Dear Colleagues,

I’m happy to continue to keep you informed on the latest happenings in our research enterprise, with this next issue of the RED Bulletin.

I am delighted to report that two new initiatives with strong leadership have been launched recently. The Security and Defense Systems Institute (SDSI) is led by Werner Dahm, who previously served as the chief scientist at the US Air Force. The Learning Sciences Institute (LSI) is led by Steve Elliott, who moved to ASU from Vanderbilt. Please feel free to contact Werner or Steve if you have interest in participating in these initiatives.

ASU continues to do well in terms of research funding. Over the last 12 months, we have submitted $1.65B in research proposals and have been awarded close to $300M in research funding. Our total ARRA funding is now at $89.2M. We are continuing to make great strides in securing large research projects — for example, we are a finalist in securing an NSF Engineering Research Center (ERC). We received notice of a new $6.4M award from the National Institute of Drug Abuse for the implementation of a program from a team led by Irwin Sandler. Rogier Windhorst and colleagues from SESE have recently submitted a $15M proposal in response to the NSF Physics Frontiers Centers (PFC) program, and we are currently putting together strong concepts as pre-proposals for submission to the NSF Science and Technology Centers (STC) program. I thank you all for your tremendous efforts in advancing our research enterprise.

I am also delighted to share the news about the expanding strategic collaboration with Mayo Clinic. This will no doubt help in enhancing our success in basic and clinical research projects and contribute to our goal of doubling ASU’s NIH funding within the next five years. To help further achieve this goal, we are embarking on a variety of activities to increase our NIH portfolio. We recently conducted a NIH Faculty Workshop that focused on strategies for creating successful NIH proposals, which was very well attended by faculty and researchers. Video and presentations from the workshop are available on the RSG website. In addition, we are hosting the NIH Regional Seminar at the end of April.

Further details and updates from the individual OKED groups and key informational items are discussed in this bulletin. Please visit the OKED website to learn more about research opportunities and assistance provided by OKED, upcoming events, and the latest news on research advances from your colleagues.

I wish you all a great spring break! As always, please feel free to share your suggestions and comments.

Sethuraman “Panch” Panchanathan
University Chief Research Officer
panch@asu.edu
Research Strategy Group Updates

The Research Strategy Group (RSG) helps advance ASU's Strategic Research Areas by identifying national and global opportunities, orchestrating research forums, providing intelligence and assisting with large scale proposal development.

Research Forums
In conjunction with the College of Nursing and Health Innovation, RSG hosted its 10th research forum, the NIH Faculty Workshop on February 16. More than 80 faculty and postdocs from various colleges attended to learn about successful strategies for procuring NIH funding. Video and presentations are posted on the RSG webpage.

‘Bernadette Melnyk, dean and Distinguished Foundation Professor in Nursing, discusses successful strategies for NIH grant proposals at the OKED/CONHI NIH Day Research Forum.’

RED Team Review
RSG organizes internal review panels for select large-scale, complex, multidisciplinary research proposals. The reviews, called Red Team Reviews are intended to strengthen proposals before being submitted to the sponsor. Since January, RSG has coordinated two such reviews, the most recent in support of a $15M NSF proposal led by the School of Earth and Space Exploration.

New Website
RSG launched an improved version of its website in order to better serve the faculty and staff. Visit rsg.asu.edu to find out how to obtain a letter of support, prepare for a sponsor visit or learn more about how we support the research community.

New Contact Information
We’ve moved to Centerpoint! And our general e-mail box has changed from PRIDE@asu.edu to ResearchStrategy@asu.edu.

Mailing Address:
PO Box 870209
Tempe, AZ 85287-0209

Physical Address:
660 S. Mill Ave
Tempe AZ, 85281

Reminder: To receive up-to-date, actionable, customized funding opportunity notifications, set up RSS feeds at http://funding.asu.edu.
Research Policy and Assurance Group Updates

Research Policy and Assurance aims to achieve and maintain ethical principles, and facilitates compliance with federal, state and university regulations governing research. Areas supported include human subjects, animal care, conflict of interest, biosafety, research misconduct, export controls and responsible conduct of research.

NIH Regional Seminar
Have you and/or your students/postdocs registered for the National Institutes of Health regional seminar that will take place April 28 and 29 at the Talking Stick Resort (Indian Bend Rd. and the 101)? The NIH will also present their eRA Hands-On Computer Workshop on Wed., April 27, 2011 here on ASU’s Tempe campus. The seminar is designed to demystify the application and review process, clarify federal regulations and policies, and highlight current areas of special interest or concern. The NIH has added two new sessions for us — one on preparing “K” (Career) awards and one on the preparation of institutional training grants. There are still opportunities for ASU faculty and staff to volunteer at the seminar with considerable rebates on the cost of attendance. Please visit NIH for more details, or contact Beth Israel if you have any questions.

The Department of Animal Care and Technologies (DACT) supports ASU by providing 1) humane care to all species of animals utilized, 2) a safe working environment for investigators and 3) support to faculty engaged in animal-based teaching and research. Animals are maintained in university facilities (five vivaria and one outdoor housing facility).

DACT provides the following services:
1) Provisions of animal housing to meet the needs of investigators.
2) Training relating to animal handling, basic and advanced procedures (including anesthetic/surgical techniques), and instruction on safely working in the animal facilities.
3) Veterinary support for the care of injured/ill animals and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) protocol pre-review.
4) Assistance to the Offices of Research Integrity & Assurance (ORIA), Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) and Environment Health & Safety (EHS) to ensure the institution’s commitment to compliance.
Please feel free to contact DACT for all of your animal needs.
Research Operations Updates

Research Operations encompasses all of the activities that assist with preparing proposals, reviewing and submitting them to sponsors, negotiation and setup of sponsored projects, and management of awards.

Critical Sponsor Updates

NSF

NSF Grant Policy Guide was updated and became effective for proposals submitted or due on or after 1/18/2011. Some of the significant changes included:

- **All proposals must describe plans for data management and sharing of the products of research**, or assert the absence of the need for such plans. *FastLane will not permit submission of a proposal that is missing a Data Management Plan.* Cross-references are included in the Project Description section (II.C.2.d), the Results from Prior NSF Support (II.C.2.d(iii)), Proposals for Conferences, Symposia and Workshops (II.D.8), and the Proposal Preparation Checklist (Exhibit II-1). The Data Management Plan will be reviewed as part of the intellectual merit or broader impacts of the proposal or both.

- **Inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing is prohibited.** In order to assess the scope of the project, all organizational resources necessary for the project must be described in the Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources section. The description should be narrative in nature and must not include any quantifiable financial information. Mandatory cost sharing will only be required when explicitly authorized by the NSF director.

- Special Information and Supplementary Documentation, has been clarified via a footnote to show that a *mentoring plan is not required for postdoctoral researchers who are listed as senior personnel on the NSF Budget (II.C.2.j).*

- Project Summary has been updated to encourage use of separate headings for the merit review criteria in the one-page Project Summary (II.C.2.b).

- Proposal File Updates has been revised to explain that the Proposal File Update Module can no longer be used to submit revised budgets. Revised budgets must now be submitted via the FastLane Revised Proposal Budget Module (III.C).

NSF Grant Policy Guide Updates

- Data management plan required
- Voluntary cost sharing prohibited
- Mentoring plan not required for post-doc researchers serving as senior personnel
- Submit revised budgets through new FastLane module
NIH
As of January 25, 2011, NIH has eliminated the error correction window from the application submission process. The error correction window allowed applicants an opportunity after the deadline to correct missing or incorrect aspects of the application, which were identified by NIH system-generated errors and warnings displayed to the applicant after submission. NIH eliminated this window to ensure fair deadlines for all applicants and to align with other federal agencies. In order to be considered on time, the application must be submitted error free by 5 p.m. local time. Any application received after this time will be subject to the NIH late policy and may not be accepted for review.

NIH and ORSPA strongly encourage applicants to submit in advance of the due date to take advantage of the opportunity to correct errors and to review the application in the eRA Commons before the deadline.

Also, NIH has modified the Biographical Sketch, starting with applications submitted for the May 25, 2011 and subsequent deadlines, to permit a description of factors that may have reduced productivity. Such factors can occur at any point in a scientist’s career and include family care responsibilities, illness, disability, military service and other personal issues. This modification will now allow PD/PI’s and other senior/key personnel to describe any such personal circumstances (to be included in section A. Personal Statement), thus giving peer reviewers more complete information to assess their qualifications relevant to their proposed role on the project. The full announcement can be found at the Office of Extramural Research.

Streamlining PI Approvals for Subawards
In an effort to improve customer service, principal investigators will no longer be required to provide approval signatures on subaward forms (Cost Analysis Form; Request for Subaward Form). AST’s new e-mail template provides for the PI to simply reply to our e-mail, stating either “Approve” or “Disapprove.” This e-mail reply will serve as the PI’s electronic approval verification that the subaward forms and terms of the Subaward Agreement have been reviewed, are acceptable and that the PI is requesting execution of the agreement on behalf of the university by the authorized ASU signatory. This enhancement will streamline approvals.

Changes to the Accounts Receivable Collections Process
The Award Management Team (AMT) has made a change in the way they handle collections on past due invoices. Going forward, the AMT will contact the principal investigator (PI), prior to contacting the sponsor, to confirm the submission of technical deliverables is current. They will also be reviewing the Fiscal Report Task List to ensure all financial reporting is current. The reason for this change is ORSPA wants to ensure ASU is current with all technical deliverables and
reporting requirements as these are the most common reasons sponsors withhold payment. Please contact Tara Seaton, AMT assistant director, if you have any questions regarding this change.

**Change in Deficit Clearance Period**

The deficit clearance period for sponsored accounts has been changed from 120 days to 90 days to be aligned with policies RSP 506-02 Cost Transfers to Sponsored Projects and RSP 509-04 Sponsored Project Agency/Org Deficit/Account Closeout.

Due to these changes, the deficit clearance period was reset for all accounts that received letters in November 2010. Although, please be aware that if the deficits on these accounts were not cleared by February 28, 2011, the Award Management Team will begin transferring deficits to the college’s RID accounts in March 2011. Please contact Tara Seaton, AMT assistant director, if you have any questions regarding this change.

**Research Facilities Group Updates**

Research Facilities focuses on strategic management of research space and support of core research facilities.

**ISTB4**

We remain on track for a May 2012 move-in. The Interdisciplinary Science and Technology Building 4 will provide flexible laboratories with adjoining workspace for various research initiatives including Earth and space exploration, security and defense systems, and renewable energy.

**Centerpoint**

The Research Enterprise Development groups of OKED have recently moved to Centerpoint, just off Mill Avenue on 6th Street. Centerpoint now serves as an integrated location for OKED, including the Research Strategy Group, the Research Operations Group, Research Facilities Group and the Research Policy and Assurance Group.

**The Southwest Regional Center for Aberration-Corrected Electron Microscopy**

Located just south of Noble Library, the center opened for operations in January 2011. Included in the world-class instrumentation within the Center are two state-of-the-art electron microscopes in an ultra-low vibration setting, funded by a grant from the NSF.
Research Matters

Research Matters! That’s the message the OKED communications team is delivering to the public. We spotlight ASU research activities, achievements and impact using a variety of media. Please send your story ideas to Sheilah Britton, OKED director of media communications, or Diane Boudreau, OKED editor.

Please visit our sites:
Profiles in Discovery
Research Stories
Vimeo
Facebook
Twitter