college.

The Scoop on Matching Funds

Any funder may require that an applicant "match" or "cost share" some portion or all the funds that they request. A one to one match is common. When a federal grant requires the applicant to match funds, there are standard regulations that govern what can be counted as match and how these funds must be documented. Additionally, grant agreements may specify what sources of matching funds can be used and the degrees to which types of matching funds are allowed. For all federal funders, match must be from a non-federal source. Simply put, "match" or "cost share" is the non-federal share of costs that the applicant or the applicant's partners/subawards are required to contribute to accomplish the purposes of the grant. Want some tips for acquirirng match? Give Me the Scoop

USDA NIFA SCRI Continuing Resolution Match Requirement Update:

Under the current Continuing Resolution (CR) the waiver of match for Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) is extended. However, since awards are anticipated following the date of expiration of the CR and the authorizing language requires match, the RFA for SCRI pre-applications does not include mention of the waiver. Should the waiver language be included in future appropriations legislation, then the SCRI full-applications RFA will include that language that gives NIFA the waiver authority. Learn More

Carbon Management Center Named

The board approved naming the Center for Carbon Management and Sequestration after Rattan Lal, alumnus and world-renowned scholar who serves as Distinguished University Professor of Soil Science and is founding director of the center. Read it Here

Bayh-Dole Act Obligation Reminder

The Bayh–Dole Act, also known as the Patent and Trademark Law Amendments Act, is federal legislation that specifies how intellectual property (IP) arising from federal government-funded research is handled. The act permits universities that receive federal funding to own IP and inventions that result from the research, rather than assigning inventions to the federal government. As a reminder, recent federal rule updates as part of this act, require that all Ohio State researchers – faculty, staff and students – that currently work on federal grants need to sign an agreement stating that any intellectual property that comes out of federally sponsored research will be assigned to Ohio State. Learn More

ARPA-E OPEN Funding Opportunity Information Session

In anticipation of the release of ARPA-E's 2021 OPEN Funding Opportunity Announcement, the Office of Research and the Technology Commercialization Office will offer an information session at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 17, via Zoom. The session will feature perspectives from previous awardees, a former ARPA-E program officer and experts in technology-to-market processes. Register | Contact | Learn More

Extended Guidance for Applicants Preparing Applications During the COVID-19 Pandemic

NIH grant applications should NOT include contingency plans that would outline steps needed to recover from temporary, emergency situations, or institutional return-to-the-workplace plans, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Contingency plans will not be considered in peer review but, if needed, COVID-19 contingency plans will be requested and carefully considered by NIH staff before funding. Reviewers will continue to receive instruction to assume that temporary, emergency problems arising from the COVID-19 pandemic will be resolved and complications related to COVID-19 should not affect their scores. Reviewers will be instructed to disregard situations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, e.g., temporary declines in productivity, availability of key personnel, proposed patient populations, animal facility shutdowns, etc. This guidance has been extended until further notice, as announced in NOT-OD-21-026.

East African Integrated Pest Management Work Continues with Pandemic Precautions

Despite having to scale back due to COVID-19 restrictions, The East African Vegetable Crop Integrated Pest Management Innovation Lab (EAVCIPM-IL) continues to develop, implement, and scale-up IPM technologies for tomato, onion, African eggplant, cabbage, chilies, and beans. Read it Here

OSU Wooster Grad Students, Visiting Scholars Lead Honduras Hurricane Relief Drive

After two hurricanes hit Honduras within two weeks, two members of the Entomology Department at OSU Wooster, grad student Ana Trabanino Pino and visiting scholar Erick Martinez Rodriguez, put out a call for donations. In less than a week, they rented a 20-foot truck (after receiving too much bedding, tents, clothing, medicine etc. than could fit into a smaller truck) and drove it to Indianapolis. There, a fellow grad of The Zamorano Pan-American Agricultural School received supplies from various alumni to be consolidated in a shipping container to provide relief to the country where the university is located. They were aided in collecting by fellow alums Amílcar Vargas, Louceline Fleuridor, Luis Huezo Sanchez, as well as by Alejandra Jimenez, Alexander Tebbe, Melissa Rodriguez, all of OSU Wooster. Jose Vazquez Valdez, an employee at Schaeffler, the auto parts manufacturer in Wooster, and The Vault, a nearby nightclub supportive of Latin American music that has itself experienced flooding, also helped in collecting. Learn More

Important Workday Updates for Those With a Sponsored Project

12/7: Last Day to Submit eTravel
After this date, all requests for travel must be made by Spend Authorization in Workday on or after January 7, 2020.

12/9: Last Day OSP can Process Corrections to Personnel Appointments on Existing Awards for Time Periods Before September 2020.

12/10: Last Day to Submit Corrections to Personnel Changes on Existing Awards for September, October, and November 2020.

12/11: Last Day to Make Changes to Already Existing Awards
Examples of changes include end date extensions or adding funds. You can continue to spend on the awards after December 11.

12/11: Last Day Your SPO can Enter Information on Submitted Proposals that will be Viewable in the PI Portal
Any proposal information added or updated after this date will not be viewable in the PI Portal or eActivity until mid-January. You are still able to submit proposals.

12/14: Last Day to Submit a Request for Purchase (eRequest)
After this date, all requests for purchases must be made in Workday on or after January 7. Plan ahead, but there will be a process in place for emergency orders.

12/18: Last Day Your SPO can Create a New Award in Peoplesoft
Any new awards submitted after December 18 will not be processed until January 6.

12/28: First Day You can Use New Research PNC Cards for Purchases

1/7: First Day OSP can Create a New Award in Workday

1/19: First Day OSP can Make Changes to Existing Awards in Workday
Examples of changes include end date extensions, adding funding, or creating a new grant (project).

The CFAES Office for Research & Graduate Education Wants to Wish You and Yours

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Recent Awards

Aradhya Gourapura – FAHRP, $88,120: A multi-species vaccine delivery platform for infectious disease prevention and control in livestock, Cornell University

Steve Culman, Christine Sprunger – SENR, Ryan Haden – ATI, Barry Ward – AEDE, Mark Sulc – HCS, $1,776,905: Organic dual-use perennial grain crops: Pathways to profitability and soil health, National Institute of Food & Agriculture

Sayeed Mehmood – SENR, $16,361: Urban and community forestry economic impact analysis, North Carolina State University

Alex Lindsey – HCS, Christine Sprunger – SENR, $500,000: After the flood: Impacts on rhizosphere biology, nutrient cycling, and corn growth and yield, National Institute of Food & Agriculture

Marilia Chiavegato – AS, $13,488: Effect of recurring flooding on greenhouse gas emissions, soil C and N contents and forage quality in grazing and hay fields, University of Minnesota

Melanie Ivey – PP, Sanja Ilic – Human Sciences, $110,065: Establishing science-based water quality and sanitation guidelines for deep flow technology specialty crop production systems, Ohio Department of Agriculture

Jonathan Jacobs, Jason Slot – PP, $110,000: Microbiome based improvement of mushroom cultivation, Ohio Department of Agriculture

Zhongtang YU, Alejandro Relling – AS, $496,000: An innovative approach to improve nitrogen utilization in ruminants, National Institute of Food & Agriculture

Eric Barrett – Extension, $78,000: (CARES) Supporting the re-opening and continued operation of local food growers and marketers in Mahoning County, Ohio, Mahoning County Board of Commissioners

Eric Richer, Glen Arnold – Extension, $74,600: Improving phosphorus placement by composting solid manure, Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Management

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New & Newsworthy

November 2020 Grant Writing News
Newsletter tailored to the research & creative inquiry comunity

Check it Out

FY21 AFRI Sustainable Ag Systems Webinar
Program staff will review and explain the RFA, plus Q&A

Register

RAPID, EAGER, and RAISE Proposal Types Now Available in Research.gov

National Science Foundation (NSF) has enabled three new proposal types (Rapid Response Research (RAPID), Early-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER), and Research Advanced by Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering (RAISE)) to be submitted in the Research.gov Proposal Submission System. New automated compliance checks and associated error and warning messages were also implemented. New and updated system-related Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are available on the Research.gov About Proposal Preparation and Submission page via the left navigation menu.
Take Me There

Growing Research Opportunities (GRO) – Ideation Workshops

The Office of Research is offering a multi-faceted program to help position Ohio State for research excellence in new areas. Phase one of GRO includes facilitation support for ideation workshops to support interdisciplinary research teams developing ideas for new funding pursuits. Additional details about the application process and instructions can be found here: https://go.osu.edu/gro2021.

Interested teams are required to e-mail Jeff Agnoli (Agnoli.1@osu.edu) stating their intent to apply no later than midnight on December 15, 2020. Jeff will arrange a brief call to ensure your idea is appropriate for this competition and to discuss the virtual workshop process and expectations. Proposals must be submitted by 5 p.m. EST on Friday, January 29, 2021.

Upcoming Events

December 10 1:00–2:00 p.m.	**Research Data Management Seminar** Basics of research data management and practical recommendations about RDM tools and resources at OSU
Anytime - Recorded Presentation	**Introduction to Data Visualization** Learn how data "viz" and its associated tools can help you analyze and make sense of the info you have gathered
Anytime - Recorded Presentation	**Tableau for Data Visualization** Ways to engage your audience, using interesting visualizations to explore & explain your datasets
December 18 2:00–4:00 p.m.	**Engaging Students in a Covid World** The Retention Task Force is presenting a panel discussion on best practices for engaging students in a Covid World.