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News and Opportunities

Office of Research & Engagement

8-24-2012

Office of Research, News & Opportunities, August 24, 2012

University of Tennessee Office of Research

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Recommended Citation

University of Tennessee Office of Research, "Office of Research, News & Opportunities, August 24, 2012" (2012). *News and Opportunities*.
https://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_researchnews/69

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Deadline announced for SARIF Equipment & Infrastructure requests

The deadline to submit requests for the Equipment and Infrastructure Awards made by the UTK Office of Research has been set as September 19, 2012.

The fund, which provides approximately \$300,000 in matching funds to purchase, upgrade, and repair research equipment on the UT Knoxville campus accepts faculty proposals in the fall semester so the funds can be expended by the end of the fiscal year.

Proposals for EIA funding should be submitted electronically to Jane Taylor (tayloje@utk.edu) and should not exceed five pages in length.

Key date: September 19, 2012, at [noon](#) - electronic submission of request

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/funding/equip.shtml>

SPOTLIGHT ON SARIF

The UTK Office of Research administers some \$900,000 to support research and creative activities through its Scholarly Activity and Research Incentive Funds (SARIF). Seven programs are available to faculty and principal investigators whose departments fall under jurisdiction of the chancellor of UT's Knoxville campus.

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES is focusing on individual SARIF programs in order to make more faculty aware of the internal support that is available to them.

Equipment & Infrastructure Fund

The Office of Research administers some \$300,000 annually that supports equipment and infrastructure purchases, repairs, and upgrades. Requests are taken early in the fiscal year so that the funds can be expended before the end of the fiscal year. EIA funds can be used to support needs of recently hired faculty and researchers. The awards typically require one-to-one or preferably two-to-one cost-sharing with departments and colleges.

Individual faculty members or groups of faculty can propose purchases, but faculty in the Colleges of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and Veterinary Medicine are not eligible to apply due to the source of SARIF funding. Proposals should include statements of support from appropriate departments, colleges, and centers, and include levels of cost-sharing commitment.

A committee of the Research Council reviews proposals and makes recommendations, which are announced in November.

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/funding/equip.shtml>

Intro-to-research workshops set

Three detailed workshops have been scheduled to help new faculty understand the services and resources available at UTK to help them become productive researchers and scholars.

Session 1 (Sept. 10) — The Business Side of Research: an overview of research administration, budgeting, and various funding resources

Session 2 (Oct. 18) — Proposal Development: funding opportunities searches and proposal development services

Session 3 (Nov. 12) — Intellectual Property and Compliance: support services for building, managing, and sustaining a scholarly research program

All programs will take place from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Room 403, Blount Hall, 1534 White Avenue.

Contact: Greg Reed (gdreed@utk.edu, 974-0437), associate vice chancellor for research

NIH, other Public Health Service agencies start stringent conflict rules on August 24

A major revision of federal conflict-of-interest policies that goes into effect Friday, August 24, will significantly alter the process faculty go through to apply for support from the National Institutes of Health and other agencies under the Public Health Service.

The new regulations (42 CFR 50) will

- lower the financial disclosure threshold from \$10,000 to \$5,000
- require signed Financial Interest Disclosure Forms from investigators and others associated with a PHS proposal
- require disclosure of ALL travel reimbursements from external sources, with certain exceptions
- mandate online federal COI training prior to the expenditure of PHS funding.

Effective Friday, August 24, 2012, the Office of Research will not be able to submit proposals for which the federal COI requirements have not been met.

The University of Tennessee has developed a systemwide policy to comply with the new regulations. Note that the university's own conflict-of-interest practices, while also recently revised, do NOT take the place of PHS requirements and forms. Faculty, staff, and students must respond to both policies separately.

Contact: Miriam Campo (mcampo@utk.edu)

Details: <http://www.tennessee.edu/disclosure>

Office plans post-doc mentoring workshop

The Office of Research will offer a workshop for post-doc mentors and mentees in September. Greg Reed, associate vice chancellor for research, and Robert Porter, director of research development, will detail expectations and roles for mentors and mentees, as well as characteristics of successful mentor-mentee relationships. The workshop will focus on national best practices, as well as resources and services to assist the mentoring project at UTK.

Mentoring is a key relationship between faculty and early-career scholars and is a required component of proposals to some funding agencies.

Key date: September 24, 2012, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Room 403, Blount Hall, 1534 White Avenue.

Contact: Email ortraining@utk.edu with name and title to register

Study finds need for integrity panels to ensure faculty live up to mentoring responsibilities

Universities and colleges need to establish teaching-integrity committees which handle some of the questionable teaching behaviors faculty mentors engage in that fail the needs of their students.

That's the conclusion of a recently published study in *Nature* (12 July 2012) by researchers who surveyed faculty about the seriousness of a variety of behaviors typically engaged in by university teachers.

John Braxton, a professor of education at Vanderbilt, found that respondent faculty members divided irresponsible behaviors into two classes: (1) egregious actions that were ethically inappropriate and (2) less offensive behaviors that, while possibly injurious to students, did not rise to the level of professional misconduct.

Among the totally unacceptable behaviors worthy of professional punishment: misappropriating a student's work, making suggestive remarks of a sexual or racist nature to students, delaying graduation of the best graduate students to keep them in the lab, and borrowing money from students.

The respondents found a second level of behaviors "generally ignorable" in the academic setting, including being routinely late for class, ignoring students with different research and academic interests, ignoring the course outline, routinely missing appointment with students, and failing to provide appropriate feedback on a thesis or dissertation. Respondents indicated that "faculty members should avoid — but not necessarily be punished for — neglectful teaching and mentoring," the authors wrote.

Braxton proposed that universities create codes of conduct and mechanisms for reporting inadequate teaching behaviors that otherwise can be difficult to identify and correct. He posited the need for teaching-integrity committees that could address the shortcomings of irresponsible faculty with warnings, reprimands, censures, and salary actions.

"The vast majority of US faculty members have simply not been taught how to teach," Braxton wrote. "And these responses suggest that they are subjecting young scientists-in-training to the same neglect."

Details: <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v487/n7406/pdf/487165a.pdf>

Faculty can share UG research opportunities

The Office of Research has created a website to help faculty find undergraduate researchers. Faculty members with an available undergraduate research experience can send a description of the position for posting on the "Current Opportunities" web page and announcement on the undergraduate research Facebook page.

Send listings to Sharon Pound (spound@utk.edu) and include the following information:

- Project title
- Faculty mentor name
- Faculty mentor email address
- Deadline for application
- Brief description
- Semester(s)
- Compensation (pay, course credit)
- Web link

Opportunities page: <http://research.utk.edu/undergrad/search/internal.php>

4th NIMBioS undergrad conference scheduled

The National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis will hold its 4th annual undergraduate research conference November 17-18, 2012, at the University of Tennessee Conference Center in Knoxville. The conference brings together undergrad researchers working at the interface of biology and mathematics, and will include a plenary speaker, student presentations and posters, networking opportunities, and career and graduate school information.

Key dates: October 5, 2012 - deadline to apply for support
November 5 - registration deadline

Details: http://www.nimbios.org/education/undergrad_conf2012

REMINDER: NIMBioS support deadline looms

The deadline for submitting requests for support for 2013 scientific and educational activities is nearing.

Key date: September 1, 2012

Details: http://www.nimbios.org/research/background#categories?utm_source=July-August+2012&utm_campaign=July-August+2012&utm_medium=email

STEM outreach brown-bags to start

The UT STEM Education Outreach brown-bag lunches resume with a planning meeting on Friday, September 7, at 12 noon in the Business Incubator Building. Faculty and staff with interest in or responsibility for facilitating and managing ongoing outreach projects in science, technology, engineering, and math are invited to share resources and information.

RSVP: <http://doodle.com/dqk5ekvfuv6v7f2v>

Gates to honor innovative vaccine programs

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is soliciting nominations for its award honoring innovators in the distribution of vaccines. Nominees will be judged on their impact on vaccine-preventable diseases among women and children in developing countries, on the innovation and creativity of the work, and on its scalability to national and global populations.

Details: <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/vaccines/Pages/vaccine-innovation-award.aspx>

August issue of funding newsletter posted

The August 2012 issue of *Research Development & Grant-Writing Newsletter* (Vol. 2, No. 12) is available on the Office of Research website, showcasing the following features and columns:

- Writing the DOE Early Career Preapplication
- Writing the NSF AGEP & Webinar Report
- Interviewing Schrodinger's Cat
- Do You Have a Narrative Integration Plan?
- Why Halloween Is Bad for Proposals, Part 5
- Research Grant Writing Web Resources
- Educational Grant Writing Web Resources
- About Academic Research Funding Strategies

NOTE: The newsletter is proprietary to Academic Research Funding Strategies LLC. The Office of Research subscription requires faculty and staff to use their net ID and login. The login process does not support all browsers.

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/news/rdgw.shtml>

REMINDER: Training requirement for IRB

Under requirements that went into effect April 15, 2012, all personnel (principal investigators, co-PIs, advisors, and students) listed on a human subjects application to the Institutional Review Board must provide certification of training in human subjects research.

To obtain access to the appropriate training and certification, contact ortraining@utk.edu.

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/humansubjects/>

Proposal-writing training available to all

As competition for research funding grows more intense each year and many UT academic programs rely on faculty winning substantial awards, the Office of Research is offering a series of two-hour workshops to sharpen proposal-writing skills. Every topic is offered more than once to minimize schedule conflicts.

Scheduled for fall 2012:

- Writing Successful Grants
- Finding Funding
- Building the NSF Grant Proposal
- Building the NIH Grant Proposal
- Strategies for Success in Sponsored Research
- Career Development Grants for Pre- and Post-docs

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/training/cal-gw.shtml>

Contact: Lesli Rowan (ortraining, 865-974-9310)

State amends RFP for breastfeeding hotline

The Tennessee Department of Health has issued an amendment to its request for proposals for a statewide toll-free, dial-in, telephone-based assistance program to be known as the Tennessee Breastfeeding Hotline.

Key dates: September 6, 2012, at 2 p.m. — submission of proposal

Details: http://health.state.tn.us/Downloads/RFP_34353-13513_Amend_1_BreastfeedingHotline.pdf

NSF fellowship program available to early-career graduate students

The National Science Foundation is soliciting applications for its Graduate Research Fellowship Program. The program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees in fields within NSF's mission. The GRFP provides three years of support for the graduate education of individuals who have demonstrated their potential for significant achievements in science and engineering research.

Key submission dates:

November 13, 2012 - Engineering, computer and information science and engineering, materials research

November 14, 2012 - Mathematical sciences, chemistry, physics and astronomy

November 16, 2012 - Social sciences, psychology, STEM education and learning

November 19, 2012 - Life sciences, geosciences

Details: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2012/nsf12599/nsf12599.htm>



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