Message from the Interim Director

Hello, UTIA colleagues-

I hope you are each doing well under these unusual circumstances. We look forward to working again with you in a face-to-face environment.

Highlighted in this quarter’s newsletter are Dr. Tao Fei, Dr. Lisa Washburn, and Dr. Stephanie Kleine. Also, check out Dr. Deb Miller’s article “One Health in a Time of Crisis”. We have included Federal agency articles and information. The page on COVID Information includes USDA NIFA COVID site, webinar, and new COVID AFRI program area A1711. Also, check out UTK ORE’s COVID funding page. Our article on UTIA’s new Indirect Cost (IDC) Agreement and Guide discusses UTIA’s new IDC agreement. We have also scheduled an IDC learning session on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 2:00 p.m..

As you and your team members and students work remotely, check out our updated UTIA OSP website. Our OSP COVID site includes important links, and our Workshops and Learning page has been updated to include more online training sites, plus includes materials from prior UTIA compliance lunches.

I want to express my thanks to UTIA OSP employees for their dedication and exceptional work as we transformed to remote operation during a busy part of the USDA AFRI season. In the last month, they have completed 75+ proposals, worked on over 50 contracts (28 executed), 12 subawards, and 16 no-cost time extensions, while continuing to post budgets, provide a weekly funding opportunity digest, and other routine activities. Special thanks to Jeanne Hermann and Nicolas Andre for solving our Cayuse/IT issues and to Mark Young for prompt changes to our website. Finally, thank you, UTIA leadership, faculty, and staff for working with us and for your patience during this time. If we may have missed something you need help on, please contact aggrant@utk.edu.

UTIA is happy to be part of your team. We look forward to a continued productive and busy spring.

Thank you,

Jane Burns
Dr. Tao Fei is a Research Assistant Professor in Food Science. His areas of expertise include lipid chemistry, fats & oil structure and function modification, value-added processing and engineering of waste and byproducts, and ecofriendly biomaterials for the applications in the food & non-food sectors. His future work will focus on developing greener and safer materials to improve sustainability and reduce environmental impact, and to expand applications to add value to agriculture-related products, byproducts and waste. Dr. Fei studied at Iowa State University where he attained his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. He has a background in Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering and Food Science. He appreciates the chance to work on different aspects that are closely related to our daily life, and he believes research improving sustainability is essential. He enjoyed having the experience of designing structure of buildings and engineering systems for improving water and wastewater treatment, and now he is incorporating the engineering concepts into Food Science to improve the sustainability of the agricultural and food system. His personal interests include hiking, fishing, gardening and spending time with his family. He also loves growing his own fresh vegetables and has built a mini farm in his backyard.

Dr. Lisa Washburn is an Associate Professor and Community Health Specialist in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. Her areas of expertise include program and curriculum development, evaluation of community-based programs, volunteer and leadership development, blending extension education and public health approaches, and physical activity programming. Current work includes a USDA-funded rural health project focusing on preventing rural opioid misuse and abuse, a Yoga for Kids pilot in the Western Region, a RWJF-funded project to foster a culture of health in three Tennessee counties, and increasing capacity of Extension agents to address policy, systems and environmental change. She is also working with several counties to pilot the Extension Health and Wellness Ambassador Program, Tennessee’s master health volunteer program. She has a B.S. from Henderson State University, an M.A. from the University of Alabama and her DrPH from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Dr. Stephanie Kleine is an Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology in Small Animal Clinical Services. Her areas of expertise include veterinary anesthesia, canine osteoarthritis, canine obesity, and chronic pain management techniques. Her current work will focus on the effect of adipokines on canine joint tissue, the characterization of resistin in the dog, and the comparison of traditional NSAIDs with EP4 antagonists in acute pain. Dr. Kleine received both her D.V.M. and Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. Her personal interests include CrossFit, hiking, camping, cycling, listening to live music, and spending time with her husband, daughter, and four dogs.
Those of you who have submitted proposals through OSP since January are aware that UTIA has an updated indirect cost (IDC) rate agreement, with new IDC (or F&A) rates for sponsored programs. UTIA OSP began using the agreement with new proposals when it was received in January 2020, since the new rates were already effective.

The IDC agreement is prepared/negotiated by UT’s systemwide Treasurer’s Office, under specific Federal guidance, based on prior expenditures. It is used for charging allowable, shared expenses fairly to Federal and non-Federal projects.

The new IDC agreement is different from prior ones in that it is a single, combined agreement for all of UTIA. For the first time (at least in recent history), all activity codes—and resulting IDC rates—are available to all UTIA employees, regardless of their appointment splits (partial or full appointment in Teaching, Research or Extension).

To be sure we properly classify proposals and use the correct rates, the OSP coordinators will first ask the lead PI (for those with split appointments) if the account will be R11, R12, or R18. Next (for everyone), they will ask the activity type. For people with 100% appointment, the corresponding account number (R11 for Research, R12 for Extension, and R18 for CVM) will be automatically assigned, although the IDC rate will depend on the type of the activity.

A few things to keep in mind regarding the new IDC agreement and rate:

- The type of rate used for most proposals will not be different than in the past. For instance, most AgResearch proposals are for Organized Research work, so the only difference is the change in rate from 44% to 45%.
- The Instruction rate has very rarely used by UTIA. The IDC agreement/rate is only used for projects that are externally-funded, and few have been classified as Instruction. If you have a proposal that you believe is Instruction, please contact your appropriate dean’s office and/or UTIA OSP.
- Tuition is a “modifier” in the IDC base of Modified Total Direct Costs, meaning no indirect cost is added to tuition. Other common “modifiers” include equipment and the portion of a subaward that is in excess of $25,000.

Resources to help you determine the appropriate F&A rates for your proposals include the IDC Rate Guide (which is also available on the UTIA OSP website), your department head and dean’s office, and UTIA OSP. Feel free to contact us with any questions.

Join us for a UTIA Indirect Cost learning session on Tuesday, April 28 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom. (This Zoom meeting is password protected. A separate email with the meeting details will be sent). We encourage you to send questions for this training in advance, to aggrant@utk.edu with Subject line “Questions for IDC Training”.

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Real. Life. Solutions.
One Health in a Time of Crisis >>>

The University of Tennessee has launched the One Health Initiative to address grand challenges facing the state of Tennessee and the world, yet many folks are still not sure what One Health means. To put it simply, One Health is a way of looking at health so that we consider all of the factors that contribute to it. This approach is essential when considering that approximately 70% of emerging infectious disease cases in humans and livestock are a consequence of spillover events from wildlife. COVID-19 is a great example of this because this virus likely originated in a wildlife species, and passed to other wildlife species before passing into humans. Furthermore, humans play a role in animal disease emergence by altering landscape conditions, adding environmental disturbances, and facilitating global transfer of infectious agents. Here again, we are seeing this played out with COVID-19. Its transmission to humans was likely facilitated by humans manipulating the environment (e.g., environmental stressor of wet markets), and we have watched it spread via human transport from one geographic point to nearly every corner of the globe in very little time. Furthermore, we are quickly realizing that this virus not only impacts our physical health, it is impacts everything in our life, our mental health, our financial health, our family health, the economy, and so on.

But even in the midst of this pandemic we need to remember that all of the other health issues facing Tennessee and the rest of the world did not go away. We are still dealing with chronic wasting disease in deer, chronic diseases in humans, white nose syndrome in bats, invasion of the Asian longhorn tick and the hemlock wooly adelgid, the threat of the salamander chytrid fungus, whirling disease in fish, loss of pollinators, food insecurity, substance abuse, and so many more. Each of these has far-reaching impacts. For example, losses due to plant diseases can reduce global agricultural productivity by up to 40% for the five major food crops, thus undermining our ability to safeguard national and global food security. Imagine this on top of production issues due to COVID-19! Indeed, we have to keep forging ahead because the world does not stop while we deal with any one issue.

But just as you are seeing this One Health issue play out, you are also seeing the One Health approach put into high gear during the COVID-19 pandemic! The team battling this One Health issue is not composed of only public health officials. It is composed of epidemiologists, economists, mathematicians, modelers, engineers, first responders, nurses, MDs, DVMs, and many others to combat the pathogen and stop its spread. Furthermore, the entire team is far larger than those directly battling the pathogen, it is also composed of the delivery people, farm workers, processing plant employees, grocery store workers, and many others who are working to keep society functioning and keep the world moving forward. If we only had one or even two members from either of those teams, we would fail. We must remember that Together Everyone Achieves More, as we work together to find solutions and overcome challenges.

COVID-19 will not be the last outbreak the world faces but it would be great if it could be the last pandemic. We need to stop seeing the world only as it directly impacts humans and start seeing the interconnections between environmental, animal, public, and plant health. For many, it is hard to see how losing hemlocks or salamander in the Smoky Mountains might impact humans, and we often only mention the emotional impact of seeing the mountainsides of dead trees or being told that entire species have disappeared. It is harder for us to explain that those losses represent a change in balance within an environment. The change in balance may have been caused by introduction of an exotic parasite or fungus, a human-caused change in the habitat itself, or a combination of changes (which is most likely). Regardless of the cause, this change in balance sets off a cascade of events that unfortunately can end with unhealthy water, plants, and air, negatively impacting every living creature, including humans, and furthering the cascade. A One Health approach allows us to predict the initiation of the cascade and intervene early on to hopefully prevent the cascade from even starting. Think about how advantageous that would have been in the current COVID-19 pandemic. We can definitely expect future health issues but preventing them from becoming catastrophic is a priority. Using the One Health approach, we recognize the interconnectedness of the world and do our part to maintain balance in our world, which is good for all.

Visit Here To Learn More about

The University of Tennessee One Health Initiative
USDA NIFA has added a new program area to the Foundational AFRI RFA. See Rapid Response to Novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) Impacts Across Food and Agricultural Systems Program Area Priority Code: A1711 (deadline June 4, 2020) UPDATED RFA Rapid Response to a Novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) Impacts Across Food & Agricultural Systems (A1711)

Before preparing an application, applicants must contact the Program Area Priority Contact by email to inquire about the suitability of their project for submission to this program: Dr. Emma Moran, (202) 309-1731 or email emma.moran@usda.gov; Dr. Mark Mirando; Dr. Mervalin Morant; Dr. Eric Norland


NIFA Resources  Covid-19-FAQs-Webinar  Deadline Extensions due to COVID-19

NSF is accepting proposals to conduct non-medical, non-clinical-care research that can be used immediately to explore how to model and understand the spread of COVID-19, to inform and educate about the science of virus transmission and prevention, and to encourage the development of processes and actions to address this global challenge.

NSF Coronavirus Information  NSF Rapid response grants to support COVID-19 Research

UT Knoxville Office of Research and Engagement — COVID-19 Funding Opportunities
The UT Knoxville Office of Research and Engagement has set up a page of funding opportunities related to the novel coronavirus. The page will be continually updated throughout the coming weeks.

For additional COVID-19 information, visit the UTIA OSP Coronavirus web page.

Compliance Corner & Hanover Assistance >>>

Remote Training Opportunities >>>

- UTIA Indirect Cost learning session – Tuesday, April 28 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom. We encourage you to send questions for this training in advance, to agrant@utk.edu with Subject line “Questions for IDC Training”.
- Effort Reporting – Jay Taylor – May 12 (noon-1:00) – Zoom link will be provided when available

See more remote learning opportunities at UTIA Workshops and Learning page

Hanover Grantsmanship Training Workshop originally scheduled for April 9 will be rescheduled. Hanover grant consultants are now available for assistance on proposals with smaller budgets (for instance $300K-$500K). If you would like to request Hanover assistance, please complete a project request submission form available at UTIA and Hanover Research.

Updated Salary Incentive Plan >>>

We have updated the SIP form and policy on the OSP website.

http://agriculture.tennessee.edu/sponsoredprograms/proposals.asp
A Roadmap for USDA Science from 2020 to 2025

Continued investment into agriculture science is essential as the world population grows concomitant demand for the goods and services provided by America’s farm and forest lands. As the world’s largest exporter of food, U.S. agricultural land and the people who steward it will need to intensify production to meet demand. At the same time, we must conserve and renew natural resources for generations to come.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is focusing on collaborative science which aligns our work in fundamental research with projects funded through our extramural and intramural research programs, as well as the knowledge and information delivered by our statistical survey and economic analytics programs. This suite of programs, funding, and partnerships enable USDA to conduct critical, long-term, broad-scale science and spur innovation throughout the agriculture, natural resource, and food systems.

This Science Blueprint guides USDA’s science priorities for the next 5 years, building from past success. It is not, however, a catalog of every science activity or focus within the Department. Indeed, departing from past blueprints, it is intentionally concise in order to provide focused leadership and direction to the use of resources. It is also an invitation to partners throughout our Nation to propose innovative ideas to strengthen the themes provided here, which are essential to continuing U.S. leadership in the production of food, wood, and other agricultural products.

Our leaders and scientists must be good listeners and use a rigorous process to prioritize identified needs, invest resources in the most critical needs, and be accountable with those investments through program metrics, performance indicators, and scientific excellence across the One USDA family. The Department will also champion and collaborate through innovative, public-private partnerships and work with like-minded organizations such as the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research.

So, the innovation, diversity, and integrity of U.S. agriculture and the science foundational to its productivity will ensure that American agriculture and food and nutrition systems continue to provide customer service to both producers and consumers in order to “Do Right and Feed Everyone.”

Scott H. Hutchins, Ph.D.
Deputy Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics United States Department of Agriculture

Five Themes: Sustainable Ag Intensification / Ag Climate Adaptation / Food & Nutrition Translation / Value Added Innovations / Ag Science Policy Leadership

An Important Message from NSF

Dear Colleagues:

We are pleased to announce the availability of both NSF-approved formats for the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support sections of National Science Foundation (NSF) proposals that fall under the revised Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) (NSF 20-1) (see the February 6, 2020 webinar for complete details on all revisions to the PAPPG).

Although use of an NSF-approved format for submission of these proposal sections is not required until implementation of the revised PAPPG (NSF 20-1) on June 1, 2020, NSF is encouraging proposers to begin using the NSF-approved formats now. NSF values the feedback from the research community, and we would like to hear about your experience with the new NSF-approved formats. Information about how to provide feedback is included below.

Use of an NSF-approved format aims to reduce administrative burden and improve efficiencies by providing proposers with a compliant and reusable way to maintain this information for subsequent proposal submissions to NSF, while also ensuring that the information is submitted in a standard and searchable composition.

**NSF-approved Formats**

**SciENcv**: NSF has partnered with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to use SciENcv: Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae as an NSF-approved format for use in preparation of both the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support sections of an NSF proposal. SciENcv will produce an NSF-compliant PDF version of the documents which proposers can save and submit as part of their proposals via FastLane, Research.gov or Grants.gov. Additional information about the NSF-approved SciENcv formats is available on the NSF biographical sketch and current and pending support websites.

The SciENcv tool integrates with ORCID, enabling proposers to populate their Biographical Sketches by importing data directly from their ORCID records rather than having to manually enter all the required information. Additionally, Biographical Sketch data maintained in SciENcv can be quickly and easily updated on an ongoing basis for subsequent proposal submissions.

**NSF Fillable PDF**: NSF is also providing a fillable PDF as an NSF-approved format for use to prepare both the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support sections of an NSF proposal. Proposers can download the respective fillable PDF form from the NSF biographical sketch and current and pending support websites and then submit the completed forms as part of their proposals via FastLane, Research.gov or Grants.gov. Note that the NSF fillable PDF for the Biographical Sketch does not integrate with ORCID.

It is important to note that **beginning June 1, 2020**, proposers will be required to use one of the NSF-approved formats for both the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support sections of NSF proposals. Proposals submitted via FastLane, Research.gov and Grants.gov will be compliance checked to ensure that the documents were prepared in accordance with this new policy. **We Want Your Feedback**

Although not required for proposal submission until June 1, 2020, we hope that you will start using the NSF-approved formats for Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support as soon as possible. If you have any feedback that would help us make improvements to the two formats in the future, please let us know. Feedback may be submitted by email to policy@nsf.gov or via the Research.gov Feedback page (select “Biographical Sketch” or “Current & Pending Support" under the Site Area dropdown menu).

**Upcoming Webinars**

To assist the community about these new requirements and to start using SciENcv now, NSF and NIH are planning to conduct a joint webinar that will include a walk-through of how to prepare the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support documents in SciENcv. Information will be provided as soon as it is available, and we encourage you to sign up for notifications.

We also invite you to participate in the next NSF Electronic Research Administration (ERA) Forum on May 14, 2020 at 1:00PM – 2:30PM EDT where we will discuss the NSF-approved format requirements, as well as the new capability to prepare and submit separately submitted collaborative proposals in Research.gov. To sign up for ERA Forum notifications including registration availability for the May 14 event, please send a blank email to NSF-ERA-FORUM-subscribe-request@listserv.nsf.gov and you will be automatically enrolled.

**Questions?** Policy-related questions should be directed to policy@nsf.gov. If you have technical or IT system-related questions, please contact the NSF Help Desk at 1-800-673-6188 (7:00 AM - 9:00 PM ET; Monday - Friday except federal holidays) or via fastlane@nsf.gov.
Sex and gender can influence health in important ways. While sex and gender are distinct concepts, their influence is often inextricably linked. The scientific studies that generate the most complete data consider sex and/or gender influences in study design, data collection and analysis, and reporting of findings. Women and men have different hormones, different organs, and different cultural influences—all of which can lead to differences in health. The purpose of clinical research is to understand how the human body works and apply that knowledge to improve health outcomes. For clinical research to be truly useful, it must reflect the populations that it intends to help.

There are obvious differences between men and women, such as those related to reproduction, but these obvious differences are only one portion of the human body. Sex differences go far beyond the reproductive system. We know that certain health conditions are more common in women than in men, such as osteoporosis, depression, and autoimmune diseases. There are also many diseases that affect women and men differently, such as heart disease. A woman experiencing a heart attack may have pain in her shoulder and her jaw, while a man may present with chest pain and shortness of breath. Women and men may also respond to medications in different ways. A woman may need a lower dose or different treatment regimen. For example, we know that low-dose aspirin has different preventive effects in women and men and that drugs such as zolpidem, used to treat insomnia, require different dosing in women and men. To capture these important phenomena, clinical research must include both men and women.

For these and many other reasons, including women in clinical research makes results stronger and more robust. Including women in clinical research also makes it possible for scientists to draw conclusions that advance health for both women and men. Enrolling women in a research study along with men could help in understanding the mechanism by which a treatment works and help identify people likely or unlikely to be helped by the protocol.

Including women in research is not just a matter of enrolling women in clinical studies. It also requires consideration of how research is designed, a process that occurs long before volunteers sign up for a study. When planning, designing, and conducting clinical research, it is imperative to consider both sexes, and this website will help you think through how the inclusion of women supports strong study design.

“When I see a patient in the NIH Clinical Center hospital, I know that she—or he—has an expectation that the care I give is the most appropriate for a female or a male body. As a clinician, I am only able to do that to the extent that biomedical research has provided the tools and the knowledge.”—Janine Austin Clayton, M.D., NIH Associate Director for Research on Women’s Health

NIH Policies on Inclusion

Case Studies Featuring Researchers’ Experience with Including Women in their Studies

Recruitment & Retention of Women in Clinical Research
Before we go forward, let us revisit some important history. In the spring of 1918, near the end of World War I, the Spanish Flu pandemic started its spread across the globe. The pandemic lasted until 1920 with several waves devastating the world’s population. With no vaccine and a war in progress, you can imagine the chaos that ensued. However, this outbreak was the catalyst for developing a coordinated research response. Much needed research information was not collected during the Spanish Flu. The global community not only needed medical personnel to treat patients, but also clinical research teams to enroll patients, gather data and analyze it for new knowledge to inform prevention and treatment.

**Clinical Research Challenges**

Sadly, the research window of opportunity was missed during the Spanish Flu, and we continue to miss opportunities today in global research for the same reasons. Researchers must navigate multi-site, multi-country hurdles that are political, ethical, administrative, contractual, regulatory, logistical, economic, cultural and societal in nature. Research teams were not prepared to jump those hurdles in 1918, and progress and preparation has been slow over the last century, despite several flu, cholera, Ebola, and HIV/AIDS outbreaks that have been prime opportunities for scientific knowledge and discovery.

Those of you who work in global research settings encounter great challenges in conducting regular scientific research. Add a clinical trial in a foreign country on top of that and you likely have a nightmare. We will delve into some of these in an upcoming issue.

**The Value of the RA**

Several of the clinical research hurdles mentioned above require the expertise of research administrators (RAs), mainly administration, contracting, regulation, and logistics.

- The funding sources for clinical trials can come from multiple sources: federal, international, foundations, private industry, and other sponsors. RAs are on the pre-award side in soliciting funding and post-award side for managing the awarded funds appropriately.
- RAs help negotiate contracts for partnerships within and across countries, clinical research contracts and local site agreements.
- RAs help build the capacity for research, such as training RA staff in other places or coordinating with our colleagues in-country. For the purposes of clinical research, research capacity should be embedded into health care systems to ensure seamless collection and sharing of data.
- RAs procure equipment and supplies and ensure those shipments arrive on time and are properly maintained.
- The regulatory oversight for clinical research is critical for patient safety and rigorous study. The Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Data and Safety Monitoring Boards must have the right mix of expertise to evaluate the clinical studies and monitor them throughout the clinical trial.

**RA Response to an Outbreak**

What should an RA do during an outbreak? The same job that you have always done.

1. Continue to uphold the ethical principles of the profession and assist researchers in carrying out their research in a trying time.
2. Watch for funding opportunities that arise in the infectious disease or vaccine arenas and notify interested researchers.
3. Engage the researchers that are known to conduct clinical trials and develop treatments for infectious diseases to better understand their collaborators and partners. If possible, execute agreements now to position them for conducting their studies with limited delays.
4. Prioritize all aspects of research administration that are for studies on an active outbreak.

By doing these things and more, RAs can help move the needle forward in developing an international coordinated research response. Research during an epidemic or pandemic must be integrated with the frontline public health response. Human lives are at risk. Demonstrate the excellent performance that you have been trained to do, and remember, research does not happen without you.
> Watch for UTIA Office of Sponsored Programs weekly funding opportunities digest.

[link]

> The UTK Faculty Development Team has also launched a weekly funding digest featuring information from the NIH Digest, round-ups from the Corporate and Private Foundations Office, limited submissions, and internal opportunities. Sign up to receive the digest here.

[https://research.utk.edu/]

> Use Pivot to search and save funding opportunities, set up funding alerts, or manage your scholar profile using your UT NetID. Use the Foundation Directory Online to search a database of the 10,000 largest private, community, and corporate foundations in the U.S.

> UTK’s Office of Research and Engagement’s Management of Limited Submission Funding Opportunities has a listserv [link] that you can subscribe to.

- USDA NIFA: [https://nifa.usda.gov/page/search-grant](https://nifa.usda.gov/page/search-grant)
- NIH: [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/funding_program.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/funding_program.htm)
- Non-NIH Opportunities for Predoctoral & Graduate Researchers: [link](#)
- Postdoctoral Non-NIH Opportunities: [https://www.fic.nih.gov/Funding/NonNIH/Pages/postdoctoral.aspx](https://www.fic.nih.gov/Funding/NonNIH/Pages/postdoctoral.aspx)
- Tennessee State Government Rural Task Force: [https://www.tn.gov/ruraltaskforce/search-for-grants---resources.html](https://www.tn.gov/ruraltaskforce/search-for-grants---resources.html)
- Rural Assistance Center: Various TN Funding Opportunities at [http://www.raonline.org/states/tennessee/funding](http://www.raonline.org/states/tennessee/funding)
- Pell Grant resource: - helping students: [https://universityhq.org/paying-for-college/pell-grant/](https://universityhq.org/paying-for-college/pell-grant/)