Meet NDSU’s New Assistant Professors

Each week RCA will feature new assistant professors. Full profiles are available on the RCA website.

Xin (Rex) Sun, Ph.D.
Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

What are your primary research and scholarly interests?
Precision Agriculture, Artificial Intelligence in Food and Agriculture, and Precision Livestock Production.

Where are you from and where did you pursue your education?
I am originally from China, and attended Nanjing Agricultural University.

What excites you about NDSU?
NDSU is a place where everybody is ready to help you; no matter where you came from the people here at NDSU always treat you like a family member.
**Rex**

What motivates you?
The people at NDSU, and my family.

Read more about Rex >>

Trung Bao Le, Ph.D.

**Civil Engineering**

What are your primary research and scholarly interests?
Hydraulics, Fluid Mechanics, Biofluids, and Multiscale simulation of human physiology.

Where are you from and where did you pursue your education?
I am originally from Vietnam. I got my PhD in 2012 at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities.

What excites you about NDSU?
The ability to pursue multi-disciplinary research with faculty from different departments.

What motivates you?
Saving lives and improving the quality of life for all citizens via engineering solutions.

Read more about Trung >>
The NDSU Center for Computationally Assisted Science and Technology (CCAST) supports NDSU research through its computational resources and supports education and outreach activities to drive advanced computing into the mainstream. CCAST provides onsite hardware, software, and filesystems for researchers. The center is also an "on ramp" to national computing resources such as the Open Science Grid (OSG) and Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment (XSEDE). For more details on the center's offerings, see the CCAST website.

The NDSU Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) reviews all research/teaching on campus which uses recombinant/synthetic nucleic acids, infectious agents, human blood, bodily fluids and tissues. The IBC also reviews research taking place at both U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) laboratories which are located on our campus. Currently the IBC is made up of 12 committee members, consisting of NDSU faculty and staff, USDA scientists, and community members.

The idea of an IBC at NDSU was first brought up by NDSU’s Dr. R. Lund in 1979, as the USDA rDNA Office was requiring approval for certain funded projects. Because of his familiarity with the subject matter, NDSU’s Dr. David Berryhill was asked to further pursue the idea of establishing a local IBC. In 1980, Dr. Berryhill started recruiting NDSU faculty to discuss how an IBC would function at NDSU. The first official NDSU IBC meeting was held in October 1983. Original committee members were: D. Berryhill, M. Duysen, F. Farris, M.H. Smith, A. Oleson, G. Secor, A. Harri, R. Roehrdanz (USDA), and D. Johnson and R. Miller, community members. The NDSU IBC started as a local committee, but was formally recognized by the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) in March 1986. Dr. Phil McClean was the first NDSU faculty member to have a protocol approved by the newly formed IBC, in 1987. From 1983-2000, investigators submitted a letter describing their
project to the IBC for review and approval. Starting in 2000, an Application process was implemented and an Application form was created, which replaced the less formal letter. Eventually the current Application form will be replaced by an electronic submission system.

Additional information about the IBC, as well as guidelines and resources can be found on the IBC website. Questions can be directed to the IBC office by email (ndsu.ibc@ndsu.edu) or via phone (1-8908).

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Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: Grand Challenges Explorations Initiative

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is inviting proposals for the latest round of the Grand Challenges Explorations (GCE) initiative. Grand Challenges is a family of initiatives fostering innovation to solve key global health and development problems. GCE grants have already been awarded to almost 1400 researchers in more than 65 countries. Initial grants are for $100,000 and successful projects are eligible to receive follow-on funding of up to $1 million. Proposals are solicited twice a year for an expanding set of global health and development challenges. Applications are only two pages, and no preliminary data is required. Applicants can be at any experience level, in any discipline, and from any type of organization, including colleges and universities, government laboratories, research institutions, non-profit organizations and for-profit companies.

Applications on the following six topics will be accepted:

- Increasing Demand for Vaccination Services
- New Approaches for Manufacturing Gut Microbial Biotherapeutics
- Innovation for WASH in Urban Settings
- New Approaches for Strategic Prioritization of Agricultural Development Policies
- Tools and Technologies for Broad-Scale Pest and Disease Surveillance of Crop Plants in Low-Income Countries
- Innovations Driving Programmatic Performance in Immunization: Service Experience and Data Use + Measurement

Application deadline: November 14, 2018
NSF: Computational and Data-Enabled Science and Engineering

Advanced computational infrastructure and the ability to perform large-scale simulations and accumulate massive amounts of data have revolutionized scientific and engineering disciplines. The goal of the Computational and Data-Enabled Science and Engineering (CDS&E) program is to identify and capitalize on opportunities for major scientific and engineering breakthroughs through new computational and data analysis approaches. The intellectual drivers may be in an individual discipline or they may cut across more than one discipline in various Directorates. The key identifying factor is that the outcome relies on the development, adaptation, and utilization of one or more of the capabilities offered by advancement of both research and infrastructure in computation and data, either through cross-cutting or disciplinary programs. The CDS&E program is not intended to replace existing programs that make awards that involve computation and the analysis of large data sets. Rather, the CDS&E program is meant to fund awards that have a significant component of cyber development or cyber science that goes well beyond what would normally be included in these programs. Deadlines vary by program and division.

NSF: Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers Program
The National Science Foundation (NSF) Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers (IUCRC) program develops long-term partnerships among industry, academe, and government. The Centers are catalyzed by an investment from the NSF and are primarily supported by industry Center members, with NSF taking a supporting role in the development and evolution of the Center. Each Center is established to conduct research that is of interest to both the industry members and the Center faculty. An IUCRC contributes to the nation’s research infrastructure base and enhances the intellectual capacity of the engineering and science workforce through the integration of research and education. As appropriate, an IUCRC uses international collaborations to advance these goals within the global context.

Required preliminary proposal deadline: October 17, 2018; full proposal deadline: December 19, 2018

Russell Sage Foundation: Social Inequality Research

The Russell Sage Foundation was established for "the improvement of social and living conditions in the United States." In pursuit of this mission, the foundation now dedicates itself to strengthening the methods, data, knowledge, and theoretical core of the social sciences as a means of diagnosing social problems and improving social policies. The foundation's program on Social Inequality supports research on the social, economic, political, and labor market consequences of rising economic inequalities in the United States. The program seeks Letters of Inquiry for investigator-initiated research projects that will broaden current understanding of the causes and consequences of rising economic inequality. Priority will be given to projects that use innovative data or methodologies to address important questions about inequality. Examples of the kinds of topics that are of interest include but are not limited to economic well-being, equality of opportunity, and intergenerational mobility; the political process and resulting policies; psychological and/or cultural change; education;
labor markets; child development and child outcomes; neighborhoods and communities; families, family structure, and family formation; and other forms of inequality. The foundation encourages methodological variety, but all proposals should have well-developed conceptual frameworks and research designs. Analytical models should be specified and research questions and hypotheses should be clearly stated. Awards are available for research assistance, data acquisition, data analysis, and investigator time for conducting research and writing up results. Two-year grants of up to $150,000 will be awarded to qualified organizations.

Letter of Inquiry deadline: November 30, 2018; Invited proposal deadline: March 4, 2019

Correction to Notice in September 17, 2018 Edition:

NSF Budget Justifications

The National Science Foundation’s 2018 Proposal & Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) included new guidance related to NSF’s 2 month requested salary limitation for senior personnel. Proposing organizations are now required to define and consistently apply the term “year” when requesting salary for senior personnel as well as include this definition in budget justifications. In order to comply with this requirement, NDSU has defined our organizational “year” as July 1st – June 30th.

“As a general policy, NSF limits the salary compensation requested in the proposal budget for senior personnel to no more than two months of their regular salary in any one year.” “It is the organization’s responsibility to define and consistently apply the term “year”, and to specify this definition in the budget justification. This limit includes salary compensation received from all NSF-funded grants. This effort must be documented in accordance with 2 CFR
§ 200, Subpart E, including 2 CFR § 200.430(i). If anticipated, any compensation for such personnel in excess of two months must be disclosed in the proposal budget, justified in the budget justification, and must be specifically approved by NSF in the award notice budget.”

Please see page II-17 of the PAPPG guide for additional information:

For questions, please contact Sponsored Programs at ndsu.research@ndsu.edu.

Faye Klein Retirement

After 34 years of dedicated service to North Dakota higher education, Faye Klein has decided to retire. Faye began her career in 1984 in Enrollment Services at North Dakota State College of Science and moved to Fargo to work at NDSU in 1990. Faye has worked at NDSU for the past 28 years, serving in the College of Human Development and Education in Student Services, the Center for 4-H Youth Development, the College of Health Professions, and most recently in Research and Creative Activity.

Many of you have worked with Faye throughout her career and I invite you to wish her well on her next chapter! Faye’s last day at NDSU will be Monday, October 1, 2018. Until then, she can be reached at 1-8045, via email at faye.klein@ndsu.edu or in person in the Research 1 building. On behalf of the entire RCA team, we wish Faye a fond farewell, and thank her for her years of service and dedication to NDSU.
September Issue: Research Development and Grant Writing News

The September issue of Research Development and Grant Writing News is now available to view. Use your NDSU login information to access this resource. Various topics are covered, including:

- BLUF: Write as if your reviewers were Generals
- Preparing to Write Your Proposal
- Writing Your Proposal
- Editing, Revising, and Rewriting Your Proposal
- Understand the Review Process & How to Write to Your Reviewers
- Reviewing the Reviewers (Resubmitting Declined Proposals)

Army Research Institute Speaker: US Army Funding Interests and Opportunities for Basic Research in Behavioral and Social Science

The Psychology Department at NDSU is pleased to announce that Gerald (Jay) Goodwin, Chief of Basic Research at US Army Research Institute in Washington, DC, will be giving a talk on “US Army Funding Interests and Opportunities for Basic Research in Behavioral and Social Science” at the Alumni Center on Thursday, September 27, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. Catering begins at 4:45 p.m. and the public is welcome to attend.
Aldevron Breakthrough Symposium

Aldevron is hosting the first-ever *Breakthrough Symposium* November 6-7, 2018, at the Hilton Garden Inn. This event is bringing together individuals and organizations that lead the biotechnology community and provides an opportunity for participants to network with these thought leaders.

Aldevron is offering complimentary registration for NDSU participants. The code is AldevNDSU.

A poster session will be part of the symposium and NDSU researchers are encouraged to participate. The deadline for posters is September 30, 2018, however this may be extended if needed.

A full list of speakers and the schedule can be found [here](#). Below are some of the session topics:

- **Learn about the novel developments in gene therapy to treat cancer** from Laurence Cooper, CEO of Ziopharm Oncology and David Courtman, CSO of Northern Therapeutics.
- **Discover the potential for gene editing and CRISPR/Cas9** from Matthew Porteus, Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, the Institute of Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine at Stanford University and Kris Saha, Department of Biomedical Engineering, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- **Collaborate on the latest gene therapy manufacturing developments** with Andrew Moreo, Operations Manager, GMP and Viral Vector Core Facilities, Nationwide Children’s Hospital and Anne Kantardjieff, Director of Plasmids and Small Molecules Manufacturing, bluebird bio
• **Hear about the progress in AAV gene therapy** from Luk H. Vandenberghe, Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School and Mark Osborn, Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota

• **Be inspired by the story of Emily Whitehead** presented by Tom Whitehead, Emily’s father and the co-founder of the Emily Whitehead Foundation.

Tours of Aldevron’s new facility will also be offered.

Please contact the NDSU Research Development office (ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu) if you have any questions.

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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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