

## RESEARCH NEWS

A bi-monthly newsletter brought to you by the UAMS Division of Research  
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### [NIH Loan Repayment Programs: A Lifeline for Biomedical and Biobehavioral Researchers: Applications Accepted September 1 – November 15](#)

The NIH Loan Repayment Programs (LRPs) were established by Congress and designed to recruit/retain highly qualified health professionals into biomedical or biobehavioral research careers. The LRPs repay up to \$35,000 annually (\$70,000 over a 2-year contract) of a researcher's qualifying educational debt in return for a commitment to engage in research areas important to the NIH mission. On average, nearly 50% of all new LRP applications are funded, and these awards are competitively renewable (for a one or two-year period) until all educational debt is repaid.

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### [NIH Posts FY 2018 Mechanism Table](#)

NIH posted an updated "mechanism table" with numbers of awards and total allocated funding by award mechanism, including research project grants, centers, etc. The table compares the FY 2018 final allocation to FY 2017, for separate institutes and centers and for the NIH aggregate. Total funding for competing and noncompeting research project grants increased 9.7% from FY 2017, to nearly \$21 billion, with an expected total of 38,919 RPGs supported.

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### [NIH Policy for Clinical Research – Across the Lifespan](#)

A *JAMA* [viewpoint](#), authored by NIH's Marie Bernard, MD, Janine Clayton, MD, and Michael Lauer, MD, discusses the importance of including patients across the lifespan in clinical study populations. The authors conclude that these policies ensure that children and older adults are included in studies and that study reproducibility will be enhanced. The NIH's policy on *Inclusion Across the Lifespan* becomes effective for all grant applications submitted on or after January 25, 2019.

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### [NIH Issues Statement and Creates Website to Counter Sexual Harassment](#)

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, published a "Changing the culture of science to end sexual harassment" statement. Dr. Collins states that sexual harassment "presents a major obstacle that is keeping women from achieving their rightful place in science." In recognizing that NIH needs to "increase [its] transparency on the issue," NIH launched an [anti-sexual harassment website](#) to highlight NIH policies pertinent to the extramural and intramural programs.

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### [NIH at \\$39.1 Billion in 2019 if Approved](#)

A House and Senate appropriations committee agreed on a spending package to fund NIH at \$39.1 billion in 2019, a \$2 billion (5.4%) increase. The bill must be voted on separately by both chambers before advancing for the President's signature. The package includes \$361.6 million for the Institutional Development Awards (IDeA), an \$11.0 million (3.1%) increase over FY 2018, and \$559.7 million for the Clinical and Translational Science Awards, a \$17.0 million (3.1%) increase.

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### [NIH Scientific Workforce Diversity Toolkit](#)

NIH Chief Diversity Officer, Hannah Valantine, MD, posted a [blog entry](#) describing the NIH Scientific Workforce Diversity Toolkit and its impacts at a recent AAMC-hosted webinar on

finding diverse students and faculty candidates and mentoring students from underrepresented groups.

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### [Should the Clinic Matter to Nonphysician Scientists?](#)

Translational medicine has grown via M.D.-Ph.D. programs, a system that is maturing. Now, clinically oriented training programs targeting nonphysician scientists provide new pathways to improve transdisciplinary approaches in health sciences.

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### Showcase of Medical Discoveries – Opioids

Join us on [November 14, 2018](#) for the 22<sup>th</sup> Medical Showcase reception [from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.](#) held on the [10<sup>th</sup> floor of the Cancer Institute](#) and focused on opioid research. Each showcase is open to all interested faculty, students, and staff. The series ongoing goals include fostering communication and collaboration between investigators and increasing awareness of exciting research in Arkansas.

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### [Faculty Research Enhancement \(FRE\) Awards](#)

FRE Awards are available for UAMS faculty members to engage in a short-term activity to strengthen/enhance their research capabilities (e.g., participation in a structured workshop, a visit to another university/research institute to learn a new technique, or to analyze data). UAMS faculty (i.e., assistant professor or higher) are eligible. Applicants may request up to \$7,000 in support. Allowable expenses include transportation costs, accommodations/lodging, meals, registration, supplies and facility fees.

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### [Research Buildings and Equipment](#)

For questions about research buildings, freezers, poster boards, surplus furniture, etc., see the research webpage detailing use and contact information in the case of a problem or to move equipment, etc. For more research information, the [Toolbox webpage](#) has links to over 30 programs, procedures, and UAMS research support groups.

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### [Research Support Information Network \(RESIN\)](#)

The next RESIN meeting will be at noon, October 2, 2018 in the Walton Auditorium on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor of the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute. Past RESIN presentations are archived [here](#).

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### [Up Close and Amazing – Research Staff](#)

In order to better acquaint faculty with various research support folks and their jobs, a research staff person is highlighted on the Research website [here](#). This month, Up Close & Amazing focuses on Executive Director of Cancer Clinical Trials – Alexandra ‘Sandy’ Annis.

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### [Ask Me About My Research](#)

Researchers are often called upon to explain their work to the lay public, friends, neighbors, donors, state representatives and even the person in the next seat on a flight to/from a conference or study section. So, it's important to be able to highlight your work in 2-3 minutes and increase awareness of your exciting research. Along with an easy formula (see link above), campaign style buttons with *Ask Me About My Research* are available for all UAMS researchers. Contact Linda Williams, [ldwilliams@uams.edu](mailto:ldwilliams@uams.edu) to get yours.

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### [CONGRATS TO:](#)

UAMS Research grants received are listed on the *research.uams.edu* website. Look under the **Grants & Funding** tab and pull down - [Grants Awarded](#). Listed by Principal Investigator and College/Dept., the page is updated with the previous month's awards by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

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Please send research news to Linda Williams, [ldwilliams@uams.edu](mailto:ldwilliams@uams.edu)

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