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University of Tennessee Office of Research

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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 and our premier research institutions into the country," said University President Jerry赅enumerateenumerateenumenumeratemeric media 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 to split their institutional affiliations are correct when submitting proposals through NSF FastLane. PI who are accessing FastLane through UTK will need to edit their PI information to be sure that the institutional affiliation is “University of Tennessee Knoxville – 0013300000.” 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.

Office helps students seek prestigious awards

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

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

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

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

Important dates: Internal statement of interest: 13 Feb 08, noon. Contact dockeryb@utk.edu and jdredf@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 multisizer 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.


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.


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.


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 innovative 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