Welcome to the Research and Creative Activity Update!
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.

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

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**
- Equipment Repair Funds Available
- NDSU Bioinformatics Seed Grant Program
- World War I and the National Academy of Sciences (NAS)/National Research Council: A Research Competition

**NEWS & NOTICES**
- Chu Named Director of North Dakota Water Resources Research Institute
- Pivot Training Webinars and Resources
- CCAST Announces Advisory Council
- Scanning Electron Microscope Has Broad Applications

**EVENTS**
- Webinar: Specific Aims & Narrative Sections: Grab NIH Reviewers’ Attention, Get Your Grant Funded
- Proposal and Award Management Session #11

**Equipment Repair Funds Available**
NDSU continues to move forward in meeting the overall goals and metrics of its Strategic Plan. As part of this effort, the Research and Creative Activity Office is making available a limited pool of internal dollars for equipment repair match requests. Requests for equipment repair funds must include details of the piece of equipment to be repaired, its use [departmental, college, institution-wide] and an estimate of the repair cost. For individual faculty, priority will be given to faculty with a match of at least 33%. For Service/Recharge Centers and Core Facilities, priority will be given to centers with at least a 50% match. All funds will have to be spent no later than May 31, 2018.

Please submit your request to [Kelly Rusch](mailto:Kelly.Rusch@ndsu.nodak.edu) and include a copy to [Laura Slicer](mailto:Laura.Slicer@ndsu.nodak.edu) and [Sheri Anderson](mailto:Sheri.Anderson@ndsu.nodak.edu).
NDSU Bioinformatics Seed Grant Program
In anticipation of another year of NIH funding, the NDSU Office of Research and Creative Activity invites competitive proposals for Bioinformatics Seed Grant research projects. These seed grants are intended to launch promising new research projects in bioinformatics, bringing them to the point where they can attract more funding from external sources. Note that those who plan to apply for funding are required to send a Notice of Intent to Apply to ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu by February 26, 2018 at 5 p.m. The final application deadline is March 13, 2018. For complete application instructions, please see the program guidelines on the NDSU Research Development website.

World War I and the National Academy of Sciences (NAS)/National Research Council: A Research Competition
On the occasion of the centennial of World War I, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine have announced an open competition for scholars under the age of 30 to research and write a scholarly paper on a major aspect of how scientists and engineers in the United States were engaged in the World War I effort. Research grants in the amount of $5,000 will be available to five scholars who submit the most compelling proposals by February 28, 2018. Proposals will be judged by a NAS review committee, and the authors of the best proposals will be invited to submit fully developed research papers. A winning paper will be selected by the review committee, and the paper’s author will be awarded a $10,000 prize. Learn more on the competition webpage.

Chu Named Director of North Dakota Water Resources Research Institute
Dr. Xuefeng (Michael) Chu has been named director of the North Dakota Water Resources Research Institute. He is currently an associate professor and interim department chair in the department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at NDSU. Read the full story >>

Pivot Training Webinars and Resources
Pivot provides many free training resources online:

- Free training webinars for researchers, faculty, students, and staff are available to Pivot users; you can view a complete listing of sessions available on the Pivot Webinar page. New dates and times are added monthly. Click the ‘Register’ button to enroll in a live session, or you may view previous event recordings.
- Pivot’s You Tube channel includes short videos on how to create an account, set up alerts, or search for funding and scholars.
- The Pivot support page contains printable information on use of Pivot.

If you have questions about using Pivot or would like assistance setting up a funding search, contact the Research Development office at ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu.

CCAST Announces Advisory Council
The Center for Computationally-Assisted Science and Technology (CCAST) has revived the CCAST Advisory Council and is pleased to announce that the members listed below have agreed to serve. Members will serve a rotating 3-year term so there will be annual opportunities for new members to join and retire. Dr. Dane Skow, the Executive Director of CCAST states, “I am thrilled this multi-disciplinary group of excellent researchers from NDSU has agreed to advise CCAST on future trends/needs in research, current operational issues, and prioritization of resources when we are over-constrained. I look forward to working with them closely.” Members of the university research community are invited to contact any of the council members if they have input or questions about CCAST.
CCAST Advisory Council Members
Jerry Gao, Construction Management & Engineering
Dinesh Katti, Civil Engineering
Svetlana Kilina, Chemistry
John Nowatzki, Ag & Biosystems Engineering
Amy Reese, Library
Aaron Reinholz, RCA
Steve Sobiech, NDSU IT
Bora Suzen, Mechanical Engineering

Scanning Electron Microscope Has Broad Applications
A scanning electron microscope (SEM) image never fails to make an impression. With depth of field that can’t be equalled by light microscopy, SEM pictures appear almost three-dimensional—and true 3D imaging is possible through production of anaglyphs or stereo pairs. Even at lower magnifications, SEM provides overall clarity not possible by other means.

In addition to the visual “wow” factor, the JEOL JSM-6490LV SEM is a powerful research tool with widespread utility. Whether you need magnification 20X or 20,000X, you can get a close-up look at your samples. And nice images are not the only output: visualize composition differences based on atom size (Z) using backscattered electrons, or analyze elemental make-up through energy-dispersive spectroscopy (EDS).

Installed in 2007 with NSF-MRI funding, the 6490LV has been a workhorse instrument at NDSU, supporting hundreds of researchers with more than 36,000 images taken so far. The SEM is fully operable over the internet for remote research use, campus classroom demonstration, or outreach to K-12 and other groups.

The NDSU Electron Microscopy Center is a core research facility supported by the Vice President of Research and Creative Activity. Long-time staff expertise and a full complement of sample-preparation equipment assure the best-possible analysis and imaging: sharp focus, crisp detail, everything but color.

The EM Lab can also help you with project design and preparation of images for publication. Call (231-8435) or stop by to find out how SEM can be of use in your research program, and to discover what other instrumentation and techniques are possible.

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. 0619098

Webinar: Specific Aims & Narrative Sections: Grab NIH Reviewers’ Attention, Get Your Grant Funded
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Specific Aims Page and Narrative Sections can make or break reviewer interest and enthusiasm, and if they aren’t written effectively, they can sink your grant application before it is read in detail.
You are invited to attend this webinar to learn strategies for writing effective Specific Aims and Narrative sections to keep reviewer interest and improve your chances of being funded.

This webinar will be presented by Christopher Dant, a PhD-trained medical researcher and educator with over 40 years experience in government, academic, and biopharmaceutical settings. His PhD training was in immunology and cellular biology, and he previously conducted research for several medical institutions in the United States. Dr. Dant was trained in grant writing at the NIH and was a former journal editor at JAMA.

**Webinar: Specific Aims & Narrative Sections: Grab NIH Reviewers’ Attention, Get Your Grant Funded**

*Presented by Christopher Dant, PHD // Principal Investigator Leader*

Thursday, February 15, 2018 | 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. | EML Room 170

[Event Registration >>](#)

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**Proposal and Award Management Session #11**

The next session in the Proposal and Award Management series will be held on **Thursday, February 15 from 11:00 – 11:45 a.m. in EML, Room 170.** The topic area for this meeting is Electronic Research Administration and Compliance (ERAC). NDSU is working with Novelution Corp. on a software solution for electronic research administration and compliance (ERAC) which will permit faculty and researchers to build their proposals in the system and electronically route proposals for necessary approvals/signatures.

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.

Room 170 in EML 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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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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