MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN
Gary Pierzynski, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education
The results of our survey on the SEEDS program, summarized below, provide an opportunity to reflect on the sources of our research funding and how a program like SEEDS fits into everything. There are many ways to look at this picture: for example, using new awards in FY18 totaling roughly $48 M, 42% came from federal funds (with the balance from non-federal sources). Within the federal sources, the top 5 sponsors were USDA—National Institute of Food and Agriculture (32% of federal), Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA, also 32%), Department of Energy—National Energy Technology Lab (8%), USDA—Agricultural Research Service (6%), and National Science Foundation (6%). For non-federal sources, the top 5 funders were the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (37% of non-federal funds), the North Central Soybean Research Program (7%), SmithBucklin (5%), the Ohio Division of Wildlife (4%), and the Ohio Soybean Council (3%). Of course, the amounts and sources will vary from year to year. Both federal and non-federal funds reflect external dollars coming to OSU to leverage our investment in faculty time, staff, and facilities to do valuable research work.

For comparison, we invest approximately $1 M in the SEEDS program annually, representing about 2% of new grant dollars each year. This investment reflects internal resources (so there is no direct leveraging of faculty time, staff, or facilities), however indirectly, we hope that SEEDS funding makes our faculty more competitive for external funding. This can happen in a few ways, including providing preliminary data that can be used in proposals, forming effective interdisciplinary teams or industry partnerships that can attract external funding, or helping to launch the career of a new faculty hire. We are fortunate to have the resources for such a program and must them wisely. The SEEDS survey results show we have had a good return on our investment, though some improvements are needed. In addition, I have several ideas on how we can enhance the program with additional internal funding and plan on working with the CFAES Research Advisory Committee to implement changes. Thank you to all who responded to the survey and we look forward to an improved SEEDS program.

SEEDS Survey Response Summary
In December 2018, our office developed a survey to collect feedback about SEEDS: The CFAES Research Competitive Grants Program. We received over 120 responses and would like to share some of the highlights from the survey.

Out of respondents, 69 had received a SEEDS grant in the past. The majority of respondents were either Assistant Professors (52) or Full Professors (41). The primary benefits gained from SEEDS support appear to be peer reviewed articles (53), abstracts and conference proceedings (52), student funding (51), extramural funding (46), and other posters/presentations (45). Additionally, there were several comments about SEEDS funding allowing researchers to leverage an industry match or gain preliminary data to secure extramural funding.

There were many responses on how the program can be improved, including simplifying the application, increasing the amount of funding per award, and improving the review process. Specifically with regards to the review process, there were multiple comments about receiving poor reviewer feedback. To address this for the current round of funding, we strongly emphasized to the reviewer panel the importance of providing quality feedback to applicants so they are able to understand why they may not have been funded and how the proposal may be improved.

In forthcoming newsletters, we will continue to address some of the comments and misconceptions about the SEEDS Program. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the SEEDS Coordinator Melissa Burant.

Save the Date!
The 2019 CFAES Annual Research Conference will be held in Columbus on April 22.
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

OSU LIMITED SUBMISSION OPPORTUNITY—ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION (RWJF)
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) seeks to develop and amplify the evidence around a set of approaches that improve community health and well-being and advance health equity, while also addressing climate change adaptation or mitigation. Eligible, local approaches can focus on one or more of a range of determinants of health including, but not limited to: air quality; energy sources; transportation or mobility design; food and water systems; housing; and health systems. Grant funds will support research and evaluation activities to develop the best possible evidence highlighting what is working well with the select approach and why; where there have been opportunities and challenges; and how other communities may learn from this approach to tackle similar challenges. All interventions eligible for this funding must have been implemented and active for at least one year as of the date of the application.
Deadline: February 8, 2019

OSU LIMITED SUBMISSION OPPORTUNITY—THE CONSERVATION, FOOD AND HEALTH FOUNDATION
The Conservation, Food and Health Foundation seeks to protect natural resources, improve the production and distribution of food, and promote public health in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. The foundation supports projects that demonstrate local leadership and promote professional development in the conservation, agricultural, and health sciences; develop the capacity of local organizations; and address a particular problem or question in the field. It prefers to support projects that address under-funded issues and geographic areas.
Required brief proposal due February 8, 2019; full proposal deadline for invited applicants April 3, 2019.

INTERNAL OPPORTUNITY—LINKAGE AND LEVERAGE SEED GRANTS
The Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation (InFACT) invites you to submit proposals for our Linkage and Leverage seed grant program. Teams of faculty, staff, students, and external partners may apply, with one member of the team identified as the project director. Questions may be directed to Dana Hilfinger, InFACT Program Coordinator (hilfinger.8@osu.edu). InFACT will offer 2 grant cycles during the 2018-2019 academic year. Grant proposals received by the following deadlines will be considered for funding, subject to the availability of remaining uncommitted funds:
Deadline: Cycle 1: February 15, 2019; Cycle 2: April 19, 2019

FOUNDATION—BURROUGHS WELLCOME FUND, CAREER GUIDANCE FOR TRAINEES GRANT
The Career Guidance for Trainees (CGT) program provides grants of $30,000 to $50,000 over a one-year period to support demonstration projects that will model affordable, transferable approaches to improving trainees’ readiness for stable, fulfilling careers. Moving from training to satisfying employment, whether within academe or in other realms, can require skills not always learned at the bench. Helping trainees understand, acquire, and demonstrate skills that make them ready for complex careers should be the goal of submitted projects. They will support pilot projects that demonstrate practical approaches to readying scientists for career transitions. Projects may be meant to enhance trainees’ understanding of jobs beyond the Academy, or of career trajectories within academe, or of the flexibility of scientists’ intellectual skill set.
Deadline: March 7, 2019

INTERNAL OPPORTUNITY—INSTITUTE FOR POPULATION RESEARCH (IPR)
The IPR offers seed grants to nurture research projects consistent with IPR’s mission to promote population science research. IPR favors multi-disciplinary collaboration and especially encourages applications from junior faculty, and from faculty new to population and health research. Seed grant projects can be 1) small and focused or 2) large multi-investigator projects.
Deadline: March 25, 2019

DOE—RESEARCH ON WATERSHEDS
The Department of Energy announced a plan to provide $3.6 million for university research aimed at achieving a more comprehensive understanding of the complex subsurface processes, including water flows and intricate biological and chemical interactions with water, soil, and minerals in watershed systems.
Deadline: March 29, 2019

INDUSTRY—NON-DESTRUCTIVE, IN-FIELD MEASUREMENT OF CORN STALK INTEGRITY
Every year stalk rot diseases and stalk boring insect infestations can result in serious damage to corn crops and significant yield losses. Corteva (the Agriculture Division of DowDuPont) is seeking non-confidential proposals describing a plan to develop and evaluate corn stalk pith damage phenotyping methods that meet certain expectations (which you can read on their website). The proposal should include a high-level timeline to a proof of concept within a 12-month period and a breakdown of the estimated project cost. Up to $50,000 is available for each award.
Deadline: April 1, 2019
January Edition of Grant Writing News
The latest issue of Grant Writing News, The Office of Research’s is available. Provides a campus-wide subscription to this excellent newsletter. Some of the articles include: Tips of successful foundation funding; Scheduling the production of your NSF early career proposal; To review, re-write, or begin anew?; and Agency research news, reports, workshops & roadmaps. Visit http://go.ou.edu/grantwritingnews (login required) to access the current issue.

Common Rule Updates from the Office of Responsible Research Practices
The December 2018 issue of the Human Subjects Research Newsletter outlines all the updates to human and animal research based on the updates to the common rule. All updates became effective January 21, 2019.

The Ohio Innovation Exchange
The Ohio Innovation Exchange (OIEX) was launched in September 2018 by the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE). This resource connects industry with faculty, students, equipment, and facilities available at Ohio’s research universities. OIEX consolidates these academic resources from multiple universities into a single, searchable, and easily accessible web portal, allowing industry to find expertise to advance products, services, and research. An initiative of ODHE and originally developed by four Ohio universities with industry support from the Ohio Manufacturing Institute, OIEX is now a platform providing industry in search of expertise with access to more than 13,000 faculty and 1000 resources from 6 Ohio Universities (including OSU). From research partnerships, intellectual property, and technology licensing opportunities, to business development and even student internships, OIEX brings those connections to bear.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

HUMAN SUBJECTS RESEARCH AND GRANTS
FEBRUARY 7, 9-10:30AM
1080 SMITH SEMINAR ROOM, PHYSICS RESEARCH BUILDING
In this 1.5 hour session geared toward staff, staff from the Office of Responsible Research Practices explore the intersection of human subjects protections and proposals. Learn about the types of human subjects research, the protocol screening and review process, the importance of award and protocol screening and review process, the importance of award and protocol congruency, and PI responsibilities. Register via BuckeyeLearn.

INTRODUCTION TO THE RED TEAM REVIEW PROCESS
FEBRUARY 19, 10-11:30AM
VIDEO-LINKED: 130 RESEARCH SERVICES (WOOSTER) - 250A AGRICULTURAL ADMINISTRATION 250A (COLUMBUS)
In this session, we provide an overview of the “Red Team,” a critical review step in the proposal development process. We will discuss the importance, timing, and composition of the review, as well as how this review process differs from others, such as peer reviews. We describe the Red Team stages, roles, and responsibilities while highlighting the key features and benefits of the process. Note this session is 1.5 hours. Please register if you plan to attend.
Presenters: Kathy Renick and Ruth Ann Henderson from the Proposal Development Office

MAKING "CENTS" OF NIIF BUDGETS (BUDGET BASICS)
FEBRUARY 26, 1-2PM, 126 RESEARCH SERVICES (WOOSTER)
FEBRUARY 28, 9-10AM, 120 PARKER FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BUILDING (COLUMBUS)
This workshop will provide an overview of the expenses most commonly requested in grant applications, specifically focusing on NIIF applications. We will also discuss critical issues associated with developing budgets, including direct costs, allowable costs, and budget justifications. Please register if you plan to attend.
Presenter: Lori Kaser, Grants and Contracts Administrator

ADDRESSING EQUITY AND INCLUSION IN YOUR RESEARCH MENTORING
FEBRUARY 28, 11:30-2:00PM
BRUTUS BUCKEYE, 3RD FLOOR OF OHIO UNION (COLUMBUS)
During this workshop, participating faculty will learn how to acknowledge the impact of conscious and unconscious assumptions, privilege, stereotype threat, and biases in the mentor-mentee relationship. Participants will use culturally responsive mentoring principles to guide them in talking about cultural diversity matters with their mentees. Through group discussion, case studies, and role play, mentors have the opportunity to learn and practice mentoring skills that deal with diversity matters. This workshop is designed for mentors of undergraduate and graduate students, postdocs, and junior faculty.

Prior to attending the workshop, participants will need to complete a 30 minute online module. This awareness-raising activity will help mentors take full advantage of the workshop. This type of preparation is required for some faculty who plan to submit nominations for the 2020 President’s Postdoctoral Scholars Program. Please register if you plan to attend.

See a full listing of upcoming events on our webpage.
Request for Comments on Laboratory Animal Welfare
The NIH is seeking input on the Reducing Administrative Burden to Researchers for Animal Care and Use section in the research draft report, released in November 2018. The report describes proposed actions the group has identified to reduce administrative burden on investigators while maintaining the integrity and credibility of research findings and protection of research animals. Comments must be submitted electronically by February 5, 2019. Please direct any questions to Patricia Brown at the NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) at olaw@od.nih.gov.

POLICY OVERVIEW

What is a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA)?
Research materials are often exchanged between The Ohio State University and other academic institutions or commercial entities. When a researcher would like to either provide materials to an outside party or receive materials from an outside party, a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) must be completed.

Why is it important?
This agreement defines the rights, responsibilities, and obligations of both the providing and receiving parties regarding issues such as permitted use, ownership, publications, intellectual property, and liability in the transfer of research materials. This agreement explains things such as limits on the use of materials, who owns the rights to inventions, or any confidentiality terms, all of which are negotiated to protect both parties.

How do I establish an MTA?
All incoming and outgoing MTAs must be evaluated and signed by an authorized representative from the Technology Commercialization Office.

For sending material out, check whether or not you can use the Simple MTA which has been designed to expedite the process. If the situation does not meet the criteria that would permit the use of the Simple MTA, then submit your request via the Agreement Request Forms online.

For incoming requests, include a copy of the MTA you received for review, negotiation, and signature. The questionnaire will provide essential details to properly assess your request. Please note: Even if you have been asked to sign an MTA by another party and/or provided a signature line on the MTA, an investigator cannot sign the MTA.

RECENT AWARDS


Laura Lindsey, HCS; $14,979: On-farm evaluation of wheat and barley stand, Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association.

Leah McHale, HCS; $140,000: Breeding and development of a breadth of soybean CVs, Ohio Soybean Council.

The GDSU is a free service provided to all CFAES faculty and staff. Our specialists offer guidance to researchers in planning and conceptualizing externally funded research projects, finding funding opportunities, and submitting well-crafted and competitive applications. For more information, see our webpage: grants.cfaes.ohio-state.edu.