The Research Notebook

A Publication of the Office of Research

Inside this issue:

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce new and continued efforts to enhance research at The University of Tennessee Health Science Center. One change currently in process is the policy for bridge fund disbursements. A faculty committee is reviewing bridge fund guidelines with anticipated changes to be effective July 1, 2014. Look for details in the near future.

Dr. Lawrence Pfeffer

This issue of The Research Notebook also details other efforts. Some high points:

The Laboratory Animal Care Unit (LACU) will implement new functionality in its invoicing system, which will allow each investigator to view his or her current cage inventory and later to view past invoices and pending charges on line. Training for weaning and transfer requests is now available to PIs and approved staff.

The Material Transfer Agreement turn-around time has decreased, thanks to changes in process and additional staff in the Office of Research Administration (ORA). We will continue to work to improve the process and keep faculty informed of the status of their MTAs.

The Office of Biomedical Informatics, in collaboration with UT Information Technology Services, has dedicated two web-based servers that can be utilized by faculty for statistical analysis of research projects.

The Office for Corporate and Foundation Relations has been established under the Vice Chancellor for Development. We are working closely with them to provide assistance to investigators applying for foundation funding.

I encourage you to contact me if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding the UTHSC research enterprise.

Lawrence M. Pfeffer, Ph.D.
Interim Vice Chancellor for Research

Office of Research Administration

Technical Difficulties with Grant Preparation or Submission

Many sponsors, including federal agencies, are now requiring electronic submission of grant applications. Some of the agency web sites perform better than others, and some agency instructions are easier to follow than others. If you plan to submit a grant that requires direct interaction by the PI with the agency web site (e.g., Proposal Central, Army, PCORI, etc.), here are some tips:

1. Register early and be sure you read the instructions and understand how the process works for uploading all of the documents.
2. Notify ORA if we also need to be registered and you don't find UTHSC already listed.
3. Follow the agency instructions carefully when uploading documents so that you don't get error messages.
4. Be sure you're using a supported browser. Some applications require IE or Firefox; others require Chrome or Safari.
5. Print a pdf of the final application and upload it into PAMS for routing to ORA (not necessary for pre-applications that do not require institutional signature or budgets) .
6. Do not hit the final submit button on the grant application until ORA has approved it.

If you do have technical problems with the agency's web site, you may contact the agency help desk directly or you may want to contact ORA. In some cases, we have experienced the same problems and know the "work around." Of course, in many cases, it's truly a "technical" problem with the software, and ORA staff will not be able to help and will refer you to the agency technical support.

New Army e-Submission Site (eBRAP)

For FY14, the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) has replaced eReceipt with the electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal (eBRAP). As in the past, application submission is a two-step process requiring both (1) pre-application submission through the eBRAP (https://eBRAP.org/) and (2) application submission through Grants.gov with application status available on eBRAP.

UTHSC's organizational profile is registered in eBRAP. PIs will be required to register and may select UTHSC in the dropdown list ("Tennessee, University of, Health Science Center").

If you're planning to submit an Army grant in the near future, please be sure to complete your eBRAP registration early and then send an e-mail to Debbie Smith (dsmith@uthsc.edu) so that she can approve your registration. Automatic notifications of new pending registrations is not provided in the eBRAP system. When your registration is approved, you will be able to complete your pre-application in eBRAP.

ATCC Deposit Agreement Signed

The University of Tennessee has recently executed a deposit agreement with American Type Culture Collection (ATCC). This agreement will enable UT faculty to submit biological material to ATCC for distribution to the scientific community. UTHSC faculty who wish to submit materials to ATCC should contact Margaret Everett (mevere10@uthsc.edu or 901 448-2037) in the Office of Research Administration for instructions and should also contact your local UTRF representative if the material in question is proprietary.

Office of Research Administration

NIH Info on Success Rates, Award Rates, and Funding Rates

Dr. Sally Rocky, NIH's Deputy Director for Extramural Research, recently (3/4/14) posted a nice article to her blog, *Rock Talk*, in which she compared NIH Success Rates, Award Rates, and Funding Rates . . . and defined each of those terms, which refer to success of applicants by project, by submission, or by person. You can read the blog here: http://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2014/03/05/comparing -success-award-funding-rates/

PubMed Gets Interactive

NIH's National Library of Medicine (NLM) is bringing a new way of sharing and exchanging research information, fully integrated with the PubMed website, to a wider audience.

For the last few months, NLM has been running a pilot of a commenting system for PubMed's massive database of biomedical literature. The system, PubMed Commons, allows authors to discuss and share information through comments on article citations. Hundreds of authors have signed up as beta testers and commenters since the pilot began. While commenting will continue to be available only to authors of publications in PubMed (see this page for more details), the discussion is now live and is viewable by the broader public.

So what's everyone talking about? Some authors are contributing information that specifically follows up to the contents of their published research article, such as links to full datasets, figures and background information, or recommended resources and further reading. Other conversations have ranged from sharing ideas on how to identify or cite databases in research articles, to exchanging experiences with particular analysis methods. This recent post on the PubMed Commons blog provides a nice roundup of how authors are expanding on PubMed records. But you don't have to take NIH's word for it! An earlier post describes how to perform searches and set alerts for article commentary in your scientific areas of interest.

This is yet another way NIH is opening the door to more scientific discourse and the NIH hopes that you will join this exciting new forum.
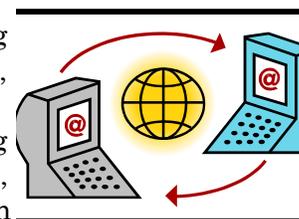
Notify ORA If Your Grant Is Not Funded

Despite everyone's best efforts, not all grant proposals are funded. Many foundations notify the PI of the outcome of the proposal, but do not copy the institutional official or grants office. Although we know it's not easy to share unhappy news, it will help us maintain our records if you let us know the outcome. Then, we will change the status in PAMS so that the official records accurately reflect the status of the proposal.

In rare cases, after a grant is refused, the sponsoring agency may change its mind and decide to fund the application. If that happens, please notify us, and we will gladly change the status to funded!

NIH RPPR Open for Non-SNAP Progress Reports April 25, 2014

Beginning April 25, 2014, NIH will open the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) for all Type 5 (non-competing) Non-SNAP progress reports. What does this mean for you? As a member of the Federal Demonstration Partnership, UTHSC has already been using the RPPR; however, this change means that the use of the RPPR will soon be required for all progress reports. If there is an RPPR link in Commons, you will need to submit your progress report using the RPPR. For additional information, please see http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-14-064.html.

Office of Research Administration

How Long Should My MTA Take?

ORA has recently added staff specifically to speed up the processing of MTAs. As some of you may recall, many years ago, a "quick turnaround" on an MTA was about a month, and most took much longer. That was back in the day when all contracts required signature in Knoxville, and we were sending paper documents back and forth. We are doing much better . . . "quick turnaround" now is less than a week, and we still have challenges with some providers, but we are making progress!

Time required for processing an MTA varies depending upon a number of factors, including the type of agreement provided, the flexibility and responsiveness of the provider, biosafety review, export review, intellectual property review, and sometimes legal review as well as responsiveness of the investigator to questions raised by ORA or others involved in the review process.

Type of Agreement - Obviously, the UBMTA and similar agreements and those agreements with entities with which UT has master agreements, such as ATCC and Addgene, can be processed more quickly than individual MTAs since the general terms have been previously accepted.

Provider - Agreements with other universities and research institutions in the U.S. generally proceed fairly quickly since both the provider and recipient have similar policies with regard to academic freedom and both may have federal funding. There are some exceptions, and the ones that require a greater negotiation time generally involve material that is proprietary to the provider. Agreements with industry providers are often problematic and time-consuming since the material may be proprietary and the provider wants more restrictions on use of the material and sometimes on publication, as well as ownership of results and inventions arising from the work with the material. These restrictive provisions may conflict with funding agreements or other MTAs related to the same project.

Biosafety - All MTAs are submitted for Biosafety review as standard procedure. If the investigator has an approved biosafety protocol or if the material is not hazardous, there is little delay. However, if there is not a biosafety protocol already approved, the MTA may be delayed until that approval occurs. Investigators are encouraged to work with Francine Rogers and to respond quickly to her requests for information related to MTAs.

Export - All MTAs are submitted for Export review as standard procedure. If the material is not restricted and if no foreign nationals or foreign countries are involved, there is little delay. However, if the material is restricted and individuals from certain countries are involved, an export license may be required. Investigators are encouraged to work with the Export Control office and to respond quickly to requests for information related to MTAs.

Intellectual Property - Intellectual property provisions, including ownership and use of results as well as rights to inventions arising from the research using the material, may be an issue if the terms of the MTA conflict with rights of sponsors of the research or rights of other providers whose material will be used in the same research. As stated above, challenging IP provisions may cause delays in negotiating an MTA with industry providers or for material that is proprietary or has been licensed by the provider to a third party.

Legal review - Some, but not all MTAs, require review by the UT General Counsel's office. All foreign MTAs require legal review, and others may, as well, if the agreement language conflicts with UT policy. In many cases, we are able to negotiate favorable language or request an exception that

How Long Should My MTA Take? Cntd

allows us to process the agreement for signature. However, in some cases, the legal issues are not negotiable and may prohibit UT's signing the agreement.

Investigator response - Investigators may receive calls or e-mails from ORA, Biosafety, Export, or the General Counsel's office to solicit additional information required for approval of the document. These contacts may sometimes seem unnecessary to the PI, but a timely and cooperative response will speed the review process.

ORA will continue to try to improve the turn-around time for MTAs; but we know that some of the more complicated agreements, particularly those with foreign entities and commercial providers will continue to challenge us. Please let ORA know early on if there is a specific urgency related to the request for the material (e.g., if you're about to receive a grant and need the material in order to do the work or if the mice being shipped to or from UT are about to age-out)—and we will try to expedite it to the extent we are able.

COMC Research Week

The UTCOMC will host its 2014 Research Week from April 21 through April 25. The event will highlight 23 research projects conducted by residents. Posters will be on display throughout Research Week in the Medical Mall on the Erlanger Baroness campus. On Friday, projects will be judged as residents make brief presentations in Probasco Auditorium. The most outstanding projects will be announced at an awards dinner on Friday night at the Walden Club in downtown Chattanooga. For more information about Research Week, please visit www.utcomchatt.org/researchweek.
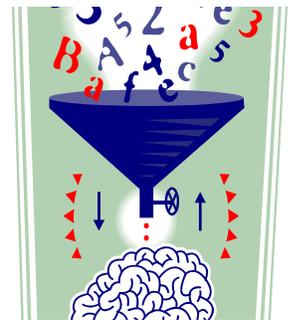
COMC Nuts and Bolts Research Methods Symposium

Save the date! The 15th Annual Nuts and Bolts Research Methods Symposium will be held on Friday, August 15, 2014. Eric Heidel, Ph.D. (Office of Medical Education, Research, and Development; University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine), will conduct a day-long workshop focused on research design and statistics in medicine. Information will be posted on www.utcomchatt.org/nutsandbolts as it becomes available.

UTCOMC Research Coordinators' Forum

The UTCOMC Research Coordinators' Forum is a monthly brown-bag lunch series that is open to all research nurses, coordinators, and key personnel. Meetings are held in the UTCOMC Dean's Conference Room from 12:00 to 1:00 on the fourth Tuesday of each month. For more information, contact amy.hutcherson@erlanger.org.

April 22
Evaluating How We're Speaking With Potential Subjects
Christine Pierre
Founder and President, Society for Clinical Research Sites

> * We will view a recording of this webinar, originally presented on October 9, 2012, for the Society for Clinical Research Sites

May 27
Institutional Review Board: What's New?
Stacey Hendricks
Administrator, UTCOMC Institutional Review Board

LACU Census and Billing System Changes

The new application for the Laboratory Animal Care Unit (LACU) billing and census known as Animal Care and Inventory Management (ACIM) will be fully implemented soon. PIs will be able to use the animal care and use application, ACAP, to access both the IACUC data as well as Lab Animal Care data such as animal orders, current inventory, and account view access. Future plans will eventually allow viewing of LACU invoices through the same system.

Training is now available to investigators and their lab personnel on how to record and generate new cage cards for weanings, separations, and transfers, as well as how to view account information, and current inventory. Training will be conducted in the Electronic Research Administration training room, 910 Madison, Suite 820.

Only PIs and those named as animal orderers who are authorized to submit orders in ACAP are urged to participate in training. Please note that all attendees will also need account access in ACIM. The LACU Building Supervisors will coordinate training times with PIs and their staff. Sheredith Fountain, LACU Administrative Aide, will confirm times.

We are pleased with the projected efficiencies associated with this new system. Please contact Dr. Tim Mandrell, Director of LACU, with any questions or concerns.

Congratulations to Dr. Tim Mandrell

Join us in congratulating Tim Mandrell, DVM, who will be presented the ACLAM Mentor Award. This award, sponsored by the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM) recognizes individuals who have mentored postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, or junior level ACLAM diplomats. Mentoring can be in the areas of research, board certification, technical training, or administrative duties. Criteria for this award includes providing training programs at major meetings or institutions which have been instrumental in the training of laboratory animal veterinarians. Dr. Mandrell will receive this award at the ACLAM 2014 Forum awards ceremony scheduled May 5 at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

CFR Web-Based Grant Search Database Update and More

The UTHSC Corporate and Foundation Relations (CFR) Office in the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs is now working closely with Information Technology Services (ITS) on the development of a searchable database for private grantmaker (corporate, corporate foundation, corporate contribution programs, private foundations, and agencies/associations) opportunities. It is anticipated that a "beta" version of the database, now called CFR Connect, will tested by early to mid-May 2014. We will continue to keep you posted!

In the meantime, please continue to read our monthly CFR-E-Mail Blast sent through the faculty listserv. If you are not on the faculty listserv but would like to receive our CFR E-Mail Blast, send an e-mail to cfr165@uthsc.edu.

As the UTHSC CFR Office continues to develop to meet the needs of those faculty seeking private grantmaker support, we would ask that you continue to keep us informed of the status of your lead principal investigator grants and any concept papers or letters of intent submitted to private grantmakers. To do so, just send a short e-mail to cfr165@uthsc.edu, indicating the name of the sponsor, your name as lead principal investigator, title of project, type of submission (LOI or full proposal), amount requested, and the status of the submission. We can better serve you if we all stay informed about your grant work. If you have any questions contact us at the same e-mail address.

Molecular Resource Center

The Molecular Resource Center (MRC), established in 1985, is one of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) Centers of Excellence at The University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC). The MRC's mission is to provide the scientists at the UTHSC and other UT campuses with access to the latest technologies for exploring the basic biological mechanisms and the molecular bases of disease. In order to accomplish its mission, the MRC continues to invest in both state of the art equipment and trained personnel. The MRC houses a full range of equipment in its core laboratories that facilitate molecular genetic and biochemical studies at the sub-cellular and systems biology levels. In addition to providing technical services on a cost basis, the MRC personnel assist and instruct investigators in applying specialized tools of modern molecular biology to basic and clinical research. The MRC's services include sequencing at both the single fragment and whole genome/transcriptome (next generation) levels along with Affymetrix microarrays. Additionally, equipment, reagents, and training for real-time PCR at various throughputs and automated isolation of nucleic acids are also provided.

Please visit our new website at http://www.uthsc.edu/research/molecular_resource/

Office of Biomedical Informatics Testing Resources for Statistical Computing

In collaboration with UTHSC-ITS, the Office of Biomedical Informatics has dedicated two web-servers for statistical analysis for faculty research projects. Currently we are testing a server dedicated to the R statistical programming language and another dedicated for SAS programming. The servers are being use-tested by a small group of high-usage faculty. Once appropriate provisioning, security, and HIPAA compliance procedures are finalized, we will make them available to the campus on a per-request basis. As we learn more about how these tools serve our campus the Office of Biomedical Informatics will add resources to these systems, including SPSS and Stata.

Stacey Williams Joins UTRF

Dr. Stacy Williams joined the Health Science Center office of UTRF as a licensing assistant in March. She will focus on the commercialization of technologies developed in the Colleges of Medicine, Dentistry, and Nursing.

Prior to joining UTRF, Stacy was a postdoctoral fellow at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, where her research focused on DNA repair in the developing nervous system. She was also previously a chemist within the DuPont Crop Protection discovery organization and a technology commercialization intern at the Yale University Office of Cooperative Research. Stacy holds a Ph.D. in Experimental Pathology from Yale University.

Stacy can be reached at swill144@uthsc.edu or 901-448-2181.

Proposal Development Funding

Funding has been established for small pilot project expenses (up to $5,000). Funds can be requested via e-mail to Jane Poulos jpoulos@uthsc.edu and should include specific needs of the project, the name of the proposed grant that this funding will support, and the date the proposed grant is to be submitted. Fund requests are reviewed and approved by the Interim Vice Chancellor for Research.

Copy editing services are also provided by the Office of Research, and can be requested via e-mail to Jane Poulos (jpoulos@uthsc.edu). Requests are reviewed by the Interim Vice Chancellor for Research.

For more details, please see:
http://www.uthsc.edu/research/research_resources/editing_services.php

Grant Incentive Funding

Grant Incentive Funding is available in the amount of $25,000 to UTHSC faculty who have recently submitted a new R01, R15, R21 or equivalent grant, were not funded, but received a percentile score of 30 or less. A Principal Investigator (PI) who meets the Grant Incentive Fund criteria should submit an application to the Office of Research. An internal review committee will evaluate applications and make recommendations to Dr. Larry Pfeffer, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research.

The deadline for applications will be **April 30, 2014.** For more details, visit:
http://www.uthsc.edu/research/research_resources/docs/Grant_Incentive_Program_Guidelines.pdf

Bridge Funding

The Office of Research encourages faculty to apply for Bridge Funding. Funding is currently available to individual applicants in $75,000 increments or less. Any full-time faculty member, tenured or tenure-track, who is a principal investigator on a grant funded for at least three consecutive years by a national funding agency (e.g., NIH, NSF, American Heart Association) and whose application for continued support from that or another national funding agency has not been funded, shall be eligible for Bridge Funding. This funding is intended to provide University of Tennessee Health Science Center faculty members with temporary, reduced support in order to keep key personnel and continue laboratory or research operations while full support is being sought from outside agencies.

Deadline for applications has been extended to **April 30, 2014**. For details regarding eligibility and the application process, go to: http://www.uthsc.edu/research/research_resources/bridge_funding/

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Brad Stevens	Supv - 1st Floor Nash	448-5454
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