RCA Welcomes Two New Faculty Fellows

The RCA office is pleased to welcome NDSU faculty members Rajani Ganesh-Pillai and Sam Markell as fellows for the 2020/2021 programming year. Rajani will concentrate on programs for new faculty members and Sam will work with researchers at the associate point of their careers.

Rajani is an associate professor of marketing at NDSU. Her research is interdisciplinary in nature and includes consumer judgment and decision-making, consumer well-being, marketing of innovations, and the interface of STEM disciplines and marketing. As fellow at the Challey Institute, she investigates how sustainable product design impacts a firm’s marketing and economic performance; the adoption of innovations in food and agriculture and how this may be influenced by innovation resistance of adopters; and how institutions of higher learning influence cluster performance and economic development. Rajani has worked to understand how message strategies influence perceived risk and acceptance of nanotechnology as a member of the NDSU Center for Engineered Cancer Test Beds.

Rajani places a high value on the mentoring she received when she started at NDSU and noted that as she progressed in her career, she found herself in the role of mentor for new faculty members. As these relationships have been critical to her development as an effective researcher and faculty member, she hopes to help provide spaces for new faculty members to form these types of bonds and to
come together to solve problems from the perspective of many different disciplines.

“When researchers get the support, network, and resources to help achieve their research careers, they are more likely to choose to stay at NDSU,” Rajani said. “My main goal is to help NDSU and the RCA office retain talented researchers by facilitating programs that support researchers across campus. Of specific interest to me is programming to foster interdisciplinary research and the capability of NDSU to solve big problems using interdisciplinary knowledge and teams. Working alongside Sam and the RCA office, I hope to help new faculty members at NDSU find opportunities to form collaborations and develop tools to navigate and manage interdisciplinary projects in the changing research landscape.”

Sam is an Extension plant pathologist and professor at NDSU. As a researcher, Sam works to develop solutions to the economically important problems that farmers face. Staying true to the land grant university mission, Sam works with interdisciplinary teams to package these solutions into programs delivered to farmers and the agricultural community in North Dakota. “We don’t want to just develop a solution, we want that solution to make an impact on the people we serve,” Sam says.

Sam leads the multimillion-dollar SCN Coalition partnership of private sector, soybean checkoff organizations, and university partners who are working on mitigating economic losses caused by the soybean cyst nematode. He also leads the international sunflower pathology working group, has organized two national American Phytopathological Society (APS) conferences, and has served on many faculty senate and campus committees.

As a faculty fellow, he looks forward to helping faculty members navigate the massive changes that occur during the associate to full professor stage of their careers.

“Associate professors are in an excellent position to identify and address the biggest challenges impacting science and society,” Sam added. “But the skills to do that change. Successfully tackling large and complex problems is often more dependent on a researcher’s ability to maximize the diverse talents within a team, rather than on their technical skills. My goal is to work with the RCA office and
Rajani to facilitate the development of skills that position our faculty for success as they reach beyond their disciplines to provide solutions that address the needs of our state, country and global communities.”

RCA associate vice president for research development Sheri Anderson commented, “The faculty fellow program has been instrumental to the enhancement of programs we offer. We are excited to begin work with Rajani and Sam to further develop and expand programming and support for early career and associate professors as well as interdisciplinary opportunities.”

Save the Date
Novelution Software Training - IRB Module
Virtual training sessions for the Novelution Institutional Review Board (IRB) protocol submission modules have been scheduled. Sessions will be held via Microsoft Teams and will be recorded and archived to be viewed at any time. We would love to have you join us in real time. Two sessions will be held for faculty and students submitting protocols for review on:
- August 25, 2020 | 1:30-3:00 p.m.
- September 2, 2020 | 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Links to the Microsoft Teams meetings will be provided in a later edition.

IACUC Standard Operating Procedures
The NDSU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is developing a library of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that can be accessed on the IACUC Guidelines and Regulations page. Investigators wishing to use these SOPs must attach a copy of the SOP with their protocol submissions. SOPs will continue to be added to the library. If you have any questions, please contact Josie Hayden (josie.hayden@ndsu.edu).
Grant and Contract Submission Requirements Regarding Animal Euthanasia


Research Development and Grant Writing News

The Research and Creative Activity office holds a subscription to Research Development and Grant Writing News, a monthly newsletter full of helpful tips and information about funding agencies and writing successful grant proposals. Here are some articles you will find in recent editions:

- Dos and Don'ts of Writing the Statement of Purpose for a Humanities / Social Sciences Funding Application
- NSF CAREER Proposal Checklist
- Strategies for Revisions and Resubmittals
- Is Your Proposal Fully Responsive to the Funding Solicitation?
- Understanding the USDA Review Process

You can access these and many more articles in the newsletter archive with your NDSU network log-in information.

COVID-19 Guidance for researchers is available on the RCA Website, including NDSU guidance for PIs, Federal Agency guidance, and Funding Opportunities. As this situation is rapidly changing, please refer to the NDSU COVID-19 Preparedness and Response page for additional information.
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Looking for Collaborators? Search Researcher Profiles
In Search of Equipment? Check the NDSU Equipment Database
Fast Grants: Fast Funding for COVID-19 Science

Fast Grants are an effort to respond quickly to funding requests for research related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Scientists at an academic institution currently working on a COVID-19-related project that could help with the pandemic within six months are invited to apply for a Fast Grant. Fast Grants are $10k to $500k and decisions are made in under 14 days. Learn more and apply >>

ND NASA EPSCoR: Research Seed Grants

North Dakota NASA EPSCoR (Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) is soliciting research proposals from faculty at affiliate institutions for Research Seed Grant funding to conduct NASA-relevant research designed to promote and expand particular NASA research subdisciplines in North Dakota. The purpose of the ND NASA EPSCoR Research Seed Grant program is to promote, develop, and expand NASA research in North Dakota aligned with NASA priorities and Mission Directorates.

The full Request for Proposals (RFP), online submission form, and appropriate cover sheet can be found in the RFP announcement on the ND NASA EPSCoR website.

Seed research proposals are due at noon on August 17, 2020.

NDSU Foundation: Impact Grants

The NDSU Foundation Grants Committee is now accepting applications for the Impact Fund Grant Program for the 2020 academic year. The NDSU Impact Fund Grant Program provides funding for projects that make a significant impact on
excellence and the educational experience for students at North Dakota State University. This program is supported by annual contributions from alumni and friends of the university.

Applications are accepted from faculty, staff, and recognized student groups. The Impact Grant Fund Program offers grants of $20,000 to $75,000.

The application form and additional information about the NDSU Impact Grant Program can be found at the NDSU Foundation website: https://www.ndsufoundation.com/impact-fund.

For any further questions, please email Jennifer Reinhold, Grants Committee Liaison, at jennifer.reinhold@ndsufoundation.com.

Application deadline: July 27, 2020

NIH: Collaborative Program Grant for Multidisciplinary Teams (RM1)

Limited submission grant programs are those that indicate a limit on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution for a particular deadline. A selection process becomes necessary if more applicants express interest in applying than NDSU is allowed to submit to the grant program.

NIH RM1: Notify RCA by 9/22/2020, 5:00 p.m. if you are interested in submitting to this program.

This National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding opportunity announcement (FOA / PAR-20-103) is designed to support highly integrated research teams of three to six PD/PIs to address ambitious and challenging research questions that are important for the mission of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) and are beyond the scope of one or two investigators. Collaborative program teams are expected to accomplish goals that require considerable synergy and managed team interactions. Project goals should not be achievable with a collection of individual efforts or projects. Teams are encouraged to consider far-reaching objectives that will produce major advances in their fields. Applications that are mainly focused on the creation, expansion, and/or maintenance of community resources, creation of new technologies or infrastructure development
are not appropriate for this FOA.

**LIMITED SUBMISSION:** Only one application per institution is allowed per review round.

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**NIH: Promoting Research on Music and Health – Phased Innovation Award for Music Interventions (R61/R33 Clinical Trial Optional)**

The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA / PAR-20-266) is to promote innovative research on music and health with an emphasis on developing music interventions aimed at understanding their mechanisms of action and clinical applications for the treatment of many diseases, disorders, and conditions. Given the emphasis on innovation, little or no preliminary data are needed to apply under this FOA. Because of the need for a multidisciplinary approach, collaborations among basic researchers, translational science researchers, music intervention experts, other clinical researchers, music health professionals, and technology development researchers are encouraged. The FOA utilizes a phased R61 / R33 funding mechanism to support mechanistic research and to evaluate the clinical relevance of music interventions. The R61 phase will provide funding to either investigate the biological mechanisms or behavioral processes underlying music interventions in relevant animal models, healthy human subjects, and/or clinical populations, or can be used to develop innovative technology or approaches to enhance music intervention research. The second R33 phase will provide support for further mechanistic investigations in human subjects or animal models, intervention development, or pilot clinical studies. The pilot clinical studies may focus on intervention optimization / refinement, feasibility, adherence, and/or identification of appropriate outcome measures to inform future clinical research. Transition from the R61 to the R33 phase of the award will depend on successful completion of pre-specified milestones established in the R61.

*Deadline: October 2, 2020*
NSF / NIH / USDA: Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases

The National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), support the Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases program [NSF 20-585] for research on the ecological, evolutionary, and social drivers that influence the transmission dynamics of infectious diseases. The central theme of submitted projects must be the quantitative or computational understanding of pathogen transmission dynamics. The intent is discovery of principles of infectious disease transmission and testing mathematical or computational models that elucidate infectious disease systems. Projects should be broad, interdisciplinary efforts that go beyond the scope of typical studies. They should focus on the determinants and interactions of transmission among any host species, including but not limited to humans, non-human animals, and / or plants. This includes, for example, the spread of pathogens; the influence of environmental factors such as climate; the population dynamics and genetics of reservoir species or hosts; the feedback between ecological transmission and evolutionary dynamics; and the cultural, social, behavioral, and economic dimensions of pathogen transmission. Research may be on zoonotic, environmentally-borne, vector-borne, or enteric pathogens of either terrestrial or aquatic systems and organisms, including diseases of animals and plants, at any scale from specific pathogens to inclusive environmental systems. Proposals for research on disease systems of public health concern to developing countries are strongly encouraged, as are disease systems of concern in agricultural systems. Investigators are encouraged to develop the appropriate multidisciplinary team, including for example, anthropologists, modelers, ecologists, bioinformaticians, genomics researchers, social scientists, economists, oceanographers, mathematical scientists, epidemiologists, evolutionary biologists, entomologists, parasitologists, microbiologists, bacteriologists, virologists, pathologists or veterinarians, with the goal of integrating knowledge across disciplines to enhance our ability to predict and control infectious diseases. The EEID competition broadly welcomes, but does not require, that projects include international collaborators.

Deadline: November 18, 2020

NSF: EPSCoR Workshop Opportunities
The Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) is designed to fulfill the mandate of the National Science Foundation (NSF) to promote scientific progress nationwide. Through this program, NSF establishes partnerships with government, higher education, and industry that are designed to effect sustainable improvements in a jurisdiction's research infrastructure, Research and Development (R&D) capacity, and hence, its R&D competitiveness. Eligibility to participate in the EPSCoR Workshop Opportunities program is described according to the Outreach Eligibility Map (see eligibility map).

EPSCoR welcomes proposals for workshops from institutions within EPSCoR-eligible jurisdictions [NSF 19-588]. These workshops will focus on innovative ways to address multi-jurisdictional efforts on themes of regional to national importance with relevance to EPSCoR's goals and NSF's mission.

*Proposals accepted anytime.*

**NSF: Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Pathways into the Earth, Ocean, Polar and Atmospheric & Geospace Sciences (IUSE: GEOPAths)**

Limited submission grant programs are those that indicate a limit on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution for a particular deadline. A selection process becomes necessary if more applicants express interest in applying than NDSU is allowed to submit to the grant program.

NSF IUSE:GEOPAths: Notify RCA by 9/2/2020, 5:00 p.m. if you are interested in submitting to this program.

IUSE:GEOPAths invites proposals that specifically address the current needs and opportunities related to education within the geosciences community through the formation of STEM Learning Ecosystems that engage students in the study of the Earth, its oceans, polar regions and atmosphere. The primary goal of the IUSE:GEOPAths funding opportunity is to increase the number of students pursuing undergraduate and/or postgraduate degrees through the design and testing of novel approaches that engage students in authentic, career-relevant experiences in geoscience. In order to broaden participation in the geosciences, engaging students from historically excluded groups or from non-geoscience...
degree programs is a priority. This solicitation features three funding tracks that focus on Geoscience Learning Ecosystems (GLEs):

1. GEOPAths: Informal Networks (IN). Collaborative projects in this track will support geoscience learning and experiences in informal settings for teachers, pre-college (e.g., upper level high school) students, and early undergraduates in the geosciences.

2. GEOPAths: Undergraduate Preparation (UP). Projects in this track will engage pre-college and undergraduate students in extra-curricular experiences and training in the geosciences with a focus on service learning and workplace skill building.

3. GEOPAths: Graduate Opportunities (GO). Projects in this track will improve research and career-related pathways into the geosciences for undergraduate and graduate students through institutional collaborations with a focus on service learning and workplace skill building.

LIMITED SUBMISSION: An organization may serve as sole submitting organization or as lead organization of a collaborative project on only one submission per competition, regardless of track, but may serve as the non-lead organization of a collaborative project more than once per competition. A Principal Investigator may serve in the role of PI or Co-PI on only one proposal per competition if they are at the sole-submitting organization or the lead organization of a collaborative project, but may serve as the Co-PI for a non-lead organization of a collaborative project more than once per competition.

NSF: Major Research Instrumentation (MRI)

Limited submission grant programs are those that indicate a limit on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution for a particular deadline. A selection process becomes necessary if more applicants express interest in applying than NDSU is allowed to submit to the grant program.

NSF MRI: Notify RCA by 9/15/2020, 5:00 p.m. if you are interested in submitting to this program.

The National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program [NSF 18-513] serves to increase access to multi-user scientific and engineering instrumentation for research and research training in our Nation's institutions of
higher education and not-for-profit scientific / engineering research organizations. An MRI award supports the acquisition or development of a multi-user research instrument that is, in general, too costly and/or not appropriate for support through other NSF programs. **Cost sharing of precisely 30% of the total project cost is required.**

Based on the NSF 18-513 solicitation, an MRI proposal may request support for either the acquisition or development of a research instrument.

- **Track 1:** Track 1 MRI proposals are those that request funds from NSF greater than or equal to $100,000 and less than $1,000,000. Two proposal submissions are allowed per organization.
- **Track 2:** Track 2 MRI proposals are those that request funds from NSF greater than or equal to $1,000,000 up to and including $4,000,000. One proposal submission is allowed per organization.

**LIMITED SUBMISSION:** The MRI program requires that an MRI-eligible organization may, as a performing organization, submit or be included as a significantly funded subawardee in **no more than three MRI proposals.** Each performing organization is limited to a maximum of three proposals in the “Tracks” as defined above, with no more than two submissions in Track 1 and no more than one submission in Track 2.

**NSF: Research Traineeship (NRT)**

*Limited submission grant programs* are those that indicate a limit on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution for a particular deadline. A selection process becomes necessary if more applicants express interest in applying than NDSU is allowed to submit to the grant program.

**NSF NRT:** [Notify RCA](mailto:Notify.RCA@ndsu.nodak.edu) by 9/15/2020, 5:00 p.m. if you are interested in submitting to this program.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Traineeship (NRT) program [NSF 19-522](https://www.nsf.gov/publications/authors/nsf19522.pdf) is designed to encourage the development and implementation of bold, new, and potentially transformative models for STEM graduate education training. The NRT program seeks proposals that explore ways for graduate students in research-based masters and doctoral degree programs to develop the
skills, knowledge, and competencies needed to pursue a range of STEM careers. The program is dedicated to effective training of STEM graduate students in high priority interdisciplinary research areas, through the use of a comprehensive traineeship model that is innovative, evidence-based, and aligned with changing workforce and research needs. The NRT program addresses workforce development, emphasizing broad participation, and institutional capacity building needs in graduate education. Strategic collaborations with the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), government agencies, national laboratories, field stations, teaching and learning centers, informal science centers, and academic partners are encouraged.

**LIMITED SUBMISSION:** Based on the NSF 19-522 solicitation, an eligible organization may participate in *two proposals per competition.* Participation includes serving as a lead organization, non-lead organization, or subawardee on any proposal. Organizations participating solely as evaluators on projects are excluded from this limitation.

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**Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Building A Culture of Health**

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has two open calls for proposals related to building a Culture of Health:

- [Evidence for Action: Investigator-Initiated Research to Build a Culture of Health](#)
- [Pioneering Ideas: Exploring the Future to Build a Culture of Health](#)

A Culture of Health is broadly defined as one in which good health and well-being flourish across geographic, demographic, and social sectors; public and private decision-making is guided by the goal of fostering equitable communities; and everyone has the opportunity to make choices that lead to healthy lifestyles.

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**USDA-NIFA: Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Program (WAMS)**
**Limited submission grant programs** are those that indicate a limit on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution for a particular deadline. A selection process becomes necessary if more applicants express interest in applying than NDSU is allowed to submit to the grant program.

**USDA WAMS**: Notify RCA by 9/15/2020, 5:00 p.m. if you are interested in submitting to this program.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) requests applications for WAMS to support research and extension activities that increase the number of women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas who will pursue and complete a postsecondary degree in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) disciplines. WAMS-funded project activities must support the creation, adaptation, and adoption of learning materials and teaching strategies to operationalize what we know about how students learn. WAMS-funded projects shall also focus on imparting both technical knowledge as well as 'soft' skills such as communication, team work, and problem solving, as these are abilities expected by employers.

For this program, NIFA will support projects with a target audience of K-14 students (kindergarten through twelfth grade plus two years of post-secondary school (e.g., vocational technical institutions or community or junior colleges). Four-year undergraduate, graduate, and post-doctoral focused projects will not be awarded under this grant announcement.

**LIMITED SUBMISSION**: Each eligible, individual institution, independent branch campus, and branch institution of a State system may submit one application as an individual institution.

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**Export Controls Roundtable: Foreign Influence**

Roundtables are designed to be discussions regarding specific topics and are less formal than webinars. There will be a 1-2 slide formal presentation providing background on the subject, and two discussion leaders will lend their experience to the group. Participants will be encouraged to share their own knowledge as well as ask questions, hopefully leading to a successful group discussion. The direction of the conversation is entirely dependent on the group.
Foreign Influence
Wednesday, August 19, 2020 - 11:00 AM
Facilitators: Sharon May and Julie Sherwood
Safeguarding research on campus against threats from some foreign governments seeking to influence, interfere and, in some cases, steal scientific research and intellectual property has been the subject of warnings by national security and law enforcement officials over the past several years. To date, cases have been brought against professors, scholars and students from universities and research institutions across the US. This roundtable will open the discussion on the issue of foreign influence on American university campuses and how we can protect federally funded research projects from cyberattacks, theft, and other foreign threats while still maintaining openness and international academic collaboration.

Spots are limited. Please email sharon.may@ndsu.edu to reserve your space. Sessions will be limited to around 20 participants to maximize discussion.

Agricultural Utilization Research Institute: Bold Open Reverse Pitch event
The Bold Open platform and virtual event on July 27, 2020, brings together leading Minnesota food and agriculture companies to highlight unique industry challenges to create partnerships with producers, entrepreneurs, researchers, businesses and creators that have innovative solutions. Food and agriculture challenges are now available and virtual event registration is open.

Webinar: NSF's Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier
Wednesday, July 22, 2020
12:00pm-1:00pm
Register for Webinar >>

The Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable (GUIRR) will host a webinar on NSF's Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier (FW-HTF) program, which was initiated in 2016 as one of the NSF 10 Big Ideas. FW-HTF
supports convergent research integrating considerations of future technology, future workers, and future work. Here, "future technology" refers to advances in engineering, computer science, or other relevant fields, with the potential to create new human-technology work partnerships; "future workers" refers to advances in the fundamental understanding of individual workers, work teams, workplaces, and work organizations; and "future work" refers to advances in the fundamental understanding of educational, organizational, societal, or economic factors, considering both benefits and risks.

Please join GUIRR for an overview of the objectives of the FW-HTF program, with illustrative examples highlighting the diversity of work domains encompassed by the program. Jordan Berg, Program Director in the Directorate for Engineering at NSF; and Chia Shen, Program Director for the Directorate for Education & Human Resources at NSF will present.

There is no cost to this webinar, but registration is required. A confirmation email will be issued prior to the event containing the webinar URL. Register for Webinar >>

AAAS Research Competitiveness Program Webinars
The American Association for the Advancement Of Science (AAAS) Research Competitiveness Program (RCP) has worked for more than two decades designing and leading assessments, proposal review processes, and data-driven evaluations for science and technology projects, universities, foundations and state and national governments. This free online event series shares insights and leads discussions on a range of topics related to careers as researchers and academic leaders.

- Being an Excellent Proposal Reviewer: Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Service to the Community
  July 22, 2020; 12:00-1:00pm
  Learn more and register >>

- Rebooting Your Research Program
  August 3, 2020; 2:00-3:15pm
  Learn more and register >>
Department of Energy Summer Webinar Series
This free webinar series will connect early- and growth-stage companies, accelerators and incubators, and university entrepreneurial scientists and engineers to the latest program initiatives and partnering opportunities from the Department of Energy (DOE). It will provide attendees with an opportunity to hear from DOE senior leaders and program managers, those who are the administrators and decision-makers for current and upcoming funding and partnering opportunities. All webinars are scheduled for 12pm (Noon) CT. Learn more and register >>

- July 23: See the Light - The National Syncrotron Light Source and Other Tools of Discovery
- August 6: Energy I-Corp for DOE's SBIR / STTR Programs
- August 13: The DOE Technology Commercialization Fund
- August 20: DOE and the Federal Lab Consortium - What's in it for you?
- September 4: DOE's Prize Competitions and Challenges
- September 11: The Laboratory Partnership Service
- September 18: Wells Fargo Innovation Incubator (IN2) and the NREL Industry Growth Forum

Past webinars are available to watch on-demand.
Learn the essential components of an effective plan, how to find and use cost-effective market research to direct your efforts, which supporting documents you will need, and other tips for writing a winning plan.

Learn more and register >>

DEPSCoR DoD Day at the University of South Dakota
On September 10, 2020, the University of South Dakota will host DEPSCoR DoD Day, presented by the Department of Defense. Breakfast, lunch and refreshments will be provided. Program officers from the Army, Navy, Air Force and other DoD representatives will participate in the meeting, which will cover the following topics:

- how to work with the DoD, especially ARO, ONR, AFOSR;
- how to make connections with DoD program officers;
- how to pursue funding opportunities specific to DEPSCoR;
- how to pursue other programs within the Basic Research Office.

There is also a Speed Networking Opportunity with DoD Program Officers.

Have questions, ideas, or suggestions for the RCA Update?

Contact Us
The Office of Research and Creative Activity (RCA) sends weekly emails to NDSU faculty and staff to provide current information on various topics including funding opportunities, grant program changes, research resources, deadlines, notices, and training.
You are receiving this notification through the NDSU official employee listserv or sub-list. The official listserv refreshes after each pay period.

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