

The Research Notebook

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Research 101 Symposium Held at UTHSC

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and the Office of Research Compliance sponsored the 2008 Fall Conference *Research 101*. The daylong conference included



Dr. Randy Nelson presenting at Research 101

lectures from Dr. Debbie Smith of the Office of Research Administration, Carolyn Moffit of the Office of Compliance, Dr. Terrence Ackerman of the Institutional Review Board, Dr. Randall Nelson of the Office of Research Compliance, and Derita Bran of the Clinical Trials Office at UTMG. The topics covered included grants, clinical trial agreements, research billing, the IRB process, principal investigator responsibilities, and the clinical trial process.

The conference made use of the Turning Point™ audience response system, individual hand-held devices that allows the participant to select an answer for multiple choice questions presented by the speakers before and their presentations. Audience members could view the tabulated answers prior to the presentation and then were given an opportunity to demonstrate how well they had learned the material at the end of each topic.

Over 100 people attended the conference which was held in the Schreier Auditorium in the Student Alumni Center. The attendees were from UTHSC, St. Jude, Methodist, Baptist, UTMG and Le Bonheur. The response of those who attended was overwhelmingly positive.

Research Council Update

Following a brief summer hiatus the Research Council will reconvene with meetings scheduled for September 19th, October 17th, November 14th and December 12th. All sessions are held at 3:00 p.m. in Hyman 101.

The first three meetings will focus on our compliance organization. Dr. Randy Nelson will lead a discussion of the IACUC, Institutional Biosafety and related research issues at the first meeting. The October session will be devoted to the IRB and its reorganization, and Dr. Terry Ackerman will present. Drs. Debbie Smith and Lakita Cavin will summarize procedures and requirements for processing MTA's (Material Transfer Agreements) in November. The Research Council includes the Deans and Associate Deans for Research of all the colleges, so if you have certain issues you would like brought up please contact your representatives. There are numerous new compliance regulations, so these sessions should be informative and engender considerable discussion.

Nelson Honored by National Academies

Randall J. Nelson, Ph.D., Professor of Anatomy and Neurobiology and Associate Vice Chancellor for Research in the area of compliance has been appointed a "National Associate" of the National Research Council of the National Academies. In its advisory role to the nation the National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine appointed 5900 volunteers to its various committees during 2007. An additional 1500 individuals served as reviewers of one or more reports. Among these many people are 903 whose "dedication was deemed truly extraordinary". These individuals have been given lifetime appointments as National Associates in honor of their past service. Nelson is nationally recognized for his expertise in the field of animal care and welfare. He has served on committees of the National Research Council and has been involved in their editorial activities for a number of years. As further reward, his selection as a National Associate entitles him to full use of the facilities of the Member Center of National Academy of Sciences Building in Washington, D.C. Please join *The Research Notebook* in congratulating Randy for his accomplishments.



UTRF Offers Support to Faculty Working on New Technologies

UT faculty with developing technologies can qualify for up to \$15,000 in support from the UT Research Foundation's second UTRF Maturation Funding competition. The competition is open to all UT researchers, including staff and students, who are working with an existing invention or that have a new invention ready to be disclosed. The grants are available to support any project that will demonstrate an unproven technology, increase its commercial readiness, or provide new data to assist in marketing. The funds can be used for materials, equipment, services or labor. To apply please submit a 1-3 page application to the Research Office, including a description of the technology, the plan of work, the commercial need, and the expected results. Proposals from all UT campuses will be judged by an award committee consisting of both UTRF staff and external technical and business experts. Awards will be given to the highest scoring proposals, without preference for campus affiliation. In the previous competition, of the 11 projects that were funded, 6 originated from the Health Science Center.

Deadline: November 21, 2008

Contacts: Richard Magid, Memphis, (901) 448-1562, rmagid1@utmem.edu

More information online at http://utrff.tennessee.edu/news/Mat_Fund_Extra_Info.pdf

Postdoc Association Update



The UTHSC Postdoc Association (UTPhDA) is moving from strength to strength in 2008, with the appointment of Dr. George (Trey) Howell III (Pharmacology) and Dr. Lynn Crosby (Physiology) as the new President and Vice-President of the association respectively. Former President, Dr. Ian Brooks, stepped down from the position at the beginning of September after having served since the PhDA formed in June 2007. Dr. Brooks works in the Pharmacology Department and is nearing the end of his postdoctoral appointment. "Being president of the PhDA has been an invaluable experience," Dr. Brooks said. He added, "I urge anyone who

wants to broaden their training horizons to consider serving our community this way. There are many opportunities for postdocs within the PHDA and it gives you great experience in time and personal management, event planning and so much more. It's been an invaluable addition to my resume." Former Vice-President, Dr. Michal Zmijewski also stepped down in September in preparation for a return to his home country of Poland later in the year, after having secured a position with a biotech company.

The first task of the new leadership was the planning and execution of the annual Fall postdoc science/social event. Last year the PhDA held a hugely successful launch party complete with catering from Gus' Fried Chicken and national biotech vendors presenting on their new products. "This year we decided to try and do something more 'science-based'," said Trey Howell. "We had feedback that the postdocs wanted events where they could present their work and network with each other. It was obvious for us to have a Postdoc Research Day." This event was held on Friday 26th September in the Cancer Research Building, with space generously offered by Professor Larry Pfeffer, Director of the Center for Cancer Research. Willing postdocs were able to present a poster of previously shown research, with prizes being awarded to the top three presenters. The event organizing committee was lead by Dr. Candice Thomas (Physiology), who beforehand had said "I'm excited about the event and hope it goes well." Dr. Thomas was responsible for organizing the PhDA members into various sub-committees and took a supervisory role ensuring tasks were completed on time as the event neared. Faculty judges were recruited and organized by Dr. Tiffany Seagroves, faculty advisor to the PhDA, who said that there was "lots of postdoc turnout, the poster judging went on with no need to rescore or do a tiebreaker and all judges showed up and were pretty serious about giving [the] presenters feedback." First place went to Dr. Paula Dietrich (Mentor: Ioannis Dragtasis, Ph.D.) of the Department of Physiology. Second place was Dr. Jeoung-Eun Park (Mentor: Ae-Kyung Yi, Ph.D.) of the Department of Molecular Sciences. The third place winner was Dr. Akira Ito (Mentor Christopher Nosrat, Ph.D.) of the Department of Restorative Dentistry.

New PhDA Vice-President Lynn Crosby added, "it was a great success. [It] went off without a hitch...I would say this is a definite "repeat" event for next year. It was very well received." A keynote speech was delivered over lunch by Dr. Steve Bares, CEO of Memphis Bioworks and a former adjunct professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences at UTHSC.

Before the end of October the PhDA also hopes to announce the winner of the 2008/9 Postdoc Travel Award. This award, sponsored by The Office for Research, aims to provide funds to one or two postdocs each year to attend nationally recognized conferences when their own lab funds are insufficient. "One of the hardest decisions a mentor can make is who to send to a conference in any given year, because usually grants provide only limited funds for expenses such as travel," said Dr. Brooks. By the September submission deadline almost a dozen postdocs had submitted their poster materials for judging. Once again a panel of faculty judges, including Vice-Chancellor for Research, Prof. Rusty Johnson, were recruited by Tiffany Seagroves. Judges will score each submission based on the scientific strength of the submission, and the potential impact on the individual postdocs' career trajectory. "The letter of intent, stating why you need to go to a particular conference, is a core component of the submission," said Dr. Brooks.

Future events are still being planned with the close cooperation of Associate Vice-Chancellor Dr. Dianna Johnson, who remains head of the Postdoc Office and supervisor of the PhDA. "I'll be attending the National Postdoc Association Annual Meeting, in Houston this year," Dr. Johnson said, "and we'll be able to give a great update report on how our award winning PhDA is really working towards their future."

Symposium on Scientific Integrity and Preventing Research Misconduct

A Symposium on Scientific Integrity and Preventing Research Misconduct has been scheduled for December 4, 2008. UTHSC is pleased to have two national experts come to campus to explore this important topic with healthcare professionals and research staff.

Speakers will be Greg Koski, M.D., former director of the US Department of Health and Human Services Office for Human Research Protections and Cynthia Ricard, Ph.D., Director, Extramural Research in the US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Research Integrity. Session topics are Vulnerability in Research and Informed Consent, Research Misconduct and Conflict of Interest, and Scientific Integrity and Mentoring in Research.

Jointly sponsored by the Faculty Senate and The Office of Research Administration the symposium will be held in the Freeman Auditorium in the Hamilton Eye Institute, 5th floor -930 Madison. Continuing Medical Education Units and HR 128 credits will be offered. Registration is available at http://www.utmem.edu/research/research_administration/seminar_reg.php. Please contact Dr. Karen Johnson, kjohnson@utmem.edu or Dr. Deborah Smith, dsmith@utmem.edu for more information.

MATLAB Software and Session Free to UTHSC

The University of Tennessee now has a system-wide license agreement with MathWorks for MATLAB, Simulink and 54 other products. More information about registering and downloading the products can be found at <http://oit.utk.edu/matlab/>.

Please join MathWorks for a complimentary MATLAB seminar open to all on October 29, 2008 1:00 - 4:45 in the Hamilton Eye Institute's Freeman Auditorium.

Saket Kharsikar, M.S., Application Engineer will present:

- * What's New with MATLAB 2008b
- * A brief overview of MATLAB: easy data access, analysis, and visualization
- * GUI-based applications for biomedical image processing
- * Introductory examples of bioinformatics and signal processing
- * Modeling biophysical processes (PKPD) and biochemical pathways with SimBiology
- * Introduction to parallel computing with MATLAB

Register for this free seminar at <http://www.mathworks.com/seminars/ut1029>



CTSI Pilot Project Awards Announced

The CTSI Scientific Advisory Board has reviewed the first year Pilot Project applications and announced funding for four proposals. The emphasis for this first round of funding was on larger projects from experienced principal investigators utilizing well organized multidisciplinary teams assembled from across departments, campuses and partner/affiliate institutions to address important clinical and translational research questions with innovative and novel technologies and methodologies or that proposed to develop such technologies and methodologies in the course of the project. Projects were also evaluated on their potential for rapidly achieving extramural funding from federal and/or industry sources.

This year's Pilot Project Awardees are:

- Monica Jablonski, PhD, PI and colleagues, Proposal title: Development of Naturally Derived, Biodegradable Hydrogel Carrier for Treatment of Age-Related Macular Degeneration. Award: \$91,196
- Karl Weber, MD, PI and colleagues, Proposal title: Polynutrient Dyshomeostasis in African-Americans with Congestive Heart Failure. Award: \$59,200
- Ron Adkins, PhD, PI and colleagues, Proposal title: Genomics and Epigenomics of Fetal Growth Regulation and Cognitive Development. Award: \$79,998
- Betty Lew, MD, PI and colleagues, Proposal title: Saccharomyces cerevisiae Mannan, A Potential Therapeutic for Asthma. Award: \$50,073

Office of Research Administration

UTHSC Joins Federal Demonstration Project

UTHSC has joined the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP), which is a *cooperative initiative among 10 federal agencies and 120 institutional recipients of federal funds for Phase IV. The FDP is a program sponsored by the Government, University, Industry Research Round Table of the National Academies. Its purpose is to reduce the administrative burdens associated with research grants and contracts. The interaction between FDP's 300 or so university and federal representatives takes place in FDP's 3 annual meetings and, more extensively, in the many collaborative working groups and task forces that meet often by conference calls in order to develop specific work products. The FDP is a unique forum for individuals from universities and nonprofits to work collaboratively with federal agency officials to improve the national research enterprise. (<http://thefdp.org>)*

The FDP has just celebrated its 20th anniversary. Some streamlining efforts that have resulted from FDP initiatives include modular budget submission, e-SNAP, Just-in-Time submission of other support, local approval of no-cost extensions, and--just recently--standard terms and conditions for federal grants.

UTHSC will be sending representatives from the Office of Research, Office of Finance and Operations, and the faculty to attend these meetings, the first of which for the current year was held in early September. The faculty representative is Dr. Ren Olstrom; alternate faculty representative is Dr. Don Thomason. This year's focus is on reducing administrative burden of the faculty, so we will be soliciting input from the faculty on this topic.

NIH Continues to Use PureEdge Software for Fall Grant Deadlines

The NIH will continue to use the PureEdge software for electronic submission of standard grant applications for the fall deadlines (October/November). A few pilot packages have been issued using Adobe; but the standard packages will continue to be submitted using PureEdge. If you are responding to one of the pilot announcements that requires an Adobe package, be sure that you use Adobe Reader 8.1.2 or higher to be sure that the package goes in with no errors. Older versions will corrupt the package. A reminder: PureEdge software will not work on a PC with the Vista operating system and will not work on most Macs.

The current NIH timetable predicts the use of Adobe beginning in early January; ORA will keep you posted on the status of this timetable as we go along. We will, of course, also offer training as we get closer to the transition; although the basic look and feel of the package will be the same.

Be sure to download the latest version of the grant application package from the grants.gov (or NIH) web page to ensure that you have the latest version.

5-Day Advance Deadline Imperative

It is imperative that faculty work with the Office of Administration to meet the 5-working-day advance deadline for submitting the final version of the grant to ORA. In addition to the regularly scheduled grant deadlines, many RFAs, RFPs, and PARs, as well as private foundations, have special deadlines--making it very difficult for ORA staff to schedule vacation and planned medical leave. If grants arrive in ORA later than the 5-working-day deadline, ORA staff may not be able to review and submit the grant in time for the agency deadline. Please note that this is important for both electronic and paper submissions. Also, please note that faculty who serve on study sections and have the two additional weeks must still meet the 5-day-advance internal deadline (which will be one week after the original agency deadline). The responsibility for ensuring timely (and accurate) submission lies with the faculty and department; ORA can not be responsible for missed agency deadlines if the internal deadline is not met.

NIH to Allow Only One Resubmission

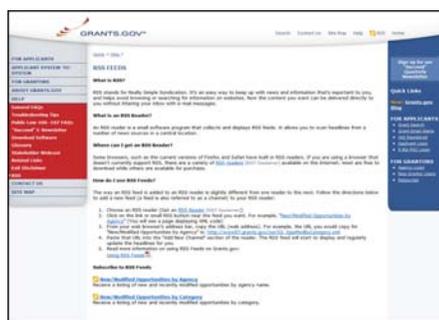
To increase the likelihood that meritorious original applications will be funded, the NIH will decrease the number of amendments allowed. The NIH has announced that it will begin to phase out second amendment applications starting with the January 25, 2009 due date. This policy will increase the numbers of high quality original and first amendments that can be funded earlier.

Beginning with original new applications (i.e., never submitted) and competing renewal applications submitted for the January 25, 2009 due dates and beyond, the NIH will accept only a single amendment to the original application. Failure to receive funding after two submissions (i.e., the original and the single amendment) will mean that the applicant should substantially re-design the project rather than simply change the application in response to previous reviews. It is expected that this policy will lead to funding high quality applications earlier, with fewer resubmissions.

Update from the Grants.gov E-Newsletter

RSS Feeds for New & Modified Opportunities

A featured enhancement on Grants.gov is the RSS feed. Now users will be able to receive a listing of new and recently modified opportunities by agency name or by category through a RSS feed. <http://www.grants.gov/help/rss.jsp>



Announcing "All About Grants" – A New Applicant Resource!

Grants.gov is pleased to announce today an additional online resource for the applicant community, the new **All About Grants** webpage.

The **All About Grants** section includes information on Grants.gov webinars and upcoming events, additional resources from grantors, related articles and links to related associations and organizations. We encourage you to check back frequently as new applicant tips and updated information will be provided in this section on the Grants.gov website.

Visit and bookmark the new **All About Grants** webpage! http://www.grants.gov/applicants/all_about_grants.jsp

Adobe Reader 9.0 is compatible with Grants.gov

Testing for Adobe Reader version 9.0 is complete and is now compatible with Grants.gov. The compatible versions of Adobe Reader are available to download for free on the Grants.gov website on the [Download Software](#) page. For more information on Adobe Reader please visit the updated [Adobe Reader FAQ](#) section.

Reminder to Use Adobe version 8.1.2 or Higher for Grants.gov!

NIH has begun transitioning its application packages to Adobe from PureEdge. It is critical to use the correct version of either Adobe Reader or Adobe Acrobat to prevent unseen corruptions to the submission package that are not known until final submission. Opening the package even one time in a non-supported version will cause the corruption. We will not be aware of this problem until the final package submission by ORA. Additionally Grants.gov provides no way to fix a corrupted package so the entire application must be prepared again. Preparing the entire application again will likely be

impossible to do and still be able to submit the application before the deadline.

Please begin now to check all computers (including laptops) for the Adobe 8.1.2 or higher to prevent the nightmare of your having to rewrite a corrupted application during the deadline. Remember also to submit your completed packages by the five working day deadline to give yourself time to resubmit should your package have become corrupted. Additional information can be read at http://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant_faqs.jsp#82

New Website for Uploading Grant Applications

As part of the overhaul of the UTHSC Research web pages, we have added a web site for uploading grant applications. This web site will replace the former site that was used for large applications only. This new web site may be used for any grant applications or additional information that is requested for ORA. This will eliminate the need to bring over CDs or thumb drives or to send grants via e-mail. The new web site is: <http://eresearch.utmem.edu/proposals/esubmission/default.aspx>



Instructions for logging in using your UT user-name and password are on the site.

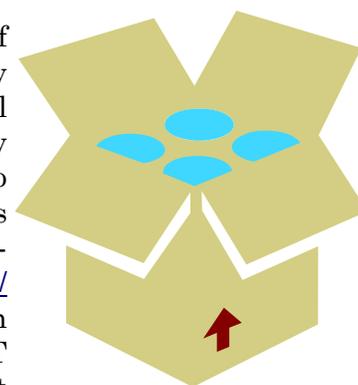
Welcome Melanie Luchs



The Office of Research Administration is pleased to welcome Melanie Luchs, Associate Director, Research Administration/Clinical Trials. Melanie recently moved to Memphis from Wisconsin and brings over 15 years of legal and governmental experience. She has worked in several legal practice areas that include contract, corporate, regulatory and trademark law. Melanie spent over seven years as a Senior Case Manager for a U.S. Congressman and most recently provided paralegal contract and regulatory support for the ServiceMaster Company.

MTAs Required for Shipping Material

A new process is in place for shipping scientific/biological materials out of UTHSC. In order to ensure that material is not shipped in violation of safety regulations or pre-existing agreements (e.g., MTAs for bringing the material onto campus or funding agreements), it is important that the Biosafety Office and the Office of Research Administration be consulted prior to shipping materials. Faculty who need to ship scientific/biological materials to colleagues at other institutions should complete the MTA Questionnaire - Outgoing Materials on the ORA web site (http://www.utmem.edu/research/research_administration/forms.php) and send it to the office of Research Administration, which, in conjunction with the Biosafety Office and UT Research Foundation, will review the request and advise the faculty about the appropriate means for shipping the material. In most cases, a Material Transfer Agreement will be required; ORA and UTRF personnel will work with the faculty to determine whether the UBMTA (a simplified form that can be used with other institutions who are signatories) can be used or whether a specific MTA will be required. When an MTA is processed, a route sheet and contract certification form will also be required.



The UTHSC Office of Comparative Medicine will not ship animals without authorization from ORA that the appropriate review has been completed and any necessary agreements are in place.

Office of Research Compliance

Training, Training, Training - Compliance Training On-Line

UTHSC must document that its principal investigators and key personnel have had basic training in the ethics associated with the types of research that they conducted. This is especially true for studies involving human subjects and animals.

Effective November 15, 2006, UTHSC implemented required human subject protection training for faculty investigators/mentors, IRB members, administrators, and all others who participate in, or review the conduct of human subjects research, including those using human-derived materials. This required training is accomplished through on-line courses provided by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI). The UTHSC implementation of CITI, <http://www.citiprogram.org/> now provides a simple means to renew your training certification as required



every three years. Those needing to do so may now choose to re-take the required CITI modules in their entirety or complete a shorter “refresher course” for those previously certified. Should you have questions regarding CITI training, please contact Patricia Kerby, Compliance Officer for the Office of Human Subjects Protection at 448-1869.

Beginning on July 1, 2008, mandatory online training began being phased in for all investigators and personnel listed on approved animal protocols. All new protocols and annual renewals are now examined to verify completed training for all listed personnel. Training should consist of two courses offered by the AALAS Learning Library, <http://www.aalaslearninglibrary.org/>, to which the University now subscribes. The first module to complete is "Working with the IACUC, non-VA version". The second module to be completed should be a protocol-specific course of the investigator's choosing. As the principal investigator, it is your choice as to which 2nd module you require your personnel to complete. If you are a VA employee and have completed the required CITI Training, this will be accepted in lieu of the AALAS courses. You are requested to provide copies of your training certificates with new protocols or renewals. Please contact Mary Frances Braslow, Institutional Animal Care and Use Administrator (448-3904) to obtain user names and passwords for each individual who does not currently have a user account.

Laboratory-specific biosafety, biohazard, and shipping training are available from the Institutional Biosafety Officer, Francine Rogers (448-3537). She provides several training opportunities that are particularly important when biologically active organisms and substances; and potentially hazardous chemical are involved in research. Ms. Rogers conducts laboratory visits designed to assist investigators in maintaining a safe and productive research laboratory environment. In addition, she serves as a valuable resource in the design and preparation of registrations destined to be reviewed by the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC).

MTAs Required for Animal Imports and Exports

The Laboratory Animal Care Unit has updated the procedures for importing and exporting animals from other institutions. As a reminder, importing animals requires IACUC approval for the species and strain requested, submission of an electronic requisition, and evaluation of the health monitoring reports from the colony/facility of origin. Procedures for import and export of animals can be found at: http://www.utmem.edu/research/research_resources/LACU/docs/Animal_Transport_Policy.pdf. Quarantine space continues to be very limited and requests for quarantine housing are handled on a first

Continued on page 9

Animal MTAs continued from page 8

come, first serve basis with the current wait time being 8-12 weeks. Questions concerning the Import/Export process may be directed to the program coordinator Ms. Ernestine Hayes, RLAT at 901-448-7312, [eya-hes3@utmck.edu](mailto:eyahes3@utmck.edu).

The Office of Research Administration has determined that all exports must be reviewed prior to shipping to determine whether a material transfer agreement (MTA) is required. Questions concerning MTAs should be directed to Research Administration at 448-5587.



OHRP and Quality Improvement Projects

In 2003 the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) funded a study wherein Johns Hopkins University (JHU) conducted a catheter-related infection control quality improvement study of 103 ICUs in 67 Michigan hospitals. A protocol was developed and submitted to the JHU IRB for approval and it was determined that the protocol was exempt and the project was allowed to proceed without the need for informed consent. By 2006, all 67 hospitals were using the safety checklist that had been developed and the results of the study were published.

After publication of the results the Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP) was notified that the study did not have IRB approval and informed consent had not been granted by patients or employees. OHRP determined that JHU had violated federal law relating to human subjects research and sought to prohibit the use of the safety checklist even though patients' catheter-related infections in ICUs had been virtually eliminated. In 2007 JHU suspended the study and the hospital stopped using the checklist.

This issue came to the attention of Atul Gawande, M.D., a surgeon at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, MA. He published an OP-ED piece in the New York Times on December 30, 2007 blasting OHRP for preventing such an important patient safety initiative from going forward. This was followed by an article in the New England Journal of Medicine by Franklin G. Miller, Ph.D. and Ezekiel J. Emanuel, M.D. They concluded that though this was human subject research OHRP had made a mistake in prohibiting the use of the checklist.

As a result of the public controversy that developed from their ruling, OHRP changed their stance and advised JHU and the Michigan hospitals that though they still considered the project as human subject research, they were going to allow the checklist to be used and project to reopen. OHRP stated in their final letter to the parties that the protocol would likely have been eligible for expedited review by the IRB and waiver of informed consent.

Though historically, Quality Improvement projects had not been seen as research, this case shows how that has changed. For any project that an investigator involves human subjects (this applies even to employees, residents, students, etc.), no matter how minimal the risk, the IRB needs to review the protocol.

If you would like to discuss this matter in further detail or obtain additional reading material on the case, please do not hesitate to contact me.

William H. Wallace, Jr., J.D.
Compliance Officer
UTHSC, Graduate School of Medicine, Knoxville
(865) 305-6192
wwallace@utmck.edu

Frequently Asked Questions

Did You Know?

Research Administration

Q: Is UT eligible to apply for SBIR/STTR grants?

A: No. SBIR/STTR programs are set-asides for small businesses. The applicant organization must be a small business and must have its own research space in which to conduct its portion of the work. UT can, however, collaborate on both SBIR and STTR projects, provided that there are no conflict of interest issues that prohibit such collaboration (e.g., if the PI, his or her chair or dean have a significant interest in the company) and provided that both the company and UT can meet the agency requirements. See conflict of interest policies at http://www.utmem.edu/research/research_administration/policy.php



Q: Why are data ownership and publication clauses such a big deal in contracts?

A: Publication clauses are important for a number of reasons. As an academic institution, UT is diligent in its efforts to protect the right of its faculty to publish the results of their research and other sponsored activity. Publication clauses also are an important element in maintaining UT's tax-exempt status, confirming that the work is part of UT's academic and research mission. Finally, inclusion of clauses that ensure unrestricted publication rights may help ensure that the research under consideration falls under the "basic research exemption" from export control regulations. For all of these reasons, it is important that UT either retain ownership of the data or, at the very least, retain the right to use it for non-commercial research and educational purposes and to publish results consistent with generally accepted academic standards.

Q: I have heard that AREA grants are less competitive than other types of NIH grants. Am I eligible to apply?

A: Academic Research Enhancement Awards (AREA) grants (R15s) support small research projects in the biomedical and behavioral sciences conducted by faculty and students in health professional schools, and other academic components that have not been major recipients of NIH research grant funds. Currently, only the College of Medicine at UTHSC is ineligible to apply for AREA awards. To check your college's eligibility status, go to http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/area_ineligible.xls.

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Q. What policies and procedures apply to transfer of animals among protocols? Can I use animals that I've gotten on protocol in another?

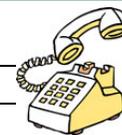
A. Optimal use of animal resources is always encouraged. However, in contrast to sharing of tissues obtained post-mortem, exchange of living animals among investigators or even among studies for an individual investigator always requires prior transfer using the online animal requisition system. This serves two main purposes. First, it provides accurate tracking of animal use among investigators for billing purposes, as well as to verify adherence to species/strain approval and use limits for a given protocol. More importantly, it permits generation of protocol-specific cage cards for the animals being transferred. These provide essential input for Lab Animal Care Unit (LACU) staff if called upon to assess the health status of an animal, since reference to the protocol informs them regarding procedures performed and any associated risks to the animal or to personnel. Discrepancies noted under such circumstances contribute to a significant proportion of identified protocol violations on campus. For further details please contact the LACU (448-5656).

LACU

Q: Why am I having difficulties connecting to the on-line animal ordering requisition? I have had the link saved as one of my favorites and it no longer works.

A: The web pages for the Vice Chancellor for Research were recently upgraded and enhanced. To that end, some of your former bookmarks for the Lab Animal Care Unit and /or Comparative Medicine may no longer function as they did before. Specifically, the on-line ordering screen must be accessed through the new pages and then replaced in your favorites folder. Please go to http://www.utmem.edu/research/research_resources/LACU/procurement.php and click on "Online Animal Requisition" for the new URL.

Contact List



<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	
Office of Research			Research Administration		
Leonard Johnson, Ph.D.	Vice Chancellor	901-448-7125	Deborah Smith, Ed.D.	Asst Vice Chancellor	901-448-4823
Jane Poulos	Sr. Business Manager	901-448-3746	Clinical Trials Unit		
Lisa Bronte	Sr. Admin. Asst	901-448-7125	Melanie Luchs	Associate Director	901-448-3303
Connie Jackson	Accounting Asst	901-448-3746	Ruthie Ruston	Specialist	901-448-3126
Research Support Services			Grants and Contracts Unit		
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