

FY 10 awards totals show \$10 million growth for Knoxville campus

Awards to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, increased by more than \$10 million in Fiscal Year 2010 over the preceding year, the just-released annual report of the UT Office of Research shows.

The Knoxville campus totaled a record \$188.82 million in awards in the fiscal year that ended in June, 2010. Total awards for FY 2009 were at \$178.75 million, which was itself a record year. In contrast, FY 2006 awards totaled only \$118 million.

Despite the record awards totals for FY 10, sponsored-program expenditures dropped approximately \$6 million from FY 09, possibly because investigators who have been winning new, larger awards have not had time to make use of the increased funding.

The federal government remains the overwhelming source of funding for sponsored programs, accounting directly or indirectly for some 90.5% of expenditures on research and other sponsored activities. Private funding, the second highest category of support, amounts to 5.6%, with state, local, and other categories accounting for the balance of expenditures.

"... at the center of one of the nation's most fertile environments for research and scholarship ..."

The National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy were responsible for almost 50% of federal support for research on the Knoxville campus in FY 10; NSF is responsible for 25% and DOE contributes 24%. Other significant federal sources include the Department of Defense (14%) and the Department of Health and Human Services (12%).

The annual report tracks awards and expenditures from FY 2006 through the just-completed fiscal year, and the text highlights some of the research and scholarly activities that have put UT Knoxville "at the center of one of the nation's most fertile environments for research and scholarship."

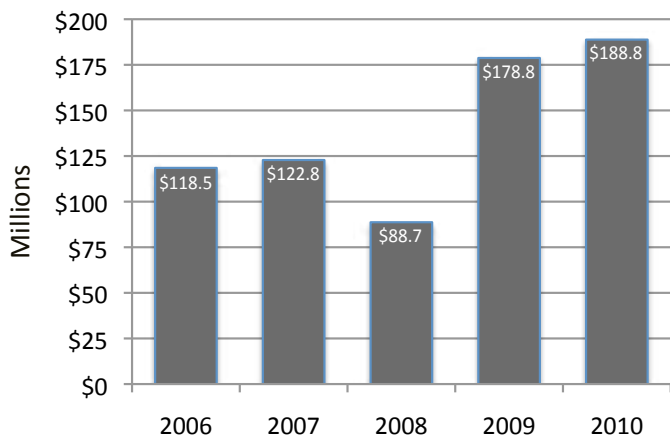
Copies of the annual report are being mailed to all UT Knoxville faculty, department heads, and deans. Additional copies are available for distribution at conferences, meetings, and other special events.

Note: Totals for FY 2010 include data from the UT Space Institute.

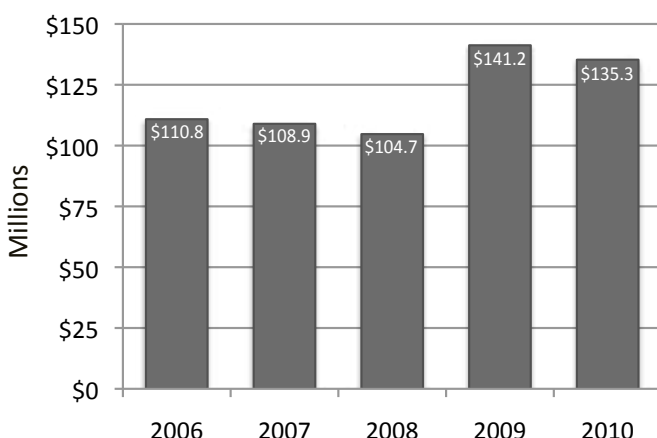
Details: http://research.utk.edu/newsfiles/ar-fy_2010.pdf

Additional copies: Bill Dockery (dockeryb@utk.edu, 974-2187)

Sponsored Dollars Awarded FY 06 – FY 10



Five-Year Total Sponsored Expenditures FY 06 – FY 10



COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

The Office of Research on UT's Knoxville campus is responsible for ensuring that the university, its faculty, staff, and students follow the complex array of regulations that govern modern research. Summarized below are the office's compliance activities for FY 2010. Some of the compliance units serve all UT facilities in the wider East Tennessee area.

Export Control

Export control laws are federal regulations that govern how certain information, technologies, and commodities can be transmitted overseas to anyone, including U.S. citizens, or to foreign nationals on U.S. soil. Penalties for noncompliance with export control laws are severe and affect both the institution and the researcher. The table below represents duties performed by the Export Control Officer at UTK for FY 09-10. The Export Control Officer is primarily responsible for ensuring research conducted at UTK adheres to federal laws and regulations prohibiting the unlicensed export of certain commodities or information for reasons of national security or protections of trade.

Contact: Robin Witherspoon (rwither@utk.edu, 865-974-0232)

Export Control Compliance Activities for FY 2010

Awards Reviewed	75
Days to Secure Lab	3
Proposals	520
Technology Control Plans	5
Training Workshops	4
Travel Reviews	346

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Biosafety Program

At the conclusion of FY10, the Biosafety Program (Institutional Biosafety Committee and Biosafety Office) was providing biological safety and compliance services to nearly 100 research faculty distributed over 25 academic departments at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville (UTK), University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA), and Graduate School of Medicine at Knoxville (GSM). During FY 10 the Biosafety Program processed 39 biological materials registrations, with the average processing time (from initial submission to approval) being 26 days. Additionally, the Biological Safety Office conducted 94 lab inspections for registered Biosafety Level 2 (BSL-2) laboratories and provided in-class training to over 500 research and support staff in a variety of biological safety and compliance subject areas.

Contact: Brian Ranger (865-974-1938, branger@utk.edu)

Biosafety Training (New Trainees) by Category for FY 2010

Biosafety Level 2	141
Bloodborne Pathogens	202
Biological Materials Shipping	13
Biohazardous Waste	13
Animal Biosafety	73
Biosafety Awareness (Other)	77

Institutional Review Board

The Institutional Review Board experienced increases in all areas of reviews during the period from April 2009 through 2010. The largest increase (43%) over the same period in the preceding year came in continuing reviews because the IRB staff made a focused effort to get researchers to return annual renewals by the deadline, allowing them to avoid premature termination of their study protocol. The overall number of reviews is expected to increase to reflect the amount of growth in this area of research compliance.

Contact: Brenda Lawson (blawson@utk.edu, 865-974-7697)

IRB Compliance Activities for FY 2010

New Projects Received	355
Expedited Projects Approvals	283
Full Board Reviews	48
Continuing Reviews	235

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

During FY 10, UT’s Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) provided support to principal investigators from 18 departments of the UT Knoxville campus. In addition to protocol development and review, IACUC members completed the seven other federally mandated functions of an IACUC.

Facility inspections, program reviews, noncompliance investigations, and facilitating visits from oversight agencies are all part of keeping the UTK campus compliant with animal care and use regulations. Recent visits from oversight agencies suggest that continued training of principal investigators in animal care and use regulations will need to occur in a method similar to the yearly training refresher required by the Office of Research Biosafety Committee.

Assistance with protocol preparation to facilitate timely protocol review is also being developed and may include departmental presentations and one-on-one consultations.

Contact: Elizabeth Bailey (ebailey@utk.edu, 865-974-3631)

IACUC Compliance Activities for FY 2010

Full Review Protocols	38
Designated Member Reviews	126
Amendments to Approved Protocols	219
Annual Renewals	221
New Protocols	126

Radiation Safety Department

The Radiation Safety Department (RSD) tracks services provided to each individual campus serviced for billing purposes. These services are broken down into the following categories: Lab and X-ray inspections, Exit & Special Surveys (including fume hoods tested), Radioactive Packages delivered, Waste Pick-ups, Bioassays performed, Total Principal Investigators, Sealed Source Leak Tests, Badges Delivered, Workers Trained, and Instruments Calibrated. These categories have been used since the second half of the 2007 fiscal year. Each category listed has its own separate time and resource requirements in order to maintain compliance.

Contact: Chris Millsaps (865-974-0848, cmillsa1@utk.edu)

Radiation Safety Compliance Activities for FY 2010

Lab & X-Ray Inspections	187
Training	466
Authorized PI	366
Thyroid Bioassays	200
Waste	137
Packages Delivered	344
Exit/Special Surveys	28
Instruments calibrated	83
Sealed Source Leak Test/Inventories	85
Badges Delivered	3,856

Student Initiative Seeks to Support Undergraduate Research

On Oct. 26, more than 100 students gathered to learn more about a new initiative being led by two Haslam Scholars, Mark Remec and Melissa Lee. Working in conjunction with the Office of Research, these students seek to develop a student organization that can connect undergraduate students to research opportunities and support student researchers in a variety of ways. They invite undergrads who want to get involved in this endeavor to contact them at mremecpa@utk.edu or mlee48@mail.tennessee.edu.

NEH Bridging Cultures Through Film

The National Endowment for the Humanities, with the National Foundation for the Arts and the Humanities is soliciting proposals for projects that examine international and transnational themes in the humanities through documentary films. These projects are meant to spark Americans’ engagement with the broader world by exploring one or more countries and cultures outside of the United States. Proposed documentaries must be analytical and deeply grounded in humanities scholarship.

Key date: January 5, 2011, submission to NEH.

Details: http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/BridgingCultures_Film.html

Opportunities

Workshop: NSF will add to awards for undergrad participation

The UT Office of Research is sponsoring a workshop for investigators who have National Science Foundation funding and want to find out about NSF Research for Undergraduate Experience (REU) supplements.

In a workshop on Thursday, Nov. 18, at 11 a.m. in the Baker Center’s Toyota Auditorium, Steven Wilhelm from microbiology and James Plank from electrical engineering and computer science will discuss their experiences with the REU program. The NSF program can add \$6,000 in funding to existing grants, and REU proposals have a high likelihood of funding.

Office of Research data show that more than 120 UT faculty have NSF support, but only about a dozen are taking advantage of the REU supplement. Full participation by UT researchers could bring in \$500,000 or more in additional NSF funding, while creating additional opportunities for UT students to participate in research.

Key date: Nov. 15, 2010, RSVP to Sharon Pound (spound@utk.edu, 974-1475).

UTRF seeks proposals for maturation fund

The UT Research Foundation is soliciting proposals for its maturation funding program to help UT researchers further develop technologies that have the potential for commercial success.

The program offers up to \$15,000 in direct costs to UT faculty, staff, and students who are developing a project related to an existing UT invention or creation disclosure or who have a new invention/creation ready to disclose.

Proposals will be ranked on (a) demonstration of a path for commercial development, (b) market potential, and (c) stage of development.

Awards will be made to highest-ranked projects that need support to provide new data or to demonstrate the commercial readiness of a technology.

Proposals should not exceed three pages and should describe the technology, a plan of work, the expected results, a budget, and an assessment of the commercial opportunities for the technology.

Key date: November 12, 2010, submission to campus research office

Details: Joy Fisher (jfish26@utk.edu, 865-974-0520) or <http://utrf.tennessee.edu>

NASA issues invitation for membership on telescope team

The national Aeronautics and Space Administration invites scientists, technologists, and other qualified individuals to apply for membership in the Science Definition Team for WFIRST, the agency’s Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope.

WFIRST will be a wide-field near-infrared space telescope capable of performing imaging and spectroscopic sky surveys with multiple goals, including gravitational microlensing surveys for exoplanets, large-area sky survey and deep surveys for research in dark energy, and other extragalactic and galactic research programs.

The members of the WFIRST team will provide NASA with scientific assistance during preliminary concept definition (Pre-Phase A) activities. Near-term activities of the SDT members will focus primarily on assessing the scientific approach to achieving the goals of the mission.

Researchers interested in participating must submit a letter of application that demonstrates their expertise in the scientific and technical fields and topics that will be needed for the project and may also contain a brief list of relevant publications. Applicants must also state the amount of time available over the next two years for WFIRST activities. NASA will chose between 12 and 15 team members and a panel chair from among the applicants.

Key date: Nov. 23, 2010, submission of application letter (e-mail preferred) to program scientist.

Details: http://wfirst.gsfc.nasa.gov/science/WFIRST_SDT_Call_for_Letters.pdf