

The Research Notebook

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Proposal Preparation Assistance Available

It is a pleasure to announce the new “Proposal Preparation Fund.” This fund will provide resources to put the final polish on extramural grant proposals. However, in order to prioritize who will receive this support, the Office of Research asks that the PI document they are engaged in good grant management practices.

Thus, to be eligible the applicant must define a timeline and benchmarks of grant planning. For example:

Approximately one year before the planned submission, an advisory group made up of the PI, Dr X, and Dr Y will convene. (The “group” should be defined by the PI in consultation with the Chair, may be small, and ideally will have an expert on it from outside UTHSC.) Prior to the first meeting, the PI will submit a rough set of specific aims to the group, and at the meeting specific aims will be refined, necessary preliminary data defined, any need for publication submissions considered, and the proposal preparation budget discussed.

In subsequent months, the PI will work on each of the issues and consult as needed with the advisory committee.

By 4 months before the grant is due, all sections except the preliminary data will be drafted in rough form such that the advisory committee can read and provide a critique.

By 1 month before the grant is due, the grant will be complete except some results of ongoing experiments. The almost final grant will be submitted to the committee for a final round of comments due 2 weeks before the submission date.

Unavoidable last minute issues will be handled and the grant submitted. Note, customization of this grant planning process and benchmarks are **expected**.

Costs that can be included in the proposal preparation budget:

Reviewer/advisor honorarium for scientists to review and critique a grant (\$250/reviewer).



David Stern, M.D.
Executive Dean, COM
Interim Vice Chancellor, Research

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Fee for editorial assistance for English usage and grammar of grant.

Fee for professional graphics production.

Fee for assistance of a biostatistician or clinical design specialist

Honorarium and travel costs for outside seminar speaker. The PI would be expected to spend a significant part of the day with the speaker discussing the grant proposal ideas.

Whatever it takes, within reason and budget, to assist in the production of a polished and competitive proposal at the time of submission.

Although this fund is not intended to act as support for extensive pilot data, unplanned use for key bits of data are sometimes needed. Thus, the requested budget may include:

Costs for specific needs such as reagents or a defined number of animals, or for access to a clinical database or costs of questionnaires / surveys.

Fee for UTHSC core services or fee for outside companies to analyze samples, i.e. mass spec or deep sequencing.

For multi-PI grants a support package for help with staging of grant, temporary administrative support, hosting of meetings, etc, will be considered

Budgeted proposal preparation costs for a single PI grant will typically be less \$3,000, but the support for each proposal is to be customized; so the actual amount will vary between proposals.

To apply for Proposal Preparation support:

The Chair must nominate the PI (<1 page letter to Vice Chancellor of Research), and include the timeline plus benchmarks of grant planning (<1 page) and budget request with brief justification(<1 page). The Chair, in consultation with the advisory committee, will attest to the likelihood that the candidate is able to formulate, write, and secure the grant.

The Office of Research will take the Chair's recommendation under advisement and, after review by a group of funded investigators selected by the Vice-Chancellor for Research, dispense funds accordingly.

It is expected that the applicant will be fully engaged in activities that support submission of the grant over the period of the proposal preparation support with no extended vacations or periods of leave unless specified to facilitate grant writing.

Submission of proposals should occur as necessary. There are no specific deadlines for this program. Awards will be made throughout the year.

This fund is designed to support multi-year extramural proposals with direct costs greater than \$150,000/year.

A key goal of the Office of Research is to facilitate research activity. This includes increasing the ease of preparing high-quality research proposals. My hope is this program will help increase the quality and quantity of our grant proposals.

Best Regards,

Dave

David M Stern, MD

Interim Vice Chancellor of Research

Applications being Accepted for UTRF Maturation Grants

UTRF announces the fifth annual 2012 maturation funding program to help UT researchers further develop technologies that have potential for commercial success.

Grant funds will allow researchers to better position their technologies for licensing and commercialization. Up to \$15,000 (direct costs) will be awarded to the highest ranking proposals.

Researchers are invited to propose work on inventions and discoveries that either have been previously disclosed to UT and assigned to UTRF or to propose new disclosures with a development plan.

The following UTHSC proposals were selected for funding in FY 2011:

- Mohamad ElAbiad, Keith English, Ajay Talati, Jie Zhang and Jacques Samson (Department of Pediatrics) for a method to determine lung maturity in fetuses
- Monica Jablonski (Department of Ophthalmology) for a new ocular drug delivery system
- Wei Li, Jianjun Chen, Jin Wang, Duane Miller, Arnold Postlethwaite, and Andrzej Slominski (Departments of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Rheumatology and Pathology) for safety and dosing studies on a potential new arthritis treatment
- Lawrence Pfeffer and Charles Handorf (Department of Pathology) for a test to predict patient responsiveness to conventional Hepatitis C therapy

UTRF used a panel of subject matter and technology commercialization experts from across the state to evaluate both the technology and the development plan proposed by each researcher. UTRF also solicited advice from Technology 2020 and Memphis Bioworks Foundation, economic development organizations engaged by UTRF to assist with technology commercialization.

The maturation program has already shown how modest amounts of funding can significantly impact the potential success of an invention. ***Of 14 maturation projects funded in the past three years, 7 have either resulted in the execution of a license or the technologies are in active license negotiations.***

Submission Rules

- Open to all UT researchers (faculty, staff and students) at all campuses and institutes.
- Projects must be related to an existing UT invention/creation disclosure OR a proposal can be accompanied by a new UT invention/creation disclosure.
- Projects should provide new data or further demonstrate the technology to increase its commercial readiness.
- Funds should be directed to labor, materials, and services necessary to achieve the proposed deliverable(s).
- Proposal should not exceed 3 pages and should describe the technology, the plan of work, the expected results, a budget (direct expenses only), and your assessment of the commercial opportunities for the technology.

Proposal should be submitted to your campus research office by November 18, 2011.

Judging Criteria

- Demonstration of a path for commercial development (45%)
- Market potential (40%)
- Stage of development (15%)

Deadlines & Schedule

Deadline for proposal submission November 18, 2011

Awards announced December 16, 2011

Project start date January 9, 2012

Project completion date October 12, 2012

Final report due November 16, 2012

For more information, visit <http://utrf.tennessee.edu> or contact:

Dr. Richard Magid, Vice President, UT Research Foundation, rmagid1@uthsc.edu, or 901-448-1562



Grant Workshops and Review Service Available

Reminder of Grant Review Service: Dr. Israel Goldberg is available to critique UTHSC faculty grant proposals at no cost to the investigator. Dr. Goldberg has provided invaluable input for the successful awarding of a number of NIH grants to junior AND senior UTHSC faculty in the past. To access this service, contact Dr. Dianna Johnson at dijohnson@uthsc.edu. You will be asked to send a draft of your grant proposals, with response to reviewers from your past summary sheet (if the grant is being resubmitted), by e-mail to Dr. Goldberg. He then provides an extensive written critique on the draft and returns it in a timely fashion via e-mail. Faculty are encouraged to use this consultation service as early as possible in the grant preparation process.

Dr. Goldberg will visit the campus to hold one-on-one small group consultations and to present two workshops, which are open to all UTHSC faculty, postdocs, administrators, students and staff. One-on-one or small group consultation meetings will be held on Wednesday, November 2nd, please contact Dr. Dianna Johnson dijohnson@uthsc.edu for scheduling. Long distance consultation can also be arranged. Both workshops will be held Thursday, November 3rd in the Hamilton Eye Institute; the first workshop *How to launch research careers: funding opportunities and strategies for clinical faculty* is scheduled 10-11:30 and *Impact of recent changes at NIH and funding* is scheduled 12—1 p.m.

RxBio Contract Signed for RBL Space

UTHSC recently signed an agreement with RxBio to provide services in support of RxBio's contract with BARDA's Advanced Research and Development of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Medical Countermeasures. As a part of this subcontract, RxBio will be leasing space from UT as well as utilizing the research services in several core labs on campus. The RBL will play a key role in support of various aspects of this project, including husbandry and technical support for the animal work as well as providing for the use of specialized high-end equipment in the facility. Total direct costs for this project could be up to one million dollars.

UTCOCM Awarded Department of Defense Grant

On September 30, 2011, the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command announced that funding has been granted for the UTCOCM research project, "Nanofiber-based Synthetic Bone Repair for Limb Salvage." The work has been reviewed and approved by scientists within the Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC).

This study will attempt to design a nanofiber-based bone repair device which is capable of delivering drugs while facilitating regeneration of the bone. The high incidence of major extremity injuries in recent military operations plus the increasing number of major fractures in noncombat environments have resulted in greater need for effective treatment of traumatic bone defects.

According to Dr. Currey, UTCOCM Associate Professor and Principal Investigator, "This project provides a unique opportunity to collaborate with the regional scientific community, including colleagues at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, UT Knoxville, the UT Health Science Center in Memphis, Espin Technologies, and Advanced Plasma Products. A project like this would not have been possible without the vision and support of Congressman Zach Wamp.

Additional generous financial contributions of the Chattanooga Orthopaedic Education and Research Foundation, Advanced Eye Care, and the Chattanooga Ophthalmologic Foundation will allow the creation of a UTCOCM Cell Tissue Laboratory in which work for this and future studies will take place.

Dr. David Seaberg, Dean of the UT College of Medicine Chattanooga, congratulated Dr. Currey and his collaborators, adding, "This grant is truly a collaborative effort between the College of Medicine, UTC and Chattanooga industry. We hope this is the start of many such awards."



Dr. Currey, UTCOCM

New Gamma Irradiator Available

A new gamma irradiator was recently installed in the Nash Annex animal facility. The irradiator was procured with support from the Vice Chancellor for Research and a consortium of UTHSC investigators, labs, and core facilities. This new device may be used to irradiate cells, biological materials, and whole animals. Although an older and smaller gamma irradiator remains functional in Research Service at the VA, the UTHSC irradiator offers improvement in that it has a larger chamber and can irradiate larger quantities in generally shorter time periods. One of the major uses for the new irradiator will be to irradiate mice using either whole body or localized irradiation exposure. To facilitate animal handling, the irradiator is located conveniently within an animal facility and there is a biological safety cabinet located adjacent for handling animals and other substances in which there may be a biological hazard. As a reminder, investigators who wish to irradiate animals using the new irradiator, must be revise their animal care and use protocols to reflect the new performance site and equipment. Investigators interested in finding out more about the irradiator may contact the Radiation Safety Committee or Brian Lemieux, RSO at 448-5223 or blemieux@uthsc.edu



Meet the UTHSC Residents in Laboratory Animal Medicine

The Department of Comparative Medicine offers a residency training program for graduate veterinarians who seek further training in laboratory animal medicine. This three-year program is certified by the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM), a veterinary specialty recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association. David Hamilton, DVM, DACLAM, is the program director and residents receive formal training in laboratory animal medicine, disease pathophysiology, management and regulatory policies and procedures. The residents are also mentored in basic research techniques and methodology, usually through partnership with a UTHSC principal investigator. Residents rotate through the various animal facilities on campus and get to work with all the commonly used laboratory animal species. The goal of the training program is to produce quality laboratory animal veterinarians who, upon completion of the residency program and the publication of a first author manuscript, are eligible to sit for the ACLAM board examination, offered every July.



Drs. Mark Landers, and Ryan Sullivan

Currently there are two veterinarians enrolled in the training program: Mark Landers, DVM, and Ryan Sullivan, DVM. Dr. Landers is a Memphis native and is a 2002 graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine in Knoxville, TN. He was working as a small animal practitioner at the Collierville Animal Clinic before joining the residency program in 2010. He is currently situated in the Nash building and helps oversee the health of the research animals in the Nash and Cancer Research buildings. Dr. Sullivan is a native of Virginia and is a 2011 graduate of Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in St. Kitts, West Indies. He joined the residency program in August 2011 and is currently situated in the Coleman building and helps oversee the health of the research animals in the Coleman and Molecular Sciences buildings.

Master of Science Research in the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences

What potential do nanosomes have in the treatment of osteoarthritis? Is the newest PCR rapid test for adenoviral infections in children more accurate and sensitive than the currently accepted diagnostic techniques? How much variation in HLA antibody assays is permissible in determining which organs are safely transplantable into which patients? These and other research questions were presented and discussed at the recent Research and Development Seminar presented by the 2011 Master of Science (MS) in Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLS) December, 2011, graduates on August 27th for faculty, students, and guests.



left to right, Elizabeth A. Blankenship, MT(MS), Aubrey Shedd, MT(MS) and Christina Buckelew, December, 2011 MS(CLS) graduates

Since 2005, the CLS Department has graduated 27 students in the Advanced Practice Track with the M.S. degree in Clinical Laboratory Sciences. Each performs research under the tutelage of Ph.D., M.D., and laboratory professional mentors who are experts in their fields. The generosity of these mentors with their valuable time has enabled our students to benefit from their extensive, first-hand knowledge of a wide variety of research areas. Our graduates have completed research on platelet inhibitors, infectious diseases (*Clostridium difficile*, paramyxoviruses, adenovirus), human metabolism (role of leptin in obesity), nanotechnology, transplantation immunology, hospital information systems, and many other areas of interest. Many mentors have offered permanent positions in their research laboratories to their mentee based on their demonstrated skills.

Karen Hasty, Ph.D., Wilhelm Endowed Professor in Orthopaedic Surgery at the Veteran's Administration and UTHSC recently mentored Elizabeth Blankenship's Master of Science research into the potential toxicity of nanosomes that might one day be used in the treatment of osteoarthritis. Martha Howe, Ph.D., Van Vleet Professor of Excellence in Virology and former student Mikela Smith, (MS) CLS recently co-authored a paper about the identification of open reading frames in the genome of bacteriophage Mu. Additionally, John Fain, Ph.D., Van Vleet Professor of Excellence in Biochemistry also has co-authored research papers with M.S. CLS students on the topic concerning the relationship between the hormone leptin and obesity.

Other outstanding research mentors include John DeVincenzo, M.D., Anami Patel, Ph.D., Noel Lenny Ph.D., and Chris Smith, MS (CLS); Lisa Jennings, Ph.D., Dept. of Medicine and founder of CirQuest Labs; nationally recognized for excellence in point of care testing Karen A. Clark, B.S., MT (ASCP); Jackson Madison County General Hospital's Debra Tibbs, B.S., MT (ASCP); and Sallyanne Fossey, Ph.D., D(ABHI) Assoc. Dir., DCI Transplant Immunology Lab, Nashville, TN.

As a note to potential future research mentors, now is the time to request a mentorship with our rising Master of Science students who will be ready to join your research team during the summer months of 2012. If you are interested in having an extra pair of well-trained hands to take part in your research, please contact Ms. Michlene Hall at mhall@uthsc.edu or 901-448-6304, no later than December, 2011. Our students participate in paid and [unpaid](#) internships. You will undoubtedly be rewarded to have shared your time and knowledge with a CLS student who is well-trained and fully appreciates the opportunity of working with an expert. Upon completing their research experience, our students can wholly agree with James Levine, an American musician, who said: "I was lucky that I met the right mentor and teachers at the right moment." Luck, however, plays only a small part. It was the great Louis Pasteur who said, "Fortune favors the prepared mind."

Office of Research Administration

Electronic Proposal Routing System Launched

We are pleased to announce that the new electronic routing system, PAMS (Proposal and Award Management System) has been launched at UTHSC. The url is www.uthsc.edu/pams. Information and HELP for PAMS (including on-line training) is available at <http://www.uthsc.edu/research/tera/training.php>.

If you have any problems logging into TERA-PAMS please test your NetID and Password by clicking the Login button on the upper left corner of this page: <http://www.directory.utk.edu/>. If you are not able to log in there, please phone the UTHSC helpdesk at 901-448-2222 M-F 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. or the UTK helpdesk (865-974-9900) at all other times.

All TERA-PAMS questions other than login should be directed to ORA 901-448-5587 or egrants@uthsc.edu.

Please use this system for routing your next grant or research document that would normally come to ORA. Also, note that the same procedures still apply: ORA needs your grant (having completed all electronic approvals) five working days prior to agency deadline. The FINAL electronic version of the grant package must be attached.

JIT and eSNAP documents do not need to be routed unless paper copies are required by the agency. We will upload JIT and eSNAP documents for you in our offices.

We have conducted a number of demonstrations and training sessions and have more planned. If you would like to schedule a departmental or individual training session, please contact egrants@uthsc.edu.

The new system not only will allow you to route all of your grant proposals and research documents (CDAs, MTAs, clinical trial agreements, subawards, etc.) electronically, but also will allow you to track their progress internally and will link to IRIS accounting information post-award, as well as capturing a copy of the proposal and award documents themselves.

We're excited about this step forward and believe that you will be, too!



New NIH Adobe Forms B2 for Parent R01, R03, and R21 Released

NIH has issued new ADOBE-FORMS-B-2 for parent R01, R03, and R21 applications. The new forms, with UTHSC information pre-filled, are posted on the ORA web site: http://www.uthsc.edu/research/research_administration/e_grant_submission.php and should be used unless you have a program announcement that specifies use of another form.

Please be sure to check the package you are using . . . the old Adobe “B” forms are outdated and are no longer accepted by NIH. The Adobe “B-1” forms will be retired on January 8, 2012.

Approvals In TERA-PAMS

Proposals that were routed in paper form after October 1 and October 18th, 2011, have been entered into PAMS by ORA staff. You may see them in your approval in-box. Since we have the paper routing signatures, you may ignore them; or you may approve them on-line. We apologize for the inconvenience, but it's the only way to get this information into the PAMS data base.



Welcome Jackie Easley!

ORA is pleased to announce that Jackie Easley transferred to ORA in early August.

Many of you may already know Jackie, who comes to us from the Department of Medicine, where she has been a coordinator in the Division of Rheumatology since 2006. Jackie's tenure at UT began in the Department of Pharmacology in 2001. She obtained her Certified Professional Secretary (CPS) certification in 2006, her Associate of Applied Science in Accounting from Southwest Tennessee CC in May, and is currently working on a bachelor's degree in accounting at the University of Memphis.

Jackie's phone number is 901 448-4188, and her e-mail is jfountai@uthsc.edu.

We are pleased to welcome Jackie to the ORA family and know you will enjoy working with her.



Grants.gov Packages and Adobe Reader Pro Versions

Please check this web site to be sure your Adobe software is compatible with the grants.gov package: <http://grants.gov/applicants/AdobeVersioningTestOnly.jsp>

We have known for some time that older versions of Adobe Reader (and Pro) will corrupt the package. We have recently found that some of the latest versions of Adobe and some operating systems are not compatible. Grants.gov tries to keep up with the new versions, but they are not always current in this regard.

ERA Commons Issues

Following the recent update of eRA Commons, some "issues" remain that are scheduled to be fixed in the next update in January, 2012. Some of the issues that may affect faculty:

1. Commons Personal Profile – When a new residential address is entered, the fields may be blank after saving. A screen refresh will bring the data back.
2. Uploading – A system error may be received when an invalid document type is uploaded. Please remember that all documents uploaded should be .pdf
3. JIT – Activity codes (R01, T32, F33) may be missing in e-mail sent to the NIH and the PI during JIT submissions.
4. Progress Reports – The e-mail that should be sent when a multi-year progress report is routed between the PI and SO is not happening. PIs, please remember to let ORA know if you are routing an eSNAP. ORA will let you know if there is an issue that needs to be corrected.
5. Project Extensions – The e-mail notifications to the PI and grants management staff are not being sent for project extensions.
6. Delegations – When a delegator goes into the delegation module and selects "modify" and then "save" an e-mail will be sent even if no modifications have been made.



Most of these issues are scheduled to be fixed by January; a few are scheduled for "as soon as possible." In the meantime, please communicate with ORA when you are working in Commons on JIT, eSNAP, or project extensions above so that we don't miss any submissions. A few minor cosmetic issues may also be noticed, but they will not affect the functionality of Commons.

Animal Protocols that Require Multiple Compliance Approvals

It is frequently the case that work to be done under an animal use protocol involves procedures that require evaluation by other compliance entities, such as the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Radiation Safety. Although the respective submission and approval processes can run in parallel, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) cannot finally approve an animal protocol until all other approvals, and any procedural modifications that may have been required to gain such approvals, are in place. This is because federal regulations do not permit partial or provisional approval of animal activities (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/faqs.htm#d4>). The protocol must be in its complete and final form.

Although the need for multiple approvals might prolong the interval required for activation of a new animal protocol, these requirements could have even more significant implications for an existing protocol. For example, if the renewal of a current but expiring protocol includes studies that require such other approvals, and these are not obtained prior to the expiration date, the protocol would become inactive even if all questions specifically raised by the IACUC might have been resolved. Even those components of the study that do not involve additional compliance approvals would remain unapproved. Any animals housed under the protocol at that time would be transferred to a holding protocol, inaccessible to investigators, and no federal grant funds could be used for animal expenses during this interval of inactivity (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-07-044.html>).

It is therefore essential that investigators be aware of the various deadlines and review schedules for the respective compliance entities that must evaluate procedures under every animal protocol. Investigators should consider minimizing such complications by maintaining discrete protocols that segregate simpler studies from those that may require more comprehensive review.

Invention to Venture Workshop

The University of Tennessee Research Foundation (UTRF), along with the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIIA), proudly announces “Invention to Venture,” a one-day workshop on technology-based entrepreneurship with emphasis on life sciences and medical devices. The event will be held on Friday, November 11, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC), 800 Madison Ave., in the Student-Alumni Center Schreier Auditorium. Pitt Hyde, founder of AutoZone, Inc., is the keynote speaker during the program’s noon luncheon.

“Invention to Venture” is designed for university faculty and students, the Mid-South business community, and anyone interested in learning more about technology-based life sciences entrepreneurship, which may involve biomedicine, biotechnology and biomedical devices, pharmaceuticals, cosmetic product development, life systems technology, food processing, and institutions focused on research, development, technology commercialization.

Presentations will focus on topics such as idea validation and assessments, building the team, business plan modeling, and intellectual property. Featured speakers are experts and entrepreneurs drawn from the entire region.

“At all universities, including the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, there is an increased emphasis on converting academic discoveries into products and services that benefit the public. By hosting educational events like Invention to Venture, the UT Research Foundation is helping educate faculty, staff, and students who want to better understand the commercial potential of their work,” said Richard Magid, vice president of the UT Research Foundation. “Our goal is to increase the rate at which university breakthroughs make it to the marketplace, create jobs, and improve people’s lives.”

For more information about “Invention to Venture,” or to register for the workshop, please visit www.invention2venture.org/tennessee2011 or contact Dee Helton, president of the UTHSC Student Government Association Executive Council, by email dhelton5@uthsc.edu, or by phone, 317-698-5583.

Update on Proposal-Protocol Congruence

The Office of Research Compliance (ORC) continues to review grant proposals alongside IACUC-approved protocols for congruence. The following is a summary of findings from these congruence comparisons.

Of grants reviewed since December 2010, 80% had inconsistencies. Of these inconsistencies, 19% required major protocol revisions and 62% required minor protocol revisions. The remaining 19% of inconsistencies were clarified through emails.

Major revisions consisted of differences in animal numbers greater than 10% and procedures described in the grant, such as surgeries, that were not described in an animal protocol. Differences in animal numbers usually resulted from an additional experimental group that was included in the grant but not in the animal protocol.

The most common minor revision was to add a specific strain of animal. Minor revisions also included updates on euthanasia method, such as perfusing animal after anesthesia, and choice of analgesics and/or anesthetics.

As a reminder, congruence is being evaluated for several important parts of proposals and protocols. These include:

- Personnel, i.e. all personnel have received the proper training to conduct the animal work.
- Animal strains, including transgenic strains, and species.
- Number of animals, sex and age of animals.
- Drugs and dosages as related to level of distress and risk of adverse reactions.
- Class of biohazard, if present.
- Anesthetics and Analgesics used.
- Method of euthanasia.
- Procedures/ treatments and distress category.
- Survival times and endpoints.

ORC recommends that any investigator who receives a potentially fundable priority score on a grant submission request that ORC compare his/her grant proposal and the associated IACUC-approved protocol(s). In order to verify proposal/protocol congruence the ORC will need the name of the grant proposal, name of the PI(s), and the corresponding IACUC-approved protocol(s). The ORC can be contacted regarding proposal/protocol congruence at the following email and phone number: mmccool@uthsc.edu 901-448-1264

Also, when major changes in planned animal activities occur during the course of grant funding, please revise existing animal protocols and obtain approval from your program manager. Verification of congruency should also be requested in these situations.

For more information about Proposal-Protocol Congruency, please refer to the ORC website: http://www.uthsc.edu/research/research_compliance/IACUC/congruence_info.php

F31 Research Fellowship for Creamer

Kevin Creamer, a graduate student in the Integrated Biomedical Sciences Program at UTHSC, has received an F31 Research Fellowship Award from the NIH/National Institute on Aging. His research focuses on chromatin remodeling complex in the spreading of silent heterochromatin, densely packed chromosome regions containing inactive genes. Aging, either natural or driven by disease, comes with widespread epigenetic changes, including disruption of silent heterochromatin. As cells age, they accumulate chromatin defects that lead to DNA damage and alteration of gene expression. Determining precise mechanisms that regulate these epigenetic changes should be useful in understanding normal and hyperaccelerated aging, as well as informing development of possible therapeutic interventions. Kevin's research mentor is Janet Partridge, Ph.D., Associate Member of the Biochemistry Department at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, who also holds joint appointments at UTHSC in the Department of Microbiology, Immunology, Biochemistry and Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.