

Office for Research & Graduate Education

Research News

Update: The Status of Research in CFAES

Gary Pierzynski, Associate Dean for Research & Graduate Education

I hope the CFAES research community is enjoying a healthy and productive summer, one of our busiest times of the year, with the added need for some of you to do additional preparation work for your teaching and Extension duties. Thank you for all that you do for our students, the research community, and the citizens of Ohio.

I wanted to provide a brief update on the status of research in CFAES. Ohio State is currently in stage 3 of the reopening process which allows for limited laboratory work. I am pleased to report there have been no significant issues related to our slow increase in research activity and no reports of COVID-19 related illness attributed to conducting lab or field work. Some faculty will be allowed to return to their offices beginning July 13 (subject to change) as part of the Stage 4 research reopening process as well as the CFAES general reopening plan. Everyone is reminded to use the appropriate health precautions. Ultimately, individuals must ensure that proper measures are in place and followed as close oversight will not be possible. This past week my professional society decided to use a completely virtual format for our annual meeting this Fall, and I expect most of yours have or will do this as well. The valuable scientific interactions with our colleagues will be missed but hopefully will be allowed soon.

Finally, many of you have heard about pending budget cuts due to reduced state tax revenue. We are still waiting for additional details, which is typical under such circumstances, even though the new fiscal year has already begun. For research, budget cuts would primarily affect the state funding for the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station and not our federal capacity funds. I have prepared scenarios covering up to a 20% reduction in funding while attempting to maintain some of our key programs such as the SEEDS grant funding and our college level associateships and fellowships. As is also typical under such circumstances, you plan for scenarios that are worse than what is likely to occur. Details will be shared when the budget is finalized. Please stay healthy and continue the great work you do for CFAES.

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.

Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative

Collaborative and innovative research that will lay the foundation for expanding knowledge concerning genomes and phenomes of crops and animals of importance to the agriculture sector of the U.S.

Deadline: July 15, 2020

2020 Norman E. Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship

Fellowships for individuals from eligible countries who specialize or have experience in agricultural education, research, extension, or other related fields. Fellowships promote food security and economic growth in eligible countries by educating a new generation of agricultural scientists, increasing scientific knowledge and collaborative research to improve agricultural productivity, and extending that knowledge to users and intermediaries in the marketplace.

Deadline: August 7, 2020

[View All Funding Opportunities](#)

News

New CFAES Brand Elements Available

The marketing and communications team provides resources including branded templates, graphics, patterns, logos and other items for download. Through these resources we strive to increase college visibility, while maintaining alignment with the University, and providing creative freedom. Visit [CFAES marketing and communications site](#). Visit [CFAES Brand site](#). View new [#TogetherAsBuckeyes](#) elements.

Updates from the CFAES Office of Research & Graduate Ed

Staffing increased in July 2020 due to the transfer of existing CFAES staff into the team, enabling expanded services: Proposal development activity has increased by more than 100% since this time last year. [Meet the Team](#)

Color coded proposal team reviews are now available: Color coded reviews provide constructive, unbiased feedback to improve overall proposal quality and competitiveness with the goal of getting proposals into the “FUND” category. A Red Team Review will provide a competitive edge during the funders panel review process. [Learn More](#)

Post-award management services available: Services are available to keep principal investigators and department staff up-to-date and ensure compliance with guidelines and regulations as well as assist in financial planning for critical areas. GDSU works across all disciplines, departments, and Extension with the goal of making the proposal development process as straightforward and streamlined as possible. Visit us today at <https://grants.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/home>, click on “request services button” for proposal support. [Visit Us](#)

Returning to Campus Research Labs and Studios Training

Complete the University required training “Returning to Campus Research Labs and Studios Training” prior to beginning any activities. View it, [here](#). Then, complete the Attestation Form, available [here](#). Any Stage 1 and Stage 2 researcher who has not completed the PDF version may do so in DocuSign (and if someone completed the PDF version and would like to redo it in DocuSign for department verification, they may (recommended).

Workday Grant Administration

As a result of the Workday extension, new due dates have been established leading up to go-live. Workday HR and Payroll will go live on January 3, 2021 and Workday Finance and Supply Chain will go live on January 7, 2021. Learn more, [here](#). For questions on workday grants administration please contact our GDSU Post-Award specialists, [John Mackie.2@osu.edu](mailto:John.Mackie.2@osu.edu) or [Laura Keesor.1@osu.edu](mailto:Laura.Keesor.1@osu.edu).

A Note from the CFAES Advancement Team

180 Day Holds: Effective July 1, 2020, all 180-day holds on current use gifts will be removed and all held funds will be released, including any current Advancement gift agreements. Starting July 1, all current use gifts will be made available at the beginning of the month following the date of the gift and usable toward advancing academic, medical and community initiatives, and positively impacting student success. For example, a gift made on July 15 will be available the beginning of August. Researchers with questions about monies in the 180 day hold of gift funds (3xxxxx) can start with their own fiscal officers, who are also aware of this change. If their fiscal officer needs help, they will then reach out to staff in our Advancement office.

June Edition of the Research Development & Grant Writing News - Now Available!

We invite you to access the June 2020 issue of Research Development & Grant Writing News. This monthly newsletter contains both articles and links to resources on disciplinary subjects of interest and is provided via a monthly subscription through the Office of Research.

- Topics in Brief Proposal Writing Best Practices and the NSF ERC – Best practices in grant writing apply to NSF ERC proposals.
- Characteristics of an Effective Proposal Team Member – How to be an effective member of a proposal development team.
- Agency updates, new funding opportunities, and much more. Read it, [here](#).

Embellished credentials in grant application lead to problems with agency

Studies indicate that “embellishing” credentials in job applications – such as falsified credentials – is widespread. Such claims in a grant application can lead to serious problems for the principal investigator with the agency, including loss of funding, suspension and debarment. [Read More](#)

Impact on Existing NSF Deadline Dates

Proposers are advised that NSF will be extending the deadline date for the solicitations or Dear Colleague Letters (DCLs) listed in the table, [here](#). Additional solicitations or DCLs may be added to the list, so proposers are strongly encouraged to check [NSF's website](#) regularly. Deadlines for published program descriptions, announcements, solicitations and DCLs that do not appear on the list remain unchanged.

USDA Coronavirus Website

Visit www.usda.gov/coronavirus for up-to-date information on USDA services and resources. This page includes frequently asked questions, USDA actions in response to COVID-19, and additional resources from CDC, FEMA, and other agencies. [Learn more](#) about the latest actions from USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Rural Development, and other agencies.

OMB Issues New Memo

On June 18, 2020 OMB issued M-20-26 to extend two flexibilities to provide administrative relief for recipients of Federal financial assistance directly impacted by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). (Addresses salary and other project activities on federal awards) The Memorandum also rescinds M-20-17 and M-20-20 (M-20-11 expires on July 26,2020). [Read More](#)

Recent Awards

Maria Soledad Benitez Ponce – Plant Path, Allison Bennett – EEOB, Sanja Ilic – EHE, Melanie Ivey – Plant Path, Uttara Samarakoon – ATI, Chris Taylor – Plant Path; \$547,260: Plant-microbiome networks impact plant productivity and mitigate plant disease and food safety risks in hydroponic production, National Institute of Food & Agriculture

Aradhya Gourapura – FAHRP, Scott Kenney – FAHRP; \$148,878: Development of new swine reagents to broaden our understanding of immune correlates of protection and microbial pathogenesis, National Institute of Food & Agriculture

Melanie Ivey – Plant Pathology; \$125,640: Combining advanced spray technology with IPM tactics to sustain apple production, Iowa State University

Pierce Anderson Paul – Plant Pathology; \$186,114: Establishing the infrastructure to develop prediction tools for diseases and mycotoxins affecting corn to better inform management decisions (Ohio), USDA Agricultural Res Service

Jonathan Fresno Ramirez – HCS; \$500,000: Genomics-assisted germplasm construction for *Taraxacum kok-saghyz*, National Institute of Food & Agriculture

Kelly Royalty, Margaret Jenkins – Extension; \$228,160: 4-H health rocks! national mentoring, National 4-H Council

Beth Scheckelhoff, Emily Marrison, Larry Nye, Peggy Kirk, Chris Bruynis – Extension; \$33,613: Land leasing 101: Equipping women landowners and tenant farmers with farmland leasing knowledge and skills to reduce legal, financial, and human risk, University of Nebraska

OSU Office of Research COVID-19 Awards

Scott P. Kenney – FAHRP: Test nanoparticle vaccines for their ability to produce protective immune responses using swine as vaccine test candidates

Yongyang Cai – AEDE: Forecast the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the food and agricultural sectors of Ohio, and also on households during the post-outbreak recovery period through 2050

New & Newsworthy

Concerns of COVID-19 Research Theft

The FBI and CISA urge institutions to safeguard research

[Read More](#)



New OFFER Director - Brian Gwinn

Congratulations, Brian! Learn more about OFFER, [here](#).



[Learn More](#)

Upcoming Events

July 9
1:00–2:00 p.m.

What does it mean to be anti-racist?

Learn what it means to be actively anti-racist instead of passively non-racist and what it looks like in everyday life

July 10
11:00–12:30 p.m.

Understanding History, Understanding Ourselves:

Learn when to notify the IRB about unexpected events and other problems when research doesn't quite go as planned

July 23
Noon–1:00 p.m.

Faculty Forum on Equitable Hiring

Unpack the history that underlies present day anti-Asian racism and learn the unique ways these factors impact Asian and APIDA mental health today

Ongoing

Cybersecurity 4 You

Learn tips to securely navigate your digital life while earning exclusive Ohio State merchandise or security software to keep your personal devices safe.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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International Travel Restrictions

Recently, the US Federal Government placed additional restrictions on internationals entering the US. There are 3 specific proclamations that we are referring to:

- [April 22 Proclamation](#) (Initial suspension of immigration due to coronavirus)
- [May 29 Proclamation](#) (Affecting scholars from China having an F or J visa to study or conduct research in the US)
- [June 22 Proclamation](#) (Restricting travel of certain temporary workers until Dec. 31, 2020; affects some H-1B, H-2B, J, or L visas)

Below we have compiled some resources to help clarify the recent federal orders. Though what we've gathered thus far supports that these orders generally do not affect researchers with valid visas who are currently within the US, we do want to say that more details are being released which may impact statements made below. We will try to keep you all apprised of relevant updates and have also asked the Office of International Affairs to add (and maintain) updated information on their website.

We would like to assure you that both at Ohio State and within the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences we value the hard work and dedication of our international researchers. Whether you are a graduate student, postdoctoral scholar, faculty, or in another position, we truly appreciate the work that you all do and are here to support your efforts.

Further, note that the university is helping to advocate politically against these actions, for example with a [letter](#) sent to Representative Dave Joyce. Additionally, there is [a signed letter from June 2nd](#) advocating for the [Optional Practical Training \(OPT\) Program](#). There are also national partners advocating, such as the Association of American Universities (AAU) – you can read their latest statement [here](#).

How might this affect you?

We are awaiting more details about the May 29 order affecting scholars and institutions from China supporting the “military-civil fusion strategy.” This will potentially affect graduate students in F-1 status and postdocs/researchers in J-1 status. The State Department has not yet released a list of Chinese institutions or universities that will be impacted, but the State Department emphasized that it intended to work with a “scalpel” not a “baseball bat.”

The June 22 proclamation will mainly affect postdocs or graduate students who are currently trying to get J-1 or H-1B visas (to begin in fall 2020) or the recruiting of new international scholars. If you are a faculty member or PI hoping to recruit scholars from overseas, you should be aware that it will be difficult to do so until mid-2021 (or longer).

Unfortunately, we do not yet know what this might mean when traveling abroad, so we would advise our international folks (even those with a valid visa) to remain within the US for the current time, if possible. We do understand that there are some folks who have not been able to renew their expired/expiring visas due to facility closures related to coronavirus, however at this time we can only wait for these facilities to reopen. We also work closely with OIA to expedite applications where possible, but please understand they take time and some of these tasks may be outside of our influence.



International Travel Restrictions

If your visa is either due to expire prior to Dec. 31, 2020, has already expired, or you have specific questions about your immigration status, we suggest you contact the OSU Office of International Affairs (OIA) at iss@osu.edu. If you have general questions or are not sure who to contact, feel free to reach out to your department's international affairs coordinator, [Poppy Thornton](#) (at CFAES International Programs in Agriculture), or [Kayla Arnold](#) (Office for Research and Graduate Education).

[Accessing Office of International Affairs services](#) (PDF)

