

Graduate Affairs & Research

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COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

Special points of interest:

Summer Students work in pharmacy research areas

New ORA routing form for ALL grant applications

Change in policy for resubmissions on RO3 and R21

According to Recent Survey, Heavy Admin Burdens Mean Less Time for Research

A long-anticipated feature of the last month's Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) meeting was the presentation of preliminary results of the "Faculty Burden Survey" conducted last fall by the FDP.

Most interestingly, respondents indicated on average that they spent only 58 percent of their research time actually conducting research; the rest was spent on research-related administrative tasks. Faculty rank or tenure did not have an impact on the amount of time spent on administration.

The survey, the first of its kind to focus on research, was undertaken to determine the extent of the administrative burden that faculty assume when they apply for and receive federal funds, and what impact that burden has on conducting research.

The questionnaire asked for information on faculty demographics, research involvement, and federal grant funding, including descriptive information, administrative tasks/burdens, administrative support available, and the perceived climate for funded research. Faculty surveyed were from 69 FDP institutions.

Grants Progress Report is #1 Burden—Faculty were asked to rank 24 specific burdens—proposal writing was not included. Grant progress report submission ranked first as the most burdensome task, followed closely by personnel hiring and project revenue management. The next four were evenly clustered: equipment and supply purchases; Institutional Review Board (IRB) protocol approvals and training; training personnel and students; personnel evaluations.

Low-Level Administrative Support Provided—With respect to assistance provided by institutions to lessen the administrative burden, faculty reported low levels of support across all administrative tasks. They reported the most assistance with financial management (including payroll, budget transfers, cost accounting issues, cost sharing agreements, and project revenue management), but the level of assistance still did not remove project revenue management from the list of top burdens.

Faculty reported they receive the least amount of assistance in the areas of conflict of interest monitoring, grant progress report submission, patent/copyright application, and intellectual property matters. While personnel evaluations ranked as the seventh most burdensome task, faculty reported this area as second in terms of the least amount of assistance.

Respondents' Profile Provides Context—The data analyzed were from 6,081 full-time faculty who were either principal investigators or co-investigators on federally funded projects in the 2004 academic year. The majority of the respondents were from highly research-intensive institutions; 71% from public institutions. Sixty-four percent of respondents indicated they have no official administrative duties; 12% were center directors; 5% were chairs; 2% were associate deans; and 17% indicated they had other types of administrative responsibilities. Full professors were the largest group of respondents—54%; 24% were associate professors and 22% were assistant professors. Eighty nine percent were either tenured or in a tenure-track position.

Written Comments Have Consistent Themes—Some consistent themes emerged in "anecdotal discussion, the written comments included with the survey responses. Researchers report spending a great deal of time writing long proposals for short-term, low-level funding they believe have little chance of being awarded and noted the significant burden of university regulations.

Inside this issue:

Survey on Faculty research issues	1
Summer research projects	2
New ORA routing form	3
Changes with R21,	4
Reminder of seed grant deadline	4

Summer Research Students share their experiences



Dr. Tracy Hagemann, faculty mentor (left) with Ann Howell, summer student

Ann comments, "My summer research with Dr. Tracy Hagemann in pediatric oncology was an educational and enjoyable experience. Although I did not get retail experience this summer I was exposed to research that I feel will prepare me in upcoming classes and in future research projects. I am glad that I chose to do summer research and we will be continuing our project throughout my time here as a pharmacy student."



Dr. Ryan Carnahan, faculty mentor (left) with Mark Bateman, summer student

"My research experience this summer was very valuable in gaining insight into efficient literature research, scientific writing, proposal development and powerpoint presentations. Also, I was able to learn a great deal about psychiatric illnesses, including their symptoms and common therapies. Overall, this research experience provided me with valuable tools in my development as a professional," stated Mark.

Dr. Carnahan adds: "Mark has been developing an outcomes research project to evaluate relationships between medication beliefs and clinical outcomes in OU-IMPACT clients. OU-IMPACT is a program of assertive community treatment which cares for people with severe mental illnesses for whom traditional services have been inadequate."



Robert Lawrence, summer student (left) with Dr. Randy Gallucci, faculty mentor.

Dr. Gallucci states, "Rob's project, "Cloning and expression of murine IL-6 receptor", was to clone a soluble mouse IL-6 receptor. Rob's project may lead to the use of this receptor as a treatment for liver damage or chronic wounds."

STUDENT SEMINARS PRESENTED ON JULY 27

"An Evaluation of Medication Beliefs in Program of Assertive Community Treatment Patients."

Mark Bateman, PharmD Student-Tulsa
Dr. Ryan Carnahan, Mentor

"Cloning and Expression of Murine IL-6 Receptor."

Bob Lawrence, PharmD Student-OKC
Dr. Randy Gallucci, Mentor

"Summer Research: Pediatric Oncology."

Ann Howell, PharmD Student-OKC
Dr. Tracy Hagemann, Mentor

All three students have been enrolled in PHAR7990—Special Studies in Pharmaceutical Sciences. For the past two months, they have worked in their mentor's research laboratory.

New ORA Sponsored Activities Routing Form for Research, Training & Public Service

The ORA routing form for sponsored research, training and public service projects was revised to comply with the new NIH policy requiring the University to secure and retain a unique written assurance for the Principal Investigator (PI) prior to submitting an application to NIH (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-06-054.html>). Other changes were made to the routing form to assure the University's compliance with federal policies regarding effort reporting, conflict of interest and export control laws and also to capture important budget information to expedite the ORA review process.

The new Sponsored Activities Routing Form is **required** for ALL sponsored research, training and public service proposals submitted to ORA. Previous versions of the routing form will not be accepted. The new routing form is located on the ORA website <http://w3.ouhsc.edu/ORA/form/oraforms.htm>). Please note that this routing form does not replace the Industry Sponsored Routing Form which should continue to be used for all industry-sponsored research projects.

These additional signature requirements may increase the time required for the routing process, so be sure to allow adequate time to obtain all signatures before submitting the routing form and proposal for signature.

Main revisions to note:

1. The Chair (or representative) of each OUHSC faculty member committing effort (paid and unpaid) on a project needs to sign the routing form to assure all committed effort is approved in accordance with departmental policies.
2. The Principal Investigator and all OUHSC faculty committing effort on a project must sign the routing form to certify the required assurances and to confirm agreement with the proposed budget and effort commitment.

Reminder: In accordance with Provost Ferretti's memorandum dated December 15, 2005, all proposals and grant applications (hard copy and electronic) **must** be routed, reviewed and approved by ORA **prior** to submission to an external funding agency.

If you have any questions, please contact Paula Meder at 271-6593, ext. 47271 for assistance with the routing process.



Dr. Ryan Carnahan, mentor, with Garry Robbins, 2nd year research student.

According to Dr. Carnahan, Garry has been working with data from the Iowa 65+ Study (PI: Robert Wallace, M.D.), an epidemiologic study examining aging in rural elders in Iowa. He is examining interactions between apolipoprotein E genotype, interleukin-6, C-reactive protein, and cognitive impairment.



Dr. Kent Teague, mentor, with Jennifer Gass, 2nd year research student

This is Jennifer's second year working with Dr. Kent Teague, Surgery-Tulsa and also adjunct faculty, College of Pharmacy Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.



Research News You Can Use

Feds investigate Yale over accounting.

From the Associated Press, 07/03/06

NEW HAVEN, Conn.—Federal authorities are investigating how Yale University accounts for millions of dollars in government research grants, school officials said Monday.

Yale received three subpoenas from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Defense Department and National Science Foundation seeking grant documents dating back as far as 10 years. The subpoenas cover 47 grants valued at about \$45 million, the school said. The university received about \$2 billion in grants during the past decade.

The school has acknowledged problems with its accounting procedures. In an e-mail to faculty and staff, Yale President Richard Levin urged employees to cooperate with investigators. "Regardless of the outcome of the current investigation, we must get all our processes right and make sure that we are good stewards of the funds entrusted to us by the federal government," Levin said in a released statement.

Like most large research universities, Yale relies heavily on government grants to pay for scientific research. The grants come with stringent accounting rules that in one recent case Yale did not follow, federal officials said.

The three agencies issuing subpoenas funded about 90 percent of Yale's research in recent years, the school said. Such investigations could lead to criminal charges, civil penalties or administrative sanctions.

A report by the inspector general of the Department of Health and Human Services noted in February that university procedures were not always followed or were inadequate. That report, which focused on a grant to research gene expression, found that more than a third of the university's \$508,000 in invoices did not comply with federal standards. Costs were improperly transferred across budget cycles to make up for shortfalls, the report said.

During the review, Yale told researchers that some documents had been altered and said it was investigating.

The report also criticized the school for its oversight of researchers. The primary researcher worked less than promised on the grant application and auditors said the school did not have a process to ensure its researchers were working.

Yale responded to the inquiry by outlining steps it was taking to improve accounting, including hiring a consulting group to speed accounting improvements and hiring staff to monitor its research financing.

NIH Important Reminders for RO3, R21 Apps

All amended R21 and R03 applications (resubmissions) are limited to one-page introductions. There may have been a three-page limit on the Introduction for some R21 resubmissions using the paper PHS 398 application.



With the transition to electronic submission, R21 and R03 resubmissions are limited to a one-page introduction. The system will generate an error if you submit a resubmission with more than one page. If you receive this error, the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) must submit a "changed/corrected" application through Grants.gov with the Introduction condensed to one page.

Remember that Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) may include instructions specific to the grant program or specific opportunity. Instructions in FOAs supersede instructions in the application guide. It is important to carefully read both documents when filling out a grant application.

College of Pharmacy Seed Grant Program

The College of Pharmacy Seed Grant Program provides funds for college faculty to collect preliminary data for proposals that will be submitted for extramural funding in the near future. The maximum amount of each award is \$10,000. Proposals should be developed that can be accomplished within this budget amount and a 1-year time frame.

Seed grants provide funds to College of Pharmacy investigators to enhance their competitiveness in research. Proposals designed to collect preliminary data for projects that will eventually be submitted for extramural funding are strongly encouraged. Proposals should be developed that can be accomplished within a 1 year time frame. The maximum amount of each award is \$10,000.



The next deadline for applications is **August 15, 2006.**

Please refer to: <http://pharmacy.ouhsc.edu/research/fundinfo.asp>