Message from Gary Pierzynski, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education

Has it Been a Year Already?

As we roll into July, I mark my first anniversary as Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education, and Director of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station. That doesn’t seem possible, but the calendar doesn’t lie! In the past year, I have learned about our great organization and worked to implement the recommendations from the NCURA Review that took place way back in the fall of 2016. I feel fortunate for the resources we have to work with including budgets, land, facilities, supportive stakeholders, a rich culture for transdisciplinary research, and of course the great people. We have incredibly talented faculty, students, and staff that accomplish great things. I would like to specifically call out the GDSU staff that I "inherited" upon my arrival: Lori Kaser, Pam Schlegel, Melissa Burant, and Kayla Arnold, all of whom have done an excellent job of helping me and enhancing our research enterprise. We’ve accomplished a great deal in the past year, and it would not have been possible without these four individuals. Watch for future information about our enhancement of GDSU to better serve our faculty, staff, and students.

There were also a couple of unexpected events during the past year that bear mentioning here. We underwent two routine audits—one Civil Rights Compliance Review by USDA and an internal audit of our research administration. Additional details on the outcomes from the audits will be released in the coming months. The audits reinforced that when we accept grants (in particular federal funding) we have obligations that we must fulfill in order to remain eligible for that funding. Those obligations include ensuring that resources are distributed in compliance with important civil rights legislation, that faculty and staff have accurate conflict of interest statements on file as well as properly approved consulting requests, and that funds are expended with proper authorizations and with the intent under which they were received. Our office strongly supports these requirements, even when they might be viewed as “annoying,” because they confirm our commitment to equity and inclusion, while ensuring that we are conducting unbiased research with proper financial management. We ask for your continued cooperation on these efforts.

Finally, I’d like to reflect on a recent experience doing “agency visits” in Washington, DC (as part of my leadership role with the American Society of Agronomy) where we spent a half day visiting multiple Directorates at NSF. It was interesting to hear them describe “convergence science” as a focus for current research funding. Convergence science is defined as applying multiple disciplines to solve vexing problems for society. Sound familiar? It should, as OSU has been working this way for some time now, and this is clearly a strength for CFAES. I bring this point to light in case you had not considered NSF as a potential source of funding. NSF is eager to work with scientists having skill sets that closely match our CFAES faculty. If you are interested, remember that their programs change and evolve on a regular basis. New programs are created with a built-in sunset provision and portions of discontinued programs may appear elsewhere. One must frequently check in with NSF to stay current on funding opportunities. I look forward to continuing to work with the CFAES research community and hope everyone is having a good summer.

Research Data Management

Research data is defined as “units of information observed, collected, or created in the course of research.” Data management is the process by which you control your data. Managing research data means knowing what you have, where and how you got it, annotating and documenting it, keeping it secure and intact, sharing it, getting credit for sharing, and/or preserving it in an archive. For a great discussion on why research data is so important, watch this TEDx Talk, Rethinking Research Data by Kristen Briney.

SAVE THE DATE

The 2020 CFAES Annual Research Conference will be held on Tuesday, April 21 at the Wooster Campus Conference Center. We hope to see you there!
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

OSU LIMTED SUBMISSION OPPORTUNITY—STANLEY SMITH HORTICULTURAL TRUST
The Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust supports education and research in ornamental horticulture through grants to botanical gardens, arboreta, universities, and other charitable organizations strongly-aligned with its funding interests. If interested please contact Jeff Agnoli. You will need to prepare a 3-page or less description of how your project addresses this program's guidelines and attach a copy of the PI's curriculum vitae.
Deadline: Letters of Intent, July 15, 2019; Full Proposals, August 15, 2019

INDUSTRY–CENTER FOR PRODUCE SAFETY, WATER TREATMENT BASELINE PROGRAM
Microbiological quality characterization and management of agricultural water (ag water) is immensely important to preventative food safety systems. The purpose of this RFP is to solicit proposals detailing administrative management, plans to conduct required baseline datasets, and proposed associated relevant research activities. Any proposal must address a region specifically and provide guidance to the produce industry for technical implementation and knowledge of the efficacy of antimicrobial treatment of ag water.
Deadline: August 20, 2019

USDA-NIFA—AFRI EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (EWD)
This Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) program focuses on developing the next generation of research, education, and extension professionals in the food and agricultural sciences. In FY 2019, EWD invites applications in five areas: professional development for agricultural literacy; training of undergraduate students in research and extension; fellowships for predoctoral candidates; fellowships for postdoctoral scholars; and a brand new program for agricultural workforce training. Please refer to Parts I, c and IV, c of the Request for Applications for more details.
Deadline: August 22, 2019

THE US-ISRAEL BINATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (BARD) FUND
Conducted cooperatively by American and Israeli scientists, BARD projects cover all phases of agricultural research and development, including integrated projects and strategic or applied research. Cooperative research entails active collaboration between Israeli and American scientists. The following research areas were identified by the Board of Directors as top priorities for the coming years: Increased Efficiency of Agricultural Production; Protection of Plants and Animals Against Biotic and Abiotic Stress; Food Quality, Safety and Security; Water Quality and Quantity; Functional Genomics and Proteomics; Sensors and Robotics; and Sustainable Bio-Energy Systems. Award duration is typically 3 years, but one year feasibility studies are also funded. Maximum award: $310,000 for a 3-year grant. Contact Mark Erbaugh at CFAES International Programs for additional information.
Deadline: September 16, 2019

LIMITED SUBMISSION, NSF—THE MAJOR RESEARCH INSTRUMENTATION PROGRAM (MRI)
The MRI serves to increase access to shared scientific and engineering instruments for research and research training in our Nation’s institutions of higher education, museums and science centers, and non-profit organizations. This program especially seeks to improve the quality and scope of research and research training in science and engineering, by providing shared instrumentation that fosters the integration of research and education in research-intensive learning environments. If you are interested in applying, please contact Jeff Agnoli.
Deadline: September 16, 2019

FULLBRIGHT AMERICAN SCHOLAR AWARDS 2020/2021
These Fulbright Awards provide approximately 50 teaching and/or research grants to U.S. faculty and experienced professionals in a wide variety of academic and professional fields. Applicants can propose projects for a period of 4, 9, or 12 months. The dates of the awards should coincide with the academic year of the host institution. Applications are now being accepted for awards to be taken up in the 2020-2021 Academic Year.
Deadline: September 16, 2019

USDA-NIFA—AFRI FOUNDAIONAL AND APPLIED SCIENCE PROGRAM
The Foundational and Applied Science Program supports grants in six Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) priority areas to advance knowledge in both fundamental and applied sciences important to agriculture. The six priority areas are: Plant Health and Production and Plant Products; Animal Health and Production and Animal Products; Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health; Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment; Agriculture Systems and Technology; and Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities. See Foundational and Applied Science RFA for specific details. NOTE: The RFP covers two funding cycles, 2019 and 2020 (a first for NIFA).
Deadline: Varies by program area
USDA-NIFA—North Central Regional Aquaculture Center (NCRAC), Out of Cycle Proposals
Out-of-Cycle Projects are 1-year projects designed to address immediate research or extension/outreach needs or an opportunity that arises outside of the regular funding cycle (up to $35,000). Proposed research or project must support commercial aquaculture industry in the 12-state North Central Region. Individuals who wish to submit their proposal need to contact the Director’s office for initial review.
Deadline: Ongoing

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Grant Writing: An Introduction
July 16, 10:00-12:00PM, Research Commons, 3rd Floor, 18th Avenue Library (Columbus)
This session will address some of the similarities and differences between the funding processes for federal/state agencies and private foundations. Topics include: best practices for engaging with sponsors; navigating the OSU research administration, proposal development, and submission process; drafting a compelling narrative; seeking funding; and examples of writing that is both persuasive and clear. Register online.

Ohio Ethics Law
July 17, 1:00-3:00PM, Suite 430, 1590 N High St. (Columbus)
This two-hour in-person case study based workshop covers the major requirements of the Ohio Ethics Law which applies to all faculty and staff. This workshop is led by ethics experts from Academic Affairs, Medical Center Compliance, and University Compliance and Integrity. Register via BuckeyeLearn.

Corporate Research Engagement 101
August 8, 2:00-3:30PM, Research Commons, 3rd Floor, 18th Avenue Library (Columbus)
Many factors are driving an increase in engagement between universities and industry. Both entities must overcome the cultural and communications differences that often impair industry/university partnerships of all types and undercut their potential. It is important for University researchers to understand the extent to which successful relationships are dependent on an understanding of corporate decision making, the ability to manage expectations, and finding win-win value propositions on the industry/university engagement continuum. Register online.

See a full listing of upcoming events on our webpage.

NSF Biographical Sketch Update
The National Science Foundation (NSF) has designated the National Institutes of Health’s SciENcv (Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae) as an NSF-approved format for submission of biographical sketches and is encouraging its use to prepare a biosketch for inclusion in proposals to NSF. According to the current Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) (NSF 19-1), a biosketch is limited to two pages and is required for each individual identified as senior personnel on a proposal. A separate biosketch PDF file or other NSF-approved format must be uploaded in FastLane for each designated individual (see PAPPG Chapter II.C.2.f). The biosketch and file format requirements also apply to NSF proposals submitted through Research.gov and Grants.gov.

Avoid and Recognize Grant Scams
If an individual contacts you about an opportunity to obtain free money in the form of a grant from the federal government, be extremely wary. You might be a target of a scam. The allure of so-called “free money” from the federal government has enabled scam artists to prey on people’s hopes by promising access to grants – often for a fee. In reality, federal grants are rarely awarded to individuals seeking personal benefits, and applying for a grant is completely free.

Any of the following statements should put you on high alert:
• "Great news! You are eligible to receive a government grant."
• "For a small fee, you can obtain a government grant."
• "The Federal Bureau of Grant Awards has awarded you a $8,000 grant."
• "This type of federal grant does not require an application."
• "You won the government grant in a drawing."
• "You have been awarded a federal grant that you can spend any way you like."

If you think you may have been a victim of a government grant scam, file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission online, or call toll-free, 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357); TTY: 1-866-653-4261. You can also report grant-related scam attempts to the Health and Human Services (HHS) Fraud Hotline at 1-800-447-8477. Learn more online.
POLICY OVERVIEW

What are fringe rates?
In addition to non cash benefits that employees receive, they also receive fringe benefits which include health plan expenses, pension plan expenses and workman's compensation expenses, among others. Typically, fringe rates are calculated as a percentage of the salary paid to an employee and is based on his/ her job classification.

Why are they important?
When budgeting for personnel on federal grants, OSU is permitted to charge a federally negotiated rate to cover these fringe benefits. Each year, OSU negotiates new fringe rates with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These rates are used to calculate costs for grants, contracts, and other agreements with the federal government from Sept 1st to Aug 31st of that year.

Updated fringe rates for Sponsored Projects budgeting, FY2020
Beginning in September, the following rates will be used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty, regular rate</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined staff</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-student special/ faculty, off-duty</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Highlighted Consultation Service: Human Subjects Research (IRB)
Human Subjects research can have additional reviews and requirements. Ohio State's Office of Responsible Research Practices provides faculty, staff, and students with assistance related to conducting human subjects research and navigating the Institutional Review Board (IRB) process.

If you have questions, they offer consultations weekly:
Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m.
To schedule a consultation, visit: go.osu.edu/rc-irb.

Latest Edition of Research Development and Grant Writing News, now available
The Office of Research provides a campus-wide subscription to this excellent newsletter. The writers are experts in proposal development and the content is helpful to those preparing a grant proposal. The recommendations are especially helpful to those who are new to grant writing or want to enhance their proposal-writing skills. The June 2019 issue includes topics such as: Don’t Let the Organizational Ghosts of Proposals Past Haunt Your New Proposal; White Papers and Concept Papers Are Often the First Step to Funding Success; and Know the Type of Project You’re Proposing. Visit go.osu.edu/grantwritingnews to view the current issue (note: login required).

Being a Principal Investigator: Roles, Responsibilities and Resources
The Office of Research has launched a new online training to provide guidance for principal investigators and their staff. Being a Principal Investigator: Roles, Responsibilities and Resources is strongly recommended for principal investigators, but will benefit all members of the research community. The course content explores the lifecycle of a sponsored project, covers research administration and compliance processes and provides access to many useful resources and tools. To access the training log in to BuckeyeLearn and search “Being a Principal Investigator: Roles, Responsibilities and Resources.” Click “request” and select the course from your transcript to launch the training. The course takes approximately 45 minutes to complete. For more information contact Jeff Agnoli, Senior Staff Training and Development Specialist for the OSU Office of Research.

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

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information, visit cfaesdiversity.osu.edu. For an accessible format of this publication, visit cfaes.osu.edu/accessibility.

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

CFAES.OSU.EDU ©2019, THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY