

RESEARCH & INNOVATION NEWS

UAMS

Vol. 8, Issue 5

[NIH/NIAID Releases Council Approved Concepts of Interest](#)

With focus groups from the extramural research community, NIAID plans initiatives to address research opportunities/needs two years before awarding the resulting grants or contracts. At biannual planning retreats, NIAID targets concepts to become initiatives—RFAs, PAs, or solicitations. The Council then serves as an approval authority to move a concept forward.

[NIH Director Francis Collins to Step Down](#)

A physician-geneticist, Dr. Collins took office as the 16th NIH director on August 17, 2009. Dr. Collins, the longest serving presidentially appointed NIH director, has served three U.S. presidents over 12 years. Known for his easy manner, Dr. Collins obtained broad bipartisan Congressional support for NIH research and NIH's budget grew by 38%, from \$30 billion in 2009 to \$41.3 billion in 2021.

[Artificial Intelligence Accurately Predicts RNA Structures](#)

Researchers have trained a computer to “learn” from many examples of protein folding and predict protein 3D structures quickly and with precision. A recent study shows that a computer also can predict the 3D shapes of RNA molecules. This includes mRNA that codes for proteins and non-coding RNA performing a range of cellular functions.

[President Biden Announces President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology](#)

America's most distinguished science/technology leaders have been appointed to the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST). PCAST (20 elected members of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, 5 MacArthur “Genius” Fellows, 2 former Cabinet secretaries, and 2 Nobel laureates) has experts from astrophysics and agriculture, biochemistry and computer engineering, ecology and entrepreneurship, immunology and nanotechnology, neuroscience and national security, social science and cybersecurity and more.

GRANT FUNDING

[Dept. of Defense \(DoD\) Medical Research Programs \(CDMRP\) 2021 Funding Opportunities](#)

More new opportunities, eligibility, and key mechanism elements have been released at <https://cdmrp.army.mil>. Find funding specifics, evaluation criteria, and submission requirements in the Program Announcements. These can be downloaded from (<http://www.grants.gov>), the CDMRP website

(<https://cdmrp.army.mil/funding/prgdefault.shtml>) and the electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal (eBRAP) (<https://eBRAP.org>). Check out your area of interest. Good luck!

Topic areas are:

- Arthritis
- Burn pit exposure
- Cardiomyopathy
- Congenital heart disease
- Diabetes
- Dystonia
- Eating disorders
- Emerging viral diseases
- Endometriosis
- Epidermolysis bullosa
- Familial hypercholesterolemia
- Fibrous dysplasia
- Focal segmental glomerulosclerosis
- Food allergies
- Fragile X
- Frontotemporal degeneration
- Hemorrhage control
- Hepatitis B
- Hydrocephalus
- Hypertension
- Inflammatory bowel diseases
- Malaria
- Metals toxicology
- Mitochondrial disease
- Myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome
- Myotonic dystrophy
- Non-opioid therapy for pain management
- Nutrition optimization
- Pathogen-inactivated blood products
- Peripheral neuropathy
- Plant-based vaccines
- Platelet like cell production
- Polycystic kidney disease
- Pressure ulcers
- Pulmonary fibrosis
- Respiratory health
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Sleep disorders and restriction
- Suicide prevention
- Sustained release drug delivery
- Vascular malformations
- Women's heart disease

[New Long-haul COVID-19 Research Funding Opportunity](#)

The Division of Research and Innovation is pleased to announce a new funding opportunity to study Long-haul COVID-19 symptoms, causes, and impacts. Long-haul COVID-19 Research Awards enable UAMS faculty members to launch timely research projects seeking to advance our understanding of the causes/impacts of Long-haul COVID-19 symptoms. Successful grant recipients will receive up to \$50,000 (award period of Dec. 1 2021 – March 1, 2023). The submission deadline is **October 18, 2021**.

[Development Enhancement Awards for Proposals \(DEAP\)](#) – address comments/revisions for faculty members who have received a score/comments on an unsuccessful proposal to a federal agency/foundation with full indirect costs. DEAP grants (\$25,000 max) help PI's *obtain more data to address reviewer comments and increase a revised application's competitiveness*. DEAP is strictly limited to strengthening reapplications following receipt of a scored proposal and must be submitted within 12 months of receiving review comments.

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

Available to UAMS faculty (Assistant professor or higher) for short-term activities that will strengthen/enhance their research capabilities (e.g., workshops, visiting an institution to learn a new method/analyze data). Up to \$7,000 in support for transportation costs, lodging, meals, registration, supplies and facility fees. FRE awards may be submitted anytime. Contact [Andrea McBryde](#) for details.



Science Communications

Planning a grant or manuscript submission? [SciCom](#) is a scientific editorial resource available to help you communicate your research clearly and concisely to increase your chances of obtaining extramural funding or publishing in peer-reviewed journals! Contact Kerry Evans, PhD, ELS, for more information: klevans@uams.edu.

CONGRATULATIONS



[Research and Innovation - MVP](#) To get to know research support folks and their jobs, a team member who actively assists research, is highlighted on the Research & Innovation website.

This month's R&I MVP is **Chris Phillips**, Biomedical I & II Facilities Mgr., Division of Research & Innovation. Chris interacts with faculty members, staff, and laboratory activities within the various colleges and UAMS division of Research and Innovation that office or have labs in research space.

Congratulations, Chris!

In May 2021, twenty UAMS research faculty received **Div. of Research and Innovation Equipment Grants** for a total of \$740,074.07. The awarded funds had to be committed and orders completed by June 10, 2021. Congratulations to the Equipment Grant awardees!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Research Antipasto



Research and Innovation will offer an informal networking, mentoring, happy hour-ish noon

gathering on **October 5, 2021**.

[Sara Jones, PhD](#), APRN, College of Nursing, Associate Professor and Specialty Coordinator, Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing will host.

The 1st Tuesday of the month, Research Antipasto's host shares career experiences, stories,

Research Roundup 2021 – State of UAMS Research



A virtual R&I research update is scheduled for **October 19, 2021** from **1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.** including Q&A.

[Shuk-Mei Ho, PhD](#), Vice Chancellor of Research and Innovation will discuss FY21 research grant funding, inter- and intra-institutional collaborations, strategic planning, upcoming funding opportunities, and research support resources.

Institutional Biosafety Committee Approvals (IBC), Biosafety & You



James Bishop, M.S., Dir. of Occupational Health & Safety and others will describe

when/how to contact the IBC with regard to biosafety and research protocols

A zoom seminar is scheduled for **October 6, 2021** from **1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.** with ~20 minutes of Q&A.

answers questions, advises, astounds, and amazes...for 30 - 60 minutes.

Just show up, have fun, and get to know the research community! Hosts are posted on the [research calendar](#).

[Connect to Research Antipasto](#)

ID: 920 9760 7895, #604961

Contact Linda Williams, ldwilliams@uams.edu to host.

Register [HERE](#).

Zoom connection information will be emailed to registrants prior to the event.

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NEW RESEARCH AND INNOVATION TEAM MEMBERS



Meet Jennifer Hendrix
(JLHendrix@uams.edu)

Jennifer joined the Office of Research Regulatory Affairs (ORRA) as a Clinical Research Monitoring Specialist on Sept 1st 2021. Jennifer brings a sound clinical and research knowledge base to this position having worked as a research nurse at UAMS for over 15 years. In 2019, she held the position of Regulator and Compliance officer for BHHH campuses.

Jennifer received her Business and nursing degrees in Scotland, UK. She continues her educational needs here at UAMS in our research programs.

Welcome Jennifer!



Meet Anna Evatt (AREvatt@uams.edu)

Anna Evatt joined ORIS as a Research Program Manager in November 2020. She served as a Research Administrator for the OSPAN since 2017 and then as a Program Manager for the College of Medicine Research Office in 2020. She is the 2021 Vice-Chair for the UAMS Grants Management Program Alumni and completed the 2021 UAMS Certified Research Specialist Program.

Anna obtained her bachelor's degree in Anthropology from UALR in 2008. She then received a master's degree in Archaeology in 2011 and recently passed her Ph.D. defense from the University of Edinburgh.

Welcome Anna!

For specific research information/groups, the [Resources](#) webpage has links to 40 programs, services, and Research and Innovation teams.

→ Please send research news to Linda Williams, ldwilliams@uams.edu. If you no longer wish to receive these emails, send an email to the address above with the subject – [Unsubscribe](#).

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Research & Innovation