Letter from the Vice President for Research

Dear Stony Brook Researchers,
National attention continues to focus on the role of foreign influences in research and protection of intellectual property. Research universities across the US are considering how to respond to growing concerns that federal funding agencies could restrict eligibility for federal grants for certain relationships with foreign institutions. Among the concerns are memos from leadership within the Department of Energy that would prevent faculty who participate in foreign talent programs from obtaining funding. NIH, which had previously raised questions about investigators failing to disclose conflicts of interests in grant proposals, and in other cases inappropriately sharing information from proposal study sections, has now written to several institutions identifying possible violations by NIH-funded investigators. This led MD Anderson Cancer Center to terminate employment of several researchers recently. NSF has been largely silent thus far, but there is now pressure from members of the US Senate for NSF to implement safeguards to protect US investments in research.

I share the same view that many Stony Brook faculty have expressed to me—the importance of preserving an open, free environment for inquiry. However, it's essential that we recognize the increased scrutiny of university research and understand the risks of failing to comply with federal regulations. Loss of a grant or ineligibility to apply for funding because of such violations would be an unacceptable outcome for any of us. To underscore the importance of recognizing potential conflicts relating to research and scholarly activity, the annual conflict of interest disclosure process has been revised to include disclosure of conflicts of commitment, whether in the US or beyond. All of you reading this newsletter will have been reminded to complete their annual disclosure through myResearch during the month of May.

Those who have submitted proposals recently are aware that we introduced the new 5/2 day submission policy in early March. This policy requires PIs to upload completed budgets, budget justifications, the institutional resources section, and any other business or administrative materials five (5) business days before the sponsor's deadline, and route the myResearch proposal for required department- and college-level approvals. The final technical components of the proposal, including the research strategy, abstract and references, must be received by the Office of Sponsored Programs two (2) business days before the sponsor's deadline. The purpose of introducing this policy is

to allow Sponsored Program staff sufficient time to ensure that proposals are compliant with sponsor guidelines and to eliminate failed submissions when proposals are uploaded at the last minute. I am pleased to say that PIs are generally on board with this change, and Sponsored Program staff are working to ensure effective implementation. Elsewhere in this Newsletter, we provide updates on the implementation schedule for the Biosafety and IACUC modules into the myResearch portal.

I'd like to briefly mention the exciting research activities and opportunities that I have been learning about in Stony Brook's Research & Development Park. Following President Stanley's announcement that Economic Development is being re-aligned more closely with our research enterprise, I've had the privilege of meeting and working with faculty and staff in our Centers of Excellence and Centers for Advanced Technology, as well as the outstanding programs supporting business development, incubation, and industry support. Looking forward, we have a goal of expanding connections with researchers on main campus and in health sciences. Joining me is this effort is Peter Donnelly, Associate Vice President for Technology Partnerships. Look for more information describing how to engage in the activities in the R&D Park. I also want to mention the new inventor interface developed by the Office of Technology Licensing and Industry Relationships–the Online Inventor Portal—which will guide researchers on the path to commercializing their technology discoveries. Further details are founds later in this Newsletter.

As always, I like to hear from researchers, so let me know your ideas for improving our support for your research.

Regards,

Richard J. Reeder, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research

Upcoming Events

NSF CAREER Award Services

OPD is launching their annual lineup of services to support faculty who are developing CAREER Award proposals. This comprehensive set of services, which will begin on Wednesday May 29th, will include an overview of the CAREER proposal requirements, a networking lunch with previous awardees, a networking lunch with campus experts in education and outreach, weekly drop-in office hours, writing support, as well as assistance with developing your budget, myResearch, and proofreading. New this year will be 1) a writing strategy workshop specifically designed for the CAREER Award and 2) a mock panel review specifically for first time applicants. These new additional services will be led by Dr. Susan Brennan, Professor of Psychology and former NSF Program Director in the Education and Human Resources Directorate. For more information, and **to register for our services (by May 24th)**, click here. Signing up does not obligate you to attend all sessions or receive all services. We look forward to working with you!

SUNY Department of Defense (DoD) Day - June 13-14 in Arlington, VA

SUNY System Administration, in partnership with the Research Foundation Central Office, is currently organizing the Second Annual SUNY DoD Day, to be held June 13-14 in Arlington, VA. Stony Brook's participation is being organized by the Office of Proposal Development. Read more.

AFRL International Quantum Workshop

The State University of New York and Air Force Research Laboratory are excited to announce the first International Quantum Information Science (QIS) Workshop, July 9-11, 2019 in Utica, NY.

Building on the strength of our SUNY quantum community and system-wide education partnership with Air Force Research Laboratory, the main goals of the workshop are to increase and strengthen international partnerships through an interactive forum for information sharing and collaboration across organizational boundaries. Wide participation is expected from global leaders in QIS across AFRL, AFOSR, SUNY, and select industry partners and collaborators. Event attendance is by invitation only. To express interest or for more information, **please email opd_ovpr@stonybrook.edu by May 22**.

News from Research IT
DoIT Information System (Research)

myResearch Updates

We are pleased to announce the myResearch IRB module went live on February 27th after working closely with our partners in the Office of Research Compliance. This module ensures high quality, compliant reviews with a comprehensive and extensible IRB solution. As of the go-live date, all new or continuing review studies must be initiated in myResearch. IRBNet will still be available to look at older studies.

Our team has continued to work closely with Office of Research Compliance in implementing changes to the Conflict Of Interest module to support the revised disclosure requirements and are now starting work on the new myResearch Safety module focusing first on the Institutional Biosafety Committee process. We anticipate completing the myResearch Safety module in the fourth quarter of this year and will then start on IACUC, the final myResearch module implementation.

Good Luck Tony!
Tony Devietro has retired from Stony Brook after 24 years of service.

His work in the desktop support and Research Foundation Security administration roles along with his friendly disposition are very much missed.

Until we can recruit someone to fill this shoes, please send RF Security Administration forms and requests to OVPR_RF_Access@stonybrook.edu.

We are sad to see him go but wish him the very best in his retirement!

News from OPD

Office of Proposal Development

OVPR Spring 2019 Seed Grants
The Office of the Vice President for Research is proud to announce eight winners of the Spring 2019 OVPR Seed Funding Program Competition. Fifty-six applications were received spanning the School of Medicine, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, College of Engineering, and the College of Arts and Sciences. The application consisted of an abstract, a five-page proposal as well a timeline showing how this seed funding would help to develop a highly competitive proposal for extramural funding. In addition to a peer review panel, finalists presented their research to a panel of senior academic leaders.

To view the winners of the Spring 2019 competition and for information about the Fall 2019 competition dates, click here.

Quantum Immersion Workshop
The Office of Proposal Development staff, along with a team of SBU faculty and BNL scientists, held a Quantum Immersion Workshop on February 25th that brought together over 200 attendees interested in Quantum Information Science and Technology (QIST). Federal agencies have identified this priority focus area for major funding. The press release for the event can be viewed here. The videos of the talk can be viewed on the new Stony Brook Research YouTube Channel.

Research Forum at SUNY DC Day
SUNY DC Day is an annual event that enables senior administrators from across the SUNY system to meet representatives from various federal agencies to learn about their research priorities and future strategies, and to advocate for funding and other issues affecting SUNY campuses. The Research Forum portion of the event was held on April 9, 2019 and featured presentations by the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. To view the presentations, click here.

Fourteen Early Career Faculty Participate in SUNY-wide NSF CAREER Award Workshop

Over 100 participants gathered for the inaugural SUNY NSF-CAREER Proposal Writing Workshop held on March 21-22, 2019 at the University at Albany. Stony Brook University's Office of Proposal Development coordinated the Stony Brook contingent which consisted of fourteen Stony Brook faculty members representing the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, and the School of Medicine. Read more.

News from OTLIR

Office of Technology Licensing and Industry Relations

New Inventor Portal

We are happy to announce the launch of a new Online Inventor Portal, designed to facilitate the protection and disclosure of discoveries by Stony Brook innovators. Going forward, the inventors will create, route, submit, view status and digitally sign all new technology disclosures online.
Please note, as of July 1, 2019, the OTLIR will only be accepting disclosures through the Online Inventor Portal.
Read more

Technocycle, Inc.

Exclusive Option Agreement Executed with Technocycle, Inc. A New York State start-up company executed an option to negotiate an exclusive license agreement to develop and commercialize technology invented by Dr. Avraham Dilmanian and his team to treat Alzheimer's and spinal/brain injury using microbeam irradiation therapy.

Mechanismic, Inc

Stony Brook startup, Mechanismic, Inc., has been awarded a competitive grant from the National Science Foundation. The $225K SBIR award will be used for R&D work on Snappy XO, a DIY robotics education platform that enables students in elementary school through college to design and prototype their own robot kits using a set of unique hardware along with a motion design app.

Qunnect, LLC
Stony Brook startup, Qunnect, LLC. has been awarded a competitive grant from the Department of Energy. The $124K SBIR award will be used for R&D work on quantum communication networks.

Ximbio

The Research Foundation on behalf of Stony Brook University has executed a non-exclusive license agreement with Ximbio, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cancer Research, UK whose mission is to make research reagents of all kinds widely and easily available to accelerate life science research. Read more

OTLIR is pleased to announce the on-boarding of three new hires
Mr. Tashiem Jameel has been working in OTLIR as a research aide since August 2016. Tashiem recently graduated from Stony Brook University with a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) and is currently pursuing his Masters of Science degree at Stony Brook in ECE. Read more

Changes to the Process of Non-Disclosure Agreements
In an effort to reduce the time from request to execution of all clinical trial-related non-disclosure agreements (NDA) the Office of Technology Licensing and Industry Relations (OTLIR) has revised the procedure by which all clinical trial-related NDAs are being processed. OTLIR thanks you for your compliance with the following procedure. Read more

National Academy of Inventors - Stony Brook University Chapter (NAI-SBU Chapter)
The NAI-SBU Chapter held its Annual Meeting on May 1, 2019, at the Charles B. Wang Center. We would like to congratulate the 20 new inductees and the 3 recipients of the Young Academic Inventor's Award! Read more

News from ORC
Office of Research Compliance

Export Control Newsletter

We are excited about the launch of our Export Compliance Newsletter. The first issue, distributed to the campus in December 2018, discussed international travel considerations and accepting foreign national and/or publication restrictions for sponsored research. The second issue, March 2019, discussed international shipment considerations. If you missed them in your email - you can view them here. If you have any questions or concerns about export regulations, please contact Susan Gasparo at 2-1954 or at susan.gasparo@stonybrook.edu.

Launching myRESEARCH IRB
MyRESEARCH IRB was launched on February 27, 2019! MyRESEARCH IRB is an interactive web-based electronic system that captures human subject applications. The system has various views for researchers and study teams, IRB members and Human Research Protection Program staff. The system will capture new studies and any continuing reviews submitted on or after February 27th. Read more

New IRB Meeting Schedule

On March 6, 2019 a new Institutional Review Board (IRB) meeting schedule was implemented. Institutional Review Board meetings will now meet weekly rather than twice a month. There are two additional chairs; Margaret McNurlan, PH.D. and Mary Saltz, M.D. It is hoped that the more frequent meetings will better serve the research community at Stony Brook University. To view the new meeting schedule you can click here

https://research.stonybrook.edu/orc/humans/CORIHS/index.shtml#corihs-submission-deadlines

New Form

A new form is available for reporting adverse events to the Radioactive Drug Research Committee (RDRC). For more information on RDRC reporting responsibilities or to download the form, please visit: https://research.stonybrook.edu/radioactive-drug-metabolism-research

News from OSP
Office of Sponsored Programs

New Facility and Administrative (F&A) Rate Agreement

An updated Facility and Administrative (F&A) Rate Agreement has been posted on OSP's website. Negotiation with our cognizant agency, DHHS, is now complete for F&A rates (effective July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2022). The FY 2020 Fringe Rates have been provisionally approved and are expected to be finalized by July 30, 2019. The approved and provisionally approved rates may be included in proposals effective immediately.

Proposal Submission Deadline Policy

The new 5/2 day policy has been effective since March 4, 2019, and OSP has made every effort to accommodate exceptions through May 3, 2019. As of May 3rd, the new policy has been enforced, and exceptions will require separate approval for limited reasons. You can find the published 5/2 day policy as well as FAQs and tips for successful proposal submission on the OSP website at:
5/2 Submission Policy
Frequently Asked Questions
Tips for Successful Submission

NIH Updates

Guidance on Salary Limitation for Grants and Cooperative Agreements FY 2019
On April 17, 2019, the NIH issued NIH Notice Number: NOT-OD-19-099 announcing that effective January 6, 2019, the Executive Level II salary cap previously set at $189,600 increased to $192,300. Read more

Sample Grant Applications, Summary Statements, and More

If you are new to writing grant applications, sometimes seeing how someone else has presented their idea can help as you are developing your own application. With the gracious permission of successful investigators, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) makes available examples of funded R01, R03, R15, R21, SBIR/STTR, K, and F applications, summary statements, sharing plans, leadership plans, and more. Read more

Redesigned eRA Website Provides New Resources
A newly revamped eRA website that serves as an informational gateway to applicants, grantees and reviewers was launched April 30. The site provides new and updated 'how-to' information on navigating eRA systems like eRA Commons, ASSIST, IAR, xTrain and xTRACT; intuitive navigation; and improved accessibility. Read more

NSF Update

New PAPPG NSF announced a new Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) effective February 25, 2019. Significant changes include:

- Addition of Research.gov as an option for proposal preparation and submission, and proposal file updates;
- Revision of eligibility standards for unaffiliated individuals;
- Specification that conference proposals over $50,000 and all equipment proposals must include the Collaborators and Other Affiliations information in the proposal submission;
- Revision of re-submission guidelines for NSF programs that accept proposals at any time;
- Implementation of NSF's policy on sexual harassment and other forms of harassment, or sexual assault;
- Specification that proposers are required to have a policy or code-of-conduct that addresses sexual harassment, other forms of harassment, and sexual assault, and that includes clear and accessible means of reporting violations of the policy or code-of-conduct. This policy or code-of-conduct must be disseminated to conference participants prior to attendance at the conference as well as made available at the conference itself;
- Emphasis on the importance of training faculty in the responsible and ethical conduct of research;
- Incorporation of existing patent policy into the PAPPG. This policy was previously implemented by regulation at 45 CFR 650; and
- Numerous clarifications and other changes throughout the document.

To learn about the changes in the revised PAPPG (NSF 19-1), please view the latest NSF Proposal & Award Policy Update webinar.

A proposal preparation checklist for standard NSF research proposals subject to PAPPG 19-1 can be accessed on OSP's website. Questions regarding this announcement may be sent to osp@stonybrook.edu.

Grants.gov Users - On May 1, 2019, Adobe Reader Version 9 will no longer be compatible for use with Grants.gov Workspace PDF forms.
This is a reminder to keep your (free) Adobe Acrobat Reader software up-to-date. Remember, also, that applicants may now opt to use browser-based online forms, instead of PDF forms. We recognize that some individuals and organizations may not be able to install the latest versions due to compatibility concerns with other software or organizational IT policies. For more information on compatible versions of Adobe Reader software for use with Grants.gov, please review our Adobe Software Compatibility page. There, you can verify the compatibility of your version of Adobe Reader for use with Grants.gov Workspace PDF forms.

Learn more about Grants.gov Adobe Reader compatibility

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 2019 Registration Form. If you have any questions about the training dates, please contact the Office of Sponsored Programs at ovpr_myresearchgrants@stonybrook.edu.

OSP Monthly Bulletin Registration
The OSP Bulletin has been postponed while undergoing design and distribution changes. OSP will resume sharing news, reminders and sponsor updates under the new format in the near future. The bulletin will continue to be disseminated on an opt-in basis through subscription to our listserv. Anyone interested can register at any time. Earlier releases can be viewed here.

News from HRS
Human Resource Services

Postdoc Special Open Enrollment

The Research Foundation will be holding a Special Open Enrollment Period for postdoctoral employees and postdoctoral fellows. Effective July 1, 2019 there will be new benefit options. This special open enrollment period runs from May 15th - May 30th. Please call the HRS Benefits Office at 632-6180 for more information.

Retirement Plan for Summer Faculty

Research Faculty are eligible for the Research Foundation (RF) Retirement Plan.

The Research Foundation has a one-year vesting period for its TIAA retirement plan. Many are already vested and the appropriate level of contribution will be paid when you move to the Research Foundation payroll.

For faculty not yet vested, there is a one-year waiting period before contributions begin; the SUNY academic year plus the Research Foundation summer employment comprises the year. The Research Foundation may use your State service as a credit towards participation and vesting in the Research Foundation Retirement Plan. Please call the HRS Benefits Office at 632-6180 to inquire if additional forms need to be completed.

Research Foundation Summer Appointments

Research Faculty

The defined summer period begins May 28, 2019, and ends August 24, 2019. These dates apply to anyone with an academic year obligation.

Summer Project Aides

For summer Project Aides (non-SUNY students), the Research Foundation has defined the period of employment to be no more than four months and must be between May 1st and September 30th.

Complete guidelines for Research Foundation Summer Appointments can be found on the Human Resource Services Website.

News from OGM
Office of Grants Management

New Fringe Benefit Rates

The Research Foundation for SUNY (RF) has negotiated a new fringe benefit rate with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for Postdoctoral Associates with an effective date of July 1, 2019. Read more

Determining Allowable Direct Costs

As outlined in the **Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, (2 CFR 200),** all charges using federal funds must fundamentally fulfill the scope of research goals, and therefore be necessary, reasonable and allocable. The Office of Grants Management's approval of direct cost ensures that when audited, all charges have been properly reviewed to ensure compliance with these federal cost accounting standards. Read more

Effort Certification- Academic
With the conclusion of the 2018-2019 Academic year, the Effort Certification period will also come to a close. Within the next several weeks all Principal Investigators will receive an email notification to prompt a review of the recorded effort from all Award/Projects during the academic year. This process requires that PI's verify that the information is accurate, and if not to initiate corrective action. Questions regarding this process should be directed to effortreporting@stonybrook.edu

Research Foundation Report Center Training

The Office of Grants Management would like to extend an invitation to all Principal Investigators and administrators to personal training sessions for best practice use of the Research Foundation's Report Center business system. This training uses current sponsored awards to demonstrate how to view encumbrances and expenditures charged to RF under your direction.

Please contact Cynthia Traub to schedule a day and time.