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### **Welcome to the Research and Creative Activity Update!**

To share information quickly rather than through multiple emails, we will be providing weekly updates for researchers, scholars and staff to keep up-to-date on grant program changes, deadlines, notices and training, with links to expand the information you may be interested in. Thank you for your contributions to research and creative activity at NDSU.

These weekly email updates are archived on the [RCA website](#).

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### **Spring Semester Gear up for Grants Seminars**

Mark your calendars for these upcoming Gear up for Grants Seminars:

#### **Education Outreach: Working with K-12**

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017 | 3-4:30pm | Memorial Union Hidatsa Room*

[\*\*Register Now!\*\*](#)

#### **All-Day Interactive Grant Proposal Development Workshop**

Facilitated by Lucy Deckard, Academic Research Funding Strategies, LLC

*Tuesday, March 21, 2017 | 8:30am-4:30pm | Memorial Union Prairie Rose Room*

[\*\*Register Now!\*\*](#)

For more information, visit the [Research and Creative Activity Calendar](#).



### Forums on Research and Creative Activity

Please join Vice President for Research and Creative Activity, Dr. Kelly Rusch, throughout the semester for a conversation on research and scholarly activities. While there is no agenda for the forums, Dr. Rusch would like to engage in dialogue and hear your thoughts on growing the research, creative activity and scholarly enterprise on campus as we work to meet the Strategic Plan. These forums are scheduled for the following times:

- February 16, 2017 | 1:00pm-2:00pm | Memorial Union Arikara Room
- March 16, 2017 | 1:00pm-2:00pm | Memorial Union Room of Nations
- April 20, 2017 | 1:00pm-2:00pm | Memorial Union Room of Nations
- May 18, 2017 | 1:00pm-2:00pm | Memorial Union Arikara Room



### National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER)

The NSF has announced a new program solicitation, [NSF 17-537](#), for its CAREER program, the National Science Foundation's most prestigious awards, offering five years of funding in support of early-career faculty who have the potential to serve as academic role models in research and education and to lead advances in the mission of their department. Activities pursued by early-career faculty should build a firm foundation for a lifetime of leadership in integrating education and research. NSF encourages submission of CAREER proposals from early-career faculty and especially encourages women, members of underrepresented minority groups, and persons with disabilities to apply. Application Deadline varies - July 19-21, depending on discipline.

The NDSU Research Development Office is offering a **CAREER Proposal Development Program** for those faculty interested in applying to this NSF program. Participation involves monthly meetings that provide advice and tips on writing a competitive CAREER proposal as well as assistance including proposal draft critical review. For questions and to register, email [ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu) by February 1.



### Sanford Health NDSU Research Seed Grant Request for Applications (RFA) Released

The Sanford Health NDSU Research Seed Grant RFA for 2017 was released on January 9<sup>th</sup> and proposals will be due on February 28, 2017.

Priority activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Human nutrition and metabolism (may include use of appropriate animal models)
- Human behavior related to food choices and consumption
- Study of the human microbiome (may include use of appropriate animal models)
- Epigenetics, with specific interest in prenatal nutrition
- Genetics, nutrigenomics, and metabolomics
- Development of sensors that monitor wellness factors
- Analytics of large and dynamic data sets resulting from wellness sensors
- Processing and manufacturing improvements of the Profile protein supplement

Additional information on the program including the full RFA and application coversheet is available at

[https://www.ndsu.edu/research/for\\_facultyresearchers/sanford\\_health\\_ndsu\\_seed\\_grant/](https://www.ndsu.edu/research/for_facultyresearchers/sanford_health_ndsu_seed_grant/).



## Electromechanical Testing System/Pull Tester



The RCA Recharge Center has an Electromechanical 5kN Extended Length Testing System. This MTS Insight system is ideal for performing standard tests such as peel-tear, shear, tensile, and compression, as well as more advanced tests such as creep, stress relaxation, and multi-cycle on a wide variety of specimens. These include subcomponents along with finished products and materials such as textiles, plastics, composites, adhesives, ceramics, elastomers, foam and more. Offering user-defined crosshead speeds as well as advanced control modes such as load and strain, the system can analyze a wide range of materials.

For more information on using this tool for your research, contact Fred Haring (1-5336 [frederik.haring@ndsu.edu](mailto:frederik.haring@ndsu.edu)) or visit the Research Operations website at [https://www.ndsu.edu/research/research\\_operations/](https://www.ndsu.edu/research/research_operations/).



## Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Reports are circulating that grants have been suspended or frozen by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). At this time NDSU has not received any formal notice from EPA concerning our current funding. Based on a communication from an EPA Grants Management Specialist, our understanding is that the suspension only applies to pending grants that have not yet been obligated by the EPA. Grants that were awarded prior to January 22, 2017 may continue until we hear otherwise. Sponsored Programs Administration will provide updates if we receive any additional information concerning potential impact to EPA or other federal awards.



## Freeze on New or Pending Federal Regulations

The Council on Government Relations (COGR) has provided notice to members concerning a memorandum issued from the White House Chief of Staff directing a regulatory freeze on new or pending federal regulations. The White House has ordered that agencies not send any new regulations to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) until the President's appointee or designee reviews and approves the regulation. Further, agencies have been directed to immediately withdraw any new regulations that had already been sent to the Office of the Federal Register but not yet published. Finally, any proposed regulations that have been published in the Federal Register but are not yet effective will be delayed for 60 days for review. The memorandum provides an exception for regulations for "critical health, safety, financial, or national security matters".

A number of regulations impacting research may be affected by this regulatory freeze. Of particular note for our research activities are the following:

- 1) Updates to the Uniform Guidance (UG) – the UG is the administrative requirements, cost principles and audit requirements for federal awards, and is found at 2 CFR 200. The final guidance was published Dec. 26, 2013 in Volume 78 of the Federal Register (found here: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-12-26/pdf/2013-30465.pdf>). Updates are currently pending.
- 2) NIH Final Policy on the Use of a Single Institutional Review Board for Multi-Site Research – issued June 21, 2016 but not effective until September 25, 2017. This is a requirement that would be applicable to NIH multisite studies, and would require the lead institution to either be the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of record for all sites involved in the study, or to contract with a commercial IRB to provide such oversight. COGR indicates that it is unlikely that the regulatory freeze would impact this policy.
- 3) Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects (Common Rule) – issued January 19, 2017 but not effective until January 19, 2018. Although this rule will be postponed 60 days pending review, it shouldn't affect the implementation date. (See [Human Subjects section](#), below, for more explanation on the Common Rule.)



## Helpful Tips for Using Grants.gov

A grants.gov file is used by many federal agencies for grant submission. Each file is set up to load per the funding opportunity announcement. In order to avoid last minute difficulties with these files which could impact submission, please:

- 1) download the specific package that is associated with the funding opportunity announcement. You will need the instructions and the package;
- 2) use the Sponsored Programs Administration website for NDSU's [institutional information](#); and
- 3) use the hyperlinks on the grants.gov coversheet to pull in the correct budget and other necessary forms.

If you need assistance with the form, call 1-8045 or email [ndsu.research@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.research@ndsu.edu), and we will gladly provide guidance to you!



## Human Subjects

A Final Rule revising the 'Common Rule' on human subjects protection was published in the [Federal Register](#) on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Significant changes to the rule include:

- Changes to the requirements for informed consent to better explain the risks and benefits of research.
- Requirements in many cases to use a single IRB for multi-institutional research studies.
- The establishment of new exempt categories of research based on the level of risk they pose to participants.
- Removal of the continuing review requirements for some ongoing research studies where continuing review does little to protect research participants.

The NDSU IRB will continue to review these requirements and address areas where policies, procedures, and processes need to be updated to address these new changes. The effective date for most changes is set for January 19, 2018, with the exception of the requirement to utilize a single IRB for multi-institutional research (the effective date for this portion of the rule is set for January 20, 2020).



## National Institutes of Health (NIH) Salary Cap

Since 1990, Congress has been legislatively limiting the amount of compensation that can be recovered on National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants. This salary cap for PIs and other individuals working on NIH funded projects restricts the amount of direct salary (exclusive of fringe benefits) that can be charged to a grant. This salary cap is legislatively tied to the Federal Executive pay scale at Level II. An [executive order](#) dated Dec. 27, 2016, raised the cap on Level II from \$185,100 to \$187,000.

However, the NIH has not made an official announcement to begin using the \$187,000 rate. Until NIH provides additional guidance, PIs should continue to use the current cap of \$185,100.



## PIVOT Now has 'Calls for Papers' Feature

[PIVOT](#), the online database for customized grant searching and expertise profiles, has a new additional feature. Researchers can now easily identify [publishing opportunities](#) at conferences and within special journal issues. The "Papers Invited" database, a comprehensive collection of calls for papers issued by professional bodies, journal editors and other conference organizers in all academic disciplines, is now available as an option on the menu bar. Subscribers using the ["Call for Papers"](#) feature can search papers by keywords, event dates, time periods, country, type, conference or periodical.



## Reminder: Check Your Email Spam Folder Occasionally

It is a good idea check your email spam folder occasionally to be sure that grant email alerts from PIVOT and other grant agencies are not landing there rather than in your inbox. To prevent this from happening, be sure that the relevant email address has been added to your email contact list.



## For a Disclosed University Technology, the “Valley of Death” is Often Very Real and Widening

The “Valley of Death” is that gap in time and effort between academic research and commercial exploitation of a technological innovation. Academic research is often funded by an outright grant, when new ideas are discovered with the short term goal of publication. Commercial exploitation is when the idea has been transformed from an academic curiosity to a product that can be made and sold to customers for a profit.

Large established companies have become more conservative in directly licensing technologies from universities at early stages. The reasons for this are several: risk aversion, economic and political uncertainty, de-emphasis on internal research, emphasis on manufacturing and sales, and a focus on global expansion of existing products instead of developing new products. This growth in the size of the Valley of Death makes it more difficult to license the university technologies directly to established companies and adds emphasis to the role of start-up companies to bridge the valley. However, the challenge for start-up companies translating university technologies into commercial products is gathering the human and financial resources to mature the nascent technologies to a stage attractive to established companies.

If you have questions regarding your research as relating to patenting or commercialization, contact the Technology Transfer Office: Henry Nowak (1-8173 or [henry.nowak@ndsu.edu](mailto:henry.nowak@ndsu.edu)) or Dale Zetocha (1-8931 or [dale.zetocha@ndsu.edu](mailto:dale.zetocha@ndsu.edu)).



## Video Resources from the National Institutes of Health

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) provides access to various extramural research topics through its [YouTube site](#). A more recent video is by Dr. Michael Lauer, NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research, presenting on *Evidence-Based Funding* at the 2016 NIH Regional Seminar.

Other topic areas include:

- NIH Grants Process: The Big Picture
- NIH Peer Reviewed Revealed
- NIH Tips for Applicants
- NIH Public Access Policy



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