

The Research Notebook

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Dear Colleagues,

As we begin the New Year, I am pleased to announce several initiatives to enhance the research enterprise at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. This issue of The Research Notebook will detail some of our efforts along with these high points:

The Laboratory Animal Care Unit will implement new functionality in their invoicing system, which will allow each investigator to view current cage inventory, and in the near future to view past invoices and pending charges on line. In addition, work is being completed that will streamline entering of weaning and transfer requests. Look for more news from the LACU via email regarding training for these systems.

The Office of Development and Alumni Affairs and the Office of Research have worked together to identify grant opportunities between private funders and UTHSC faculty. These efforts are reported in the "New Paths" article about the Corporate and Foundation Relations Office located on page three.

The Office of Research provided funds to renew the license with Ingenuity Pathway Systems. The UTHSC data-mining core, managed by Dr. Ivan Gerling, provides analysis services to investigators with large datasets of genomic and proteomic information.

Dr. Ari VanderWalde has joined our staff as Associate Vice Chancellor of Research effective January 2014 as head of the Clinical Trials Unit (CTU). The CTU will be housed in newly renovated space on the third floor of 66 N. Pauline. Services will be provided to faculty to assist them in conducting clinical trials. More detailed information on the CTU will be provided in future campus announcements. Dr. VanderWalde has extensive experience in clinical research, including the design and conduct of clinical trials, results reporting, regulatory filing, and interactions between investigators and the pharmaceutical industry. He has published extensively in the field of cancer as well as in research ethics. Dr. VanderWalde also joins the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology, and hold the positions of Director of Research with the West Clinic and Medical Director at ACORN Research LLC.

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

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



Dr. Lawrence Pfeffer

Dr. Edward Chaum Wins Wheeley Award

Dr. Edward Chaum, Plough Foundation Professor of Retinal Diseases, was presented with the The B. Otto and Kathleen Wheeley Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer at the UT Research Foundation Innovation Awards on Dec. 5th. The award is a cash prize given to a member of the UT faculty who has had a major impact on the tech transfer success of the University.

“Dr. Chaum is the type of faculty member with which technology transfer offices dream to work,” UTRF Vice Present Richard Magid said. “Ed’s successful track record in basic and translational research speaks for itself. The three companies he’s founded in the past five years demonstrate that he is also a skilled entrepreneur. He exemplifies the characteristics that Otto and Kathleen Wheeley sought to recognize when they endowed the Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer at the University of Tennessee.”

Dr. Chaum has been at the UT Health Science Center since July 2000. He has received four issued patents with several others pending, authored over 60 peer-reviewed publications and directed \$8 million - \$9 million in sponsored research projects at UTHSC. Additionally, in 2007 he founded Hubble Telemedical, a company that enables screening and diagnosis of retinal diseases in non-specialty settings through their proprietary, award-winning Telemedical Retinal Image Analysis and Diagnosis (TRIAD™) technology. Hubble Telemedical began as a research collaboration between Chaum and Ken Tobin at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 2004. Once initial camera deployments showed clinical success, Chaum and Tobin licensed the technology from UTRF and formed a start-up company, Hubble Telemedical. Chaum is also the founder of Nanophthalmics, a medical device company developing nano-engineered surgical instruments for ophthalmic surgery, and Infusense, a medical device company developing an automated infusion platform for the anesthetic agent propofol.



Dr. Richard Magid, Dr. Edward Chaum, and Dr. Steve Schwab

UTHSC Researchers Honored at Innovation Awards

Nineteen University of Tennessee Health Science Center researchers were recognized for their innovations at the University of Tennessee Research Foundation (UTRF) Innovation Awards Dec. 5th. Those honored at the event had, in the last year, received a patent from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, developed a technology that was licensed to an outside company, received a UTRF Maturation Fund Grant, or in some cases, a combination of the three.

In the last year 14 patents were issued to UTHSC faculty members for technologies ranging from medical instruments to novel compounds and treatment methods. In addition, five technologies were licensed to outside companies for further development and commercialization.

Inventors recognized for receiving patents:

Timothy Fabian
Lisa Jennings
James T. Dalton
Duane D. Miller

Bob Moore
Steven Gurley
Suni Mustafa
John Buolamwini

Shivaputra Patil
Edward Chaum
Tayebeh Pourmotabbed

New Paths to Seek Private Grant Support

The UTHSC Office of Development and Alumni Affairs announces the establishment of the Corporate and Foundation Relations (CFR) Office with new Director Denise Rivers. The mission of the CFR Office is to unite corporate, foundation, and agency/association enthusiasm for giving grant support to our university and to build genuine connections and relationships.

Seeking out support from private grantmakers is different from the approach to applying for government grants. Each grantmaker is identified, thoroughly researched or qualified, and cultivated via several methods before a proposal is developed and submitted. The CFR Office also conducts an in-depth analysis of each grantmaker beyond the typical website and RFP review. These steps ensure a “best” match between the grant seeker and grantmaker. Then proposals are strategically and carefully developed together with faculty and/or staff to include information that demonstrates support for the grantmaker’s mission, vision, and purpose. Even if there are deadlines, direct contact is often made with a private funder to begin building “relationship” grantmaking partnerships.

As part of the above process, the CFR Office is charged to facilitate grant award support via internal and external collaborative connections among the university’s leadership, faculty, staff, alumni, and the community. Ms. Rivers is working diligently to set up mechanisms that will open up new avenues to sources of grant support from corporate, foundation, and agency/association partners.

The CFR Office is currently facilitating the development of a new web-based mechanism that will allow faculty to browse for self-directed identification of potential grant opportunities. This web-based tool will provide additional opportunities to review private grantmaker funding sources for various types of projects and programs. The link to this tool will eventually be located on the Office of Research Administration website and on UTHSC CFR Office web pages.

If you would like to find out more about the CFR Office and how Denise Rivers can assist you in seeking out and developing grant proposals, please contact her via e-mail at drivers3@uthsc.edu.

Annual Research Week at the UTCOMC

The University of Tennessee College of Medicine Chattanooga (UTCOCM) will host its 2014 Research Week from April 21 through April 25.

Residents are asked to submit abstracts describing interesting cases or research projects by January 13, 2014. Approximately 25 abstracts will be selected to be highlighted during the event. Posters will be on display throughout Research Week in the Medical Mall on the Erlanger Baroness Campus. On Friday, the case reports and research projects will be judged as residents make brief presentations in Probasco Auditorium. The most outstanding case reports and research projects will be announced at an awards dinner on Friday night at the Walden Club in downtown Chattanooga.

For more information about Research Week and the deadlines for participation, please visit www.utcomchatt.org/researchweek.



Speed Geeking

The Faculty Senate Research Committee introduces speed geeking, which is speed dating for scientists. Gatherings will include up to 10 faculty presentations in which 20 slides are shown for 20 seconds each (total presentation time 6 minutes and 40 seconds). The presentations will be preceded and followed by socialization that will provide an opportunity for discussing research interests and needs that could lead to development of collaborations. Presentations will also be uploaded to a web site to be available for future viewing. These meetings will occur multiple times during the year, with the first occurring in late March 2014. If you have interest in presenting your work, please contact Sarka Beranova (sberanova@uthsc.edu)



UT Signs Up for Novo Nordisk Science Forum

The University of Tennessee, on behalf of its Health Science Center and the Knoxville campus, has recently signed a Letter of Understanding (MOU) with Novo Nordisk to facilitate collaboration on diabetes and obesity biologics research through the Novo Nordisk Diabetes and Obesity Biologics Forum (“Science Forum”). Through the Science Forum, “Novo Nordisk seeks to directly engage with . . . institutions to mutually identify research projects which can be supported by research funding and access to Novo Nordisk in-house research competencies to translate early research into innovation.” The forum targets “non-clinical research related to new biologic therapeutics and targets amenable to biologics therapeutics or novel effects of known biologics in the field of Type 1 Diabetes and Type 2 Diabetes, including micro- and macrovascular complications, and obesity.”

Two types of proposals may be submitted to the program: (1) Early Exploration Awards - \$250,000 for a two-year period for early-stage hypotheses with limited or no preliminary data, but promising ideas for treatment of diabetes and obesity, and (2) Proof of Principle Awards - \$500,000 for two years for validation of early stage (non-clinical) innovations.

Four UT investigators have submitted proposals that will be forwarded to Novo Nordisk for consideration for participation in the Science Forum. Investigators whose proposals are selected by Novo will make detailed presentations in a two-day forum, after which, Novo will decide which proposals to fund and will request full research proposal submissions.

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 unfunded, and received a percentile score of 30% or less. A principal investigator 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 December 30 deadline has been extended to January 10, 2014. After January, the next deadline for this fiscal year’s awards will be April 30, 2014.

For more details, visit: http://www.uthsc.edu/research/research_resources/docs/Grant_Incentive_Program_Guidelines.pdf



Bridge Funding

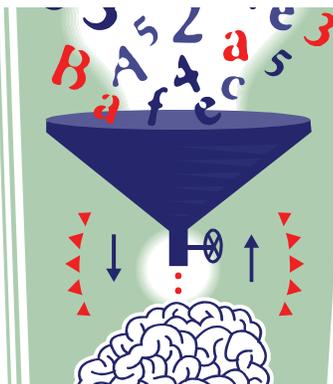
The Office of Research encourages faculty to apply for Bridge Funding. Funds are currently available to individual applicants up to \$75,000. Any full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty member, who is a principal investigator on a grant funded for at least three consecutive years by a national funding 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 FY2014 awards is April 15, 2014. For details regarding eligibility and the application process, go to: http://www.uthsc.edu/research/research_resources/bridge_funding/ or contact Jane Poulos (jpoulos@uthsc.edu).



You Got Your “omics” Data - But What Does It Mean?

Technological progress in the past decade has greatly increased our ability to collect large “systems” datasets, and to study whole genomes, transcriptomes, proteomes, metabolomes and other “omes”. However, gaining insights from such “omics” datasets require something more than the traditional PubMed searches of literature. Understanding how hundreds of genes, proteins, and metabolites interact with each other requires “mining” of such lists with capable and automated bioinformatics processes and tools. Investigators may want to know if their list is significantly enriched for: 1) genes belonging to specific molecular pathways, 2) genes regulated by specific transcription factors, 3) genes associated with specific protein complexes, 4) genes from specific organelles, 5) genes associated with specific diseases or physiological processes, 6) genes associated with specific types of toxicities, and/or 7) genes affected by specific drugs or molecules.



The UTHSC data mining core has recently renewed its license to Ingenuity Pathway Systems, a web-based service that can help analyze lists of genes and molecules in the context of these questions. This software will allow us to continue helping investigators extracting biological meaning and creating new hypotheses from their systems biology dataset. Please contact Dr. Ivan Gerling in the UTHSC Data Mining Core at igerling@uthsc.edu or 901-523-8990 x5088 for more information.

Inclusion of Industry Studies in CVs and Reports of Sponsored Activity

This is a reminder to faculty who are involved in proprietary studies such as industry-sponsored clinical trials or other industry projects that you should not include the title of the study or the name of the sponsor on your CVs, NIH Other Support pages, or similar listings of your activity. Please indicate “Proprietary Study” for the title and “Industry Sponsor” for the sponsor name. Most of our industry agreements have strict confidentiality clauses that preclude including more specific information in reports to other sponsors.

UTCOCM Research Coordinators’ Forum

The UTCOCM 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 UTCOCM Dean's Conference Room from 12:00 to 1:00 on the fourth Tuesday of each month. For more information, contact amy.hutcherson@erlangers.org.



January 28

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

February 25

Meaningful Child Assent for Medical Research

Manoo Bhakta, MD, and Avalon Gourlay
Department of Pediatrics, UTCOCM

March 25

Best Practices in Reviewing Medical Literature

Rachel Bohannon

Manager, Erlanger Medical Library

Welcome Dr. Ari VanderWalde

The Office of Research welcomes Ari VanderWalde, M.D., M.P.H., M.Bioethics., as Associate Vice Chancellor of Research for the Clinical Trials Unit effective January 2014. Responsibilities include aligning processes regarding pharmaceutical studies from sponsors and various colleges in UTHSC. Dr. VanderWalde also joins the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology, and holds positions with the West Clinic and ACORN. Look for additional news regarding Dr. VanderWalde and the Clinical Trials Unit in future issues.



Dr. Trevor Sweatman to Chair IACUC

Effective January 1, 2014, Dr. Thad Nowak will step down as the Chair of the IACUC and temporarily become the Vice Chair. Dr. Trevor Sweatman will assume the responsibilities of Chair. Dr. Nowak has served the University for many years as an IACUC member and has been Chair of that committee since November of 2005. Dr. Sweatman, too, is a long-time member of the IACUC and has been its Vice Chair since May of 2009. The dedicated service that both of these gentlemen have given to the UTHSC research mission through their service on the IACUC has been invaluable as exemplified by successful AAALAC site visits and the development and implementation of the new on-line protocol submission portal, ACAP.

Lakita Cavin Named Senior Staff Attorney for UTRF

Dr. Lakita Cavin has been promoted to the position of senior staff attorney with the UT Research Foundation. Cavin will provide counsel and oversight of formal contractual documents and agreements associated with licensing. As a registered patent attorney, Cavin will also provide strategic support for drafting and prosecuting patent applications on new disclosures from across the UT System.

Cavin has been with UTRF as a staff attorney and licensing associate since 2007. Prior to joining UTRF, Dr. Cavin was a post-doctoral research scientist and assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacology at the Health Science Center, where her research focused in the area of liver cancer. She holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Auburn University and a J.D. from the University of Memphis.



Stefan Schweitzer Joins UTRF

Dr. Stefan Schweitzer joined the Health Science Center Office as a licensing associate in January 2014. Stefan took over management of the pharmaceutical invention portfolio from Dr. Janet Ralbovsky, who recently accepted a position with the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston.

Prior to joining UTRF, Stefan was a drug development scientist at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, and he has also worked at several venture-backed biomedical startups. Dr. Schweitzer holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Goettingen.



Save the Date for Grant Consultant Dr. Israel Goldberg

Dr. Israel Goldberg, President of Health Research Associates, will visit the UTHSC Memphis campus **March 5 and 6, 2014**. Dr. Goldberg is under contract with the UTHSC Office of Research and has provided consultation that proved invaluable for the successful awarding of a number of NIH grants to faculty. Dr. Goldberg is available to assist faculty with individual grants, as well as training grants and other programmatic funding.

Faculty members may request one-on-one or small group consultation meetings with Dr. Goldberg during his visit. Long distance consultation can also be arranged. Watch for future campus announcements, or contact Lisa Bronte (lbronte@uthsc.edu) for scheduling.



Proposal Development Funding and Copy Editing Services

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

Welcome Sheredith Fountain

The Lab Animal Care Unit welcomes Sheredith Fountain as Administrative Aide. Sheredith replaces Andrea Briggs who has relocated to the Cancer Research Building in a new position. Sheredith will serve as the principal receptionist for the LACU office for calls and visitors, and will be responsible for placing animal orders with vendors and managing the online animal order application in ACAP. Sheredith can be reached by e-mail at sfounta1@uthsc.edu or by phone at 448-5656.

Office of Research Service Awards

We are pleased to announce Office of Research employees who were honored this year at the UTHSC service award ceremonies. Congratulations to the following staff for five to over thirty years of dedicated service with UTHSC:

30+ years

Terrence Ackerman - IRB (36 years)

Donna Stallings - IRB (31 years)

Felicia Waller - MRC (30 years)

26 years

Ginny Geer - Research Admin

Risa Ramsey - Clinical Trials Unit

20 years

Donna Hollaway - IRB

15 years

Mary Frances Braslow - IACUC

10 years

Gerald Byrne - RBL

Scott Jackson - LACU

Jane Poulos - Office of the VC Research

Lillian Zalduondo -RBL/LACU

6 years

Monica Campbell - Research Administration

David Hamilton - LACU

5 years

Rolanda Peterson - LACU

Steve Wills - Electronic Research Admin.



Office of Research Administration

New Year Tips for Speeding Up Grant Proposals and Contracts

As we begin the new year, ORA would like to share some tips to help ensure that proposals and agreements move smoothly through the system:

- Start early and give ORA “early warning” that your project is in the works so that we can be ready to handle it well before the deadline.
- Work closely with your departmental business manager to ensure that your budget is correct and that departmental approvals will not be delayed.
- Read and follow the agency’s instructions carefully.
- Upload the grant guidelines and the grant terms and conditions (if any) in PAMS along with the proposal.
- Be sure the PI and all key personnel and any consultants have completed conflict of interest training and have submitted outside interest disclosures.
- Contact ORA personnel with any questions about grant preparation, entering data into PAMS, or the status of the proposal.

Our goal is to submit every grant error-free well before its deadline and to turn around contracts and other documents as quickly as possible. If you have suggestions for ways that ORA can improve customer service, please let us know. We welcome your feedback!



RPPRs Replacing eSNAPs

The NIH Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) is being phased in to replace the eSNAP (electronic simplified non-competing award procedures). Beginning last year, the RPPR was required for many awards. Beginning with due dates on or after January 31, 2014, the RPPR will now be required for multi-year funded (MYF) awards.

Per the NIH Notice NOT-OD-14-026: *MYF awards are awards for which the project period and budget period are the same and are longer than one year. Progress Reports for these awards are due annually on or before the anniversary of the budget/project period start date of the award. The reporting period for a MYF progress report is the calendar year preceding the anniversary date of the award.*

Some examples of NIH activity codes that traditionally are multi-year funded include:

C06: Research Facilities Construction Grant

DP2: NIH Director's New Innovator Award

DP3: Type 1 Diabetes Targeted Research Award

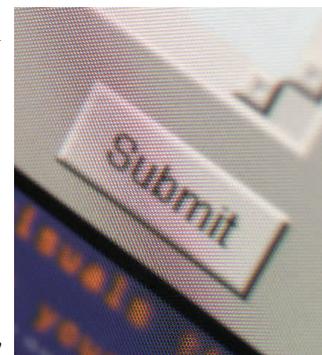
R15: Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)

RPPRs are required for all eSNAP and fellowship progress reports and is also being piloted for non-eSNAP awards. Note: Your notice of award will indicate whether the grant is subject to eSNAP or is excluded from eSNAP.

RPPRs are completed by the PI or his/her designee in eRA Commons and then forwarded to the institutional signing official (Dr. Debbie Smith) for submission.

Additional information on RPPRs can be found at: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/rppr/> A nice summary of the similarities and differences between eSNAP and RPPRs can be found at: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/rppr/rppr_vs_esnap.htm

If you have questions about preparing your RPPR, please contact ORA staff (see staff listing on the back page of this newsletter).





Contact List

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Phone</i>
Office of Research		
Lawrence Pfeffer Ph.D.	Interim Vice Chancellor	448-7855
Jane Poulos	Sr. Business Manager	448-3746
Lisa Bronte	Accounting Specialist	448-7125
Biomedical Informatics		
Ian Brooks, Ph.D.	Director	448-5285
Vacant	Associate Director	448-8099
Emin Kusc	Program Manager	448-2517
Mark Sakauye	Program Manager	448-1816
Emanuel Villa	Biomedical Informaticist	448-1202
Ashleigh Brock	Admin. Research Asst.	448-5296
Research Support Services		
Vacant	Business Director	448-7101
Jayne Collins McKinnie	Budget Coordinator	448-5652
Junming Yue	Director - Viral Vector	448-2091
Dan Rosson, Ph.D.	Director - Flow Cyt	448-4279
Tiffany Seagroves, Ph.D.	Director - Bio-Imaging	448-5018
Clinical Trials Unit		
Ari VanderWalde, Ph.D.	Assoc. Vice Chancellor	
Risa Ramsey, Ph.D.	Director	516-2079
Laboratory Animal Care Unit		
Tim Mandrell, D.V.M.	Director	448-5656
David Hamilton, D.V.M.	Assoc. Prof. Nash/CRB	448-7311
Scott Jackson, D.V.M.	Instr. Colmn/Surg/T. Svc	448-7134
Joyce Jones	Animal Procurement	448-5453
Sherry Frazier	Facility Spvr / Coleman	448-7308
Barbara Blakely	Supv - Nash Basement	448-1429
Brad Stevens	Supv - 1st Floor Nash	448-5454
Rolanda Peterson	Supv - CRB	448-4965
Dennis Martin	Cage Wash Supv	448-5452
Molecular Resource Center		
Ragendra Raghov, Ph.D.	Executive Director	448-2656
William Taylor, Ph.D.	Director	448-6165
Tom Cunningham, Ph.D.	Associate Director	448-6191
Caitlin Costelle	Sr. Research Specialist	448-2730
Lorne Rose	Sr. Research Specialist	448-8229
Terry Mark-Major	Business Manager	448-2656
Felicia Waller	Specialist	448-8746
Jian Yan	Research Associate	448-2730
Cancer Research Building		
Lawrence Pfeffer, Ph.D.	Director	448-7855
Andrea Briggs	Admin. Specialist	448-4800
Regional Biocontainment Laboratory		
Gerald Byrne, Ph.D.	Director	448-3546
Jennifer Stabenow	Facility Manager	448-6649
Lillian Zalduondo	Supervisor	448-6408

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Trent Pitts, J.D.	Associate Director	448-3303
Margaret Everett	Program Administrator	448-2037
Ruthie Ruston	Specialist	448-3126
Monica Campbell	Specialist	448-5587
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Ginny Geer	Manager	448-1668
Jackie Easley	Coordinator II	448-4188
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J. Lacey Smith, M.D.	Director	448-2117
Research Compliance		
Randall Nelson, Ph.D.	Assoc. Vice Chancellor	448-3533
Vacant	Compliance Officer	448-1264
Vicki Baselski, Ph.D.	Infection Control Chair	448-6329
Mark Miller, Ph.D.	IBC Chair	448-6752
John Denton	IBC Coordinator	448-2164
Vivian Loveless, Pharm.D.	Radiation Safety Chair	448-6931
Institutional Animal Care and Use		
Mary Frances Braslow	Administrator	448-3904
Trevor Sweatman, Ph.D.	Chair	448-4591
Thaddeus Nowak, Ph.D.	Vice Chair	448-7384
Institutional Review Board		
Terrence Ackerman, Ph.D.	Chair	448-4824
Cameron Barclay	Director	448-4824
Donna Hollaway	Compliance Specialist	448-2933
Kim Prachniak	Sr. Regulatory Spec.	448-5060
Margaret Sularin	Regulatory Specialist	448-4824
Elaine Todd	Regulatory Specialist	448-1343
Donna Stallings	Administrator	448-4824
Holly Herron	Administrator	448-4824
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Vacant	C. Officer - Memphis	448-1869
Vacant	C. Officer - Knoxville	865-305-6192
Electronic Research Administration		
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Lawson Culver	Administrator	448-1183
Tricia Page	Program Manager	448-2753
Steve Wills	Program Manager	448-2389
Additional Research Related Contacts		
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Lakita Cavin, J.D., Ph.D.	Senior Staff Attorney	448-7827
Stefan Schweitzer, Ph.D.	Licensing Associate	448-1146
Cynthia Brown	Admin. Coordinator	448-7827

The Research Notebook
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The Office of Research provides support for the faculty and staff of the Health Science Center in their efforts to obtain external funding for research and other sponsored projects, while ensuring compliance with UT policy, sponsor policy, and applicable law.

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