



University of New Hampshire

Office of the Senior Vice Provost for Research,
Economic Engagement and Outreach



RESEARCH, ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH UPDATE

July 9, 2020

Colleagues,

Most of my previous communications with you have addressed challenges we are currently facing. Today, for a change, I have some fantastic news to share: A new report ranks UNH the sixth most productive mid-sized university in the U.S. at converting research funding into economic impact. The [report](#), which was conducted by the George W. Bush Institute and the Opus Faveo Innovation Development consulting firm, ranked UNH just behind Princeton and Carnegie Mellon in the mid-sized category and in the top 100 of all U.S. universities for innovation impact regardless of size or research budget.

As the state's flagship public research university, we have a responsibility to extend the knowledge we generate into societal and economic impact. Kudos to Marc Sedam and UNHInnovation, and to all of you researchers, inventors, creators, artists and entrepreneurs who have contributed to our success. I hope you share my pride in this wonderful recognition.

Best,
Marian

Town Hall Recording

A recording of the most recent (June 29) research operations virtual town hall is available [here](#). PowerPoint slides are [here](#).

Human Subjects Guidance

Details regarding [considerations for resuming or starting human subjects research](#) are now available. While research involving human subjects that can be conducted remotely has been ongoing, UNH may allow some low-risk face-to-face human subjects research (Groups 2 and 3 on the document) to resume in Phases 4 and 5 (UNH is currently transitioning to Phase 4). UNH has not yet determined when studies in Group 1 on the document may resume. For questions about conducting human subjects research now or in the future, contact IRB staff [Melissa McGee](#), [Susan Jalbert](#) or [Julie Simpson](#).

New COVID-19 Funding Opportunities and Resources

COVID-19-related funding opportunities and resources particularly suited to UNH are [here](#). A [Quick Guide](#) to the resources is also available. Information is updated daily. Please send any new opportunities or resources to [Lynnette Hentges](#).

Early Career Funding Opportunities

Visit [Funding Opportunities Specifically for Early Career Researchers and Scholars at UNH](#) for curated lists for federal and other sponsors in the areas of defense, energy and security; humanities and the arts; science, technology, engineering and math (STEM); and social sciences, behavioral sciences and economics (SBE), as well as for the National Institutes of Health. Questions? Additions? Contact [Lynnette Hentges](#).

Streamlining Licensing

UNHInnovation (UNHI) has launched a [new online platform](#), license.unh.edu, that makes it simple for anyone to quickly and easily obtain non-exclusive licenses of select UNH IP including designs, software, curricula, select patents and images. UNHI's central mission is to get UNH ideas out into the world, and launching license.unh.edu is the conclusion of a year-long process of evaluating potential bottlenecks in business processes to help advance that mission and achieve a wider reach and distribution of the university's IP.

NSF Extended Deadlines: June 23, 2020, Update

NSF has [extended the deadline dates](#) for 10 solicitations or Dear Colleague Letters (DCLs) spanning the summer, fall and winter. NSF will be modifying each solicitation or DCL to reflect the new deadline date.

This includes extending the deadline for the Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) to August 11, 2020. CAREER eligibility requirements specified in the solicitation remain unchanged, however, and proposers must meet all of the eligibility

requirements as of the original deadline of July 27, 2020.

Additional solicitations or DCLs may be added to the list, so proposers are strongly encouraged to check [NSF's website](#) regularly.

Deadlines for published program descriptions, announcements, solicitations and DCLs that do not appear on the list remain unchanged.

Postdoc Benefits

UNH has changed the [benefits platform](#) available to post-doctoral employees. Effective July 1, 2020, the Health and Wellness Benefit options and Paid Time Off programs will align with faculty/staff not covered by collective bargaining agreements. This update provides for new benefit coverage options such as voluntary vision, life insurance, and short- and long-term disability coverage, as well as leave benefits such as increased personal and sick time and paid parental leave. In addition, 403(b) Retirement Savings Plan Deferrals are now eligible for matching contributions.

COVID-19 U.S. Office of Management and Budget Administrative Relief Flexibilities

On March 19, 2020, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued [Memorandum 20-17](#) that granted considerable administrative flexibilities to federal grant making agencies. All of the flexibilities in Memorandum 20-17 expired on June 16, 2020.

On June 18, OMB issued [Memorandum 20-26](#), which extended, through September 30, 2020, the flexibilities of charging certain costs to federal grants: idle time (project team time in which no work is being done) and costs to resume activities supported by the award.

As before, the charging of idle time is permitted only to the extent that it is consistent with UNH's policies of paying salaries from all funding sources, federal and non-federal. A new requirement is that UNH must first "exhaust other available funding sources to sustain its workforce and implement necessary steps to save overall operational costs... during this pandemic period in order to preserve Federal funds for the ramp-up effort." This means we must first look to internal sources to pay for idle time on grants. Further, we must document our efforts to exhaust other funding sources and reduce overall operations costs to support charging idle time to any grant. No other flexibilities granted in OMB Memorandum 20-17 were extended.

Finally, open communication is an important component of meeting OMB requirements. It is expected that principal investigators are already communicating with their program officials on COVID-19 disruptions and are including information about such disruptions in their progress reports. This would include information about redirecting effort and materials to support COVID-19 emergency response activities. We strongly encourage research teams to reach out to SPA for additional guidance.

As research restarts across the University, SPA and our BSC colleagues will continue to help our faculty navigate complex administrative obligations created by COVID-19.

Happy New Fiscal Year!

Principal investigators will be responsible for certifying the effort for all research staff, which includes PAT, postdocs and graduate students.

Sponsored project and cost-sharing accounts must be [reviewed and certified by the PI quarterly](#) in the eCertification system. It is

expected that the BSC staff review the expenditures before the quarterly certification by the PI. The purpose of the review and certification is to confirm that all expenses charged to the account are allowable, allocable to the project and reasonable. To document the fulfillment of the principal investigator’s grant obligation to the federal sponsor, the PI should complete the [closeout certification](#) form. The closeout certification process is initiated automatically through Banner, which will send an email notification to the PI after the BSC moves the workflow to SPA. This first notification, with a link to the closeout certification form, will be received approximately 45-60 days after the grant ends. The PI will then have a minimum of 30 days to certify and submit the form.

Cooperative Extension Internships

In compliance with COVID-19 protocols, Extension has successfully launched many research-oriented summer internships. These include (click link to contact intern supervisor for details) a survey to estimate the [economic impact of New Hampshire’s rail trails](#); an [evaluation of the “Innovation New Hampshire” program](#); trapping and weather data collection in support of [integrated pest management research](#); applied research [for prescribed burn management and policy development](#); [evaluation of future and current coastal flood risks](#) and [toxic cyanobacteria assessment](#).

Fall Course of Interest

INCO 791/GRAD 981 - National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Preparation: This course is designed to enable seniors and graduate students to receive information, guidance, and support in applying for the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship program. Undergraduate student [registration](#). Graduate student [registration](#).

Summary of Research Activity

Year-to-date (July 1 - May 31)

	FY 19	FY20
Proposals: \$ requested	\$633,177,555	\$645,329,775
Proposals: # submitted	882	824
Funding received	\$101,653,703	\$126,394,979
Expenditures	\$97,551,027	\$100,623,458

Good News

History professor Lucy Salyer received the [Myrna F. Bernath Book Prize](#) for "Under the Starry Flag: How a Band of Irish Americans Joined the Fenian Revolt and Sparked a Crisis over Citizenship." Michael Palace, associate professor of Earth science and a researcher in the Earth Systems Research Center in EOS, will lead a [NASA-funded project](#) studying wildfires in the Amazon region’s past and future. Sherine Elsawa and Vicki Jeffers, both faculty members of the molecular, cellular and biomedical sciences department, received funding from the [UNH Center for Integrated Biomedical and Bioengineering Research](#) to study important human diseases that currently lack adequate therapeutic interventions. George Hamilton, food and agriculture field specialist for UNH Cooperative Extension in Hillsborough County, has been selected as the 2020 Northeast Region [National Association of County Agricultural Agents Hall of Fame](#) recipient. Please send research news — high-impact results, new grants, awards and more — to [Beth Potier](#).

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