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news & opportunities

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE

Research Scholarship Creative Activity

UTRF picks 10 technologies for 'maturation' support

Ten University of Tennessee projects have won technology development grants from the UT Research Foundation from among 42 proposals from UT's four campuses and three institutes.

The awards, totaling $165,000, will allow the research teams to mature their technologies with the goal of eventually licensing them and taking them toward commercial development.

"This grant program supports the commitment of the University of Tennessee to drive technology-based economic development for the state of Tennessee and to put the university among the premier research institutions I the country," said Fred Tompkins, president of the research foundation and associate vice president for research. "Our mission is to support the research enterprise, then find ways to turn research results into economic benefit for the university and our society."

Medical technologies made up the bulk of the awards, including UT Knoxville chemist David Baker's development of an anti-tumor agent and John Biggerstaff's technology to slow or prevent cancer metastasis. Biggerstaff is with the Center for Environmental Biotechnology.

The program also is supporting an improved fertility technology at the UT Medical Center in Knoxville; a diagnostic test for bacterial infections, a new bio-pesticide, and a vaccine to prevent mastitis in dairy cows at the Institute of Agriculture; and development of a topical antibiotic for drug-resistant bacteria, an asthma treatment, a rheumatoid arthritis treatment, and a bone-healing technology at the Health Science Center.

In addition to the UTRF monies, various research offices contributed to the fund; and an additional $15,000 matching grant was received from Cumberland Emerging Technologies, Inc., in Nashville. The proposals were judged by a panel of subject-matter and commercialization experts from across the state.

At the end of the grants, the researchers will submit reports to UTRF so that the foundation can seek licensing opportunities for the technologies.

NSF FastLane submissions from UTK need right name, code

Principal investigators who are new to UT Knoxville or who have had ties to multiple organizations will need to be sure their institutional affiliation is correct when submitting proposals through NSF FastLane. PIs who are accessing FastLane through UTK will need to edit their PI information to be sure the institutional affiliation is "University of Tennessee Knoxville -- 0031005000." Other institutions collaborating with UTK must also use this institutional code number.

If the number above does not appear under "Awardee Organization Code" on the cover page of the FastLane proposal form, or if "University of Tennessee Knoxville" does not appear at the top of the budget page, then the institutional affiliation is wrong and must be changed.

Sponsored Programs staff in the UT Office of Research will not be able to access or update proposals if UT Knoxville is not listed as the affiliated institution.

This applies to JICS faculty and other adjunct faculty at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, as well as any PI who has used FastLane at another institution or organization. Contact Kim Summerfield (summerk@utk.edu) for more information.

Upcoming UT Science Forums

8 February
"Fighting the Tide: Treatment Options for Morbid Obesity"; Gregory Mancini, M.D. & John Scott, M.D. UT Medical Center.

15 February
"Mysteries of Buruli Ulcer, an Infectious Disease Emerging in Africa and Australia"; Pamela Small, UT Knoxville department of microbiology.

22 February
"Secret City and Supercomupters: Oak Ridge Then and Now"; Robert Whitten, Jr., National Center for Computational Sciences, ORNL.

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NIH makes public access to articles mandatory

Starting 7 April 2008, the National Institutes of Health will require that all manuscripts developed from NIH-funded projects and accepted for peer-reviewed publication be submitted electronically to the National Library of Medicine's PubMed Central. Investigators must submit the final, peer-reviewed manuscript, including all graphics and supplemental materials. The investigators and their institutions are responsible for submitting the articles and ensuring that any related publishing or copyright agreements comply with the NIH policy.

PubMed Central will make the manuscripts publicly accessibly no later than 12 months after the official publication date.

Also, on 25 May 2008, the NIH will require that all applications, proposals, and progress reports submitted to the NIH use the PubMed Central reference numbers when citing articles from NIH-funded research.

Full details of the policy statement: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-08-033.html.
PubMed Central: http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/.

Faculty authors sought

The UT Office of Research and the University Libraries are developing a list of all faculty members who have published a scholarly monograph with a copyright date of 2006, 2007, or 2008. The authors will be honored at a reception on 1 April 08 in Hodges Library and their books will be displayed. Please send faculty names and publication information to Patty Boling (boling00@utk.edu) in the office of the dean of libraries.

Put equipment buys in only one federal proposal

For faculty seeking federal funding that includes an equipment purchase, the cost of a piece of equipment should be included in only one proposal to a federal agency. Splitting the cost of a piece of equipment between several federally-funded proposals can cause UT problems during the life of the project and during closeout, because of federal rules regarding equipment title and cost-sharing.

Any specific award document may give equipment title to the federal sponsor. Normally most federal sponsors give title to UT, but some agencies such as the US Department of Energy may retain title. If any other federally-funded project is paying a portion of the equipment cost, then that federal sponsor is, in effect, providing cost-sharing to another federal agency. Federal agencies generally refuse to provide cost-sharing funds to other federal agency projects without prior written approval.

To avoid these problems, UT proposers should include the full cost of a piece of equipment on a single federally-funded proposal. If any cost-sharing is going to be provided, it should be UT funds or gift funds with donor stipulations that allow for the intended use of funds. If other federal funds must be used to buy the equipment, then this fact should be disclosed in the proposals to all federal sponsors involved.

More information: the Office of Research (974-5066) or Sponsored Projects Accounting (974-2591).

Office helps students seek prestigious awards

An Office of External Scholarships has been created to assist UT Knoxville students in applying for such prestigious national and international awards as Rhodes, Marshall, Gates, and Fulbright scholarships. Anne Mayhew, professor emerita, will serve part-time as the director of the office.

The deadline for students applying for scholarships for the 2009-2010 academic year is 31 March 2008.

Mayhew (974-7875, amayhew@utk.edu) is asking UT faculty to nominate deserving students and to refer interested students to the new office.

The web site: http://externalscholarships.utk.edu/

MSNBC science editor to offer master class

Nominations are being taken for a one-session master class with Alan Boyle, the science editor for MSNBC.com, who will speak at UT Knoxville on 25 March. Graduate or undergraduate students in journalism or other writing programs and students in science and technology who want to write about their subjects for the general public are eligible for the class, which is titled "Science Writing: It's Not Just for Science Writers Anymore." Faculty who want to nominate students can send their names (with department, academic level, and e-address) to Mark Littmann (littmann@utk.edu, 974-8156) in the College of Communications.

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note from the editor

This is the fifth issue of NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES, the eye-catching new newsletter from the UT Office of Research that has been appearing in faculty mailboxes since November.

The brainchild of research Vice Chancellor Brad Fenwick, NEWS & OPPORTUNITITIES is designed to make UT Knoxville faculty aware of upcoming funding opportunities of note and to inform them of the policies and practices for submitting the resulting proposals and administering awards. The contents are not limited to research policies and opportunities but also include information about sponsored scholarly and creative activities.

The newsletter's bright green cover-weight paper was chosen to stand out from routine campus mail and the hard-copy venue is an attempt to escape spam-filled electronic mailboxes.

The Office of Research is building a distribution list that will include all UTK faculty, as well as administrators, research-related personnel, and staff with proposal-preparation responsibilities. If you are interested in being added to the mailing list, please contact Bill Dockery (dockeryb@utk.edu, 974-2187) or Luana Henley (lhenley1@utk.edu, 974-3466). For back issues, see the UT Office of Research web site.

One caution: While some of the information is of universitywide interest, the newsletter is an expression of sponsored-program policies for faculty who submit proposals and receive awards through the Sponsored Programs unit in the UT Knoxville Office of Research. Faculty submitting through other entities of the University of Tennessee (Institute of Agriculture, Health Science Center, Institute for Public Service, or Space Institute) should consult the research officers of those organizations (below) for information specific to their policies.

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Q I am a faculty member of the Institute of Agriculture. Do I qualify for any of the SARIF funds administered by the UT Office of Research?

A Only if you are a collaborator or co-PI with a member of the UT Knoxville faculty on the project under consideration. The six small funds that make up the Scholarly and Research Incentive Funds (EPPE, Foreign Travel, Small Grant, Grant-Matching, GRA, and Equipment & Infrastructure) are administered by the Office of Research for the UT Knoxville campus. The monies used for SARIF come from the facilities-and-administration funds received with awards made to UTK faculty. Other entities in the university use their recovered F&A monies in other ways. Consult the chief research officer in your organization for information and assistance.

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☆ *Possible internal competition*

Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program (IGERT)

IGERT is intended to catalyze a cultural change in graduate education by establishing innovative new models for graduate education and training in an environment that transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries. It covers a number of areas of engineering, mathematics, and the sciences, including computer science, cyberinfrastructure, and polar programs. There are two parts to the IGERT solicitation: IGERT Traineeship with an institutional limit of four preliminary proposals as single or lead institution and IGERT Resource Center with a limit of one proposal as single or lead institution.
Important dates: **Internal statement of interest: 13 Feb 08, noon.** Contact dockeryb@utk.edu and gdreed@utk.edu.
Traineeship preliminary proposal and Resource Center full proposal, 18 April 08 at 8 a.m. The full Traineeship proposal (for invited proposers only) will be due in Oct 08.
The IGERT solicitation: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08540/nsf08540.htm

Chemistry Research Instrumentation & Facilities: Departmental Multi-User Instrumentation (CRIF:MU)

CRIF:MU provides funds for the purchase of multiuser instruments up to $500,000. The PI must be the equivalent of a chemistry department head. UT can submit a maximum of two proposals, one of which must involve cyberinfrastructure. Internal coordination required.
Important date: Final proposal due to UTOR, 17 June 08.
The solicitation: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08536/nsf08536.htm?govDel=USNSF_25

Other opportunities

American Competitiveness in Chemistry-Fellowship (ACC-F)

ACC-F supports postdoctoral associates in chemistry in order to build ties among academic, industrial or national laboratory researchers and involve beginning scientists in efforts to broaden participation in chemistry.
Important date: final proposal due to UT Office of Research, 25 April 08 at 8 a.m.
The solicitation: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08541/nsf08541.htm?govDel=USNSF_25

Centers for Chemical Innovation Phase I (CCI-I)

CCI-I supports the formation of centers that can address major long-term basic chemical research problems that have a high probability of both producing transformative research and leading to innovation.
Important dates: Preliminary proposal due to UT Office of Research, 11 April 08 at 8 a.m. Invited full proposal due in July 08.
The solicitation: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08536/nsf08536.htm?govDel=USNSF_25

Computer Systems Research (CSR)

CSR supports innovative research and education projects that increase our understanding of large-scale and increasingly data-intensive computer systems and applications and capitalize on research opportunities provided by new technologies and new classes of systems, among other goals.
Important date: Final proposal due to UT Office of Research, 17 April 08 at 8 a.m.
The solicitation: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08538/nsf08538.htm?govDel=USNSF_25

Assembling the Tree of Life (ATOL)

ATOL is part of the National Science Foundation's continued support for creative and innovate research seeking to resolve evolutionary relationships among large groups of organisms. The NSF is specifically encouraging proposals in several new or enhanced areas of interest, including understanding the role of lateral gene transfer in evolutionary history, developing tools to facilitate the management of data generated in these studies, and focusing on major taxonomic groups not yet studied.
Important date: Final proposal due to UT Office of Research, 10 March 08 at 8 a.m.
The solicitation: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08515/nsf08515.htm

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