



[HHS Staff] Updates from the Office of Research

1 message

Esther Leerkes <emleerke@uncg.edu>
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 To: hhs-faculty-l@uncg.edu, hhs-staff-l@uncg.edu

Tue, May 3, 2022 at 3:20 P

Dear Colleagues,

The following topics are covered in this email:

1. Dr. Sharon Morrison (PHE) will serve as first HHS OOR Faculty Fellow for Community Engaged Research
2. Seeking input from HHS Faculty who conduct qualitative research
3. 2022 HHS Research Excellence Award Winners (recap from assembly)
4. 2022 HHS Internal Grants Awarded
5. 2022 HHS summer grant writing fellows announced (see opportunities for related workshops in #7)
6. Reminder that advance notice for grant submissions is even more important now given staffing issues
7. Upcoming events/deadlines related to research

I wish you all a happy, productive, and hopefully rejuvenating summer.

Best,

Esther

1. Dr. Sharon Morrison (PHE) will serve as first HHS OOR Faculty Fellow for Community Engaged Research

I am delighted to announce that Dr. Sharon Morrison (PHE) has agreed to serve as the inaugural Faculty Fellow for Community Engaged Research in our office. This will be a 2-year term. In this role, Dr. Morrison will identify the key community engaged research (CER)-related needs among HHS faculty and strategically work to address those needs (e.g., suggesting system/procedural changes in our current work; planning training activities for HHS faculty and their community partners, etc). This position was created in direct response to results of the HHS OOR Equity Audit. Dr. Morrison will seek faculty input to guide CER enhancement initiatives.

Dr. Morrison brings many assets to this role. She has conducted community engaged research in our region, alongside colleagues and students from UNC Greensboro and other regional universities, for over 15 years. In this work, she has sought to address social integration, cultural adaptation and health challenges, and promote empowerment among refugee and immigrant groups. Specific projects have focused on topics such as hypertension among Montagnard adults, HIV/AIDS prevention among Latino and African immigrant women, maternal health issues among Bhutanese women, and the impact of COVID on minority, refugee, and immigrant populations. Dr. Morrison and her collaborators were instrumental in creating the Montagnard/Asian Community Disparities Research Network leading them to receive the Community Impact and Outcomes Award given by the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement in 2019. She has been a tireless advocate for community engaged research in HHS/UNCG. I am grateful to Dr. Morrison for taking on this important role and look forward to working together.

2. Seeking input from HHS Faculty who conduct qualitative research

Limited support for faculty who conduct qualitative research was also noted as a concern based on the equity audit. This summer, I will brainstorm and evaluate additional strategies to address this concern. I would really like to get input from faculty who engage in this type of work and are most aware of the needs and potential resources we could draw upon. If you are willing to provide some input this summer either via a meeting (small focus groups or one on one) or via email or survey, [please let me know via this google form](#). I believe if I can do some planning over the summer, it will better position us for some action next academic year.

In the meantime, please know faculty can still [apply for funding to attend qualitative research methods trainings](#) and can [apply for building collaborations to initiate relations with collaborators with needed qualitative expertise](#).

3. 2022 HHS Research Excellence Award Winners (recap from faculty assembly)

In the event you were unable to attend the faculty assembly last week, I want to make sure you are aware of the faculty awards that were distributed for research excellence last week. Please join me in congratulating our colleagues on their achievements. We are lucky to have such talented faculty in HHS!

- **Dr. Emily Janke, Community Engaged Scholar Award:** Dr. Janke is an associate professor of Peace and Conflict Studies and the director of UNCG's Institute for Community and Economic Engagement. Dr. Janke's nominator described her as "community-engaged scholar and a scholar of community engagement." In addition to her key role in the LEAP Partnership (Lifetime Eating and Physical Activity Practices) that brought together community leaders, community members, health care professionals and UNCG scholars to tackle obesity, Dr. Janke has also taken a lead role in transforming the community engagement landscape at UNCG. Dr. Janke has received numerous national awards for her scholarly activities related to civic engagement. Her work has benefited the UNCG campus community as well as the community at large in immeasurable ways.
- **Dr. Jaclyn Maher, Junior Research Excellence Award:** Dr. Maher is an assistant professor of Kinesiology. Her expertise is in understanding the antecedents and consequents of health behaviors such as physical activity, sedentary behavior, and dietary intake. Her methodological approach is novel in that she employs ecological momentary assessment to capture in the moment motivational and emotional predictors of health behavior, an approach with very strong implications for intervention. Her nominator noted her strong track record of publications, conference presentations, research collaborations, and grant submissions. The quality and impact of her work to date are very meritorious, and we look forward to seeing what she achieves next.
- **Dr. Sandra Schultz, Senior Research Excellence Award:** Dr. Schultz is a professor of Kinesiology and an internationally recognized scholar with expertise in knee laxity and ACL injury risk and recovery. Dr. Schultz has been a prolific scholar and her work has been funded by NIH, the NC Biotechnology Center, and private companies. Notably, Dr. Schultz was identified in Stanford University's List of the World's Top 2% of Most Cited Scientists in 2020. In addition, Dr. Schultz has 2 patents pending.

Please note, the HHS Research Advisory Committee (RAC) and an ad hoc reviewer with strong expertise in community engaged research served as the selection committee. In response to lessons learned via our equity audit, we provided reviewer training related to implicit bias prior to the review.

4. 2022 HHS Internal Grants Awarded (list for top off and faculty grants, Pls (dept), title, amount

HHS provides internal funding opportunities for faculty research via our [Faculty Research Grant Program](#) and [Top Off Funding Mechanisms](#). Applications are reviewed by the HHS RAC, and beginning this year, ad hoc reviewers with needed expertise. Reviewers underwent a training in advance that included information on implicit bias in the review process. The latter was added this year in response to lessons learned from our equity audit. I am delighted to announce the faculty/projects that were awarded funding this year. Please congratulate our colleagues on this achievement.

	Awardee Name(s) (dept)	Title	Funds Awarded
Faculty Research Grants	Drs. Sandra Shultz (KIN) and Randy Schmitz (KIN)	Maturity Status at the Time of Pediatric ACL Injury: A Pilot Study	\$10,000
	Drs. Jessica Dollar (CWHW/KIN) and Jaclyn Maher (KIN)	Identification of biopsychosocial factors that influence physical activity in adolescent females using ecological momentary assessment methods	\$10,000
	Dr. Jared McGuirt (NTR)	ROSA (Rural Online Shopping Assistant)	\$5,000

Top Off Grants	Drs. Jessica McNeil (KIN) and Laurie Wideman (KIN)	Linking Insufficient Sleep with Body Weight in Black Young Adults	\$8,458
	Drs. Tamara Goldenberg (PHE), Amanda Tanner (PHE), and Jennifer Erasquin (PHE)	Transgender Stigma in the Dominican Republic: A Developmental Approach to Measurement	\$10,000

5. 2022 HHS summer grant writing fellows announced (see opportunities for related workshops in #7)

This year, 3 HHS faculty were selected as HHS Summer Grant Writing Fellows. I am delighted to have the opportunity to work closely with each of them this summer.

Faculty Member (dept)	Tentative Title	Mentor
Dr. Tamar Goldenberg (PHE)	Assessing Mental Health Among Transgender and Other Gender Diverse People in the Dominican Republic	Dr. Amanda Tanner, PHE
Dr. Tracy Nichols (PHE)	Developing and Validating New Measures of Perinatal Substance Use Stigma to Improve Healthcare and Social Service Provision for Pregnant and Parenting People Who Use Drugs	Dr. Sandy Shultz, KIN
Dr. Kierra Sattler (HDF)	Characteristics of Foster Care and Children's Health and Well-being	Dr. Jill Duerr Berrick, Distinguished Professor of Social Welfare, UC Berkeley

This program provides: a summer stipend (pending provost approval) to the fellows to ensure they have time to dedicate to grant writing, workshops on effective grant writing, support for a faculty mentor, and peer support. This program is for faculty at any career stage. If you have never participated in the program and believe you could benefit, please consider applying in the future. [Information on the program is located here.](#)

As has been our tradition, some of the workshops will be open to anyone. Please see # 7 for details.

6. Reminder that advance notice for grant submissions is even more important now given staffing issues

As I noted in my last email update, the Office of Sponsored Programs, Contracts and Grants, and our office are currently short-staffed and will remain so until vacant positions are filled. As such, it is more important than ever to provide advance notice of grant/contract submissions by emailing your plans to Verna Leslie, vrleslie@uncg.edu. I can't tell you how often we hear that faculty have been thinking about or working on an application for weeks or even months, but we were notified close to the deadline. If you are uncertain if you have notified us of your plans, or your submission plans are tentative, err on the side of caution and reach out again or reach out so we have a placeholder for you that we could remove later if necessary. Also, be sure to adhere to all deadlines provided by our office and the others noted above. We appreciate your cooperation so we can promote the success of all applicants while maintaining staff well-being as best we can in a difficult, temporary situation.

7. Upcoming events related to research

May 17, 10 - 11:30 Mentoring Undergraduates in Research and Creative Inquiry (Virtual) -- All engaged in facilitating undergraduate research are strongly encouraged to attend. This workshop will focus on the basics of research at the undergraduate level from the faculty perspective.

The following trainings, all to be delivered via zoom, are part of the summer grant writing program and faculty and postdocs are welcome to attend. Please RSVP via the appropriate link if you are interested and a zoom link will be shared with you prior to the event. *Note: all events are related to NIH grant applications because that is what all summer fellows are targeting this year. Each year we design the workshops around the plans of the fellows. In the past we have provided training relevant to NSF, USDA, NIH, and Specific Foundations.*

May 11, 9 to 10:30 AM Understanding NIH: Mechanisms, Criteria, Review Process

In this session we will provide a brief overview of common NIH mechanisms: R03, R01, R21, and R34 including the budget and time limits for each, and page limits for each type of application. We will review the NIH review process and criteria. And we will demonstrate how to use matchmaker to identify relevant program officers, study sections, institutes, etc

Presenter: Julie Voorhees

[Please RSVP by May 9](#)

May 19, 9 to 11:30 AM Grant Writing for Maximum Impact

Description: Enhance your grant writing skills through practical tips and intentional strategies. Participants will learn to strategically align your writing content and style with the priorities of the specific funding opportunity you are addressing. Workshop activities will include examining samples from funded applications to see how these strategies have been successfully implemented.

Presenter: Julie Voorhees

[Please RSVP by May 16](#)

June 1, 9 to 11 AM NIH Biosketch & Rigor and Reproducibility Workshop

In this workshop, we will highlight some ways in which you can put your best foot forward. For the first hour, we will discuss how to craft an effective NIH biosketch and bibliography. For the second hour, we will cover the NIH emphasis on rigor and reproducibility. In both sections, we will review the basics and highlight key points. We will then look at examples that helped to strengthen the credibility and competitiveness of recent proposals. Regardless of your funding agency, this content will help you to put your best foot forward.

Presenter: Julie Voorhees

[Please RSVP by May 26](#)

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