

September 2020 Research Newsletter



Message from the ADR:

Greetings to all!

As I write this first newsletter message of the first semester of the 20-21 academic year, I am cognizant that we may feel like we are in endurance mode during this pandemic. It is my sincere hope that during this academic year, we will see a successful end to the pandemic and that in the months ahead, we can move beyond endurance into thriving.

I thought I would take a few moments to summarize the status of ongoing research activities throughout campus and the School. All research activities, including human subjects, that can be done remotely should be up and running. Those human subjects activities that require some face to face interaction can also be continuing as long as the investigator completes a checklist through the [University of Michigan Office of Research \(UMOR\)](#) and receives approval to continue. As you have hopefully seen in the Friday updates from the Vice President for Research, Rebecca Cunningham, all studies that are tier 0 (life saving or all remote) to tier 2 (some potential benefit and medium COVID exposure risk or higher risk with adequate precautions) are able to receive approval. The only studies not yet able to continue at this time are those that have COVID exposure risk and no benefit to the participants (ie: purely descriptive). These studies are categorized as tier 3 and won't be able to continue or begin until the State of Michigan declares we are in a different phase of activities with containing the COVID virus.

I would also like to summarize the grant activity in GRO and by the School over the past three years. I do this so that we are all aware of the status/health of our research mission. Please be reminded that data available do not represent grants or awards that have administrative homes at other schools/units within University of Michigan.

The number of external grants submitted by GRO in the past three years have been 307 (89 in 2018; 94 in 2019; and 124 in 2020). The submission of 124 grants this past year represents an all time high and an increase of 32%. The number of grants awarded over these same three years was 71 (31 in 2018; 20 in 2019; and 20 in 2020). All grants are not submitted and awarded in the same year, therefore, all of the grants submitted in 2020 have not yet been reviewed. That said, our success rate (grants awarded compared to number submitted) was 33% in 2018 and in 2019 it was 21%.

The total dollars awarded over the last few years have been decreasing. 2017 saw a high of \$15,968,654. In 2018, grant award dollars were \$10,372,364 and \$8,988,863 in 2019. Nearly half (45%) of the grants awarded in 2018, 2019 and 2020 were for \$50,000 per year or less. In 2018, 26% of the grants awarded were for \$25,000 per year or less, while in 2019, 35% of the grants awarded were for \$25,000 per year or less.

Over the past three years, 56 tenure/research/clinical track faculty have submitted at least one external grant. The number of tenure/research faculty that submitted at least one external grant in the past three years is 47, which amounts to 94% of the tenure/research faculty.

In summary, then, there is a lot of grant activity from a good number of faculty. These are certainly strengths. Other strengths include the fact that investigators in the School of Nursing have been quite successful in getting training grants, either individual K awards, or T32's. We also had a PhD student get her F31 grant funded.

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The main challenge is that despite consistent increases in the number of grants submitted, a smaller percentage are being awarded and many of the grants submitted appear to be small, either small subawards through other colleges/universities or grants through professional organizations or smaller foundations. Smaller awards can often indicate pilot-sized research projects or more narrowly focused activities. They generally do not support significant collaborative science nor are they of the magnitude to solve complex health problems.

As we move into the next several years, I will be focusing on an infrastructure and incentives and skill building resources to help us increase our capacity for high impact collaborative science. I am convinced that there is a place **for all** at such a table. I will be visiting various meetings throughout the semester. I would welcome your thoughts about our research mission health and importantly, about your passions related to the health care issues you are committed to positively impact.

Deb

Updated Responsible Conduct of Research and Scholarship Training

Available starting August 1, 2020, there is an updated Responsible Conduct of Research and Scholarship (RCRS) training module that is part of the University of Michigan's Program for Education and Evaluation in Responsible Research and Scholarship (PEERRS). It is designed to meet expanded federal requirements and **must be completed by June 30, 2021**.

This requirement applies to all U-M employees and students engaged in any facet of research and scholarship, regardless of internal or external support, including (but not limited to):

- Publishing activities (journal articles, book writing, literary criticism, legal research, technical and institutional research reports, literature reviews, and historical scholarship, among other forms)
- Oral or poster presentations of research/scholarship
- Collection and analysis of data, information, biospecimens or records
- Inclusion as personnel on sponsored research or scholarship grants/awards
- Inclusion as personnel on internally funded research or scholarship grants/awards
- Development and/or leadership of centers that generate new knowledge, research or scholarship
- Media contributions
- Creative expression/performance and visual arts activities (compositions, presentations, performances, exhibits and similar projects)

This comprehensive course **replaces the previous three PEERRS modules**: Authorship, Publication and Peer Review; Conflict of Interest; and Foundations of Good Research Practices. However, recent completion of these previous modules is no longer sufficient and **all individuals must take the expanded PEERRS course, which covers U-M employees and students, every three years**.

This training is available NOW through [My LINC](#) which is found in Wolverine Access.

Researchers funded by select National Institutes of Health training grants (such as T and K series grants) and Rackham Graduate School doctoral students must take an additional RCRS training course that will be facilitated by their respective school, college or unit.

If you have any questions about this training you can contact [Deb Barton](#) or go to the [Research Ethics & Compliance, Research Compliance Training Resources website](#).



Look Who's NEW – Welcome New Staff!



Zachary (Zack) Brancheau
Research Administrator Intermediate
Grants and Research Office (GRO)

Zach joined the Grants and Research Office this summer as a Research Administrator. Previously, he worked at the UM Surgery Research Office supporting 12 PIs including the Chief of Surgery where he learned to juggle multiple submissions with the same deadline. He also has experience in billing and accounts receivable from the UM Shared Services Center. He brings to GRO a positive attitude and energetic nature to guide your grant deftly through the submission process.



Kellee Jackson
Administrative Assistant Intermediate
Office of Research and PhD Program Coordinator

Kelly joined the Office of Research and PhD Programs as the Administrative Assistant and Program Coordinator in July. She brings experience in project management and continuous quality improvement from 10 years at Fiat-Chrysler Automobiles. She is studying for her MBA at Wayne State. When she isn't working (or studying) she likes to shop, go out to eat, and spend time with friends and family.



Evan Clark
Research Administrator
Intermediate
Grants and Research Office (GRO)

Evan comes to the pre-award team at the Grants and Research Office with experience as a contract and grants specialist at the UM Ross School of Business and in budget management and program coordination from the Washtenaw Office of Community and Economic Development. In his own words, "When it comes to grants no two submissions are the same, so I'm always happy to answer any questions (and when I can't answer I'll know who to ask!) When I'm not juggling submissions, I really enjoy hiking and backpacking. My wife and I just got back from the Grand Tetons, so feel free to ask for a photo with your next budget!"

IMPORTANT

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW!

This section of the newsletter will cover important research activity processes, either new information or reminders about critical processes that investigators and research teams need to **be aware of and adhere to**.



Changes in PAF Signing

As of September 14, 2020, **ALL U-M investigators (including non-faculty investigators) listed on a new Proposal Approval Form (PAF) or certain PAFs in progress will be required to complete the “Sign PAF” activity.**

ALSO, the “Sign PAF” activity has been updated to include:

- Questions regarding investigator outside activities, relationships, and interests as they relate to the sponsored project.
- Questions regarding investigator international engagements (e.g., appointments, resources).
- Updates to the attestation of investigator roles and responsibilities.

PIs: Please make sure your UM co-investigators are aware of their need to sign the PAF and to have their M-Inform/COI information up to date. You will not be able to sign the PAF if you have not updated your M-Inform within 365 days. And, if not signed within 30 days of the submission date of the proposal, the system will generate emails reminding the investigators to sign the PAF. **If not completed within 30 days of submission, this may result in withdrawn proposals.**



Commons
A program of the National Institutes of Health

Principal Investigators to Check eRA Commons

You and your team have worked long and hard on a grant application and you finally receive that email from the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects that says: “Congratulations on the submission of your proposal!” You breathe a sigh of relief...it is done...**OR IS IT???**

There is really **one final thing** for you to do which is critically important and that is to **log into eRA Commons and LOOK AT YOUR SUBMISSION**. Investigators have 48 business hours after proposal submission to go into the eRA commons and view your proposals. Review the proposal for completeness, correct affiliations, correct versions of the documents and for any **errors** or warnings that should be brought to the attention of GRO pre-award staff. If discovered within those 48 hours and before the due date, investigators would have time to take corrective actions if necessary.

It is important that investigators realize that **GRO does not get automatic emails if there is an error or warning on your proposal**. ORSP would need to notify GRO pre-award staff. ORSP action may be delayed due to work back logs that day so it's important to let GRO know if you see errors in the proposal. **Errors** are items that will prevent your proposal from advancing to the next step in the cycle and therefore will not be submitted. Warnings do not prevent submission of the proposal but should also be verified with GRO staff that we have addressed and understand these warnings.

IMPORTANT

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW! (continued)

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Single IRB

Per the change in the Common Rule, as of January 1, 2020, multi-site human subjects research needs a single IRB of record. **IMPORTANTLY**, information about whether your study involves multi-site human subjects and who the IRB of record will be needs to be **communicated to your pre-award grants administrator** when doing the budget and grant application work as this is information they will need to supply. The link to the information:

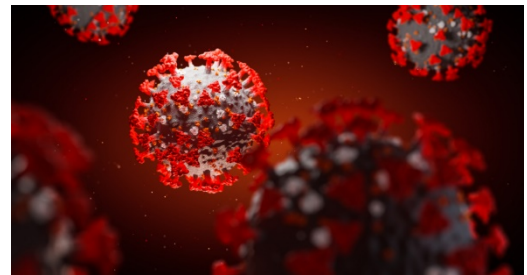
<https://research-compliance.umich.edu/human-subjects/operations-manual-om/single-irb-record-sirb-process>



Clinical track, 9 month appointments, and grant funds

Just a reminder that if you are a clinical track faculty member with a 9 month appointment, it is not possible to receive summer salary for grant work. Please keep this in mind when developing your budget with your pre-award grants administrator.

COVID-19 Related Spending Category



The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs has developed and encourages the use of a COVID-19 category of research expenses. If you are incurring expenses above and beyond a category in your grant, such as supplies, due to the need to adhere to public health guidelines around COVID, you can categorize these expenses as COVID. This will help with record keeping and justification of variances to sponsors. If you have expenses that fall into this category, please communicate with your post award grant administrator so they can be appropriately labeled.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions, concerns or want to discuss any of these items.



M | WOLVERINE ACCESS
Click the ☆ to save favorites to your homepage

E.g., Canvas, paycheck, class registration

Browse Categories ▾ 2 roles ▾

Did you know there was a new Wolverine Access page???

Some of you may be “early adopters” and already using this new landing page for Wolverine Access. Starting September 27, 2020 EVERYONE will be using it!

There are many awesome features for this new page but the best by far is that you can totally customize the links by arranging the electronic “tiles” however you want them. Just sign in using your Level 1 password and you can get started. Here is a view of Patty Clark’s landing page as an example:

My Favorite Links ⚙️

Connect to VPN ITS (For Campus) ☆	Google Mail U-M Email ☆	Box at U-M Cloud Storage & Collaboration ☆	Google Calendar ☆
IT Help ITS Service Center ☆	Timesheet Approval University Business ☆	Time Reporting Employee Self-Service ☆	Academic Calendar Office of the Registrar ☆
eResearch Electronic Research Administration ☆	Research and Sponsored Projects ☆	Research A-Z For Biomedical & Animal Research ☆	PubMed @ U-M with MGet It ☆
Search Library Catalog ☆	Google Scholar with MGet It ☆	Campus Maize & Blueprint U-M COVID-19 Updates & FAQs ☆	My LINC ☆

The areas that she most often accesses online or that she wants to be able to access easily are right up front. To find links to add to your favorites, you can Browse Categories and select the tiles you want to appear under “My Favorite Links” simply by selecting the little star in the lower right hand corner.

One especially helpful category for PIs and others who need to keep track of the money is the Financial Services section where you can access everything from your own paycheck to M-Reports, Purchasing, Time Reporting, and Concur.

Other areas that regularly appear on the landing page include “Features”, “Most Popular This Week”, and of course the Canvas Courses are also available.

Everything is in one place and YOU can make it work for YOU! Have fun trying it out!