



# UMSN Research Newsletter

## May 2021

### Message from the ADR:

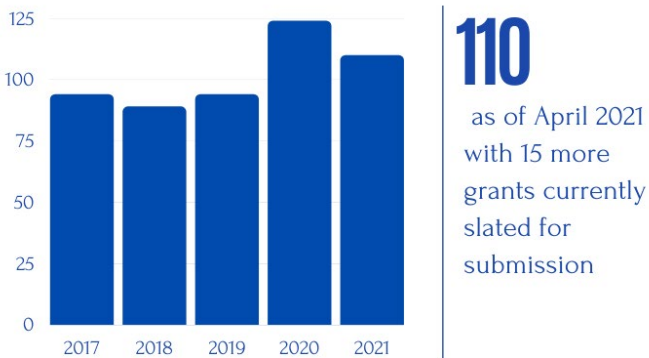
Happy Spring! This is such an invigorating time of year as trees and flowers come alive with color; graduation marks strong accomplishments from our students; and we anticipate rejoining society during a new phase of the pandemic.

This is our last newsletter of the academic year 20-21. In my message for this newsletter, I would like to share with you some information about the state of research at UMSN and preview what the next year might hold for the research mission of UMSN. In this newsletter you will also find important information about the new NIH biosketch and other support pages as well as reminders and strategies for the administrative side of research. We will also recap Research Day 2021.



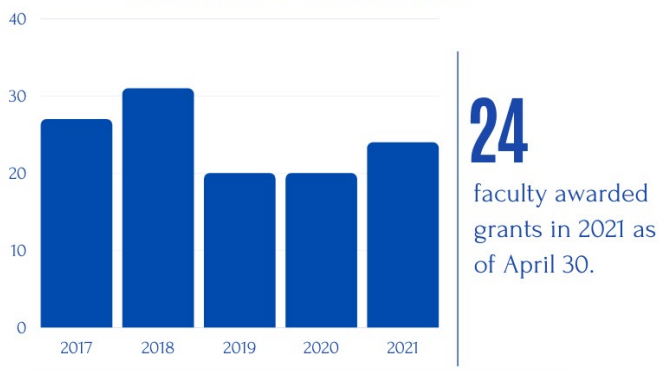
How has the research enterprise been going for UMSN during the pandemic and how does that compare with previous years? Perhaps you will be surprised to learn that UMSN faculty grant productivity in terms of submissions, awards and dollars has increased during this past year.

### SUBMISSIONS



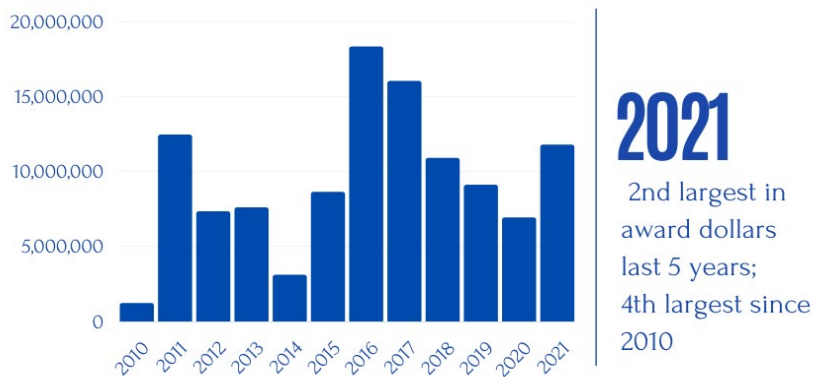
This first graph depicts the number of submissions each fiscal year since 2017. Last year we had a record number of submissions, 124, and this year we have already had 110 submissions and still have May and June grant deadlines ahead of us, with about 15 more grants currently slated for submission.

### AWARD COUNTS



The second graph contains the numbers of awards UMSN faculty have received as PIs. The last two years we have been stable at 20 grants awarded and this year, we have had 24 grants awarded to date. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest number in the past 11 years, since 2010. Our all time high was 31 awards in 2018, then 27 in 2017 and 26 in 2015.

## AWARD DOLLARS



Finally, the third graph is our award dollars since 2010. The year 2020 saw a much lower total of grant dollars but 2021 is turning out to be substantially greater, being the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in the last 5 years and the 4<sup>th</sup> largest since 2010.

Keep in mind that submission data is likely an underrepresentation because the UMSN data does not include any grants that may have been submitted through other UM Schools or Units, even in cases where there is an MPI and subcontract. Central campus has likely set the data up that way so as to not double count grant awards or submissions.

So what does all of this data mean? First, I want to give a BIG SHOUT OUT to UMSN's Grants and Research Office as they have submitted these record numbers and are managing the increase in awards remotely during a pandemic. Second, you all have been busy expressing your passions, working hard to improve the health of many, many populations in the US and all over the world. You have done this while balancing demands of parenting, caregiving, and managing your own and your family's health (and even neighbors) during a pandemic. I hope that amidst our busyness, we will take a few moments to reflect on these incredible accomplishments and celebrate these successes.

What lies ahead for us in 2021-2022? As you might remember, a few years ago we developed a vision statement for the research mission of UMSN. That vision statement is "UMSN will be a national and global leader in team science to improve health." We are adding to this vision the pursuit of health equity. As I mentioned in a previous email, UMSN was part of 2 submissions for the Provost's anti-racism hiring initiative, 1 of which was awarded so we will be doing a search for that faculty member beginning this summer. We will also be resubmitting our other proposal that described the development of a Center for Black Health Equity. We will work closely with 2 to 3 other Schools to enhance and reshape that proposal. This work will also begin this summer. UMSN was also part of a U54 submission entitled "Michigan Program for Advancing Cultural Transformation (M-PACT) in the Health Sciences". This is a grant from NIH called "Faculty Institutional Recruitment for Sustainable Transformation (FIRST) Program" intended to build a self-reinforcing community of scientists committed to diversity and inclusive excellence. If awarded, we will be hiring new early career faculty under this award. The U54 will be reviewed in May.

Therefore, in the next few years, UMSN will be working to lead in advancing the science in health equity, by addressing systemic racism and social injustice, using innovative transdisciplinary teams of scientists. We will work on providing opportunities in didactic and experiential training, hopefully in collaboration with colleagues embedded in Clinical and Translational Science Award programs (CTSAs) who are already working to facilitate team science. I ask that you join in thinking about this exciting future by pondering the following questions: 1) What are the gaps in science in my area of research that are beyond the ability of one single discipline to solve? 2) What may be some important issues related to systemic racism and social injustice in the health of the populations with whom I am engaging? and 3) What are some next immediate steps I can take to begin addressing the issues in questions 1 and 2...to whom should I reach out to start a conversation?

I look forward to actionable conversations when we gather back together in the Fall. Wishing you a rejuvenating summer.



This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the School of Nursing Research Day. Sadly, we were forced to cancel the 2020 event last year due to COVID. This year's Research Day Planning Committee (RDPC) were committed (unstoppable!) to insure that we would return to this inspiring annual tradition where students, faculty, alumni, and staff have opportunities to share their scholarly work and network with our community. For the first time ever, this year's conference was spread over two partial days and held completely virtually. All who had accepted presentations from last year's cancelled event were given the opportunity to present that research this year, or to present updated findings or new research, and our community was ready to re-engage! Attendance was high this year, with over 300 participants joining us, including about 1/3 non-UM attendees representing other academic settings, medical centers/institutions, and other health related organizations.

Our theme this year was *Avenues of Impact*, celebrating the many ways that our community advances health through Patient-Centered Care, Policy and Public Engagement, Practice Implementation and Dissemination, and Innovative Digital and Technical Solutions. Our agenda included:

- Two fantastic plenary speakers, an amazing 4-person panel discussion, and 8 virtual rooms (4 per day) packed with over 70 virtual poster sessions submitted by our students, faculty, staff, and alumni.
- Dr. Victoria Champion, PhD, FAAN, as our Tenth Annual Suzanne H. Brouse plenary speaker; her talk on Monday set us up beautifully for the rest of the conference.
- Tuesday we had an amazing live Panel Discussion, where Dr. John Ayanian joined our own Drs. Lenette Jones, Clayton Shuman, and Kathleen Potempa each representing one of our *Avenues of Impact*.
- Dr. Patricia Coleman-Burns was our second invited plenary speaker and enlightened us with some of her deep understanding & appreciation for the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion in nursing and the health professions.
- The Medvec Nursing Innovations Award award winners (determined by a panel of UMSN faculty) were Alexis Green (2019-20 winner) and Alexandra Agapiou (2020-21 winner).
- Digital-badge awards for presentations deemed best in category (determined by UMSN Alumni raters) included: Ava Padgett (Undergraduate), Abigayle Algar (DNP Student), Kathryn Lee (PhD Student), Alexis Hunter (Research Staff), Rob Stephenson (Faculty), Alexis Green (Alumni).

While there's nothing quite like being together as a community, our post-event evaluation survey data helped us to appreciate that even when we can't, it is possible to gather as a community virtually, share in the joy and excitement of each other's research, network professionally with our colleagues, mentors and mentees, learn, and laugh together.

Robert Ploutz-Snyder, PhD  
Research Professor & Chair of the RD2020/21 Planning Committee



There are many resources available to faculty through central UM Centers, Institutes and Initiatives. We will use the Research Newsletter to highlight various resources throughout the year and will then post these on Canvas in the UMSN Research and GRO Resources folder located in the UMSN Internal Resources and Information File. One such entity that provides resources is [Precision Health](#) at the University of Michigan.

Precision Health (PH) at the University of Michigan is a community of researchers, students, and staff advancing more effective and comprehensive approaches to improving and tailoring health care, from discovery to treatment to implementation. Precision Health actively bridges these areas by promoting multidisciplinary collaboration among faculty across the university and providing the tools and resources they need to expand their work. By providing infrastructure and access to data, Precision Health enables researchers to explore ideas previously inconceivable due to obstacles and limitations. With new and emerging Precision Health tools, researchers can focus on and seek funding for more ambitious, innovative projects that impact clinical care. Precision Health is Team Science at its best.

There are four working groups within Precision Health:

- *Cohort Development*: Oversees the recruitment, engagement, and retention of participants and data. Their goal is to develop a large, diverse, and broadly representative cohort that is centrally managed with consistent data elements, consent, and processes to enable rich research and implementation opportunities.
- *Data Analytics & IT*: Provides support and infrastructure for sophisticated and timely data access and analysis to enhance precision health research and implementation.
- *Education & Training*: Connects trainees with opportunities to advance in a career in precision health research, as well as provide training opportunities for new and established clinicians to gain a deep understanding of how to implement precision health into effective patient care.
- *Health Implementation*: Focuses on identifying and defining practical processes for precision health to be implemented at the patient level.

Bottom line: Precision Health aims to learn about individuals by looking at populations; it is like crowdsourcing at the entire university level to promote better health.

#### [What Data are Available for Research?](#)

Structured Clinical Data that is:

- De-identified
- 4M+ unique MM patients
- Longitudinal
- Labs, tx, rx, outcomes, etc.

Linked to:

Imaging Data: The COVID-19 chest s-ray dataset ~ 2,000 MM patients (more to come!)

Genetic Data: imputed genetic data for more than 56,000 MGI participants

Socioeconomic Data: patient addresses mapped to neighborhood-based socioeconomic data elements

## How do I get Involved?

Become a member: you will be connected to hundreds of researchers across a full range of disciplines and from every school on campus. You can access ready tools and data for your research with preferred access to the PH suite of tools and resources such as the PH Analytics Platform containing the Michigan Genomics Initiative cohort clinical data (80K+ patients). PH will facilitate and in some cases fund training and education sessions, as well as planning networking opportunities. As a member of Precision Health, you will be part of a focused, driven research community whose intent is rich collaboration and the eschewing of departmental and subject matter silos. More info here: [Precision Health membership](#).

In addition, the UMSN ADR, Deb Barton, is on the PH internal advisory committee, so if you have any ideas or feedback about this initiative that you would like her to share with the group, please reach out and send her an [email](#).

### There is funding available as well.

[Scholars awards](#): focus is on graduate students, fellows, residents, and trainees. PH seeks to support exceptional pre- and postdoctoral scholars in new research frontiers in precision health. Leveraging innovative techniques in biology, clinical care, implementation science, point-of-care technology, analytics/data science, artificial

intelligence/machine learning, and (bio)sensing, Scholars develop groundbreaking modalities that improve health and wellness by incorporating a variety of factors, such as genetics, lifestyle, and environment.

[Investigators Awards](#): encourage new, collaborative precision health research among faculty. PH aspires to generate meaningful groundbreaking, multidisciplinary research projects that advance the field of precision health with an emphasis on projects that accomplish this through the use and/or enrichment of Precision Health data, tools, methods, or techniques.

Here are some examples of Investigators Awards topics:

“Developing an Early Warning System for Treatment of Postpartum Hemorrhage using Time-Series Machine Learning Models”

“Precision Counselor: Natural Language Processing for Enhanced Behavior Counseling”

“Personalized Data-Driven Balance-Training Instruction

### Want to know more?

See the presentation videos from the [2020 Precision Health Virtual Symposium](#).

Visit the [Precision Health Website](#).



## UPDATES

### ***New NIH biosketch and Other Support Templates.***

**New NIH Biosketch format:** NIH has delayed requiring the new templates until application due dates and RPPR submissions on/after January 25, 2022 but encourages using them now. Biosketch format changes are [here](#).

**Other Support:** Please note that all of the newer rules for Other Support are still in place – you must report all in kind resources and foreign collaborations. For foreign employment, affiliation, and/or appointment agreements this means supporting documentation must be provided translated into English (machine translation is acceptable). According to the NIH website, ALL resources an investigator receives to accomplish their research should be reported. Please take a moment to look at the NIH website and read the FAQs, which is a link on the right side of the page that comes up on the following page: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/othersupport.htm>

### **SciENCv and New NIH Biosketch and Other Support Formats**

Sometime in the near future, NIH will be requiring that biosketches be created using SciENCv (Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae). The NSF already requires this. If you have not used this system, it would be a good idea to watch a very useful YouTube instruction video. It is from the National Library of Medicine and is called [Webinar: Create a Biosketch with SciENCv](#). Coming in Fall 2021 – Other Support will be available to use in SciENCv!



# Odds and Ends



## Time Report Approval

If you are about to or have recently hired research staff and need to review and approve time reports, Erin Maki-Spadafore in UMSN Human Resources is available to help you understand how time approval works email her [here](#).

## Effort change forms, also known as DBEs, and what to watch for

When you have a grant where effort is being charged and that grant status changes in any way (amount of effort, starting, stopping, change in short code), an effort change form needs to be completed and signed. This is true for every faculty and staff member whose effort is being charged to that grant. Your GRO post award team member will complete the form, called a DBE (Department Budget Earnings), and send it to you for your signature. Both the specific faculty/staff member and the PI generally have to sign this form. This form is what tells HR what to change in payroll so it is very important. When you see an email from your post award team member requesting a signature on a DBE, I ask that you do the following; 1) attend to it as soon as you possibly can, within 48 hours preferably; 2) review each and every line to make sure everything is correct. It may be the case that only one grant changed. **However, please read through every grant short code and the assigned effort for the person whose form it is to ensure all is correct.** As PI, you are the person who should have the big picture of who is being appropriately funded on your grants so please take time to review this information and make sure it is correct, sending an email to your post award team member to correct anything amiss.

## Children in Research – Anticipated Policy Change

UM Enterprise Strategic Risk Management Research is heading an effort to include studies involving children in the UM [Children on Campus](#) program. Children on Campus exists to create a positive environment that promotes the health, wellness, safety, and security of children participating in programs and events at the University of Michigan. The UM policy can be found [here](#). Currently, research involving children who are subjects of IRB-supervised research are exempt from this policy but UM Enterprise Risk Management is proposing that this exemption be removed. Approximately 27% of total active IRB applications involve children with just over 5,000 study team members listed. If you have a study that involves children, it would be a good idea to view the policy in the link above.

## Do you need help with registering your trial on [clinicaltrials.gov](#)?

Thanks to Dr. Sheria Robinson-Lane we recently found out that the [Office of Research Compliance Review](#) will help even if the project is not supported by the Clinical Trials Support Office. You can contact [Tessa Elliot](#) Research Compliance Specialist at ORCR for help.

## Planning to submit an NIH proposal in a coming cycle?

### CTSO training Tuesday, June 22, 12 – 1pm

Dr. Chris Friese reminded us that:

The Clinical Trials Support Office (CTSO) will provide an educational session covering introductory information on the NIH SF424 – Forms – F Application – the Human Subjects & Clinical Trials Form for researchers who are planning to submit a proposal to the NIH in one of the upcoming cycles. Hear from Erin Miller, M.S. and Stephan Taylor, M.D. from the Department of Psychiatry to learn how to navigate the proposal guide and complete the Human Subjects & Clinical Trials form. Go [here](#) for more information and to register.