

University of Vermont
Sponsored Programs News

From the Office of Sponsored Programs

Pre-Award Services

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Research Protections Office

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Federal stimulus package update

According to an analysis from the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences (AAAS), the final version of the 2009 economic stimulus bill (known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 or ARRA for short) contains \$21.5 billion in federal research and development funding – \$18.0 billion for the conduct of R&D and \$3.5 billion for R&D facilities and capital equipment. This is far more in R&D funding than was contained in the House or Senate versions of the bill. The following highlights ARRA funding for specific agencies.

The **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** will receive \$10.4 billion in ARRA funds. Plans for these funds include a transfer of \$7.4 billion to the various institutes to be awarded, principally, for research projects on a competitive basis, including some supplements to existing awards; \$1 billion for facilities upgrading and construction, and \$300 million for the Shared Instrument Program.

The **National Science Foundation (NSF)** will receive \$3 billion from the ARRA. Most (about \$2 billion) will go to its core research funding, with the Major Research Instrumentation (MRI), Academic Research Infrastructure, and Math and Science Partnership Programs all getting a boost.

The **Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science** will see \$1.6 billion in funding from the ARRA for a mix of extramural basic research, DOE laboratory research, facilities upgrades, and advanced scientific computing. **DOE's energy programs** will be provided an additional \$2.5 billion for energy efficiency and renewable research, development, demonstration, and deployment projects.

The ARRA also contains \$1 billion for **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** for a variety of initiatives, including accelerating the earth science climate research missions.

For more information from AAAS see <http://www.aaas.org/spp/rd/stim09c.htm>

About Sponsored Programs News

This newsletter is a publication of the University of Vermont, Office of Sponsored Programs. It is issued periodically throughout the academic year to provide grant-seekers information about potential sponsors, agency updates, grant policy changes, and University proposal submissions and awards. Questions or comments should be directed to the editor: Hilda Alajajian, Grants Resources Specialist, Hilda.Alajajian@uvm.edu.

Also, for more information, visit the **Recovery.gov** (<http://www.recovery.gov/>) website which has been developed to provide information about how, where and when the stimulus money is being spent. The site will include information about federal grant awards and contracts as well as formula grant allocations. Federal agencies will provide data on how they are using the money, and

eventually, prime recipients of federal funding will provide information on how they are using their federal funds. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has specified that within 20 days after enactment of the Recovery Act, agencies shall post funding opportunity announcements to Grants.gov and that within 30 days of enactment, the Grants.gov synopsis shall link to the full announcement on the agency website; furthermore, funding opportunities will be clearly labeled to distinguish them as “Recovery Act” actions.

The bill acknowledges the role of scientific research in short-term economic recovery and represents, at least in the near term, a turnaround in flat or declining research funding trends. It comes, however, with some challenges. The funds must be spent quickly and much detail is still to be worked out. NIH, for example, plans to fund meritorious proposals in the pipeline that can accomplish significant objectives in two years, and to award administrative supplements to existing awards to accelerate programs. The legislation also includes significant reporting requirements. Award recipients of ARRA funds will have to report amounts of recovery funds received from specific agencies, how the funds were expended, and periodic (most likely quarterly) reports on project completion, job creation and retention, and details about infrastructure investments.

Student Research Conference -- April 16, 2009

The Office of the Vice President for Research, the Honors College, and the Graduate College are sponsoring the annual UVM 2009 Student Research Conference (SRC).

SRC showcases the research and scholarly activity of undergraduate, graduate and medical students across campus. All students working

on a research project with University of Vermont faculty members are invited to present some aspect of their research at this forum. The Conference coordinates the many student presentation processes already underway at the University and also serves as a resource for students who are not yet involved with research but wish to learn about how to engage in research pursuits. For more information see: <http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmsrc/>

GRANTSMANSHIP TIP

Identifying a sponsor? Drill down into the sponsor's website to find out all you can. What's their mission or purpose - will my project help accomplish it? Do I meet their recipient/project eligibility requirements? Ask the program officer specific questions. Assess the scope and types of activities they fund. Is there anything they don't fund? Is the deadline doable? If a good match is identified subscribe to their alert service to automatically be informed of future opportunities. If not, keep looking!

Foundation Center: New series on Economic Impact on Nonprofit Sector

The Foundation Center has started a new series of research advisories addressing growing concerns about the impact of the current economic downturn on foundation giving and the financial outlook for the nonprofit sector.

Recent Advisories include:

- A First Look at the Foundation and Corporate Response to the Economic Crisis (January 2009)
- Do Foundation Giving Priorities Change in Times of Economic Distress? (Nov. 2008)
- Past Economic Downturns and the Outlook for Foundation Giving (Oct. 2008)

See:

<http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/advisories.html>

Office of Technology Transfer

Collaborations between the University of Vermont and its industrial partners are opportunities to expand UVM's research base and infrastructure, allow university investigators to explore commercial applications of their basic research, and provide real world problems for student education and experience. Critical to the success of these relationships is the timely establishment and execution of contract agreements between UVM and its potential partner. As a part of this process, Pre-Award Services at OSP and the Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) have developed an administrative process to ensure the smooth progress of any contract through necessary review, negotiation, and approvals. In addition, Pre-Award Services and the OTT have developed a standard template agreement as a starting point for new collaborations, with the understanding that the unique elements of each specific research project may require flexibility and changes to these terms and/or use of the partner's own template.

The industrial contract agreement template are available on the OSP website here:
<http://www.uvm.edu/~ospuvm/?Page=Forms/in dust-1.htm>

We hope that the industrial contract process and industrial contract agreement will help our investigators quickly establish productive and successful relationships with their industrial collaborators. Please don't hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or concerns, we'd be very happy to help at any stage.

We look forward to working with you.
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Department Administrators' Meeting

OSP Research Administrators have announced the following date and topic for the monthly Department Administrators' Meetings:
March 10, 2009 – Post Award (GCAS)

Agency Updates

NSF recently revised its Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) which will be effective for proposals submitted on or after April 6, 2009. In the interim, the guidelines contained in [NSF 09-1](#) continue to apply. Proposers responding to a funding opportunity with a due date on or after April 6th must comply with the guidelines in [NSF 09-29](#). The sole *significant* change highlighted, is new guidance for the mentoring requirement of postdoctoral researchers. Each proposal that requests funding to support postdoctoral researchers must include a supplementary document (not to exceed one page), describing the mentoring activities that will be provided for such individuals. This requirement has now been cross-referenced in the Subawards and Collaborative Proposals sections of the GPG. Additionally, the mentoring plan will be evaluated during the merit review process, under the Broader Impacts criterion. Proposals that do not include the mentoring plan will be returned without review. See: *GPG Summary of Significant Changes*
http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf09_29/gpg_sigchanges.jsp

NIH has posted a new notice describing the procedures for requesting an extension of the Early Stage Investigators (ESI) period and the conditions under which such extensions will be considered. ESIs are New Investigators who are within ten years of completing their terminal

research degree or within ten years of completing their medical residency. Recently, NIH implemented a policy for FY09 for identifying ESIs in order to give them special consideration during peer review and at the time of funding.

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-034.html>

NIH strongly encourages applicants to sign up for several new listservs which provide a direct source for timely updates and incisive strategies for interacting electronically with NIH.

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-047.html>

The electronic mailings lists alert the research community to:

- Critical situations that may arise, particularly around high-volume deadlines
- New features and functionality

- Changes to electronic submission deadlines due to system failures (e.g., extension of application correction or viewing windows)
- Scheduled service interruptions
- Known issues and workarounds
- Other items of interest

To subscribe/unsubscribe to the listservs:

http://era.nih.gov/about_era/get_connected.cfm

Did you know? A quick look at OSP's most recent Monthly Activity Report Summary for the first half of FY2009 indicates increased grant activity compared to this time last year, both in the number of awards as well as the total dollar amounts received. For more information see: http://www.uvm.edu/~ospvum/Reports/MonthlyReportsJan09/sum_jan09.pdf

EVENTS and OSP CALENDAR

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| Next CHRMS (Committee on Human Research in the Medical Sciences) submission deadline (view full mtg. schedule) http://www.uvm.edu/irb/reference/sect16-meet-dateMS.pdf | March 4, 2009 |
| Next IACUC (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee) submission deadline (view full mtg. schedule) http://www.uvm.edu/~iacuc/uvminfo/deadlineandmeetingdates.pdf | March 9, 2009 |
| Next Departmental Administrators' Meeting | March 10, 2009 |
| Next CHRBS (Comm. on Human Research in the Behavioral Sciences) submission deadline (view full mtg. schedule) http://www.uvm.edu/irb/reference/sect16-meet-dateBS.pdf | March 25, 2009 |
| Next National Science Foundation (NSF) Regional Grants Conference (view upcoming conferences and details) http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/outreach.jsp | March 30-31, 2009 |
| Next IBC (Institutional Biosafety Committee) submission deadline (completed Risk Assessment due prior to submitting to IBC) (view full mtg. schedule) http://www.uvm.edu/~ibc/uvminfo/deadlineandmeetingdates.pdf | March 31, 2009 |
| UVM 2009 Student Research Conference http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmsrc/ | April 16, 2009 |
| Next National Institutes of Health (NIH) Regional Seminar (San Antonio TX) (view upcoming seminars and details) http://grants.nih.gov/grants/seminars.htm | April 16-17, 2009 |