UMSN Research Newsletter

September 2019

Message from the ADR:

Please allow me to add my welcome to Fall semester 2019!

I hope everyone was able to engage in some renewing activities over the summer months. I want to begin our 2019 -2020 newsletter series by introducing a relatively new face in GRO, Evan Clark, Contract and Grant Specialist working primarily in pre-award. If you have not yet met him, please introduce yourself.

I also want to share with you the strategic objectives from our office for the next year. There are three of them:

1) Sustain and increase capacity of key core resources for grant submission and implementation.

- At the May research retreat, you identified that the critical need in our infrastructure was activities related to grant development.
- To that end, I have amended Phil Furspan's job description to better describe his role in GRO. Every time you submit a notice of intent to GRO you receive a note from Phil outlining how he can help you. We are one of the few units on campus to have a person dedicated to grant development activities. I encourage you to take advantage of his expertise. More about Phil's role is later in this newsletter.

2) Develop a culture of transparency and accountability around research mission.

- We will continue the newsletter as part of this objective – this year we will publish 4 newsletters, one each in the months of September, November, February, and May.
- We will also develop and revise formal processes and guidelines related to operations and the use of research resources. These will be posted in an easy to access place. The intent of this effort is to increase the transparency with which things are done and to improve faculty and staff knowledge about how things are done.

3) *Develop and initiate beginning strategies to advance the research mission and vision around team science and large grants.*

For this last objective, I hope to:

- Incentivize beginning team science efforts through internal grant funding.
- Expose you to experts in team science where ongoing dialogue is possible.
- Provide some training opportunities around large grant submission.

This next year will bring in another resource to help move large grants and teams forward: M Cubed Communities. This is expected to launch in January or February 2020 so will share more about this later in the semester.

I will be rounding to Department meetings, Research Intensive Entity meetings, and other existing meetings of faculty and staff as my schedule allows to hear from all stakeholders about what is working in our research infrastructure and what is not and to learn from you more about how we can partner to advance our research mission. I would like all of our thinking to be solution oriented. That is, to not only point out the opportunities for improvement, but to also have some ideas about what improvement would look like.

I look forward to a great 2019-2020 year and am excited to see where we will grow in the next year. Remember, my door is always open if you would like to discuss, brainstorm, strategize. Just let me know and I will get you on my calendar.

Phil Furspan has been hard at work organizing the GRO Grant Resources MBox. There are a few ways to find information once you are in the GRO Grant Resources MBox:

1) ***You can use the search box***. Looking for info on K Awards? If you type “K awards” you will see that they are listed under Career Development (K) Awards. Looking for a template? Type in “template” and all kinds of templates will appear – even if you can’t exactly remember the name of the template!
2) ***Tags.*** Phil is in the process of putting tags on all the folders. They appear under the name of the folder in blue text with a little tag icon. Can’t see tags? That may be because you haven’t allowed them to appear in your account settings.
    a. Click on your initials in the upper right hand corner of the screen.
    b. Select “Account Settings” from the drop down menu.
    c. Under “Account Settings” select “Account”
    d. Look down the page – under “language” there will be a small box labeled “Display Item Tags”
    e. Check the box and you are good to go – the tags should now appear under the folders.

    The advantage of tags is that they pull everything that is “tagged” into one screen for you. For example, if you click on the tag “guidelines”, a screen will appear with all the guidelines in the GRO box that have been tagged.

    As you can imagine, tagging everything takes time! More Tags and more about Tags to come!

3) ***You can scroll.*** This might not be efficient, but it will familiarize you with the GRO Grant Resources Box and all it has to offer.

Need access to the GRO Grant Resources Box? Email Phil Furspan at GRO.

NEWS

Research Day this year will be on Monday, April 6, 2020 at the Michigan League.

Dr. Rob Ploutz-Snyder will chair this year’s event with the assistance of Vice Chair Dr. Olga Yakusheva. The theme and details are forthcoming, but we can share that this year’s event will be undergoing a renovation. You will want to be sure to be there for its debut.

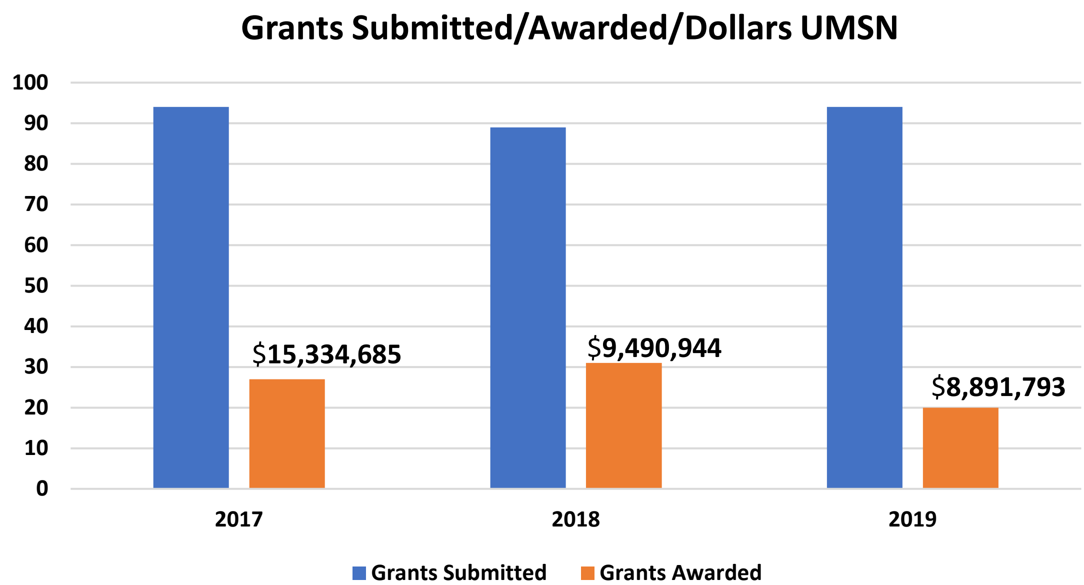
The Michigan Billing, Calendar, & Enrollment Tool aka MBECT is retiring in December 2019. The vendor is no longer supporting the product and IT has identified the application as a security risk so Michigan Medicine is required to exit this product by December 2019.

This may have implications for any clinical/human subjects research with billable items and services through Michigan Medicine. The CTSO or Clinical Trials Support Office has taken this on and will be advising existing users about what they may be able to offer as an alternative and what that may cost.

OnCore is the system that most closely matches what MBECT provided. An email will be sent to faculty in the next week. **If you use this system, please respond to the email by letting Karen Kirchner know you use it.** We will then take this information directly to the team who is assisting the PI team and departments who will sit down and discuss alternatives and the fee structures if any.

Grant Landscape of the UMSN

There is a relatively new and evolving central University resource for tracking grant related data. It is from the Research Administration Advisory Council (RAAC) Data Metrics Subcommittee and uses the eResearch proposal management data warehouse which is essentially the e-PAF (Proposal Approval Form) system. If you aren't familiar with this, the e-PAF is what every external proposal requires; it holds the financial information for the grant application. This data tracking resource is the best we have to date but it is not perfect. It lacks at least two things: 1) it doesn't track internal grants because they don't have an e-PAF, and 2) it doesn't track externally funded grants that have a non-UMSN administrative home in the University of Michigan. The latter is purposeful so that grants are not double counted. All of this is to say that the data I am sharing below is good, but not perfect, so keep the limitations mentioned above in the back of your mind.



The graph above shows the UMSN Grant Landscape at a glance and includes data for fiscal years (July 1 – June 30) 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Proposal submissions by fiscal year

The number of submissions per year is fairly consistent (2017: 94; 2018: 89 and 2019: 94) with the busiest month for submissions being October. Interestingly, every single month in fiscal year 2019 had some grant activity, ranging from 3 to 18 submissions per month.

During the past 3 fiscal years, 47% of proposals were submitted to NIH, 3% to National Science Foundation, 2% to AHRQ. All other sponsors had 1% or fewer grant submissions. Some of the sponsors show up as other Universities where I am guessing the sponsor is either NIH or NSF in reality, but it shows up as a University when we are a subcontract for the grant.

Proposals awarded/Dollars awarded

The number of proposals awarded were 27 in 2017, 31 in 2018 and 20 in 2019 with total dollars awarded as seen on the graph. Not counting grants in other administrative homes, UMSN did get more proposals funded in 2018 with less award dollars.

I will be preparing a larger presentation possibly for a stakeholders meeting or cross cutting topic for a faculty meeting as I have comparative data for the rest of the University. One immediate thought comes to my mind: too many grants in non-UMSN University administrative homes underrepresents our presence in the funding world and by implication, our role in advancing the science of health. We may want to have discussions about how we perceive this information and if there are things we would want to do to change this picture.

Getting Fiscal with Your Grant: Budgets and Accountability

Principal investigators have many responsibilities once they receive a grant. Among these is being fiscally responsible for their budgets. It is important ***not to underspend or overspend the money you receive to implement a study or project***. Sometimes, if you are venturing into new territory, or if you don't have a lot of experience in budgeting, it can be tricky to know exactly how much money you need to do the proposed work. Additionally, once you determine the budget, submit the application, and get funded, the sponsor may reduce your award. For all of these issues the UMSN Grants and Research Office is here to help.

Resource: If you need any help brainstorming or thinking through the resources needed to implement your research, please reach out to me. Your pre-award partner can then also help you put the finishing touches on your budget.

Key information: We (Karen, post award team, and I) are busy standardizing the information you receive from your post award team member on a regular basis.

Once you have the money and are implementing the project, there are several things you need to work on with your post award team member:

Critical behavior #1: Please be sure to let your post award team member know whenever you need to make purchases on your grant. The post award team is there to ensure spending is in compliance with the University's procedures, the sponsor's regulations and also to make sure you have the resources available to cover the expense and encumber it (count it as a pending expense) so your actual budget is as up to date as it can be.

Critical behavior #2: It is important that you know in real time what your spending is on your grant, particularly percent spent. It is important that you review your budget to see that the personnel effort on your grant is correct, that everyone is showing up on your budget who should show up, and to determine that no one is showing up who should not be on your budget. Finally, it is important to make sure the spending that is hitting your grant is appropriate. You may have a project manager that helps you monitor your budget in real time. That is great, but please remember, it is not your project manager or your post award team member who is ultimately responsible for the budget; ***you the PI are responsible***. Therefore, the PI has to be "in the know" and will be held responsible for any overspending or ineligible spending. Ineligible spending on a grant endangers not only the PI, but the School of Nursing and the University. Research operations have been shut down for financial infractions just as they have been for human subject issues.

If you have any questions or concerns about any budget related information or processes, I am available to meet with you. Just reach out via email and let me know you want to meet.

Grant Development Resources

Last May, during the afternoon of the end of year all School retreat, we had some time to further our discussion around our research mission. When those who attended were asked to volunteer their thoughts around the most needed element in our current grant infrastructure, the answers were resoundingly things around facilitating grant development.

You have been heard.

Phil Furspan's job description has been amended to specifically address many, if not all, of the things that were shared. Specifically, Phil will be able to assist you with:

- finding funding opportunities
- keeping common grant application components up to date (i.e., facilities and resources)
- evaluating grants for logic, flow, readability, and grammar
- tables and graphs for large grants (i.e., T32)
- ClinicalTrials.gov
- progress reports
- Human Subjects Systems, PubMed Central and My NCBI, to name a few

HOW YOU CAN HELP with grant development

Faculty can help the grant development infrastructure in two key ways right now:

1) **When you receive a NOTICE OF AWARD, please consider depositing your grant with Phil for a grant example bank to be kept in the GRO MBox. Keeping current examples of funded grants from all sponsors will be a critical resource to develop, but we cannot do it without you. Important areas to share are: research strategies, specific aims page, facilities and resources, multiple PI plans and data safety management plans.**
2) **Use the resources available and provide specific feedback to me about the usefulness and/or how to improve it. We cannot evolve to meet needs without this sort of input.**

ORCID
Connecting Research and Researchers

Do you have your ORCID iD?

ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor Identification) is a non-profit organization that promotes the use of a unique digital identifier to link researchers with their science contributions over time and across changes of name, location, and institutional affiliation.

Why should I get an ORCID iD?

An ORCID iD benefits you, the researcher, by providing a lifelong identifier that automatically links you to your past and recent papers, avoids confusion caused by similar last names, enhances the discoverability of your papers AND simplifies creating biosketches for grant applications!

It enables transparent and trustworthy connections between individuals engaged in research, scholarship, and innovation activities.

Just think, you won't have to manually update federal user profiles for different agencies. ***Link your ORCID iD to your eRA commons profile by clicking on the link in your Commons Personal Profile.*** If you authorize the NIH to access your personal ORCID profile and you make a change in your ORCID iD, it will be available to all of your federal funding agencies.

STARTING OCTOBER 1, 2019, THE NIH, CDC, AHRQ WILL REQUIRE ORCID iDs for individuals supported by training, fellowship, career development, and other research education awards and to have an ORCID iD linked to their personal electronic Research Administration (eRA) account. It will also be required as part of the appointment process for those appointed to institutional awards and through the application process for those applying for individual awards.

Do Graduate Students and Post Docs need an ORCID iD?

YES! Starting October 1, 209, xTrain appointments will not be accepted if potential appointees do not have an ORCID iD linked to their eRA personal profile. ***This is also true for individual fellowship and career development applications submitted for receipt dates on or after January 25, 2020.***

Who actually uses ORCID?

ORCID allows the NIH to better monitor professional outcomes by tracking the progress of researchers along their career path starting with trainees and early career scientists. The Department of Energy has used ORCID to track the use of its national lab facilities and the resulting publications. NASA, USDA, and the Department of Transportation are encouraging/requiring the use of ORCID.

Is this just ONE MORE THING TO DO….
or is there COOL STUFF?

- generate a QR code for your ORCID iD and add it to posters or other materials you might use in a class or a presentation
- ORCID generates code for you to imbed in a website: your faculty page, personal website, Tableau page, LinkedIn, Twitter, and other media you use to let others know about you and your work!

Does everyone really do this?

YES! As of 9/11/2019, there were 7,087,811 ORCID iDs registered.

Okay, I'm convinced…How do I register for an ORCID iD?

Go to [orcid.org,](https://orcid.org) it takes about 30 seconds to register. The more you add to ORCID after your initial registration, the more helpful it will become. For instance, you can enter information on publications, grants, teaching responsibilities, university service, and other common CV items.