Message from the ADR:

Research Forward

During the second week of March, precisely March 10, we learned from Governor Whitmer that the COVID-19 virus had been identified in Michigan and since that time, for all of us, our personal lives and work lives have been impacted in a way that we had not previously experienced. I don't know about you, but there are days that I wake up and "determine" to not have the pandemic dominate my thoughts and instead get immersed in an article I am writing or in strategic planning ideas to advance the research mission of the School. Some days I am more successful at this than others.

I absolutely know that many of you have had "aha" moments during this challenging time and found new ways of doing things that will forever change the way you do research. I believe I can speak for my research team in saying that we will never develop another clinical trial with unnecessary face-to-face meeting requirements. I had purposed some time ago that the last years of my research career would be focused on getting evidence-based behavioral interventions out to the people who need them. The pandemic lockdown has jump started me on the technology awareness and experiences needed to make that intention a reality. Opportunities emerge almost daily in the form of administrative supplements, industry, or foundation supported calls for COVID-19-related work and databases. I know of three national databases on cancer and COVID-19 already and Michigan Medicine has 500 biospecimens from COVID-19 patients. I encourage you all to take some time to critically review your activities over the past 4 to 5 weeks and journal/chronicle, in some way, important lessons learned and things/ideas/innovations that you don't want to lose sight of as we move forward in this crisis.

And moving forward we are. Here are some statistics about our research mission during the past 2 fiscal years. As mentioned in a previous newsletter, the data come from a central University site and include only external grants where the administrative home is NOT another UM School/College. Through March, for FY 20, we have submitted 85 external grants (Federal and Non-Federal sponsors) and are on track to submit over 106 grants. This will be the highest number submitted in the past 10 years for our School. We submitted 94 grants in FY 19. In terms of awards, in FY 20, we have had 13 awards granted to 10 different faculty; while in FY 19 we had 20 awards to 16 different faculty. Note that the award numbers are through the beginning of April so we have almost an entire quarter left for awards to be counted in FY 20. Our funding for the past two FYs has been 85% NIH, 3% the State of Michigan, 3% Michigan State Police, 4% Breast Cancer Research Foundation, 1% American Cancer Society, 1% industry and 3% other (ie: MNRS, APNA, University of Chicago).

My hope is that these data serve to inspire you to forward thinking for your program of research. Please reach out if you have any questions, need any information or need to brainstorm in any way. In the next months, I will be putting together resources/processes to help identify supplemental funds to complete research aims that were negatively impacted by COVID-19, to think through research implementation from a completely remote perspective, and to improve the ability to develop and lead team science initiatives. There are critical resource links in this newsletter. I will be available throughout the end of the winter term and during the summer via ZOOM or Blue Jeans if not in the office.

My best to all of you and to those you care about,

Deb

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)
Information for Applicants and Recipients

Pertinent COVID-related information from the NIH and UMOR

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency on January 31, 2020 to aid the nation's health care community in responding to COVID-19. As such, the NIH Extramural Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies becomes pertinent to all researchers who are applicants or current recipients of NIH funding.

The COVID-19 situation continues to rapidly evolve.
It is important that you stay up to date.
For the latest information: https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus.htm

NIH COVID-19 RESOURCES

Flexibilities available to recipients conducting NIH-funded clinical trials and human subject studies
Guidance for NIH-funded Clinical Trials and Human Subjects Studies Affected by COVID-19 NOT-OD-20-087

NIH-wide Rebudgeting Existing Awards
Flexibilities Available to Applicants and Recipients of Federal Financial Assistance Affected by COVID-19 NOT-OD-20-086

NIH-wide Administrative Supplements (within scope)
Administrative Supplements to Existing NIH Grants and Cooperative Agreements (Parent Admin Supp Clinical Trial Optional) PA-16-287

NIH-wide Urgent Competing Revisions (new scope)
Urgent Competitive Revision to Existing NIH Grants and Cooperative Agreements (Urgent Supplement - Clinical Trial Optional)" NOT-CA-20-048

NCI-Specific Notice of Special Interest
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): National Cancer Institute Announcement Regarding Availability of Urgent Competitive Revision and Administrative Supplements on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) NOT-CA-20-042

UMOR COVID-19 RESOURCES

General UMOR Resources

IRBMED

IRBHBBS

Research Ethics and Compliance

REMINDER:
Links to the UMOR and NIH pages with daily COVID updates are in the COVID Resources mBox that Amy Grover put together. These are important resources to help you stay on top of things as they happen.

On the UMOR COVID page there is a link called "COVID-19 Research Index"

This brings visitors to a list of all of the COVID relevant research. If you have a research project of any kind that is related to COVID, make sure your project is listed. If you did not need IRB approval, there is a good chance your project is NOT listed. There is a link there to add your project. THIS IS IMPORTANT TO DO because donors who want to contribute to the science around COVID will be directed to look this page. Colleen Zimmerman will be working with donors who want to give specifically to COVID related issues so make sure your work is represented. In particular, NURSING IS VERY MUCH FAVORED during this time so please make sure we know what you are doing.

Space Guidelines Updated
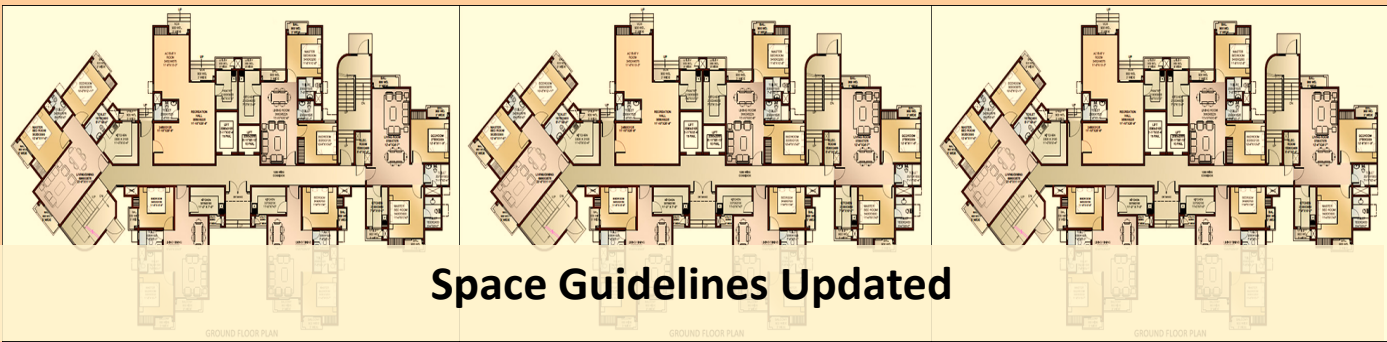
In November of 2017, UMSN adopted space guidelines around the allocation of research space. The guidelines begin with guiding principles around space use that were established and endorsed by the Administrative Group. Since becoming ADR, I have been learning about space availability and allocation in our School as well as across the University. I want to share with you an updated space guideline with respect to research. Please note that the guiding principles were not changed.

There are a few reasons why I felt it necessary to revisit the space guidelines. First, within the Research Associate Dean group, we shared practices around space across the various Schools. A summary of this information is presented on page 5. I felt that there were some "best practices" we could integrate. Second, I felt there could be a bit more transparency with how the guidelines were operationalized. Here are some important points to remember related to research space in general, and also about the updated guidelines.

1) Faculty are allocated research space to use that is essential for carrying out the work of their research grant/study/project. Faculty do not "own" their research space in any way.
2) A space committee meets monthly to discuss space issues related to both research and general fund space. The members of this committee are: Maureen Coerdt, Rhonda McCammon Howell, Eric Skalski, Amby Gallagher, and Deb Barton.
3) Research space is allocated in a way that is consistent with the Provost space guidelines. That means essentially that a majority of people will be in shared space unless there is an important reason to have a private office. For example, if calls with participants include sensitive information, sharing with someone outside that project would not be possible. However, sharing within the project may be possible. This will be decided on a case by case basis.
4) Given the number of faculty and the size of many research teams, it is unlikely that contiguous research space will be allocated in all situations, particularly over time. Again, on a case by case basis, we will do whatever we can to provide the space resources in a way that allows for the efficient implementation of a research grant/study/project. Sometimes, however, as teams grow, there may be a need for faculty to re-organize personnel locations within already allocated space.
5) The space guidelines do include a funding dollar amount range that we will target in allocating space. However, this is one of many things that will be considered when space is requested. One of the most important considerations will be what personnel are needed in what sort of space resource in order to efficiently do the work.
6) Faculty without grant funding who require space for personnel to generate data in order to submit an external grant will be able to utilize space.

If you have a need for research space, please complete the space request form that is found on the UMSN research website. The updated space guidelines can be found in the UMSN Office of Research and GRO on Canvas (accessible from Canvas: UMSN Internal Resources and Information).

Any questions or concerns should be directed to Deb Barton. *A Summary of the Space Survey Summary is on page 5.*

New Effort Requirements NIH Awards

In addition to previously established policies for specific grant mechanisms that have been described in funding opportunity announcements (FOAs), Principal Investigators (PIs) including Project Leaders on multi-project grants, will be required to commit a minimum level of effort to be eligible for NCI funding through R01, U01, P01, and R21 grant mechanisms.

- Effective immediately, competing applications that do not meet the minimum criteria will not be considered for funding unless the level of effort is raised to comply with the policy.

- In addition, a *request to reduce the PI's level of effort in subsequent years of funding will not be approved if the proposed level of effort falls below the minimum level.*

- The minimum effort policy described here does not apply when the grant is in a no-cost extension.

Unless otherwise stated in an FOA, the minimum levels of effort are as listed below.

Minimum effort is in person months/year (%).

R01/U01
Single PI
1.8 Months (15%)

Multi-PI
1.2 Months (10%) each

R21
Single or Multi-PI
0.6 months (5%) each

P01[1]
Single PI[2]
1.2 months (10%)

Multi-PI
0.96 months (8%) each

Project PI
1.8 months (15%)

Core Leader[3]
0.6 months (5%)

[1] Leading multiple project components? Minimum level of effort is additive. *Example*: minimum level of effort for a PI (1.2 months) and Project PI (1.8 months) is 3 months.

[2] Includes effort as administrative Core Director

[3] Applicants should justify minimum effort, based on the proposed activities of the Core.

This policy is meant to ensure that PIs devote the appropriate effort and attention to project leadership for the duration of the grant award.

Information Source:
grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-CA-20-047.html

GRANTS.GOV
FIND. APPLY. SUCCEED.

SciENcv – Training Update

There are **three resources** for learning about SciENcv, the new biosketch format that is required for NIH grant applications. SciENcv (Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae) is an effort to standardize the biosketch process for multiple government funding agencies saving the prospective grantee the headache of adapting their biosketch for each agency. SciENcv integrates information from eRA Commons, NCBI My Bibliography, research.gov, and ORCID along with other investigator specific information and produces standardized biosketch fields that can be used (with some minor editing) across government funding agencies including: DOD, DOE, EPA, NIH, NSF, and USDA.

Stakeholder Meeting Tuesday, May 12 (3pm – 5pm) via Zoom. Dr. Philip Furspan discusses SciENcv. Please contact Coreen Abston for Zoom meeting info.

Create Biosketch with SciENcv

Produced in 2015 and still pertinent today, it provides step by step instructions on several "how to" subjects including:

- create a My NCBI account
- link accounts (NCBI, ORCHID, etc.)
- work with My Bibliography
- create a biosketch from scratch and by importing from an external source like eRA Commons
- tailor your biosketch to specific grant applications
- exporting biosketch from SciENcv to grants.gov and why you should do this

FUNDAMENTALS
NAVIGATING RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Offered by the Navigate Training Program, this Zoom lunch and learn about SciENcv is Thursday, May 7. The registration for this program is currently closed (it was limited to 60 participants) but the session will be recorded. Check back here for the recording.

Space Guidelines Updated: *Space Survey Summary*
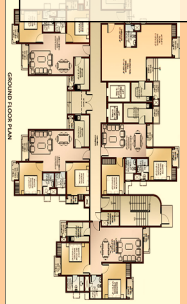
Two Research Associate Deans (RADs) Greg Cartee (School of Kinesiology) and Deb Barton (SN) developed a survey that was sent to all RADs about research space to get an idea of practices across the University.

16 of 19 Schools/Colleges responded for an 84% response rate. The School of Medicine did not respond but much is known about their space allocation so when known, their information was added to the summary below, so 17 of 19 Schools/Colleges are represented (i.e., N = 17).

How many Schools/Colleges have a space policy/guideline: 10

How are decisions made about research space?

Four of seventeen Schools had a rubric or formula – Medicine, Dentistry and SN had specific formulas (such as dollars per square foot). The previous SN policy was borrowed from the School of Dentistry.

There are many components considered by units including special needs, whether a new hire is bringing a team with them, highest indirects, number of students and staff supported, the extent to which a faculty has a successful research program (magnitude and consistency of funding), seeking and getting external funding, successful mentoring of students, project needs, faculty activity, and faculty track.

One School negotiated research space at time of hire and this was not changed; one School divided space out to Department Chairs and let them distribute as needed. Another School does not have enough space for all faculty to have an office and research space so they choose one or the other, with some choices being off campus. One School has a bookable free research space available.

What type of research space did Schools have (private or shared?)

This was mixed. Very few (n=4) Schools had all private research space and most Schools were moving toward more shared space models.

A majority of Schools (n=10) said that demand already surpassed supply or was heading that way (n=2).
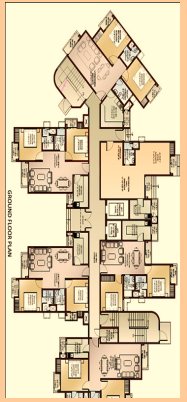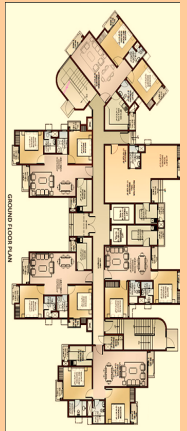
GRO OPERATIONS – NOTICE OF INTENT

Please, please, please, submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) through the UMSN Research web page for ANY grants you are submitting to ANY sponsor, internal or external.

A pre-award team member will reach out to you. If you are submitting an internal grant that you will upload yourself and does not need a detailed budget, we still need an NOI. Importantly, we also still need to see your budget. The reason for this is that there are rules and regulations related to HR and other issues; pre-award team members know about these and can make sure you are in compliance. Finally, once you submit your proposal, please send the completed budget and proposal to your pre-award team member. If GRO is the last to know about a proposal once awarded, it can result in delays in getting things set up to begin the work. Also, if GRO is kept in the loop, when you get funded, the hand off to post-award to manage your account will be efficient. Thank you for your attention to this request.