



FOCUS ON RESEARCH June 2009 Newsletter

Office of Research Administration

Our Mission

The Office of Research Administration provides support to University faculty and staff in identifying funding opportunities, assisting with proposal development and the financial administration of awards in support of the University's scholarly activity and research mission.

In This Issue

Recovery Act Funding

Recent Awards

In the Spotlight: Recovery Act Funds Ferreira and Maiocco, Jenkins Wins Recognition

Upcoming Recovery Act Funding Opportunities

Andrew Karberg Named Director of Research Compliance

Online IRB and IACUC Training

Certifying Time and Effort

Cross Campus Collaborations in Civic Engagement and Green Jobs

GENIUS

Grants.gov Update

NSF Realigns Chemistry Division

American Reinvestment and Recovery Act Update

The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) signed into law on February 17, 2009 provides substantial funding to the federal agencies to help stimulate the economic recovery of the country. Most of the agencies have announced plans and have begun to publicize funding opportunities. Many of the opportunities will have short turn-around times. Now is the time for researchers to formulate ideas and contact program officers about those ideas. Some of the agencies, including the NSF, are going to go back to previously reviewed applications to fund highly rated applications for which there had not been sufficient funding to award. Contacting program officers about any such unfunded applications is also recommended.

The Office of Research Administration is here to assist faculty who are pursuing ARRA funding. The [ORA website](#) has been updated with links to the Recovery Act website, the recovery websites of many of the federal agencies in addition to general information regarding the ARRA. Grants.gov has provided links to all agencies Recovery Act web sites and funding opportunities at

<http://www.grants.gov/applicants/recovery.jsp> .

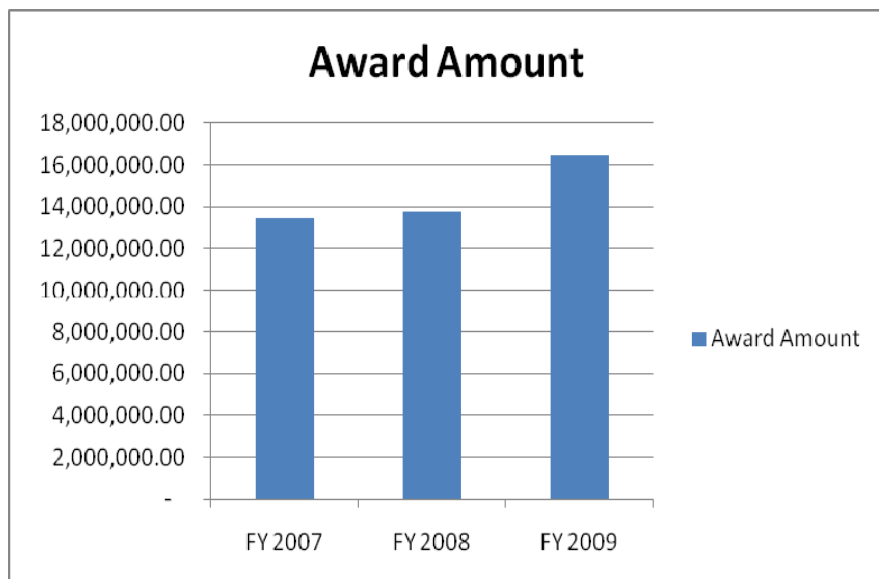
The ARRA requires special monitoring and reporting to ensure that expenditures meet the Act's goals which include preservation and creation of jobs and investments in infrastructure to provide long term economic benefits. The Office of Management and Budget has just issued additional guidance to the heads of the federal agencies on meeting these requirements. ORA will develop procedures as needed to ensure compliance with the reporting requirements and will continue to publish and communicate the guidelines as well as funding and other updates.

In closing, a reminder that now is the time to discuss ideas with program officers as well as department chairs and deans in order to be ready when an opportunity becomes available. The ARRA funding provides us with a tremendous opportunity to expand our research base and infrastructure.

July - March Awards Received

The value of awards received during a given period is determined by the amount of funding released by the sponsoring agency. This amount may be different than the actual total award amount if funding is released incrementally. The amount of awards received through March 31, 2009 is \$16,427,380. This represents an increase of 20% over the amount received through March 31, 2008 and an increase of 22% over the amount received through March 31, 2007.

These award figures include all awards received through sponsored projects including public service and training as well as research.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT:
Recovery Act Awards
to UMass Dartmouth

Ferreira Lab

Although many ARRA grant programs will announce awards this summer and early fall, UMass Dartmouth has received notice of the following awards that were previously unfunded or in the pipeline.

Tracie Ferreira, Assistant Professor, Biology was awarded \$201,000 from the National Institute of Health for her proposal "Disruption of Craniofacial Morphogenesis in a Novel Zebra Fish Mutant" under NIH's Academic Research Enhancement Program. Craniofacial birth defects strike an average of 1 in 750 newborns and they are for the most part multifactorial in their pathogenesis having both genetic and environmental components. Dr. Ferreira's lab uses the zebrafish as a model for vertebrate development, and specifically to study Neural Crest Cell (NCC) development and specification as it relates to craniofacial development. Her research will help fill a gap in the identity and timing of the molecular signals required for neural tube closure and the signals required for neural crest to adopt specific fates.

Lead Program

Carmen Maiocco, Director, Lead Program in the College of Nursing, received renewal of Department of Housing and Urban Development pass-through funding from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. His three year, \$745,000 grant provides core funding for the New Bedford Childhood Lead Paint Poisoning Prevention Program. It enables the Lead Program to continue its work of reducing lead poisoning through testing, residential monitoring and paint removal, and public education.

Award for Service
Learning Research

Shannon Jenkins, Assistant Professor, Political Science won the Best Paper Award in Political Science Education at the American Political Science Association's 2008 conference. Titled "*The Impact of In-Class Service-learning on Cognitive and Affective Learning Outcomes*," the paper presented results from an Education Politics and Policy class where students tutored at a Title 1 school in New Bedford as part of their class commitment. The tutoring project was made possible by a Chancellor's Public Service Grant. In its commendation the APSA Award Committee said, "The committee appreciated how Jenkins's investigation can feed directly into enhanced classroom performance."

Upcoming Recovery Act Opportunities

NIH Academic Research
Enhancement Award

*Recovery Act Limited Competition: Academic Research
Enhancement Award (R15) [RFA-OD-09-007](#)*

Proposal due date: September 24, 2009

AREA grants support small research projects in the biomedical and behavioral sciences conducted by faculty and students in health professional schools, and other academic components that have not been major recipients of NIH research grant funds. The three goals

of the AREA program are: to support meritorious research, to strengthen the research environment of the institution, and to expose students to research and encourage students to continue their studies in the biomedical sciences. The AREA or R15 grant is a research award and not a training award, so the focus is not on course work but on hands-on meritorious research.

The Recovery Act Limited competition maintains the same objectives as the AREA Program but increases the funding limit to \$300,000 in direct costs for up to three years, and extends eligibility to institutions that have received no more than \$6 million dollars in funding from the NIH. Approximately 50 awards will be made.

**NIST Measurement
Science & Engineering
Research Grants**

National Institute of Standards and Technology (Commerce)
[Recovery Act Measurement Science and Engineering Research Grants Program](#)

Proposal due date: July 13, 2009; 3:00 pm

This program supports research grants and cooperative agreements in measurement science and engineering in the following six focus areas:

- energy
- environment and climate change,
- information technology/cybersecurity,
- biosciences/healthcare,
- manufacturing
- physical infrastructure

NIST anticipates funding 20-60 proposals at the level of \$500,000 to \$1,500,000 per award for a project period of up to 3 years.

NSF CAREER Expansion

National Science Foundation is using Recovery Funds to expand the *Early Career Development Program* ([CAREER](#))

Proposal Due Date: July 21- 23 depending on division

Funding of new Principal Investigators and high-risk, high-return research will be top priorities.

CAREER awards support junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent education and the integration of education and research within the context of the mission of their institution.

All grants issued with Recovery Act funds will be standard grants with durations of up to 5 years. This approach will allow NSF to structure a sustainable portfolio.

**Now on SPIN -
Selected Funding
Opportunities**

- NSF's Division of Environmental Biology [Ecosystem Science](#) and [Evolutionary Processes](#)
- National Geographic Society [Field Research and Exploration](#) limited to the following disciplines: anthropology, archaeology, astronomy, biology, botany, geography, geology, oceanography,

paleontology, and zoology.

- [Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Transcoop Programme](#) transatlantic research cooperation between German, American and/or Canadian scholars in the humanities, social sciences, economics, and law
- American Translators Association [Lewis Galantière Award](#) bestowed biennially for a distinguished book-length literary translation from any language, except German, into English
- [Mechanisms, Measurement, and Management of Pain in Aging: from Molecular to Clinical](#) RO3 small research grant; R01 Research and R21 Exploratory also open for this topic.
- [Innovations in Biomedical Computational Science and Technology](#) an R21 Exploratory; RO1 Research is also open for this topic.
- [Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award Short-Term Institutional Research Training Grants \(T35\)](#) enhance research training opportunities for students interested in careers in biomedical, behavioral and clinical research.
- [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) Human Capital, Pioneer and Vulnerable Populations solicitations
- [United States Institute of Peace Annual Grant Competition](#) research, education and training, and information dissemination in the areas of international peace and conflict resolution.
- [DARPA Mathematical Challenges](#) innovative and revolutionary research in 23 mathematical challenges to strengthen DoD's scientific and technological capabilities.

Why Comply?

The rules, regulations, policies and guidelines surrounding research compliance are in place to engender public trust in the research process and faith in research findings. The ethical conduct of research ensures humane treatment of its subjects and produces valid results free of conflicts of interest. Funding organizations and federal and state agencies require numerous certifications and assurances as a part of the proposal submission and award acceptance process. Federal regulations stipulate that institutions applying for federal funds assure the appropriate federal agency that certain conditions and policies are in place and implemented at the applicant institution. However, compliance is not limited to sponsored projects and all faculty should be aware of compliance requirements.

Andrew Karberg Joins UMD as Director of Research Compliance

Andrew Karberg joins UMass Dartmouth this month as Director Research Compliance reporting to Assistant Vice Chancellor of Research Development Lou Petrovic. With experience in compliance review at University of Texas Austin and a law degree from Roger Williams University, Andrew's responsibilities will encompass implementing federal, state, local and institutional

policies and guidelines involving research with human subjects, animal care and use, biohazardous materials, and export controls.

Andrew will also be the University liaison to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). The IRB is responsible for protecting the rights and welfare of human subjects. The Board is made up of eight faculty members, four appointed by the Faculty Senate and four by the Chancellor and one community member. Members serve a three year term. The IACUC has general oversight responsibility for the UMD animal welfare program and the institution's animal facilities, including satellite facilities.

On Line Training for Research with Human and Animal Subjects

On-line training for research with human and animal subjects is offered online through the Collaborative Institutional Training initiative or [CITI program](#). Faculty and students working with human or animal subjects must complete the online course before protocols are approved.

Are You Certifiable? - Time and Effort on Sponsored Projects

Paperless Certification

As previously announced, the UMass system is implementing an electronic effort certification (ECRT) system. All of the campuses including the central campus have been involved in this project which is nearing completion. Instead of paper and pen reports, all PIs and/or Project Directors will be required to certify their effort as well as that of staff on their grants through this web based system.

The first certification period for 7/1/08 through 12/31/08 is now open for researchers at UMD. See training documents on the ORA website at http://www.umassd.edu/grants_contracts/effortcertification.cfm. In addition ORA staff is available to assist and provide either group or individual training.

Some frequently asked questions follow:

Why certify effort?

The federal government requires that effort certification be performed for all employees who work on grants or contribute effort on grants. This documentation supports the charges to the grant or effort contributed to the grant as reasonable in relation to the effort expended on the project. This requirement is set forth in the Federal Office of Budget and Management Circular A-21. In addition, the requirement is that 100% of each individual's effort be certified. This is why you will see non-grant effort on the cards.

Who is required to certify?

All faculty paid on grants must certify their effort. They must also certify their effort expended on grants as committed cost share. PIs must also certify the effort of all non-faculty employees working on their grants or contributing effort as committed cost share.

Certifying Cost Share

Committed effort is any effort promised to the sponsor for which the University is not being reimbursed by the sponsor.

How often is effort certified?

Effort will be certified on a semester basis, fall, spring and summer. For the initial period we will be certifying from July 1 through

December 31, 2008 and after that by semester. Emails will be sent each time the effort cards are ready for review and certification.

What if calculations aren't incorrect?

The cards have a column for you to input the correct percentages. Corrections may be required because transfers processed after the effort period are not reflected in the cards or an error may be detected at the time you review the card. In these cases a transfer will have to be processed.

Help with E-Cert

For help with E-certification please contact Julie Letourneau at 8173 or jletourneau@umassd.edu.

Grants.gov Update

Agencies with New Submission Portals:

- National and Community Service
- Dept of Defense
- Dept of Education
- Dept of Energy
- Dept of Housing & Urban Development
- Dept of Justice
- Dept of the Treasury
- Department of Transportation
- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Air & Space Administration
- Department of Homeland Security
- National Science Foundation

Due to the expected increase in system activity resulting from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has authorized steps to alleviate system strain and quickly increase system capacity. As part of this strategy, select programs may choose to use alternate systems to process grant applications during this heightened period of demand. As a result, once you have identified your grant opportunity, be sure to carefully read the instructions to ensure you are following proper submission procedures for that application, even if you have applied before.

Grants.gov will still be the one place to find all available federal grant opportunities. All opportunities posted on Grants.gov will include specific application instructions, including as appropriate, instructions for submitting applications outside of Grants.gov.

The agencies listed in the sidebar will be accepting some or all applications outside of Grants.gov. Applicants using alternate systems should note that the Grants.gov Contact Center cannot address questions or issues relating to an alternate grant portal. For assistance, applicants for these announcements should contact the designated official specified in the grant announcement and application instructions.

grants.gov Blog

Wondering whether grants.gov will be clogged when your proposal is ready to submit? Check out the grants.gov blog at <http://grants.gov.blogspot.com/>. It posts notices about system problems, updates, and resolutions. Click on the System status and see projected proposal volume. If you plan to submit a proposal on a day grants.gov expects 7,000 applications, you'll know to allow an extra day or two for the submission.

Track My Application

As part of update to relieve pressure on grants.gov submission processing, login is no longer needed to track application status. The link to *Track My Application* is in the red box on the grants.gov home page.

UMass System-wide Collaborations

Dartmouth faculty and staff took the lead on two UMass multi-campus proposals in the areas of civic engagement and green jobs. We wish them success in their submissions.

Learn & Serve America
Higher Education Grant

Dr. Matthew Roy, Assistant Provost and Director of the Center for Civic Engagement, assembled a team of faculty and staff from Dartmouth, Amherst, Boston and Lowell, to promote civic engagement across campuses with a proposal to the Corporation for National and Community Service. UMass, home to 60,000 students, is the country's only system of public higher education in which every campus has earned the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification. His Learn and Serve America Higher Education Grant proposal, "*Building on the Promise*" will focus civic engagement activities on local community needs resulting from the economic downturn. The \$1,000,000 project will help UMass move from individual programs of service learning excellence to replicating individual campus strengths across the entire system.

Building on the Promise's goals are to 1) strengthen student civic engagement and leadership and increase individual and collective capacity to contribute to economic recovery 2) increase public school success and establish mechanisms for access to college and health professions education 3) help workers develop 21st century skills and 4) build the capacity of community organizations to make effective use of UMass students.

Massachusetts Clean
Energy Center's
Energy Efficiency and
Building Science
Training Initiative

Dr. Garry Clayton, Assistant Dean, Charlton College of Business and Susan Jennings, Director of the Office of Campus and Community Sustainability took the lead working with the Amherst, Boston and Lowell campuses to propose the creation of a Massachusetts Energy Training and Education Consortium (METEC), a collaboration between the UMass, its Community College partners and other training partners.

The consortium seeks to combine the agility of Massachusetts' Community Colleges with the research capabilities of its University System. Support for and participation in this project has also been voiced from industry, unions, workforce investment boards and community organizations.

METEC will serve as a connecting and catalyzing agent, training building professionals and business people, and educating the residential, commercial and industrial sectors and policy makers about the efficient use of energy resources. METEC has the potential to be a national model for training and skills development, produce consistent and scalable curricula across the state and provide multiple entry points for workers and student with seamless movement between institutions and training programs.

GENIUS Search

Are you looking for collaborators? UMass Dartmouth's funding opportunity database SPIN/SMARTS can also be used to find collaborators and to allow you to be contacted by other researchers. Searches can be made by degree and discipline, geographical location or sponsor. To sign up for SPIN/ SMARTS, please contact Mary Hensel at 8074 or mhensel@umassd.edu

NSF Realigns Chemistry Division

Begins July 1, 2009

Check new programs
before submitting

The following excerpt is from an NSF June 8th [Dear Colleague Letter](#).

The NSF Division of Chemistry (CHE) is excited to announce a realignment of our programmatic structure to better reflect the way in which modern chemical research is organized, and to reduce the propensity of proposals to "fall in the cracks" between traditional sub disciplines (organic, physical, inorganic, analytical)

The new structure reflects how chemistry research (not teaching) is currently done, and uses program names that are both clear to the community of Principal Investigators and mean something to the public. It addresses exciting opportunities at the interfaces between chemistry and materials, biology, engineering and earth sciences.

The realignment has established eight new programs, which will accept proposals starting in July 2009. Four of these address broad-based fundamental chemistry, organized differently from the previous structure:

- Chemical Synthesis
- Chemical Structure, Dynamics and Mechanisms
- Chemical Measurement
- Imaging Theory, Models and Computational Methods

There are also four new, interdisciplinary programs:

- Environmental Chemical Sciences
- Chemistry of Life Processes
- Chemical Catalysis
- Macromolecular, Supramolecular and Nanochemistry

A decision tree illuminating "[Finding a Home for an Unsolicited Proposal](#)" has been posted on our web site to help you determine where to send your proposals. There is also a [FAQ](#).

Please spread the word to your colleagues about this important change in the Division of Chemistry. Although existing awards are unaffected, the changes are otherwise effective immediately; all proposals submitted to CHE during the July and November 2009 windows must target one of the new programs.

Credits

Joanne Zanella, Michelle Plaud and Mary Hensel. For further information please contact Mary at 8074, mhensel@umassd.edu