UAHuntsville welcomes the Vice President for Research

Dr. Horack joined UAHuntsville on 23 February 2009. President Williams stated “I am delighted that John has accepted our offer. John emerged as the top candidate after an exhaustive process led by a national search firm, in conjunction with a committee of university and community research leaders. He has the range of credentials essential to leading UAHuntsville’s extraordinary research programs to even greater heights. In addition to his strong scientific, entrepreneurial and technological-management background, John brings a deep appreciation for the full intellectual capabilities of a research university, including the roles of the liberal arts, nursing and other scholarly disciplines.” Dr. Horack released his first cut at our “Organizational Norms” to the Office of the Vice President (OVPR) Staff, Center Directors and Deans. These Norms as stated by Dr. Horack are currently a work in progress and once finalized will be displayed on his desk and the desk of the OVPR Staff. The “Norms” which will govern our behavior are as follows:

- Communicate Openly, Directly, and Truthfully, with respect for the views of others.
- Show Support for our team, for others at UAHuntsville and promote the University and its decisions.
- Find Solutions, not just identify problems.
- Seek first to understand, then be understood.
- Trust the motives of our colleagues.
- Celebrate our successes, and learn from both successes and failures.
- Hold ourselves and each other accountable to our commitments.
- Put the global success of the University ahead of local or parochial concerns.
- Treat everyone as a professional, with courtesy, dignity, and mutual respect.
- Balance our personal and our professional lives.
- Be stakeholder oriented, clarify mutual expectations up-front, and establish trust.

Join us in welcoming Dr. John Horack, Vice President for Research!
On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the $787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) into law. One of the major initiatives of the Act is to renew America's investment in basic research and development. The following is a summary of the most pertinent information from the Act as it relates to research operations:

- The ARRA includes $21.5 billion in federal research and development funding.
- National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF), and Department of Energy have received $10.4 billion, $3 billion, and $1.6 billion, respectively in stimulus funding.
- Funds must be obligated by prime recipients in a relatively short time period.

Federal agencies have begun posting information on how they plan to allocate funding received under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), including in some cases how they will monitor and report their actual spending. Below are the website links established so far. Note that NIH has posted the most details, including an ARRA funding announcement for Challenge Grants and special terms and conditions for ARRA awards.

Up-to-date information on the ARRA is posted on the OSP website: http://www.uah.edu/research/resadmin/index.html


NIH Challenge Grants in Health and Science Research
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/challenge_award/

Overview Information: Recovery Act Limited Competition: NIH Challenge Grants in Health and Science Research

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/NIH_HHS_ARRA_Award_Terms.pdf


National Science Foundation:  http://nsf.gov/recovery/

Department of Defense:  http://www.defenselink.mil/recovery/

Department of Energy:  http://www.energy.gov/recovery/

NASA:  http://www.nasa.gov/recovery/

National Institute of Standards and Technology:  http://www.nist.gov/recovery/

NIH National Center for Research Resources (NCRR)

RFA-RR-09-007 - Recovery Act Limited Competition: Core Facility Renovation, Repair, and Improvement (G20)

RFA-RR-09-008 - Recovery Act Limited Competition: Extramural Research Facilities Improvement Program (C06)

PAR-09-118 - Recovery Act Limited Competition: High-End Instrumentation Grant Program (S10)

NOT-RR-09-008 - Addition of Recovery Funds to the Shared Instrumentation Grant Program

RFA-OD-09-003 - The Challenge Grant
# NEW AWARDS: January—March 2009

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## Funding Opportunities

### Community of Science

Looking for potential funding opportunities? Have you tried Community of Science (COS)? COS is the leading global resources for hard-to-find information critical to scientific research and other projects across all disciplines.

You can access COS from the OSP website, under the PROPOSAL TAB “Funding Sources” [http://www.uah.edu/research/resadmin/index.html](http://www.uah.edu/research/resadmin/index.html)

To learn more about COS, please contact Steve Parker at 2654 or parkersj@uah.edu.

### Weekly Funding Bulletin

The OSP Weekly Funding Bulletin, is an abstract of funding opportunities from various agencies such as NASA, DOE, DOD, NIH, NSF, Private Foundations, and State Agencies. It includes special topic announcements from the agencies, as well as the dates and times of OSP selected solicitation reviews. The bulletin is sent via email each week.

If you would like to receive the Funding Bulletin, please send an email to: [ospweeklyfundingbulletin@uah.edu](mailto:ospweeklyfundingbulletin@uah.edu)
University of Tennessee Professor Convicted of Arms Export Violation

A federal jury convicted retired University of Tennessee professor Dr. J. Reece Roth, on 18 counts of conspiracy, fraud and violating the Export Control Act as it relates to the illegally exporting military technical information relating to plasma technology designed to be deployed on the wings of drones operating as a weapons or surveillance systems.

Dr. Roth was convicted on conspiracy, wire fraud and export control charges on September 3, 2008 for improperly sharing sensitive technology with students from China and Iran.

The case is the latest in a series involving the Arms Export Control Act. It also is among the first in which the government sought to punish a defendant for distributing scientific know-how rather than equipment to foreigners studying at universities with military research contracts.

Violations of the Arms Export Control Act carry a maximum possible penalty of ten years imprisonment and a $1,000,000 fine. Wire fraud carries a maximum possible penalty of 20 years imprisonment and a $250,000 fine, while conspiracy carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and a 250,000 fine.

The verdict "should serve as a warning to anyone who knowingly discloses restricted U.S. military data to foreign nationals," said Patrick Rowan, acting assistant attorney general for national security.

Complete Article located at: http://www.usdoj.gov/

Gifts vs. Contracts/Grants: Know the Difference

Sponsored projects falls within several general functional categories. Examples of these categories are: research, training, public services, fellowships, travel and equipment awards.

In general, sponsors of those activities include agencies of the federal, state, and local governments, foundations, international organizations, research institutes, societies and corporations.

These organizations fund sponsored projects using a variety of mechanisms such as contracts, grants, letter agreements, credit cards, purchase orders, and/or cooperative agreements.

Contracts and grants differ on its application. A contract is used mostly for applied research, whereas a grant is mostly used for basic fundamental research.

What Characterizes a Contract or Grant?

What Characterizes a Gift?

Given in the spirit of “Disinterested Generosity” (IRS Terms.)

No contractual obligations or deliverable.

No intellectual property rights.

Award irrevocably.

No required reporting (progress or financial.)

Not given in response to solicitation of support for a specifically-defined research project.

IRS Publication 1771—Charitable Contributions: Substantiation and Disclosure Requirements:

A contribution made by a donor in exchange for goods or services is known as a quid pro quo contribution.

A charitable organization must inform the donor in writing that the amount of the contribution that is deductible for federal income tax purposes is limited to the excess of money contributed over the value of goods or services provided by the organization.

IRS Publication 526—Charitable Contributions—Tax Return Instructions:

If you received a benefit as a result of making a contribution to a qualified organization, you can deduct only the amount of your contribution that is more than the value of the benefit you received.

If you have questions about Gifts, please contact University Advancement, Dr. Jeff Sands, VP for University Advancement, 6127 or jeff.sands@uah.edu.

If you have questions about Contracts/Grants please contact The Office of Sponsored Programs, Gloria Greene, Director, Sponsored Programs, 2657 or gloria.greene@uah.edu.

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

Winston Churchill
It’s My Money, Why Can’t I Spend It The Way I Want Too?

When a proposal results in a contract or grant award, OSP reviews the award document and arranges for its official acceptance by the University. UAHuntsville is the legal recipient of the award. The PI is the person who conducts the project and is responsible for the scientific progress and expenditures of funds.

When funds are expended on a contract or grant, the University pays all expenses out of its General Funds to include, salaries, fringes, tuition, consultant/subcontractor cost, vendor invoices, and reimbursement of research related travel expenses. Not until these expenses are charged and paid by the University, can the University then request reimbursement from the funding agency. Often it is said to the staff of OSP and/or C&G Accounting that funding received under a sponsored research grant belongs to the PI. Some believe that when the contract or grant is awarded, the funding agency issues a check for the amount of the award. This is not the case. Rarely will a funding agency pay for research in advance of completion. Most research is reimbursed as cost is incurred and invoiced. The University must then wait for the funding agency to issue a check for expenses incurred. It is at this point that OMB Circular A21, “Cost Principles for Educational Institutions” becomes pivotal and the rules governing allowable cost will determine if any and/or all cost billed will be reimbursed. Payment from some funding agencies may take up to six months. In most cases if the contract is Fixed Price, invoicing is not done until 90 days after the end date of the contract and all deliverables have been received and accepted by the funding agency. So, while the university’s obligations to its employees and vendors have been met, we must wait for the funding agency to audit our invoices, supporting documentation, accept/receipt of final reports and/or deliverable; ensure compliance with billing instructions and OMB Circular A21 as it applies to allowable cost for sponsored activities, before they issue payment.

Sabbatical Leave of Principal Investigators

As a Principal Investigator on a contract or grant and you plan to take Sabbatical Leave, you are required to notify the funding agency. If the leave is for a period of up to 3 months, you must notify the agency of arrangements for conducting the project during the temporary absence. If absent for a period longer than 3 months (such as sabbatical leave), arrangements for oversight of the project must be sent to the funding agency for approval. This information must be provided at least 30 days before departure or as soon as practical after the prospective absence is know. OSP must receive written approval from the Program/Technical Officer of the funding agency and percent of effort charged to the grant or contract must be adjusted as outlined in the approved plan. Both NSF and NIH requires the PI submit a letter to their program officer for approval. The letter should provide at a minimum the following information:

- A brief description of the activities to be performed by the PI while on sabbatical leave and the relationship of each contract/grant.
- The estimated percentage of time the PI will be spending on activities related to each grant/contract during the sabbatical.
- The extend of research to be continued on each grant/contract at UAHuntsville during the PI absence.
- The name, contact information and CV of the proposed person to be left in charge of day-to-day activities in the PI Absences.

This information must be sent to the funding agency in a letter signed by the PI and Director, OSP.
The Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) mission is to support three distinct groups: 1) UAHuntsville faculty and research staff; 2) UAHuntsville administration; and 3) our funding sponsors.

OSP strives to maintain balance among these groups by reviewing proposals to external funding agency, proper fiscal management of funds received, and oversight of compliance matters related to external agencies and the federal government.

OSP’s role is to support the faculty, staff, and administration of UAHuntsville; in effectively seeking, obtaining, and managing their research and scholarly activities to enhance their educational role.

CURRENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

**National Institute of Health (NIH)**
- **Exploratory Investigations in Food Allergy (R21) (RFA-AI-09-011)**
  - Due Date(s): Letter of Intent: 19 May 2009
  - Proposal Due: 19 June 2009

- **Biobehavioral Methods to Improve Outcomes Research (RO1) (PA-09-125)**
  - Due Date(s): Multiple dates, see announcement. Earliest submission date: 5 May 2009

**National Science Foundation (NSF)**
- **Engineering Research Centers (ERC) Partnerships in Transforming Research, Education and Technology**
  - Due Date(s): Letter of Intent: 15 May 2009
  - Preliminary Proposal Due: 15 July 2009
  - Full Proposal (Invited) Due: 12 January 2010

- **Undergraduate Research and Mentoring in the Biological Sciences**
  - Due Date: Preliminary Proposal: 15 September 2009
  - [http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=45696](http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=45696)

- **Research Experiences for Teachers (RET) in Engineering**
  - Due Date: 16 November 2009
  - [http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=45707](http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=45707)

- **NSF Astronomy and Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellowships Grant**
  - Due Date: Second Wednesday in October 2009
  - [http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=45723](http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=45723)

- **Research and Evaluation on Education in Science and Engineering Grant**
  - Due Date(s): Letter of Intent: 9 October 2009
  - Proposal Due: 12 November 2009
  - [http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=45726](http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=45726)

- **Math and Science Partnership Grant**
  - Due Date: 20 August 2009
  - [http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=45734](http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=45734)

**National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**
- **Ground-Based Studies in Space Radiobiology**
  - Due Date(s): Step 1: 23 April 2009
  - Step 2: 25 July 2009
  - [http://nspires.nasaprs.com](http://nspires.nasaprs.com)

- **ROSES 2009: Advancing Collaborative Connections for Earth System Science Grant**
  - Due Date: 26 June 2009
  - [http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=46097](http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=46097)