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](https://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/research/rca).

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**NSF Dear Colleague Letter: Joint NSF/ENG and AFOSR Funding Opportunity**
The Division of Civil, Mechanical and Manufacturing Innovation (CMMI) of the Engineering Directorate of the National Science Foundation, in collaboration with the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR), seeks research proposals for multidisciplinary teams with the potential to transform fundamental understanding of structural Materials through the Quantitative Representation of Microstructures. This letter serves as a call for proposals to address fundamental scientific questions related to materials microstructure, properties, and performance through the development of tools for the Quantitative Representation of Microstructures. NSF’s and AFOSR’s interest lies in innovative research projects which bring together members of the Materials Science and Engineering community with experts in computation and visualization, to address the challenges associated with accurate quantification and representation of the microstructures of Engineering Materials.

Proposals should address:
- Fundamental scientific questions related to Materials Processing-Microstructure-Property relationships that can be addressed through experimental and computational approaches enabled by the Quantitative Representation of Microstructures
- A multidisciplinary approach to developing the tools for accurate microstructure representation, to include (1) data collection tools (2) data processing and feature identification algorithms (3) morphological descriptive metrics (4) virtual structure generators or renderers and (5) structural and/or functional material performance metrics
- Efforts to identify and quantify sources of uncertainty in the microstructure representations
• Planned open access to the data and codes generated in the proposed work

NSF International Research Experiences for Students
The International Research Experiences for Students (IRES) program supports international research and research-related activities for U.S. science and engineering students. IRES focuses on active research participation by undergraduate or graduate students in high quality international research, education, and professional development experiences in NSF-funded research areas. This solicitation features three mechanisms; proposers are required to select one of the following tracks to submit their proposal. Track I focuses on the development of world-class research skills in international cohort experiences. Track II is dedicated to targeted, intensive learning and training opportunities that leverage international knowledge at the frontiers of research. Track III calls for U.S. institutional partnerships and coalitions to develop and evaluate innovative models for high-impact, large-scale international research and professional development experiences for graduate students, as individuals or groups.

EAR versus ITAR
There are a number of key differences between two of the primary sets of export control regulations, the Export Administration Regulations (EAR, administered by the Department of Commerce) and the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR, administered by the Department of State). In general, the EAR is clearer and more specific in its coverage than the ITAR. Primarily, the EAR is concerned with “dual-use” items, or those tangible items, software, and/or technology that have both commercial and military or proliferation applications. Under the EAR’s “dual-use” rules, controls are based on the type of item, the end use/user, and the destination country. Not all items are controlled for all countries.

Conversely, the ITAR regulates tangible and intangible items that are inherently military in nature. The ITAR also contains the concept of “defense services,” which includes furnishing either training or technical data related to ITAR-controlled items to foreign persons either in the U.S. or abroad. Under ITAR’s regulations, all exports of defense articles and defense services are controlled.

To avoid inadvertent export of items or technology to foreign persons a Technology Control Plan can be developed to protect faculty, students, and visitors. Please contact the Export Control Administrator for more information about classification of technologies at NDSU.

See the NDSU Export Control Policy or contact ndsu.exportcontrols@ndsu.edu for more details.

Issuance of a Revised Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (NSF 18-1)
From Jean Feldman, Head, Policy Office, Division of Institution & Award Support at NSF: a revised version of the NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG), (NSF 18-1) has been issued.

The new PAPPG will be effective for proposals submitted, or due, on or after January 29, 2018. Significant changes include:

• Addition of a new eligibility subcategory on international branch campuses of U.S. Institutions of Higher Education;
• Revision of eligibility standards for foreign organizations;
• Implementation of the standard Collaborators and Other Affiliations (COA) template that has been in pilot phase since April;
• Increase in the Budget Justification page limitation from three pages to five pages;
• Restructuring of coverage on grantee notifications to and requests for approval from NSF, including referral to the Prior Approval Matrix available on the NSF website; and
• Numerous clarifications and other changes throughout the document.
You are encouraged to review the by-chapter summary of changes provided in the Introduction section of the PAPPG. A webinar to brief the community on the new PAPPG will be held on December 8 at 2 PM EST. Sign up to be notified when registration is available on the outreach notifications website, by selecting “All NSF Grants and Policy Outreach Events & Notifications.”

While this version of the PAPPG becomes effective on January 29, 2018, in the interim, the guidelines contained in the current PAPPG (NSF 17-1) continue to apply. We will ensure that the current version of the PAPPG remains on the NSF website, with a notation to proposers that specifies when the new PAPPG (including a link to the new Guide) will become effective.

**NDSU Prepares for Upcoming Changes in Human Subjects Protections**

The NDSU IRB continues to review and revise standard operating procedures, protocol applications, forms, and templates to comply with the revised Common Rule which will take effect January 19, 2018. The revisions will expand the types of research which will qualify for an exemption, provides a limited review process for some exempt research, alters requirements for continuing review, and implements new standards for informed consent.

In addition, NIH will implement its new policy requiring all competing grant applications (new, renewal, revisions, or resubmissions) which involve multi-site studies to be reviewed by a single IRB (sIRB) of record. This will apply to multi-site studies where each site will conduct the same protocol involving non-exempt human subjects research. Beginning January 25, 2018, applications to NIH will be submitted using a new NIH “FORMS-E” grant application which calls for an attachment or document to be uploaded describing the sIRB plan. This plan must list the name of the sIRB of record for the study, must state that “sites will sign reliance agreement[s] that will include a communication plan,” and are to “indicate who will maintain records of this agreement.”

More information about these changes can be found on the Resources page of the IRB website.

**NSF Fall 2017 Virtual Grants Conference**

The National Science Foundation will live stream the plenary sessions of the Fall 2017 NSF Grants Conference November 13-14, 2017. Agenda topics include Proposal Preparation, the Merit Review Process, Award Management, NSF Policy Update, and the NSF CAREER Program. To view the complete schedule and to register to attend the conference virtually, visit the conference website.

**Proposal and Award Management Session #8**

The next session in the Proposal and Award Management series will be held on Thursday, November 16 from 11:00 – 11:45 a.m. in the Quentin Burdick Building (QBB), room 422. The topic area for this meeting is Cost Sharing, Effort Reporting, Recharge Centers, and Service Centers.

These sessions are being offered monthly by Sponsored Programs Administration (SPA) and Grant & Contract Accounting (GCA). These sessions will provide information and training on topics that are relevant to various aspects of proposal submission and award management. Anyone that participates in any way or has an interest in proposal or budget development, routing and submission of proposals, processing or approving expenditures on awards (allowable costs, payroll, equipment, materials, etc.), overall award management, award compliance, locating funding opportunities or electronic research administration is encouraged to attend. These sessions are open to all faculty, researchers and staff. Materials from the sessions are available on the Sponsored Programs Training website.

The QBB room is enabled with videoconferencing (IVN), so if you need to participate via IVN, please contact Faye Klein in SPA (231-8045 or faye.klein@ndsu.edu.) IVN participants will need to reserve their site and let Faye know so that SPA can set up for each requesting site. SPA will need the room name and the IP address no later than 10:00 a.m. the
day prior to the session. Participants who cannot attend in person or via IVN, may be able to connect in two other ways:

1. directly from their laptop or desktop computer using a specific software application, or
2. via an audio connection that can be added to the IVN event.

Participants via personal computer or audio-only will want to contact Faye as soon as possible to ensure adequate time for connections, configuration, and testing.

Note: Although Sessions are scheduled to be completed within 45 minutes, SPA and GCA representatives will be available for at least 15 minutes after each Session in order to answer any additional questions that participants may have.

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Gear up for Grants: Grant Writing Workshops

Lucy Deckard, a consultant with Academic Research Funding Strategies, LLC, will present a series of grant writing workshops in November:

**Gear up for Grants: Pursuing Funding for Large Team and Center Grants**

*Monday, November 20, 2017 | 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Memorial Union, Badlands Room*

This workshop is interactive and geared toward mid-career and senior faculty who are ready or considering applying for large team or center grants within the next few years.

Workshop spots are limited. [Register for this workshop >>](#)

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**Gear up for Grants: How to Write Successful Grants for Instrumentation**

*Tuesday, November 21, 2017 | 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | Memorial Union, Room of Nations*

This session discusses grants that fund instrumentation and equipment and how to develop a successful proposal for these types of grants.

[Register for this workshop >>](#)

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**Gear up for Grants: Pursuing Funding in the Humanities and Social Sciences**

*Tuesday, November 21, 2017 | 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Memorial Union, Room of Nations*

This session discusses the types of funding available to support research in the humanities and humanities-related social sciences and how to be competitive when applying for these opportunities.

[Register for this workshop >>](#)

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