Council on Undergraduate Research

Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) Conference

- CUR is hosting its biennial National Conference "Leveraging Uncertainty: Toward a New Generation of Undergraduate Research" on June 23-26, 2012 at the College of New Jersey in Ewing, NJ.
  - This conference brings together faculty, administrators, policy makers, representatives of funding agencies and other stakeholders with an interest in doing and promoting undergraduate research.
  - This conference features over 100 workshops, presentations by representatives of funding agencies, social interactions, and poster presentations.
- All faculty and administrators who conduct research with undergraduates are encouraged to attend.

National Institutes of Health

New NIH Council of Councils Members Named

- The Council of Councils was established to advise the NIH Director on policies and activities of the Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives (DPCPSI)
  - The Council makes recommendations on research that represents important areas of emerging scientific opportunities, rising public health challenges, or knowledge gaps that deserve special emphasis or would otherwise benefit from strategic planning and coordination.
- The following new members will serve terms on the council through October 31, 2014:
  - LaVarne Burton, M.A., American Kidney Fund, Rockville, MD
  - Francisco X. Castellanos, M.D., New York University School of Medicine, New York City
  - Jeffrey A. Kaufman, M.B.A., Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma Research Foundation, Needham, MA
  - Grace LeMasters, Ph.D., University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Cincinnati, OH
  - K.C. Kent Lloyd, D.V.M., Ph.D., University of California, Davis
  - Joyce A. Mitchell, Ph.D., University of Utah, Salt Lake City
  - Robert F. Murphy, Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

National Institutes of Health cont'd

New Changes for the AREA Program

- AREA awards create hands-on research opportunities for faculty and students at less research-intensive institutions (less than $6M in research and training funds per year). AREA awards provide up to 3 years of renewable funding, with a maximum of $300,000 in direct costs for the entire project period.
- Applicants should pay special attention to the sections about including students in the research and demonstrating that you have experience supervising students.
  - Reviewers will be evaluating not only the scientific merit of your application, but also how you plan to address the program goals of exposing students to research and strengthening the research environment of your institution.

National Institutes of General Science

- The National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), a part of the NIH that supports basic research and research training, has established two new divisions. Each will administer existing NIGMS programs along with programs transferred to NIGMS from the former NIH National Center for Research Resources (NCRR).
  - The Division of Training, Workforce Development, and Diversity merges NIGMS research training programs with activities that were previously in the institute's Division of Minority Opportunities in Research (MORE).
    - This division also houses the Institutional Development Award program from NCRR.
    - This division is led by former MORE Director Clifton A. Poodry, Ph.D.
  - The Divisions of Biomedical Technology, Bioinformatics, and Computational Biology administer research and research training in areas that join biology with computer sciences, engineering, mathematics and physics.
  - These new divisions include programs of the former NIGMS Center for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (CBCB) along with NCRR biomedical technology programs.

NIH Regional Seminars on Program Funding and Grants Online

- The Office of Extramural Research (OER) is sponsoring two NIH Regional Seminars on Program Funding and Grants.
  - April 16-18, 2012 in Indianapolis, IN at Indianapolis University School of Medicine
  - June 20-22, 2012 in Washington, DC location to be announced
- These seminars are intended to help demystify the application and review process, clarify Federal regulations and policies, and highlight current areas of special interest or concern.
- The seminars serve the NIH mission of providing education and training for the next generation of biomedical and behavioral scientist.

National Science Foundation

Procedure for Tracking Research Subject Cash Incentives While Maintaining Subject Confidentiality

It has recently come to ORSP's attention, through an NSF Program Officer, that the grants office at NSF is paying particular attention to the proper handling of two conflicting human subject matters prior to granting awards. Payments to human subjects are auditable by NSF and other government entities, and procedures need to be in place at MSU to do so. At the same time, human subject confidentiality precludes making public the fact that an individual is or has been a participant in your research. That is, procedures need to be in place to protect subject confidentiality. These two issues often come into conflict in carrying out human subject research protocols.

Due to the prevalence of this conflict, the NSF grants office will be looking for a statement in our budget justifications to the effect that these issues will be appropriately taken into account in the conduct of your project. ORSP has created the following (and attached) statement to be used for this purpose (please note that MSU Grant Accounting has found this procedure to be satisfactory for their needs).

- **Procedure for tracking research subject cash incentives while maintaining subject confidentiality**:
  - The Principal Investigator (PI) will prepare a check request for cash needed to pay research subject incentives. Grant Accounting will approve the request and forward to Accounting Office.
  - Subject Incentive Payment Receipts for individual subjects will be initialed by the subject and authorized by the PI before being sent to Grant Accounting as certification of the proper use of grant funds. To maintain confidentiality the receipts will contain: the subject ID, date of visit, payment amount, grant account number, IRB number, and subject initials.
  - To ensure documentation for auditing and reporting a Subject Reimbursement Log will be completed and kept within the patient source file for reference as needed by authorized personnel. This log will contain subject ID numbers with necessary corresponding personal information for each research subject. The Log will be reviewed by authorized personnel if needed at the end of the fiscal year. Reporting will be based on the data collected in the Subject Incentive Payment Receipts. Auditors will be provided data collected in both the Subject Incentive Payment Receipts and the Subject Reimbursement Log.

Access to All Financial Services Has Moved to Research.gov

- In January 2012, two changes occurred as part of the transition from FastLane to Research.gov:
  - Financial users must now use Research.gov
    Requests, Cash Request History, Grantee EF
    Update History
  - Awardees must use Research.gov to prepare and submit Federal Financial Reports (FFRs) beginning with reports due on February 1, 2012
- These changes will impact financial users with the access permissions of Cash Request User, grantee EFT user, FFR preparer, FFR certifier.

National Science Foundation cont'd

NSF Grants Conference

- The second National Science Foundation Grants Conference of fiscal year 2012, will be hosted by Loyola and Northwestern universities on **March 19-20, 2012**.
- Topics covered include:
  - Introduction to NSF;
  - NSF's proposal preparation and merit review process;
  - Award management;
  - Conflict of interest policies;
  - New programs and initiatives;
  - Cross-disciplinary and special interest programs; and
  - Breakout sessions by discipline.

NSF Day at North Carolina State University

- The workshop will provide an overview of the Foundation, its mission, priorities, and budget.
  - It will cover the NSF proposal and merit review process and NSF programs that cut across disciplines.
- Additionally, representatives from the seven NSF directorates and the Office of International Science and Engineering and the Office of Integrative Activities will make presentations on their programs and will also be available informally and in breakout sessions for discussions of potential research proposals.

Department of Defense

Meeting the 'Challenge': Office of Naval Research Funds New Projects

- In the spirit of science competitions that yielded technologies to send U.S. astronauts to the moon, the Office of Naval Research (ONR) selected five new basic research projects for significant funding, officials announced Dec. 13.
- The five topics are:
  - Decentralized On-line Optimization
  - Carbon Molecular Electronics
  - Co-prime Sensor Array Signal Processing: A New Framework for Reduced Complexity Sensing
  - Understanding and Characterizing Intuition for More Effective Small Unit Decision-Making Training Technologies
  - Couplings-Ocean to Space or Ionospheric Drivers from Below