Update: Impact of the COVID crisis on CFAES Research Operations

Gary Pierzynski, Associate Dean for Research & Graduate Education

I wanted to provide a quick update on the impact of the COVID crisis on our research operations. Fortunately, we were able to approve some projects for continuation under the agricultural exemption for the stay at home order for Ohio. To date, we have approved over 200 requests for mostly field research for which a whole year of data would have been lost had we not been able to start soon. That number may seem high but is only a fraction of our normal activities, a testament to the productivity and work ethic of the faculty, students, and staff who do all of that work.

More recently, the Office of Research has released a reopening plan that defines five stages of research activities. The majority of OSU is at the first stage which basically involves only critical research under the most restrictive conditions. CFAES is at stage 2 as that phase allows for field and seasonal research. Stage 3 will allow a limited return to laboratory-based research activities, although only at 25% of our normal occupancy, and we hope that stage will begin during the last half of June. The timing and occupancy limits for future stages will depend on the success of the early stages.

There will still be a need for an exemption approval process after we enter Stage 3 and details will be available soon. We have also provided guidance to graduate students and their advisors suggesting that every student meet with their advisor for a check and assessment on progress toward graduation. Through all of this we have seen considerable evidence of the value of our research to our stakeholders and the scientific community as a whole. Thank you for your contributions and for your patience as we slowly begin to resume our research programs.

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.

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

Enable and improve distance learning and telemedicine services to increase rural access to education, training, and health care resources for students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents.

**Deadline: July 13, 2020**

National Institute of General Medicine Sciences

Predictive models for the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and other related infectious agents. Repurposing or modification of diagnostic tools currently under development to enable rapid detection of SARS-CoV-2 infections; rapid development of potential therapeutic agents for COVID-19 (SBIR/STTR grants only).

**Deadline: Rolling, through February 6, 2021**
The Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) activities during the COVID-19 pandemic: The IBC is supportive of research efforts involving SARS-CoV-2. Any research that includes handling samples with the virus or research with the virus requires IBC review. To help expedite these reviews, the IBC is meeting on an as needed basis via videoconferencing to review these new protocols and amendments. A guidance document is now available to assist with protocol preparation. Read More

Maintaining Export Compliance during the COVID-19 Emergency: Federal regulations require that Export Controlled Information not be shared with foreign persons in the U.S. or abroad without first determining if an export license is required and if necessary obtaining one from the U.S. government. To comply with this requirement, and make the risk associated with export controlled activity manageable, the university implements TCPs that describe and document the steps necessary to protect export controlled information. Read More

Office of Research develops website for international collaborations: To help promote the highest standards of ethical research and scholarly pursuits, the Office of Research recently developed a web page for International Collaborations with tools and resources to help researchers better understand the current regulatory landscape and requirements regarding foreign affiliations, disclosures and conflicts of interest. We encourage you to review these resources to help remain compliant with federal and university regulations. Read More

ECoI Annual Disclosure

For those that have not, this is just a friendly reminder to complete this required form. To access the disclosure please visit http://go.osu.edu/coi. We have heard of some difficulties when filling out the form using Internet Explorer. If this happens, please consider using Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox. For more information about this year’s form and some helpful tips please visit https://orc.osu.edu/regulations-policies/coi/econi/.

Recent Awards

Jeffrey Dick - OSU Extension; $3,825: Conservation club grant- Montgomery County 4-H, Ohio Department of Natural Resources.


Margaret Kalcic - FABE; $225,254: Quantifying the water quality benefits of integrated conservation practices, USDA ARS.
Kichoong Lee - Animal Science; $200,000: Characterization of CRISPR/Cas9-mediated myostatin knockout quail, USDA National Institute of Food & Agriculture.

Nicole Sintov - SENR; $17,117: INFEWS/T3 RCN: Cultivating a national collaborative for research on food, energy, and water education (NC-FEW), University of Nebraska.

Laura Lindsey - HCS; $55,000: Sulfur & foliar fertilizer value for soybeans, Ohio Soybean Council.

Laura Lindsey - HCS; $1,494,969: To research the development and evaluation of pathways to net-zero emission agriculture and cropping systems, Sloan (Alfred P) Foundation.

Linda Lobao - SENR, Mark Partridge - AEDE; $41,296: Technical assistance for supporting energy transitions in coal regions; Socioeconomic transition: One country case study, The World Bank.

Daniela Miteva - AEDE; $32,000: An analysis of marginal abatement costs associated with country level natural climate solutions intended to reduce atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, The Nature Conservancy.

Heather Reister - OSU Extension; $248,500: Development of living skills 2020, Butler County Board of Commissioners.

Scott Scheer - ACEL; $117,008: Services between OSU and the Ohio FFA Camps, Inc., Ohio FFA Foundation Inc.

Carol Smathers - FCS-EHE, Timothy McDermott - OSU Extension; $292,489: Growing teachers throughout the seasons, USDA National Institute of Food & Agriculture.

Clay Sneller - HCS; $300,000: Cultivar development: Establishing a public breeding consortium and synergies for field testing through genomic breeding, USDA National Institute of Food & Agriculture.

Jonathan Witter - ATI; $60,256: Integrated vegetation-based solutions to farm nutrient management, University of Akron.

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### New & Newsworthy

**What is OSU Extension?**
Check out the new video on Extension’s YouTube channel

![Watch Now](image)

**COVID-19’s Impact on Federal Awards**
Updates from the Council on Governmental Relations

![Read More](image)
NIFA Coronavirus FAQs

We have been regularly updating the Frequently Asked Questions document that covers the most commonly asked questions about impacts of the COVID-19 emergency on USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture grants. Please check this document frequently for the latest information about the flexibilities we are currently offering.

The CFAES Office for Research & Graduate Education Launches New Website

Visit our NEW website today at research.cfaes.ohio-state.edu to see how our experts can best assist you in your research need and to view the expanded services offered by the R&GE team!

Upcoming Events

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<th>June 5</th>
<th>1:00–2:00 p.m.</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mental Health Awareness Training</td>
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<td>Mental Health Awareness training program to help OSU employees improve their understanding of mental health</td>
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<th>June 23</th>
<th>9:00–10:30 a.m.</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Event Reporting in Human Subjects Research</td>
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<td>Learn when to notify the IRB about unexpected events and other problems when research doesn't quite go as planned</td>
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<th>June 24</th>
<th>9:00–noon</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Emotional Intelligence: Don’t Be a Sheldon</td>
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<td>Learn to be aware of and manage the emotions that drive your behavior, which can impact on your success as a leader</td>
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