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Office of Research & Engagement

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Welcome . . .

. . . to the newest source of news and information about research opportunities and policies for the UT Knoxville faculty. Published by the UT Office of Research, this newsletter will provide a biweekly summary of news from federal and state funding sources, policy changes in UT research administration, and a selection of current opportunities for research and sponsored programs.

Another publication is being developed that will celebrate recent research accomplishments at UTK.

We invite feedback about the newsletter and suggestions for making it more helpful.

Brad Fenwick, Vice Chancellor
Greg Reed, Assoc VC

COS gives access to research opportunities

UT faculty and graduate students looking for funding sources or collaborators can access Community of Science, one of the leading online databases of opportunities for sponsored research, as well as profiles of researchers. COS provides three important services:

- multifaceted search capabilities that will locate current funding opportunities from federal, state, industry, and foundation sponsors
- an automated weekly e-mail alert based on the individual's chosen keywords
- an online profile system that allows users to search for collaborators and share their own CVs.

UT researchers and scholars can register for the database at <http://www.cos.com>. Contact Bill Dockery (dockeryb@utk.edu, 974-2187) in the UT Office of Research for more information.

Office of Research will enforce deadlines on last-minute proposal submissions

Proposals that come to UT's Sponsored Programs at the last minute will no longer be given rush treatment to ensure that they meet agency deadlines.

Brad Fenwick, UT vice chancellor for research, said that researchers who submit proposals on deadline are causing problems that prevent the documents from getting appropriate technical and legal review and that complicate the workload of Office of Research personnel.

"Starting immediately, proposals must be submitted in completed form five working days before the proposal deadline," Fenwick said. "Office of Research staff will not work on proposals that come in after that time." The five-day deadline applies to electronic submissions; paper proposals require a three-day advance deadline.

Fenwick said that submitting proposals at the last minute unfairly penalizes those researchers who play by the rules and creates intense workloads for the grants & contracts section.

Submitted documents must include the proposal, a fully-signed document-review/approval sheet, any applicable request for cost-sharing, supporting documentation from subcontractors, and a copy of the solicitation. The narrative must be finalized two days before the deadline.

Anyone with questions about the new policy should contact Greg Reed, associate vice chancellor for research, at 974-3466 or gdreed@utk.edu.

Process changed for internal competitions

Future internal competitions run by the UT Office of Research will no longer require a prescreening at the college level.

The UTK associate deans of research made that procedural change in their November meeting. The decision does NOT apply to internal competitions currently in progress, including competitions for the NSF MRI and the ORAU Powe awards.

In the future, all proposals to a funding program that have limits on submissions will be sent directly to the internal competition run by the Office of Research and will not be competed or prescreened at the college level. Proposers are still expected to notify their associate dean for research of their intent to propose.

- In other policy changes, the associate deans for research
- gave the associate vice chancellor responsibility for ensuring that, when UT is submitting multiple proposals, the submissions are made across a variety of NSF directorates
 - began planning to create working groups that will prepare multidisciplinary proposals for targeted specific major solicitations.

UTRF opens fund to develop technologies

The UT Research Foundation has established a fund to support UT-related developing technologies that have a substantial commercial potential.

The 2008 Technology Funding Program has available a small number of investments between \$5,000 and \$15,000 to help UT researchers to provide new data or to demonstrate the commercial readiness of a new technology. The program is open to faculty, staff, and students at any UT campus or institute.

Proposals must be submitted by **15 Dec 2007** electronically at utrff@tennessee.edu. The Knoxville contact is John Hopkins (jhop@utk.edu, 974-1882).

Research Contacts

Vice Chancellor 974-8701
Assoc Vice Chancellor 974-3466
Sponsored Programs 974-5066

Compliance 974-7697
Research Information 974-2187
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NSF redefines 'intellectual merit,' adds 'transformative' concept

Subcontractor registration required; proposal document specs changed

The National Science Foundation will look for information about "potentially transformative" concepts when it reviews future proposals for their intellectual merit.

Meeting in August 2007, the National Science Board approved a change in its "Intellectual Merit Review Criterion" to specify that proposals be evaluated for the degree to which they "suggest and explore potentially transformative concepts."

NSF uses the term "transformative research" to indicate "a range of endeavors which promise extraordinary outcomes" that might revolutionize entire disciplines, create new fields, or disrupt accepted theories and perspectives.

UT researchers making proposals to the NSF will need to reflect an understanding of that concept in the section of their proposals that address intellectual merit.

See <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2007/in130/in130.pdf>.

The NSF is also requiring potential proposers to register in the Central Contractor Registration before submitting a proposal to the NSF. The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is already registered, but UT proposers must be sure that any subawardees they include in their proposals must also be registered.

The revised version of the *NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (NSF 08-1, http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=papp) also updates font, margin, and spacing requirements for proposals. See specifically http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf08_1/gpg_2.jsp#IIB2.

All changes go into effect on proposals submitted after 5 Jan 2008, but the NSF strongly encourages proposals to begin using the guidelines immediately.

Fenwick takes ORAU role for UT

Brad Fenwick, vice chancellor for research and engagement, will serve as UT Knoxville's councilor on the Oak Ridge Associated University Council of Sponsoring Institutions. Fenwick replaces Lillian Mashburn, who retired in June. Fenwick will serve as liaison between the university and ORAU, which operates a number of educational and research programs for the U.S. Department of Energy.

UTOR yellow sheet changed

The new document-review/approval sheet (aka "the yellow sheet") used by the Office of Research Sponsored Programs unit will no longer require entry of percentage-of-effort information data. Henceforth, that information will be collected at the time an award is made. Call 974-5066 with questions.

AAALAC reaccredits UT lab animal operations

The Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care has continued the full accreditation status of the UT Knoxville animal care program. AAALAC is a private, nonprofit organization that promotes the humane treatment of animals used in laboratory research.

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NRC Research Associateship

The National Research Council has announced its 2008 Postdoctoral and Senior Research Associateship Programs. The NRC, a part of the National Academies, uses the program to provide opportunities for scientists and engineers who show unusual promise and ability the opportunity to do research at one of the more than 120 research laboratories across the nation. Awards will be made in chemistry, earth and atmospheric sciences, engineering, applied sciences and computer science, life and medical sciences, mathematics, space and planetary sciences, and physics. For details, see www.national-academies.org/rap.

Award program for new investigators

The Leukemia Research Foundation is offering up to \$100,000 in funding for new investigators doing research related to leukemia, lymphoma, and myelodysplastic syndromes. The foundation defines new investigators as those within seven years of their first independent position. See <http://www.leukemia-research.org/researchers/index.asp>.

CSREES to require internal competition

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service has announced its International Science and Education Competitive Grants program. The University of Tennessee as accredited is allowed only two submissions. The UT Office of Research will hold an internal competition to determine which proposals will be submitted from UT. Details of the competition will be published shortly. Contact Bill Dockery (974-2187, dockeryb@utk.edu) for information.

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