



UMSN Research Newsletter

February 2020

Message from the ADR:

Welcome to a new decade, 2020! I hope the 20's have many meaningful things in store for each one of you. The February Research Newsletter has several important updates and announcements that you will want to at least skim through. For example, for those who submit grants to NSF, there is a new requirement for how to build your biosketch and it is believed NIH will be requiring this soon.



I am energized by our branding efforts and resonate in particular with one of the pillars – **We dare to tackle the complex!** Transdisciplinary teams are a great way to do this. I have been reading a book provided by Dean Hurn entitled “Communication in Transdisciplinary Teams” edited by G.R. Lotrecchiano and S. Misra (Informing Science Press, 2020) that differentiates interdisciplinary from transdisciplinary. Interdisciplinary involves theories and various disciplines in an integrative way. It takes concepts and methods from two or more disciplines and uses that additive knowledge to address complex issues. Transdisciplinary is transcendent, more synergistic, going beyond adding together various insights. It actually creates new knowledge, using the worldviews and data from various disciplines to form new frameworks and even at times new language to solve complex problems. This transdisciplinary teamwork is something we can DARE to create and is very important when addressing difficult, complex problems. It harkens back to the core of systems theory in that the whole is more than the sum of its parts. Transdisciplinary work is more than the sum of the disciplines involved, it seeks to create a new innovative worldview. That inspires me to get moving in the morning.

I mentioned to you that MCube is starting a new initiative, M Cubed Communities. As you know, in the last round of MCube 3.0, we had 10 faculty successfully get a cube funded. To date, there are no plans to initiate MCube 4.0. However, M Cubed Communities is expected to be launched around the end of February. This program intends to gather and mobilize large-scale groups of U-M community members around **complex challenges**. It provides an online system of team formation across the three U-M campuses. You will be able to search for communities by keywords and start communities around complex issues you want to solve. There is no cost involved. A community is a group of members who coalesce around a common purpose, such as shared expertise, educational mission, research or scholarship theme, artistic performance, or other goals. Any U-M community member (tenure, clinical, research, lecturers) or post doctorate fellow may participate in M Cubed Communities. People may join up to 5 communities. While there is no limit to how large a community can be, communities over 40 will be encouraged to split off. There will be a community “owner” who will be the point person for the community. There is no limit to the length of time a group can collaborate. *(continued, pg.2)*

Office of Research on Canvas



Looking for a Research Newsletter from 2019?
Need a copy of the Biospecimen Policy *right now??!!!*

Check out the Office of Research in Canvas

Log into Canvas > UMSN Internal Resources and Information > Files > UMSN Office of Research and GRO Resources



Research (GRO) – link to MBox files



Research Newsletters



Research Policies from Office of Research

(Message from the ADR, continued from pg. 1)

How is Mcubed Communities different than Michigan Experts or Google Scholar? The answer from the Mcubed team is: “Mcubed Communities reflects collaborative expertise and priorities rather than those of individuals. Spanning all units and disciplines, as well as a breadth of purposes, the program captures faculty priorities that aren’t yet expressed in publications, grants, or other achievements.” SO, start thinking now about the complex problems you have been wanting to get a community to work on so you are ready when M Cubed Communities goes “live”. Details about the program and how to engage will be forthcoming when it is launched.

It is likely that the next call for proposals for UMSN internal donor funds (slated to be sometime around late summer 2020) will be for team based solutions/research to advance the health of all. In addition, I am currently searching for tools and training that can help all of us get better at transdisciplinary work.

Deb

Research Day 2020 – Avenues of Nursing Impact



Monday
April 6, 2020
8:00 am – 2:30 pm
Michigan League

***10th Annual Suzanne H. Brouse
Keynote Lecture***
Victoria L. Champion, PhD, RN, FAAN
Distinguished Professor
Edward and Sarah Stam Cullipher Endowed Chair
Associate Director of Community Outreach and
Population Science
Indiana University



PLEASE REMEMBER OR BE ADVISED that all internal awards need to have a Notice of Intent submitted to GRO and you need to work with a pre-award team member to create the budget. We have recently had some CRLT grants that were not submitted with the correct information because they were not submitted through GRO.

If you are in need of pilot funds, there will be a call for proposals from the UMSN likely late summer/early Fall 2020 sponsored by our generous donors. So be on the look out for those. In addition, remember [Research Commons](#) is a website that has been put together by Jill Jividien about the internal grant opportunities within the University of Michigan.



Biospecimen Policy

There have been some recent inquiries about what an investigator needs to do if he/she wishes to include biospecimen collection and/or analysis in their research activities. This has prompted the need for a Biospecimen Policy that has been reviewed by the UM Central Biosafety Group and found to cover the needed processes. I am including a link to this policy [here](#) (see UMSN Office of Research and GRO Resources in Canvas). If you are currently or planning to collect biospecimens, please review this policy and **make sure to submit the documents indicated to me (ADR)**.

In addition, I recently sent out a survey to inquire about the interest in collecting biospecimens and whether resources were needed in the School for this purpose. Below is a summary of these findings.

The Qualtrics survey was sent out to all faculty with 2 reminders. There were 27 respondents in total.

- 1) Number of faculty currently collecting biospecimens: 8 current; 7 project future need.
- 2) Number of faculty currently drawing blood: 7 and all but 1 are using an existing venipuncture service.
- 3) One faculty member collects urine, stool, tissue with a licensed hired person.
- 4) One faculty member collects saliva; another may want to collect saliva in the future.
- 5) Three faculty would want space at the SN for specimen collection: 2 blood; 1 saliva; two are future.
- 6) Five faculty could make use of a -80 degree freezer for saliva or blood.
- 7) Four faculty could use processing space in the SN: i.e., centrifuge, aliquot
- 8) Resources used: Mayo Medical Labs, MCRU, Central Ligand Assay Sattelite Services (CLASS) Lab.

In summary, a minority of faculty need biospecimen resources now, but this is possibly an area to grow into. There are University resources for storage (i.e., CLASS lab) and for drawing (i.e., MCRU). MCRU/MICHR is a bit expensive; CLASS lab is not very expensive. The Central Ligand Assay Satellite Services Laboratory, [CLASS Lab](#), is a good resource if you do have a current need for long term biospecimen storage or for collection kits and have some funding. It is located on Green Road in the UM Auxillary Services Building (lab pictured below). The CLASS lab is part of the Department of Epidemiology at UM School of Public Health and aims to support clinical research projects through the entire process of sample collection, processing, storage, and analysis. They offer collection kit designs tailor-made to



Photo: CLASS Lab on Green Road

your research study with tubes and components labeled clearly with barcoded labels and unique sample IDs. [Daniel S. McConnell, PhD](#) is the laboratory director and would be happy to discuss your specimen processing and storage needs.

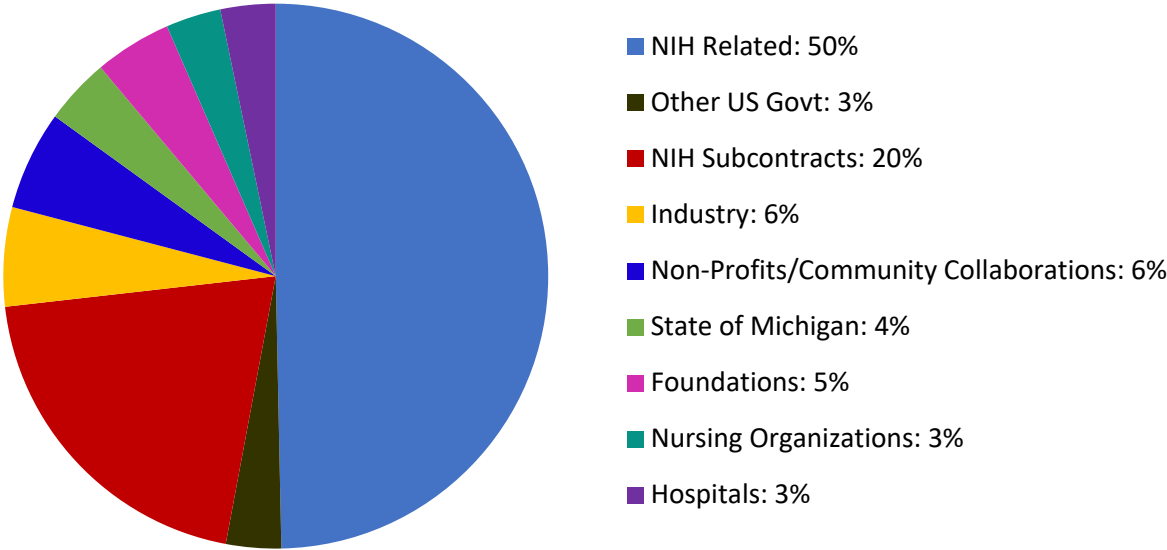
Here at UMSN, we have a -80 degree freezer on the 2nd floor in the hall that previously housed the animal lab. We are currently working to move the freezer into a smaller, more efficient room. If you have a need for the freezer now, please contact [Deb Barton](#).



Foundation Funding for Your Research: *Does your research vision fit?*

The University of Michigan has one of the largest research budgets among American universities and relies heavily on federal funding. In FY 2018, federal funding at U of M accounted for \$852 million dollars. Often overlooked, foundation funding may be the support you are looking for whether you are a seasoned researcher or new faculty. If your project aligns with a foundation’s mission, you could be awarded some of the more than \$70 million dollars in foundation funding that supports research at the University of Michigan every year.

Funding Sources UMSN FY 2019 - January FY 2020 (N = 153)



Foundation grants historically support community engagement, problem solving on the ground, and a broad range of research that includes the social sciences, humanities and the arts, and early-stage and high-risk natural and biological sciences. There are many similarities between federal and foundation grants – for example, the first step for the investigator in either mechanism is to write a letter of intent (LOI) or respond to a request for proposal (RFP). Both mechanisms usually operate in cycles with specific due dates at specific times every year and both require proposals although they may look very different. One big difference is that federal funders are driven by national interests and strategies; foundations are driven by their mission and strategies, usually set by an advisory/stakeholder board.

Historically, some Schools have not been supportive of foundation funding due to the fact that there is often a low rate of indirects, if any indirects are allowed at all. The UMSN IS SUPPORTIVE of foundation funding. The University of Michigan AND the School of Nursing recognize that it is critical to diversify research funding streams in the face of decreasing federal support for research and to meet the broad set of needs for the U-M research community. GRO has been working to set up procedures to include things in foundation budgets that would cover the things generally covered by indirect costs. Foundation grants, generally, allow for such expenses such as space costs, IT costs, and equipment. All foundation grant submissions require a Notice of Intent on the UMSN research website, are submitted through ORSP just like federal grants and these agreements are also made with the Board of Regents, not the individual investigator.

While Foundation Relations focuses on Professional Foundations, the University also has relationships with corporate foundations and family foundations. U of M manages corporate foundations as an aspect of the overall relationship with the corporation – help is available through the [Business Engagement Center](#). Family foundations may be comprised of donors who are alumni or have a donor relationship at the university; individual gift officers manage family foundations. For the School of Nursing, reach out to [Colleen Zimmerman](#) – the Executive Director of Development & Alumni Relations. *(continued on pg. 5)*

(Foundation Funding continued from pg. 4)

Not sure where to start? The University of Michigan [Foundation Relations](#) provides online information including the basics about foundations, understanding the buzzwords, how foundations differ from federal agencies and the types of questions you need to think about before approaching a foundation or having a discussion with Foundation Relations. Access [“Walk Me Through the Process”](#) or [“Foundations 101”](#) for more information. If you have a particular foundation in mind, it is important to check to see whether it is on [the managed or limited submission list](#). U of M manages these foundations on a strategic level so involving Foundation Relations is key. The Foundations Relations contact for UMSN is [Maureen Martin](#). What does the strategy look like? It might mean that they have asked U of M to submit only one proposal per year or cycle or that U of M has a personal relationship with the donors or family members engaged at the foundation. Foundation Relations can let you know the current picture and coach you on how to approach the foundation or advise you on alternatives.



Research News Roundup

Cost Share News Related to Research Funding

In a previous newsletter, I outlined the UMSN cost share guidelines, indicating that priority would be given to cost share requests that align with the research mission and vision of the UMSN. Some of these priorities would be large multi-investigator grants (P or U grants) or grants that support PhD students in our PhD in nursing program (T32s or R01s with GSRAs). Cost share requests for individual investigator grants, particularly internal grants like MICHR that require a cost share will not be granted.

Our cost share commitments are high right now, to the point that any new requests would need to be for grants that would advance our research mission with very large strides. If you do have a grant that requires a cost share, there is a form that must be completed. The Notice of Intent Form for grant applications asks a question about cost share. If you answer yes, then your pre-award specialist will send you a form that must be completed. I will review that form and let you know within a day or two if the request meets the priority criteria. Feel free to reach out to me first to have a conversation about your idea if you would like to check it out before submitting a Notice of Intent.

New Requirements From NSF for Biosketch Development – SciENCv NIH Expected to Follow

The NSF now requires that investigators create their biosketch from a site called SciENCv, and the NIH is expected to soon follow suit. Science Experts Network Curriculum Vita (SciENCv) is a resource from NCBI, an electronic system that helps investigators develop their biosketch for federal applications.

Phil Furspan will be doing two trainings during stakeholder meetings if you want to see how to do this. It is a fairly easy process. The two trainings will be March 10 and May 12. On the SciENCv website <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/> there is a YouTube tutorial about using the program and also integrating your ORCID ID.

It would be a great idea to be proactive and learn about this now. As soon as we hear about NIH's timetable for this, we will let you know.

Applied Biostatistics Laboratory – Your Collaborators in Research

col-lab-o-rate \kə-'la-bə-,rāt

col- + laborare = collaborare “to **labor together**” (Late Latin) to work jointly with others or together especially in an intellectual endeavor.*

Laboring together. You don’t have to labor alone when you are working out the statistical details of a grant and you are “in the weeds”! Your colleagues at the Applied Biostatistics Laboratory (ABL) are here to collaborate with you on your scientific endeavors. This team of PhD and Master’s level statisticians embrace a strong *Team Science* approach, where better science results from strong multidisciplinary collaborations, where everyone is committed from the very beginning.



When should you involve the ABL?

At the beginning – when you are designing your study! Our most successful collaborations are initiated early in the design phases of the study, where we are able to make design recommendations, advise on outcomes selection and secondary datasets that may be useful, help with sample size considerations, design randomization schemes, etc. Our involvement early on means that we will be meeting with the PI-team regularly, deepening our understanding of the overall study objectives, and enabling us to write better,

revise, and re-write relevant sections of the grant proposal that we would be responsible for, as well as contribute to the overall proposal. One of the most frustrating parts of Team Science can be aligning multiple investigator schedules and priorities, and this is almost always made easier by starting the process earlier than you think it needs to start.

What if I work with pre-existing data sets or Big Data?

Working with large secondary datasets or “Big Data” has unique challenges and opportunities that we may be able to help you with. In addition to statistical analysis expertise, you may also need help obtaining, creating, or otherwise managing these large datasets. To assist with this, **The Data Management Core (DMC) is now part of ABL!** The DMC consists of Master’s-prepared programmers with training in statistics and data management/analytics whose primary function is to support the construction of datasets ready for analysis. They can help you construct datasets from raw data, assist with data base design, and consult on the data analysis plan for research proposals. The DMC is committed to accelerating research by leveraging large pre-existing data to uncover novel and impactful findings. They provide stringent security and best practices in analysis and storage of sensitive health data and ensure accurate results through careful and consistent data cleaning, error detection and documentation.

What are the costs of collaborating with the ABL and DMC??

Collaboration on new grant proposals and pilot work is free of charge for all UMSN faculty. ABL will help you determine how much funding to write into your grant for their collaboration. Funding typically ranges from 10% FTE – 50% FTE for a biostatistical co-Investigator; less for occasional consulting. Funding for data management is typically a separate budget item, and also varies based on the needs of the proposal.

Post-award collaborations on funded grants that do not include a member of the ABL as co-investigator may be charged a fee for services. Statistical collaborations with faculty working on unfunded research will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Getting started!

The first step in establishing a collaboration with members of the ABL is to contact them by phone or email and set up a one-hour consultation. They will learn about your research and suggest ways that they may provide meaningful contributions.

CONTACT: [Robert Ploutz-Snyder, Ph.D., PStat®](mailto:Robert.Ploutz-Snyder@ummsn.edu) or 734-647-0462

*(collaborate. Retrieved January 29, 2020, from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/collaborate>)