

RESEARCH UPDATE

November/December 2010

research.uh.edu

Community of Science Offers Custom Listings of Funding Opportunities

UH provides to researchers and staff free access to the service Community of Science (COS), an online resource for identifying funding opportunities and collaborators. Researchers who subscribe to COS have access to an extensive database of funding opportunities that include federal agencies, and private and foundational sponsors.

Angela Clifton, Research Administrator for the Office of Contracts and Grants, Pre-Award, advocates the use of COS for its completeness of funding sources and ease of use.

“Once you start using COS, you’ll realize it’s a valuable tool,” she said.

Clifton especially recommends the use of the Search Wizard, which guides users through a series of questions that narrows the listing results. Search Wizard criteria may be saved for future use and email alerts can be requested based on

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RAMP: Easy, Online Management of Sponsored Projects

Faculty, administrators and staff can view and manage their sponsored research proposal submissions and project awards online through RAMP, the Research Administrative Management Portal. RAMP is a Web-based tool that tracks compliance requirements due, total direct cost, total indirect cost (F&A), credit splits, cost sharing, and information regarding principal investigators, co-investigators and investigator effort.

Launched to faculty on May 13, 2010, and to Business Administrators on July 3, 2010, RAMP offers secure, relevant information for faculty and administrators.

“Users can have all the data having to do with their sponsored research,” said Nancy Ward, Director of the Research Information Center. “RAMP was designed to be easy to navigate and easy for a dean or faculty member, or others, to

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By the Numbers:

Reports relating to proposals, awards and expenditures are now available through the Research Information Center’s webpages on the Division of Research’s website. Also available are weekly and monthly awards lists, indirect cost distribution reports, and annual reports on sponsored research activity. Visit:

<http://www.research.uh.edu/RIC/Reports.html>

Not getting this news-letter in your inbox?

Need to share information with the general research community?

Want to feature your project here?

DORnews@uh.edu

Compliance Corner with Rick Valdez



The CPHS welcomes your comments and questions.

Contact:

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Informed Consent in Human Subjects Research

Do I have to get permission and approval?

Informed consent is vital to any study involving human subjects. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and UH policies require investigators to obtain legally effective informed consent of study subject—or the subject's legally authorized representative—before involving the subjects as participants in human subject research. Without it, no subject may be involved in research.

Informed consent is the voluntary choice of an individual to participate in research based on an accurate understanding of its purposes, procedures, risks, benefits, alternatives, and any other factors that may affect a person's decision to participate. Informed consent is not a single event or just a form to be signed. Rather, it is an ongoing process that takes place between the investigator and the subject. Unless specifically waived by the Committees for the Protection of Human Subjects (CPHS), informed consent must be documented by a written consent form approved by the CPHS and signed by the subject or the subject's legally authorized representative.

Contents of the informed consent document must include:

- The purpose of the study,
- Any reasonably foreseeable risks to the individual,
- Potential benefits to the individual or others,
- Alternatives to the research protocol,
- The extent of confidentiality protections for the individual,
- Contact information for questions regarding the study, participants' rights and potential injuries, and
- The conditions of participation, including right to refuse or withdraw without penalty.

Please visit our website at:

http://www.research.uh.edu/PCC/Protection_of_Human_Subjects.html

Human Subjects Training through CITI

National Institutes of Health grant applications require evidence of human subject research education, when applicable. The Committees for the Protection of Human Subjects recommends the Collaborative IRB Training Initiative (CITI), but also accepts NIH Human Subject Research certificates. Investigators conducting human subject research must renew their training every two years. A "refresher" course is available to investigators who have completed CITI's original course.

To access CITI, visit:

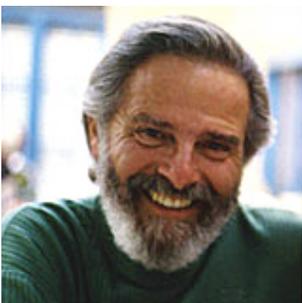
<https://www.citiprogram.org>

Register for Grant Writing Seminar

UH has been invited to attend a grant writing seminar at UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center on December 1, 2010. Grant Writer's Seminars and Workshops cofounder Stephen W. Russell, Ph.D., will be the presenter. Those interested in attending must register by November 10, 2010.

More information at:

<http://cohesion.rice.edu/centersandinst/gcc/emplibary/GrantSeminar-2010.pdf>



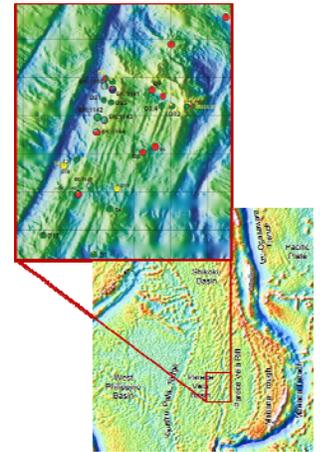
Stephen W. Russell, Ph.D.

Geoscience Pleased with Receipt of Funding

In the first month of FY 2011, the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences (Geoscience) received \$1.06 million in awards, equating to about 30 percent of the department's total awards for FY 2010: \$3.6 million.

"These grants represent the hard work of individual PIs," said department Chairman John F. Casey. "We are competing well in the state for federal and other support, and that funding will be sustainable well into the future because of the talent and hard work of the faculty."

Among those awarded was Dr. Jonathan Snow, who received \$375,297 from the National Science Foundation for his project "Death of a Backarc Rift: A Petrologic Site Survey of Godzilla Mullion". The study tests the end-life stage of seafloor spreading that occurs behind active subduction zones. It will test whether spreading is halted by the choking off of hydrous fluids derived from the downgoing tectonic plate. The study site is off the Philippine coast.



Godzilla Mullion site area.

DBAs Encouraged to Attend RACP Classes

Beverly Rymer, Director of Post-Award for the Office of Contracts and Grants, will be presenting three classes for the FY 2011 Research Administration Certification Program (RACP).

Staff who conduct financial and administrative tasks on funded research projects are required to complete the RACP training program. However, Rymer said those who have completed the requirement in prior years have much to gain from attending several of the sessions.

"There have been many procedural changes in the past few years," Rymer said. "Experienced DBAs (Department Business Administrators) will benefit tremendously."

For more information and to register for the classes, visit:

http://www.research.uh.edu/FORMS/UH_RA_Certification.pdf



Beverly Rymer:

Experienced DBAs will benefit from attending RACP training classes in January, February and March.

Get to Know DOR:

Christina Goka-Aguilar, IACUC Coordinator

Christina Goka-Aguilar is the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Coordinator for the Division of Research. Aguilar, who has been with the university for over three years, has more than seven years of IACUC experience and is working toward her Certification for Professional IACUC Administrators.

As part of her responsibilities, Aguilar ensures university compliance with federal regulations involving live, vertebrate animals in research. Aguilar also coordinates IACUC meetings, lab inspections and training activities, and she provides post-approval monitoring for research projects to help avoid non-compliance issues.

Of late, Aguilar assisted in preparations for the site visit by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC). AAALAC accreditation is an important element of UH's Animal Care and Use Program.

Aguilar takes great pride in her character and is inspired by Ralph Waldo Emerson who said, "Character is higher than intellect...a great soul will be strong to live, as well as to think."

Away from work, Aguilar enjoys playing the piano and cello, and singing in her church choir.



Who: Christina Goka-Aguilar

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Have a Secret Life? NOVA Wants to Know

The NOVA web series “The Secret Life of Scientists and Engineers” is asking for idea submittals to be featured in an upcoming episode. As of late October, series producer and blogger Tom Miller had received over 60 comments to his blog post seeking ideas, but is continuing to welcome additional leads. Secret Life highlights the work of scientists and engineers, and their unusual or unique hobbies.

NOVA and NOVA scienceNOW also continually accept story ideas for these programs. Additional NOVA efforts include ScienceCafes.org, described as “grassroots movement” where a scientist presents on a topic to a general audience. “The casual, open format readily engages the public in conversations about science,” according to the website. There are currently no Science Cafes in Houston.



What: Call for Submissions

How: <http://tinyurl.com/secretlifeSUBMIT>

Other: NOVA scienceNOW:
<http://tinyurl.com/NOVAscienceNOW>

Online Funds Listing

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these criteria. Any new funding opportunities that match the criteria can be sent via email on a weekly basis, upon request.

Collaborations also are facilitated through COS Expertise, where users can search the profiles of over 480,000 experts at over 1,600 institutions worldwide. Similarly, users who enter profile data into COS may be more easily identified by other researchers.

“The more detailed your profile, the easier it is for people to search and collaborate with you,” Clifton said. She is available to answer questions relating to COS.



What: Community of Science

How: www.cos.com

Other: When registering, select University of Houston as the institution and enter a CougarNet email.



Who: Angela Clifton

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Manage Projects through RAMP

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quickly see information that is relevant to them.”

College and department administrators are given access to assist faculty without the need to install special software as is required for use of the administration application RD2K.

Users with active RD2K or REFS accounts can use those credentials to log in to RAMP. Users also can log in by using their CougarNet ID and password if they are an existing RD2K user.

RAMP is continuing to be modified to increase functionality. Human Subjects, IACUC and Intranet modules are in development. Suggestions for improvement are encouraged.

RD2K/RAMP training:

Sessions are available on Tuesday afternoons. If you are interested in attending, contact Nancy Ward, Director of the Research Information Center, at (713) 743-9225 or nward@uh.edu.

Access RAMP through:
www.research.uh.edu

For assistance:
<http://tinyurl.com/RAMPhelp>