

Office of the Vice President for Research

E-Newsletter
Fall 2018

Letter from the Vice President for Research

The last few months have seen increased scrutiny of foreign influences within the U.S. research enterprise. This has especially impacted universities, which value open research and the free exchange of ideas. However, negative media attention surrounding undisclosed foreign influences can undermine an institution's credibility and potentially impact funding from federal agencies. NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins has recently [reminded](#) the NIH-funded biomedical research community of the requirement to disclose all financial interests and relevant affiliations—both domestic and foreign—as a condition of funding. Stony Brook investigators are required to make disclosure of financial interests annually (or more frequently if a new conflict exists). This must include all sources, domestic and foreign. Media attention has also focused on oversights by authors to disclose outside financial and related interests in publications and the challenge faced by journal editors and publishers in establishing and enforcing disclosure policies, as well as the lack of uniform policies among journals.



As another cautionary note, many of you will know that federal funding agencies are responding to increased awareness of misconduct and harassment in the academic research workplace. In October, NSF introduced a new “term and condition” on grants that requires campuses to report “findings or determinations” of harassment (including sexual harassment) by PIs and co-PIs. Also required to be reported to NSF is an “administrative action” affecting the status of a PI/co-PI while an assessment is

underway by the university. NIH has signaled similar views regarding sexual harassment but has not yet introduced a new term and condition in new awards. However, reporting to NIH is required for any administrative action that affects one's ability to serve as PI. The potential impacts of such reporting are being debated widely. However, the message is clear, and researchers must know that careers can be at risk. Stony Brook researchers should review requirements for [Responsible Conduct of Research and Scholarship](#) and keep up to date on training.

On a more positive note, I am pleased to report that research expenditures continue to increase. Readers interested in seeing expenditure trends for their college or department can view the [Research Metrics Dashboard](#). There are also new funding opportunities, and our Office of Proposal Development has been busy helping to support collaborations to pursue them. Most recently, a team of faculty participated in a SUNY-sponsored workshop on Quantum Information Systems, which included our partners at Brookhaven National Lab. Look for further information in the Office of Proposal Development section of this newsletter.

As I have reported in previous newsletters, the fringe benefit rate for postdocs is scheduled to decrease to 25% (currently 40%) effective July 1, 2019. Our staff are preparing guidance to assist PIs in developing budgets for new proposals. Also look for an updated policy from the Office of Sponsored Programs for proposal submission deadlines.

With the successful implementations of myResearch Grants and myResearch Agreements modules, we look next to the new IRB module, which is scheduled to go live in the first quarter of 2019. Training for the new IRB module will be announced soon. We will continue access to IRBNet for up to one year to allow continuity and retention of existing protocols. Later in 2019, we will complete the myResearch platform with the Biosafety and IACUC (animal care and use) modules.

On a final note, I am delighted to offer congratulations to the seven teams who are recipients of the first OVPR Seed Grants. The winners and brief project descriptions are posted on the [OVPR Seed Grant page](#). The next deadline for submitting proposals is Feb 25, 2019.

I am always pleased to hear from investigators. Please share your thoughts and concerns with me.

Wishing you my best Season's Greetings!

Richard J. Reeder

Vice President for Research

News from OPD

Office of Proposal Development

Limited Competitions

A number of sponsors, both private and federal, restrict the number of individuals or applications that may be submitted by the University. In these cases the Office of Proposal

Development (OPD) will either conduct an internal competition or canvass the campus community for interest.

Internal Competitions: When a funding agency requires nomination of a limited number of faculty for an award, an internal competition takes place. [The Office of Proposal Development](#) will broadly disseminate the information from the funding agency and defines the guidelines for submission of materials and deadlines for the internal competition. The nominations received are evaluated by discipline specific faculty committee as well as the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and the SOM Research Dean.

Generally a pre-proposal will consist of:

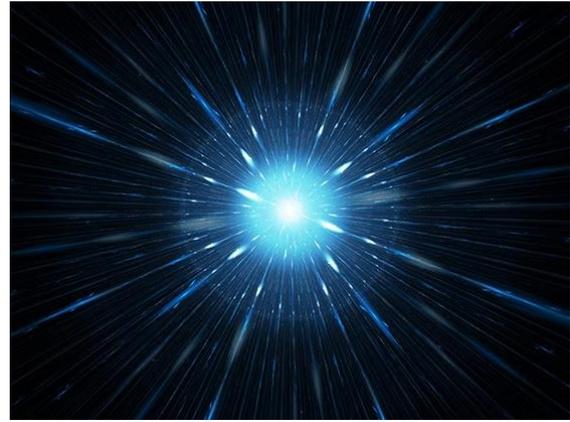
- An abstract describing the scope of the project, expected/intended outcomes, the personnel involved, and existing resources (no more than 2 pages)
- a detailed budget i.e., salary, fringe, travel, tuition, equipment, subcontracts, indirect costs, as applicable (no more than 1 page)
- a curriculum vitae or biosketch
- cost sharing commitments (if applicable)

Pre-proposals will be sent to a faculty committee for review and scoring. Stony Brook's top candidate(s) will receive proposal assistance from OPD for their submission to the sponsor.

Canvassing: In order to minimize the administrative process for faculty in some cases OPD will 'canvass' the campus community for interest. If the number of interested applicants exceeds the sponsor limit, a full internal competition will be coordinated.

In addition to email notifications, all current internal limited competitions and canvasses are listed on the [OPD website](#).

A current list of [Limited Competitions](#) is available.



The Inaugural OVPR Seed Funding

The Office of the Vice President for Research would like to congratulate the following seven PI teams on winning the Fall 2018 Seed Funding Competition:

H. Resit Akcakaya, Ecology and Evolution and Liliana Davalos, Ecology and Evolution with their proposal: *The Very Extended Phenotype: Connecting genetics and evolution to ecological function*

Surita Bhatia, Chemistry and Elizabeth Boon, Chemistry with their proposal: *Scalable Nanostructured Coatings for Prevention of Microbial Biofilm Formation*

Holly Colognato, Pharmacology and Maricedes Acosta Martinez, Physiology and Biophysics with their proposal: *Exploration of late pregnancy extracellular vesicles as regulators of oligodendrocyte biology*

Anshul Gandhi, Computer Science and Erez Zadok, Computer Science with their proposal: *Exploiting Analytical Models to Realize the Full Performance and Parallelization Potential of Modern Storage Architectures for Big Data Applications*

Martin Kaczocha, Anesthesiology and Michelino Puopolo, Anesthesiology with their proposal: *Leukotriene B4: A Novel Target for Postoperative Pain Control*

David Komatsu, Orthopaedics, Yi-Xian Qin, Biomedical Engineering, and Sardar MZ Uddin, Orthopaedics with their proposal: *Enhancement of Bone Regeneration through Apoptosis Modulation*

Greg Zelinsky, Psychology, Dimitrios Samaras, Computer Science, Kenneth Shroyer, Pathology, and Joel Saltz, Bioinformatics with their proposal: *Predicting the attention trajectories of digital pathologists: Towards understanding the variability in cancer diagnosis*

We received a total of 73 applications that spanned the School of Medicine, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and College of Arts and Sciences. Many thanks to everyone who submitted an application and special thanks to our panel of 18 peer reviewers who took the time to review these applications.

The Spring 2019 Seed Funding Competition deadline is coming soon! Please submit your applications via online portal no later than midnight, February 25, 2019. For details and more information, please go to <https://research.stonybrook.edu/ovprseedgrantprogram>. Do not hesitate to contact the Office of Proposal Development at OPD_OVPR@stonybrook.edu if you have questions.

Stony Brook Researchers attend a SUNY Quantum Workshop at the Griffiss Institute in Rome, NY

On November 29 & 30th, SUNY held an exclusive and interactive networking event bringing together 100 scientists from 7 SUNY campuses, the Air Force Research Laboratory, Brookhaven National Lab, the Griffiss Institute as well as industry leaders from D-Wave, IBM, and Applied Materials.

Held at the Griffiss Institute in Rome, New York, the event kicked off with a welcome by several dignitaries including Jacqueline Izzo, Mayor of Rome; Hon. Joseph A. Griffo, New York State Senator; William Wolf, Executive Director, Griffiss Institute; Dr. Paul Antonick, Chief Scientist, Information Directorate, Air Force Research Laboratory; and Grace Wang, Senior Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development, SUNY.



From left to right: Tzu-Chieh Wei (Physics), Vladimir Korepin (Physics), Kathryn Piazzola (OVPR), Sergey Suchalkin (Electrical and Computer Engineering), Eden Figueroa (Physics), Dominik Schneble (Physics), Predrag Krstic (IACS), IV Ramakrishnan (CEAS), Nina Maung (OVPR)

The welcome remarks were followed by Institutional ‘Flash Talks’ where each institution was asked to speak about ‘Why Quantum, Why Us and Why Now’ and provide an overview of Quantum related research activities at their respective institution. Dr. Eden Figueroa, Associate Professor in the Department of Physics, who holds a joint appointment at Brookhaven National Lab, provided an excellent overview of Stony Brook’s research initiatives, including a Distributed Quantum Computing Networking project in collaboration with BNL’s Computational Science Initiative. Day Two included breakout sessions on identifying technical strengths throughout SUNY in the area of Quantum; two of these sessions were led by SBU faculty: Dr. Eden Figueroa led the Quantum Technology breakout and Dr. Tzu-Chieh Wei led the Quantum Information Theories and Algorithms breakout, both of whom are faculty in the Department of Physics.

Dr. Figueroa spoke about the challenges of scientists and engineers being able to ‘speak the same language’ when it comes to co-design of future large quantum systems and suggested a follow-up workshop on the Stony Brook campus to begin working towards this. Dr. Grace Wang was enthusiastic and offered funds to support a workshop that would bring the quantum and engineering communities together. Planning is currently underway to host such a workshop in March 2019.

Among the 8 Stony Brook faculty who participated, 2 were from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (Sergey Suchalkin, IV Ramakrishnan) and 5 were from the College of Arts and Sciences (Xu Du, Eden Figueroa, Vladamir Korepin, Dominik Schneble, Tzu-Chieh Wei) and one was from the Institute for Advanced Computational Science (Predrag Krstic). Together they represented Stony Brook's strong expertise in Quantum technology, simulation, and communications.

New Staff in Proposal Development

We are pleased to announce three new staff to provide support to a growing number of research development initiatives as well as increased requests for proposal development support. As a reminder, please reach out to the Office of Proposal Development at opd_ovpr@stonybrook.edu to request assistance with identifying funding opportunities for your research idea, editing and proofreading of your research narrative, help with budget development or support on administrative requirements.

Aveary Menze, Proposal Coordinator

Aveary is a native Long Islander who earned a BS in forensic chemistry from Buffalo State College and an MA in psychology from Stony Brook University. She has been with OPD since December 2017, where she began as a student employee. Outside of this position, she volunteers at the World Trade Center Health Program as a research assistant and at SBU CAPS where she is helping to develop an online-based early intervention for struggling college freshmen.

Erin Casella, Proposal Coordinator

Erin received her bachelor's degree in Biological Anthropology with a minor in Environmental Science from Drew University. She completed her master's degree in Conservation Biology at Columbia University. She has traveled the world to various locations abroad in Africa where she developed a unique skill set in research methodologies and project development. She has previous work experience conducting research at Columbia University Medical Center and managing a small, nonprofit nature center.

Mandy Frantz, Research Development Specialist

Mandy Frantz received her Bachelor's degree in Economics from Rutgers University. During and after her time at Rutgers, she assisted with a number of academic research projects and was published as a co-author in the Journal of Community Practice. Mandy spent several years working at a non-profit social service agency, where she focused on grant management and proposal development for new funding opportunities. In her previous position as Grant Administrator in the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery, she assisted sub-recipients in complying with both state and federal grant regulations.

News from Research IT

DoIT EAI (Research)

After a successful internal pilot, myResearch Agreements went live on October 2nd. This module provides an electronic contact management system for investigators to request, submit and track/monitor research-related agreements, sub-agreements, and contracts managed by The Research Foundation for SUNY at Stony Brook University through the Office of Sponsored Programs.



More information, including a [training manual](#) and a [video tutorial](#) which explains who has access to the module, how to navigate the module, how to perform different activities in the module in order to move an agreement through the workflow from end-to-end as well as the overall workflow, can also be found [here](#).

The project team has also completed development on the system to system functionality for grants with an expected go-live date of January 2nd of 2019. This functionality will allow submission to [grants.gov](#) from myResearch, reducing dual entry of data and avoiding transcription errors.

Lastly, development work for an upgraded IRB module is now in progress and is scheduled to go live in the first quarter of 2019.

News from OTLIR

Office of Technology Licensing and Industry Relations

Chemistry Compounds Licensed to Kerafast

Dr. Nicole S. Sampson of the chemistry department has licensed two compounds to the reagent company Kerafast.

The compounds, described this March in the Journal of Organic Chemistry, are used to prepare the key amide and aldehyde monomers for alternating ring-opening metathesis polymerization (AROMP). The compounds are now available to researchers worldwide in the Kerafast catalog [here](#).



Stony Brook University partners with Kerafast to facilitate access to research materials developed in our university laboratories, including antibodies, cell lines, proteins and compounds. Three SBU investigators currently participate in the program, enabling other scientists to access their reagents through a quick and simple material transfer agreement. Kerafast markets the materials, handles selling and shipping logistics, and returns a portion of the proceeds to SBU and the contributing labs.

For more information, or to discuss distributing your lab's reagents through the program, visit www.kerafast.com or contact Valery Matthys in the Office of Technology Licensing and Industry Relations at valery.matthys@stonybrook.edu or 631-632-6561.

OTLIR Signs Exclusive License Agreement with InspiRX

InspiRx, a New Jersey/North Carolina based medical device/pharmaceutical company, has signed an exclusive license agreement with the Research Foundation for SUNY to develop a new pulmonary treatment for critical care patients in intensive care units. InspiRx, a New Jersey/North Carolina based medical device/pharmaceutical company, has signed an exclusive license agreement with the Research Foundation for SUNY to develop a new pulmonary treatment for critical care patients in intensive care units.

The patented nebulizer device and system for delivering aerosolized antibiotics to patients on mechanical ventilators was invented by Dr. Gerald Smaldone, professor of medicine and Chief of the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine at Stony Brook University, in collaboration with InspiRx. Read the full story [here](#).

Exclusive License Agreement Executed with SCIVE Labs

SCIVE Labs, a Stony Brook Start-Up Company, has signed an exclusive license agreement with The Research Foundation for SUNY to develop a ground-breaking immersive reality technology developed by Dr. Arie Kaufman. The SCIVE Labs solution provides 360° Visual Immersion for multiple persons, with conformal-mapping software and the highest-available display for optimal acuity to provide an authentic, genuine experience for the user. The presentation is generated by proprietary software that is driven by a proprietary configuration of a cluster of multiple GPUs. The technology enables “access to the unimaginably vast and the

impenetrably small” and is embodied in several form factor implementations allowing a diverse set of configurations that are fit-for-purpose to meet a range of enterprise customer use cases.

SCIVE Labs provides deep-visual immersion with the ability to maintain context and clarity. Extreme collaboration and corroboration are the benefits of the deep-visually immersive technologies.

Non-Exclusive Testing Agreement Executed with Tencent

Tencent, a Chinese telecom conglomerate, has signed a non-exclusive testing agreement with The Research Foundation for SUNY to test a two-factor user authentication technology using vision and acoustics for smart devices. Developed by Dr. Fan Ye, EchoPrint, leverages face recognition and acoustic response verification on commodity smart devices without requiring any special sensors.

News from ORC

Office of Research Compliance

One major change to the informed consent form is the requirement that “key information” appear at the beginning of the form. The “key information” is to help the potential participants’ understanding of the research. What comprises “key information”? There are five factors that would encompass “key information”



1. Consent is being sought for research purposes and that participation is voluntary.
2. Purpose of the research, expected duration of participation and procedures that would need to be followed.
3. Any reasonably foreseeable risks or discomforts to the participant.
4. Any reasonably expected benefits to the participant or others.
5. Any alternative procedures that might be advantageous to the prospective participant.

Additionally, investigators also need to present the information in the informed consent form in enough detail and in a way that a prospective participant can comprehend the information.

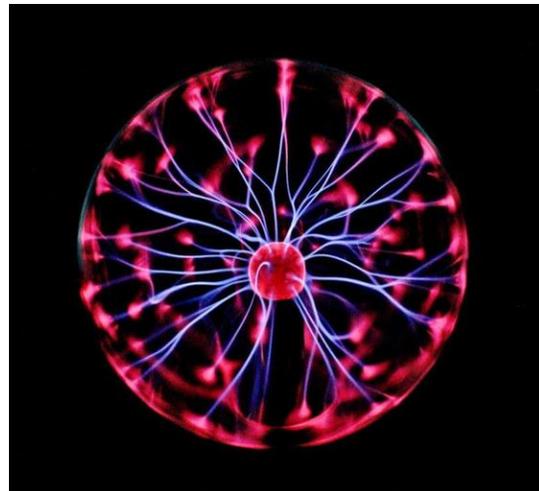
The Office of Research Compliance is reformatting the consent template to include this “key information”. The template will be available mid-December. All applications submitted after December 21, 2018 will require the inclusion of “key information”. You can find the consent form template in the IRBNet electronic submission system.

News from OSP

Office of Sponsored Programs

NSF Updates

The sixth edition of NSF’s Proposal & Award Policy Newsletter can be found [here](#). Topics of importance include: Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) Released, NSF Policy on Harassment Finalized, NSF is developing a New Award Notice, Research.gov Proposal Submission Update.



NSF announces new measures to protect the research community from harassment ([News Release 18-082](#)). The National Science Foundation (NSF) has taken the next steps in its agency-wide effort to ensure the research and learning environments it supports are free from harassment, publishing a term and condition that requires awardee organizations to report findings and determinations of sexual harassment, as well as establishing a secure online portal for submitting harassment notifications. For details on the new requirements, see the [NSF fact sheet](#).

NIH Updates

NIH releases Notice regarding [Harassment and Discrimination Protections in Training Grant Applications](#)

Applications for National Institutes of Health (NIH) institutional training grants (T15, T32, T34, T35, T36, T37, T90/R90, TL1, TL4) must include a letter on institutional letterhead signed by a key institutional leader that describes the institutional commitment to ensuring that proper policies, procedures, and oversight are in place to prevent discriminatory harassment and other discriminatory practices. This policy applies to applications submitted for due dates on or after January 25, 2019. The specific section in which the harassment and discrimination protections should appear is detailed in Notice [NOT-OD-19-029](#).

NIH publishes the [Revised Grants Policy Statement](#) (NIHGPS, rev. October 2018) -The National Institutes of Health (NIH) announces the publication of the revised NIH Grants Policy Statement (NIHGPS, rev. October 2018). This revision is applicable to all NIH grants and cooperative agreements with budget periods beginning on or after October 1, 2018. This revision supersedes, in its entirety, the NIH Grants Policy Statement (October 2017) as a standard term and condition of award. Previous versions of the NIHGPS remain applicable as a standard term and condition for all NIH grants and cooperative agreements with budget periods that began prior to October 1, 2018.

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Stipends, Tuition/Fees and Other Budgetary Levels Effective for Fiscal Year 2019 (Notice Number: [NOT-OD-19-036](#)). - The National Institute of Health (NIH), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) have announced stipend levels for trainees and fellows supported by Kirschstein-NRSA awards in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019. [Click here to view the full notice \(NOT-OD-19-036\)](#) including stipend tables for FY2019 and details on tuition and fees, training related expenses, and institutional allowances for fellows.

NASA Updates

NASA Policy Statement - In September, NASA issued a policy statement on [Anti Discrimination in NASA Conducted or Funded Programs, Activities and Institutions](#). It emphasizes NASA's commitment to antidiscrimination among the institutions that participate in NASA-conducted programs or receive funding from NASA.

myResearch Updates

myResearch Grants

Training for myResearch Grants is ongoing. To sign up for one (or more) of the training sessions below, click this [link](#) and fill out the myResearch Grants Training 2018 Registration Form. If you have any questions about the training dates, please contact the Office of Sponsored Programs at ovpr_myresearchgrants@stonybrook.edu.

myResearch Agreements

At the beginning of October, myResearch Agreements, the latest module of the myResearch suite, was released.

The module provides an electronic contact management system with a single, convenient location for investigators to request, submit and track/monitor research-related agreements, sub-agreements, and contracts managed by The Research Foundation for SUNY at Stony Brook University through the Office of Sponsored Programs. It includes Sponsored Research Agreements, Clinical Trial Agreements, Subawards, Data Use Agreements and other documents useful for review and negotiation. An online manual and video instructions can be found [here](#). We encourage investigators or their teams to provide documents to OSP using the portal.

OSP Monthly Bulletin Registration

We encourage the research community to follow our monthly Bulletin which is used as a tool to communicate OSP news, reminders and updates. The Bulletin is disseminated on an opt-in basis through subscription to our [listserv](#).

Anyone interested can register at any time. Earlier releases can be viewed [here](#).

Who's New in OSP?

Join us in welcoming Kathryn Joines to the OSP family. Kathryn recently joined our team as our Contracts and Clinical Trials Administrator. Her in-depth administrative and contract negotiation experience and knowledge of federal compliance regulations and policies that she has successfully applied in her previous roles in private industry, as well her advanced education in Business Communications make her a valuable asset to our office.

Additional OSP Staff Changes

The OSP team bid farewell to Annette DePietri, Contracts Administrator effective November 2018. Her administrative experience, particularly with New York State awards, will be missed. It is with warmest regards that we wish Anne success as she assumes a new position at SBU.

News from HRS

Human Resource Services

Minimum Wage Rate Schedule

As of December 31, 2018, the minimum wage for Long Island will increase from \$11.00 per hour to \$12.00 per hour. The minimum wage for New York City will increase from \$13.00 per hour to \$15.00 per hour. Any Research Foundation Employee that is below the minimum will be increased to meet the new required hourly rate. For budgeting purposes, please see the chart below for future increases.



Minimum Wage Rate Schedule

Location	12/31/17	12/31/18	12/31/19	12/31/20	12/31/21
Long Island & Westchester	\$11.00	\$12.00	\$13.00	\$14.00	\$15.00
NYC	\$13.00	\$15.00	TBD	TBD	TBD

New York State Paid Family Leave (NYSPFL)

Starting January 1, 2019, the NYSPFL benefit will increase and eligible employees will receive up to 55 percent of their average weekly wage for up to ten weeks, capped at the State's Average Weekly Wage amount, which is currently \$1,357.11. This amount is subject to change annually.

Starting January 1, 2019, the deduction rate will increase to .153 percent of weekly earnings and will be capped annually at \$107.97.

This leave may be taken to care for a family member, bond with a newborn child or for qualified military exigency leave. For more information regarding the NYSPFL, please call HRS Benefits at 2-6180.

2019 Supplemental Retirement Contribution Limit:

For 2019 the IRS maximum contributions to your Tax Deferred Annuity (TDA) account is \$19,000 per year. If you are 50 years of age or older you may contribute an additional \$6,000 per year. To update contribution amounts employees must log into the [RF Employee Self Service Portal](#).

For questions regarding the Open Enrollment Period please call HRS Benefits at (631) 632-6180 or email HRS_Benefits@stonybrook.edu.

Updates to Paid Time Off

Effective January 1, 2019 the Research Foundation will increase the Family Sick day allowance from 15 days to a maximum of 25 days per calendar year. This increased benefit allows employees to use accrued sick time for an immediate family member's illness, injury or death.

In addition, Research Foundation employees may now take up to four hours of paid leave, including travel time, per calendar year to undertake screening for any type of cancer, without charging accruals. For further information contact at (631) 632-6162 or email RF_Payroll@stonybrook.edu.

Contact

To connect with a member of the OVPR Communications team, please email ovpr_communications@stonybrook.edu

Find us on the Web

www.stonybrook.edu/research