

[HHS Faculty] Updates from the HHS Office of Research

Esther Leerkes <EMLEERKE@uncg.edu>

Fri 8/11/2023 1:11 PM

To:HHS Faculty <hhs-faculty-l@uncg.edu>;HHS Staff <hhs-staff-l@uncg.edu>

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 2023-24 Academic Year! Hoping it is a great one for all. The following topics are covered in this email:

1. Overview of submissions and awards last fiscal year (same information shared Tuesday at Convocation)
2. University and School support for research (same information shared Tuesday at Convocation)
3. The Myth of the R15
4. Reminders of research-related policies and best practices
5. Campus-wide research-related personnel updates
6. HHS Research Advisory Committee Members

Best,

Esther

1. **Overview of submissions and awards last fiscal year (same information shared Tuesday at Convocation)**

I am thrilled to report that HHS had another fantastic year with regard to external submissions and awards. Here are a few highlights.

- Total HHS Awards: \$9.77 millions
- **Record year of submissions: \$56.67 million**, prior record \$38 million (almost a 50% increase—WOW!!!!)
- 4 HHS departments brought in over \$1million: SWK, HDF, NTR, KIN; only 13 academic departments campus wide achieved this level of funding
- HDF is 2nd highest academic department with regard to awards at \$4.9 million

Every single contract and grant is valued in HHS! Each penny makes a difference for our students, community, and science. Thanks to each and every person who helped us achieve this success. Here's to another great year.

2. **University and School Support for research (same information shared Tuesday at Convocation)**

I am pleased to confirm that research support remains strong both centrally and at the school level.

As shared via the Provost's email:

The Office of Research and Engagement is ready to support your research, scholarship, and creative activity by providing essential infrastructure and connecting you to critical resources and partners. As in past years, monies are available to cover some of the costs for travel to conferences both nationally

(<https://research.uncg.edu/funding/scholars-travel-program/>) and internationally through International Programs (<https://international.uncg.edu/faculty-and-staff/funding-for-international-initiatives-2/>) ; for expenses related to media development, publishing or exhibiting (<https://research.uncg.edu/funding/publication-exhibition-subsidies/>) including open access jointly funded with the Library (<http://uncg.libguides.com/c.php?g=83558&p=536536>), as well as internal grants (<https://research.uncg.edu/funding/internal-grants-and-awards/>) including the Community-Engaged Pathways and Partnerships (P2) Fellows program that supports and advances community-engaged scholarship among UNCG scholars and community partners. More information on these supports and informational workshops can be found at <https://research.uncg.edu/funding/>.

Per a subsequent email from Terri Shelton: Instead of two competitions for internal grants (fall/spring), we will hold one competition in the fall. In addition to the opportunity for the \$5k and \$10k awards, we will be making funding available to support five, \$25k awards annually. (The deadlines have not been published yet; we will alert you when they are).

Please note: Scholars Travel funding has been increased from \$500 to \$750.

In HHS, we will continue to offer the same research funding/initiatives we have over the last several years. They are described here: <https://hhs.uncg.edu/office-of-research/internal-support/hhs-internal-funding-mechanisms/> We will update the website to include deadlines for the coming year soon and include in the next email update.

In addition, we will be launching the HHS Impact Through Innovation Hub this year that will provide additional resources. Stay tuned for more information!

HHS Internal Funding Mechanisms - HHS Office of Research

The HHS Office of Research (OOR), supported, in part, by the HHS Dean's Office and by the UNC Greensboro Office of Research and Engagement (ORE), offers opportunities for HHS researchers to receive internal funding for their research endeavors. These require direct application to HHS OOR. The HHS internal funding mechanisms available for the 22-23 academic year are [...]

hhs.uncg.edu

3. The myth of the R15

Faculty often express worry that our loss of eligibility for R15s (because our NIH funding now exceeds the threshold) has left them with no viable options. In fact, there are many options, and I would be happy to discuss them with you. We have encouraged several early career faculty to go after smaller R01s—so less than 5 years and/or below the budget cap and this strategy is working! We can always find a path forward. Let us help you strategize.

4. Reminders of research-related policies and best practices

- Letters of intent/pre-proposals must be routed through Cayuse/approved prior to submission (changed in last year)
- No change, but often forgotten: student grants and small grants/contracts must be routed through Cayuse for approvals prior to submission to the sponsor . Remember to coordinate with our office and submit in advance. It is problematic when we have to submit after the fact. If the proper

approvals were not gathered at time of submission, there is a greater risk we cannot accept the award as intended.

- Remember to alert us as soon as you know you might be applying for a grant/contract by emailing Verna Leslie. If your plans change, please also notify Verna by email. This is critical for our workload planning and communication with OSP.
- Remember to abide by our submission timeline whenever possible (<https://hhs.uncg.edu/office-of-research/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2021/08/HHS-OOR-Timeline-for-Successful-Grant-Submission-9-13-2020-revised-8-17-21.pdf>). Ideally, the only exceptions will be rapid turnaround opportunities.
- If you are communicating with a central research office, remember they are managing research from folks all over campus. Please be sure to provide them with the information they need to locate relevant information to address your query. Examples include:
 - Provide your protocol # for the IRB
 - Provide the Cayuse proposal number when reaching out to OSP
 - Provide the award title and fund number when reaching out to CGA
- Faculty cannot negotiate F&A/indirects with sponsors. If an agency does not have a published policy, we must go with 45.5%. Any communication/negotiation/approval otherwise must come from VC Shelton.
- If you are funded by grants and contracts over the summer at 100% (full or partial summer period), please do not have out of office automatic responses that can be interpreted to mean you are not working at all. This is an audit risk regarding time and effort certification. If you wish to brainstorm appropriate text for more limited availability, please reach out to us.
- If you are submitting to NIH:
 - Make sure you are using the correct version of the [biosketch](#). We are seeing examples where the current guidelines are not being followed. Key changes are: no longer listing all grants at the end. You can list grants from the last 3 years under personal profile. You may also list up to 4 citations under personal profile. Under contributions to science you may only include a maximum of 5 contributions, and you can only include a maximum of 4 products for each. It is better not to list the same product in multiple sections (that is viewed as redundant); so be thoughtful about where to place each output. In addition, you must include PMCIDs for all work stemming from NIH funding. If in process (embargo period), you can note as PMID in process.
 - Remember, the Data Sharing and Management Plan requirement went into effect in January. A number of resources are available for this internally here: <https://sponsoredprograms.uncg.edu/nih-data-management-and-sharing-policy/> Note, this includes a new sample data sharing plan for a mixed methods study that will be uploaded soon. (Thank you, Tamar Goldenberg, PHE, Summer Faculty Fellow for Qualitative Research). A small change was just announced regarding how we include these costs in budgets; this will be relevant to all submitting in October or later. We no longer have to break Data Sharing and Management Costs out as their own category, rather we incorporate it in the appropriate standard category (e.g., personnel time will be captured in personnel). I believe this will simplify the budget process.

5. Campus-wide research-related personnel updates

- Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP): Joy Dismukes was hired in the spring as Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs (formerly Valera Francis' position); Tiffany Wright was promoted internally to Associate Director (formerly Rebecca Libera was Assistant Director of OSP). OSP is still down personnel and contracting with an external company and hiring new Grants Specialist. The externally contracted liaison assigned to HHS, Nikki (Susan) Westerfield, has been wonderful during this period.

- Office of Research Integrity: Assistant Director of Research Compliance (IRB) position (formerly Melissa Beck) was filled in the spring by Melissa Skillings; IRB questions should be directed to her. The IACUC position was filled last year by Kevin Todd who is also leading COI processes on campus now. Interviews for the Director of the Office of Research Integrity (formerly Lisa Goble) have been ongoing through the summer. Dr. Laurie Wideman is no longer the IRB Chair. (Thank you, Laurie for your many years of excellent service in this role!) The person in that role now is Dr. Cynthia (Cindy) Bacon (Nursing).
- Office of Research and Engagement: Grant Development Specialists Julie Voorhees and Aubrey Turner left the university in the spring. Interviews for these positions active now. In the meantime, please reach out to Kelsey Okoro (ckokoro@uncg.edu) the Research Concierge for any grant development needs.
- Contract & Grant Accounting. The new Grant Specialist for HDFS, Kinesiology and CFRN (formerly Rhonda Florence) will be Matthew Hanson who will begin work later in August. Bill Walters and Rachel Agner will continue to assist PI's in those departments as Matthew works through a training period this fall. Thomas Langland remains the grant specialist for other HHS departments.
- HHS IT Support. Please remember, Brian Downs moved to CVPA this summer. Until the position is filled, contact 6-tech for computer assistance, and temporarily contact Michael Scotto for general inquiries regarding computer rotation and new equipment needs. Please let me know if advocacy is needed in the meantime regarding research-related computing needs.

6. HHS Research Advisory Committee Members

The HHS Research Advisory Committee (RAC) members advise me about a number of matters including the use of resources, research policies, and researcher needs. They also review internal grant applications and serve as the selection committee for HHS Research Excellence Awards. The committee members are:

- Dr. Stephanie Irby Coard (HDFS)
- Dr. Lucia Mendez (CSD)
- Dr. Sharon Morrison (PHE and HHS Faculty Fellow for Community Engaged Research)
- Dr. Lenka Shriver (NTR)
- Dr. Amanda Tanner (PHE)
- Dr. Laurie Wideman (KIN)

Remember, they are resources to you if you wish to share ideas/questions/concerns. You can also reach out to me directly for this purpose.

Esther M. Leerkes, Ph.D. (she/her/hers: [What's this?](#))
 Associate Dean for Research, School of Health and Human Sciences
 Jefferson Pilot Excellence Professor, Human Development & Family Studies
 UNC Greensboro
 PO Box 26170
 Greensboro, NC 27402-6170 Phone: (336) 256-0310



NOTICE: Any emails sent to or from this address are subject to Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties.

--

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HHS Faculty" group. To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hhs-faculty-l+unsubscribe@uncg.edu.

To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/a/uncg.edu/d/msgid/hhs-faculty-l/BL1PR14MB496747BB121EB0501D389B42A710A%40BL1PR14MB4967.namprd14.prod.outlook.com>.