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University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture Sponsored Programs Office

2017 April

# Office of Sponsored Programs Newsletter

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**Jane Burns**  
Assistant Director  
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## Message from the Director

> **Congratulations to Rumira Xhaferaj, our newest Assistant Director!** Rumira has been and continues being responsible for all Sponsored

Programs contracts. She works closely with Courtney Holbert who issues sub-awards, Will Helmrath on negotiating State of Tennessee and ORNL awards, Karin Langan on processing awards, and Chelsey, our student worker, on sending out documents for signature through DocuSign.

Unfortunately, Shirley Phillips is no longer a part of our team and we will be searching for a new team member shortly. We wish Shirley well in her new endeavors. Please have patience while we work shorthanded until a replacement has been hired.

On a brighter note, the USDA AFRI RFAs are out. There is a link to the opportunities on page four of this

newsletter. Let us know at [aggrant@utk.edu](mailto:aggrant@utk.edu) if you think you may apply. This will be a busy submission time and we want to be sure you have a coordinator assigned early to assist you.

In this newsletter, we have included bios of AgResearch's new Associate Deans, Drs. Tim Rials and David White. Our office has already been actively working with both of them and expect to see our proposal load increase due to their ongoing efforts to encourage collaborative proposals. Another bio is included from Jane Burns, who splits her time 50/50 between Assistant Director in OSP and Compliance Officer for the Institute.

Let us know what you think of our newsletter and suggestions for content. We strive to include informative and timely news.

Thank You,

*Debbie Hampstead*

## > AFRI is the largest peer-reviewed, agricultural competitive grants program in the United States.

National Institute of Food & Agriculture (NIFA) is one of 17 agencies that comprise the USDA, and it is the primary granting agency of the USDA. Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) is one of NIFA's principal tools for fulfilling its mission of investing in agricultural research, education and extension projects.

The President's FY 2017 budget request for AFRI consists of two parts. The first part requests \$375 million in discretionary funding, which is \$25 million more than the level appropriated by Congress in FY 2016. The second part proposes new legislation for \$325 million in mandatory funding as part of a Government-wide proposal to increase funding for research and development. Together, these parts comprise a bold initiative to fund AFRI at its fully authorized level of \$700 million.

In 2017, there will be seven Requests for Applications (RFAs):

1. Foundational Program
2. Childhood Obesity Prevention Challenge Area
3. Climate Variability and Change Challenge Area
4. Food Safety Challenge Area
5. Sustainable Bioenergy and Biproducts Challenge Area
6. Water for Food Production Systems Challenge Area
7. Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences Education and Literacy Initiative

**Here is a link to the various  
AFRI due dates:**

[taes.utk.edu/upload/AgRsSch/SponsoredPrograms/  
AFRIProgramCheatSheet2017.pdf](https://taes.utk.edu/upload/AgRsSch/SponsoredPrograms/AFRIProgramCheatSheet2017.pdf)

The FY 2017 President's budget includes an increase of \$25 million above the FY 2016 level in discretionary funding to support clean energy research. AFRI will also support Presidential Initiatives through approximately \$10 million for pollinator health research and approximately \$13 million for combatting antimicrobial resistance. Funding will also support the Critical Agricultural Research and Extension program, which enables the development of the tools and technologies that producers can deploy in their production systems and the Exploratory Research Program, which stimulates innovative ideas that will accelerate the advancement of agricultural science and position U.S. Agriculture at the global forefront.



For more information, visit <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-afri>

Refer to the AFRI RFAs and [RFA resources](#) page for information needed to submit an application to the appropriate program.



## > Office of Sponsored Programs spotlight is on Jane Burns



Hi, everyone- I'm Jane Burns, and I've been working in the UTIA Office of Sponsored Programs since 2009. I've been with UT even longer, getting my undergraduate (accounting) and master's (public administration) degrees from UTK, then working as an internal auditor and in the UT hospital administration. At UTIA, I have a dual role – as Assistant Director in the pre-award office and as Compliance Officer for the Institute. I'm happy to support – and constantly impressed by – the work at UTIA. When I'm off work, I enjoy spending time with my two sons – 11 and 25 – and my husband, traveling, boating, skiing, UT football (GBO!), and following my husband's food truck to local venues and festivals.



**Dr. Tim Rials** is the Associate Dean of Research and Associate Director of the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station (AgResearch). This appointment follows 15 years as the Director of the UT Center for Renewable Carbon. Dr. Rials is a graduate of Mississippi State University, and earned his M.S. and Ph.D. in wood science from Virginia Tech. He joined the university after 13 years with the U.S. Forest Service, Southern Research Station in Pineville, Louisiana, and before that, two years on the faculty of the University of California–Berkeley. Tim’s research career has focused on the efficient and effective utilization of renewable resources in advanced composite materials, including development of high throughput analytical methods for characterizing wood. As director of the Center for Renewable Carbon, he coordinated UTIA’s research and development program on the use of forest and agricultural biomass for alternative

liquid fuels, industrial chemicals, and advanced materials. The CRC is home to the Southeastern Regional Sun Grant Center that supports an expansive research portfolio in biomass and bioenergy throughout the region. He also leads a regional team of research and outreach specialists in the Southeastern Partnership for Integrated Biomass Supply Systems, a competitively awarded grant from USDA’s AFRI program. Dr. Rials was recognized for his contributions in the area of renewable carbon science with the 2011 AgResearch Impact Award. He is a fellow in the International Academy of Wood Science, and an active member of the American Chemical Society’s Cellulose and Renewable Materials Division.



**Dr. David White** joined The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture as an Associate Dean for Research and Associate Director of the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station (AgResearch) in September, 2016. He previously served in several positions in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Office of Foods and Veterinary Medicine including Chief Science Officer/Research Director and Acting Director of the Office of Resource Planning and Strategic Management. Before that he served as the Director of FDA’s National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) and Director of the Office of Research at FDA’s Center for Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. White is a past member of the *Ad hoc* group on Antimicrobial Resistance, Office International des Epizooties (OIE), Paris, France and a founding member of the Reservoirs of Antibiotic Resistance (ROAR). He has also served on several USDA extramural and intramural research panels, including the USDA office of science quality review panel,

National Program 108 Action Plan on Food Safety as well as on review panels for other agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USDA, and Department of Defense. Dr. White is an editor of the book “Frontiers in Antibiotic Resistance”, ASM Press, Washington D.C. and is on the editorial board of Foodborne Pathogens and Disease. He previously served as co-chair of both the FDA Antimicrobial Resistance Steering Committee and the U.S. Interagency Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance and as the U.S Delegate to the Codex *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance.

Dr. White received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Vermont, his master of science from the University of Kentucky and his Ph.D. from the Pennsylvania State University. He also was a post-doctoral fellow in the Center for Adaptation Genetics and Drug Resistance at Tufts University School of Medicine and before joining FDA, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Veterinary and Microbiological Sciences at North Dakota State University.



> **Forms Related to Outside Interests and Work**

Upon employment and annually, UT employees receive reminders about conflict of interest (COI) or outside interest disclosure forms, required to comply with **University's Fiscal Policy FI0125**. These reminders are sent in late summer. In the meantime, if you need to update your Part I or Part II (PHS) disclosure form(s), links to the forms can be found at the bottom of the Policy.

In addition, if, at any time during the year, you wish to have outside employment for which you receive compensation, please complete the **Request for Authorization for Outside Work for Pay** form. This is a separate form and should be completed *before* the work takes place.

*\*For additional information, see the guidelines included on the second page of the form.*

**PROPOSAL FLOW CHART**

PI notifies OSP that they would like to apply for a grant

PI works with OSP coordinator to finalize the proposal package

OSP coordinator will Route proposal through Evisions SP

OSP Director /Assistant Director reviews & approves in Evisions SP

Submission to the Agency

**#FundingOpp >>>**

- USDA AFRI FOUNDATIONAL PROGRAM RFA RELEASED — [LINK](#)**

- Tennessee State Government:** <http://www.tn.gov/ruraltaskforce/section/grants-resources>
- NIH:** [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/funding\\_program.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/funding_program.htm)
- USDA NIFA:** <https://nifa.usda.gov/page/search-grant>
- NSF:** <http://www.nsf.gov/funding/index.jsp>
- Grants.gov:** <http://www.grants.gov/>
- Rural Assistance Center:** Various TN Funding Opportunities at <http://www.raconline.org/states/tennessee/funding>
- Philanthropy News Digest (Foundation Center):** <http://philanthropynewsdigest.org/>
- Morris Animal Foundation:** <http://www.morrisanimalfoundation.org/researchers/>
- Grant Resources in Science, Math, and Integrated STEM:** <http://www.cesa2.org/programs/stem/STEMgrants.cfm>
- Non-NIH Opportunities for Predoctoral & Graduate Researchers:** [link](#)
- Postdoctoral Non-NIH Opportunities:** <https://www.fic.nih.gov/Funding/NonNIH/Pages/postdoctoral.aspx>

## > How to include a Research and Education Center into your proposal submission

At the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, we have an invaluable resource in our 10 research and education centers (REC) across the state. At the centers, scientists and students are able to test their ideas and hypothesis under real-life conditions. Research conducted on the centers addresses real problems and answers questions posed by producers, agribusinesses, agricultural professionals, and the general public. As you apply for funding and desire to use these special properties, it is necessary to consult with each REC director on applicable costs associated with the project at least two weeks prior to submission. The REC director will provide you with a budget and assist with a description of the site and facilities to be used for inclusion in the application. However, planning and communication *must occur early*.



To find out more about the REC centers, please visit <http://taes.tennessee.edu/centers/>.

## > RESOURCES

- USDA NIFA Grant Training—<https://nifa.usda.gov/grant-training>
- USDA NIFA 2017 RFA Schedule—<https://nifa.usda.gov/request-application-rfa-schedule>
- NIH Standard Due Dates—<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/due-dates-and-submission-policies/due-dates.htm>
- *Storytelling in Grant Writing* — <http://grants-plus.com/?newswire=summer-2013-gp-newswire-storytelling-in-grant-writing>
- UT Data Services Guide— <http://libguides.utk.edu/dataservices>



**OSP Office Left to Right:** Rumira Xhaferaj, Jane Burns, Will Helmrath, Debbie Hampstead, Karin Langan, Cathy Creswell, Kathy Dalton, Shirley Phillips, Courtney Holbert, Traci Stanley

**UTIA Office of Sponsored Programs Facebook & Twitter pages are avenues we use to keep you up to date with the ever changing events in Research Administration.**



An additional source of information is our web page. ([link](#))  
You may submit questions, ideas or suggestions for improvements of our newsletter to [aggrant@utk.edu](mailto:aggrant@utk.edu).

