

## IN THIS ISSUE >>>

- Faculty Spotlights
- Compliance Corner
- USDA NIFA Changes
- Cost vs. Price
- #FundingOpps



University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture Sponsored Programs Office

2019 April

# Office of Sponsored Programs Newsletter

## STAFF >>>

Jane Burns  
Interim Director  
& Compliance Officer

Rumira Khaferaj  
Assistant Director

### COORDINATORS

Cathy Creswell  
Kathy Dalton  
DeeDee Wilder  
Liz Hebert  
Everly Manes  
Karin Langan

### UTIA Office of Sponsored Programs

2621 Morgan Circle  
224 & 225 Morgan Hall  
Knoxville, TN 37996-4514  
Phone: 865-974-7357  
Fax: 865-974-7451  
Email: [aggrant@utk.edu](mailto:aggrant@utk.edu)



## Message from the Interim Director

Hello, UTIA community! Spring has come upon us quickly this year. Many of you are busy preparing for planting season, writing proposals, and accepting new funding, which may have been delayed due to the government shutdown.

As USDA proposal season is ramping up and our office is short-handed, we remain dedicated to providing excellent service. We are working to get back to our full staffing level. In the meantime, please understand we are each juggling more projects than normal – and be sure to contact your coordinator or me if you have any concerns about your proposal submission timeline.

This newsletter highlights Dr. Marc Caldwell, Dr. Brynn Voy, and Dr. Matt Devereaux. I am always impressed with the work of UTIA faculty and staff. As you prepare for future projects, consider talents within UTIA and opportunities for collaboration.

See Liz Hebert's article on indirect costs limits on USDA National Institute

of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) budgets and awards.

Kathy Dalton and I attended the annual National Extension and Research Administrative Officers Conference (NERAOC). Over 20 NIFA employees were there to answer our many questions about the new budget requirements. See the article on page 6 for more information on the changes.

Cathy Creswell's article reminds us that taking the time to determine the actual cost of your project is time well spent. Working with your department and OSP staff *before* giving a price to a sponsor can save time and headaches in the long run.

Since AFRI season is approaching, we have again included a *basic* proposal timeline. Keep in mind that large, complex projects will need much more time. Your coordinator will help you set a timeline for your proposal.

UTIA is happy to be part of your team. We look forward to a productive and busy spring.

Thank you,  
*Jane Burns*



### Dr. Marc Caldwell [ORCID 0000-0002-1451-9749](#)

Dr. Marc Caldwell is an assistant professor in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences University of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Caldwell earned his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Auburn University in 2006. Following 2 years as a mixed-animal private practice associate he returned to Auburn to complete a PhD in infectious diseases of livestock and a Food Animal Internal Medicine board certification. His research focus is in the area of livestock infectious diseases, particularly bacterial and viral pathogens of the respiratory tract in cattle. Recent and upcoming publications include studies highlighting the interaction of the nasopharyngeal microbiome on the transmission dynamics of *Mannheimia haemolytica*, the current prevalence of pathological lesions among cull beef and dairy cattle in the Southeastern United States. He has broad clinical interests which includes lameness, herd disease or outbreak investigation, and pain management in livestock. In addition, Dr. Caldwell brings a strong commitment to animal agriculture and livestock producers. He views his role as a farm animal field service veterinarian as one that directly supports livestock producers in the state of Tennessee by providing on-farm care of livestock and up-to-date information and advice to support the day the day management of their farms.



In addition to these research endeavors, Dr. Caldwell is passionate about the success of rural large animal veterinarians. Recently, he and collaborators were awarded an USDA Veterinary Services Grant to aid in the ongoing issue of limited access to large animal veterinary care in rural communities in Tennessee. Their grant targets early career veterinarians working throughout Tennessee and works to pair them with established large animal veterinarians to facilitate mentoring partnerships. The goals are to provide new graduates with a resource to turn to for insight on working through the challenges of starting a rural veterinary career and that these established vets will impart their amassed knowledge and experience to keep new grads excited, successful, and rooted in rural practice.



### Dr. Brynn Voy, [ORCID 0000-0003-1923-9110](#)



Dr. Brynn Voy is an Associate Professor of Animal Science at the University of Tennessee. After earning her Ph.D. in Physiology from the University of Tennessee

Knoxville, she completed postdoctoral training in the Mammalian Genetics Group at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and then remained at ORNL as a Senior Staff Scientist for eight years. Her research integrates physiology with nutrition, genomics and metabolomics, focusing on fundamental aspects of adipose tissue biology. Dr. Voy uses broiler chicks as a dual-purpose/dual-benefit model to understand the basis for susceptibility to obesity. Her research focuses on adipose tissue development, and how to limit the accumulation of excess body fat early in life. In broilers, this excess fat wastes costly feed and compromises efficiency of production. In children, it increases the risk of lifelong obesity and its health consequences. The goal of her research is to understand how specific types of fatty acids inhibit adipose tissue development, and to use these in the diet to limit fat accretion. Work in her lab currently focuses on the ability to developmentally program resistance to obesity through the maternal diet. She recently demonstrated that enriching the diet of the hen in fish oil significantly reduced body fat in chicks after hatch and is now funded by USDA to identify the genetic and epigenetic mechanisms that underlie this relationship, in collaboration with investigators at the University of Georgia and Linkoping University (Sweden).

Dr. Voy also has been given the opportunity to apply her background in poultry and human nutrition in Rwanda through a project funded by USAID and led by Dr. Tom Gill of the Smith International Center. *Twokore Inkoko*, seeks to alleviate both protein malnutrition and poverty in rural Rwanda by teaching farmers to raise broiler chickens. This work provides Dr. Voy with firsthand experience of the importance of poultry to the global population.



### Dr. Matt Devereaux

Dr. Matt Devereaux is a Professor and Human Development Extension Specialist in the Department of

Family and Consumer Sciences. He received his undergraduate degree in Psychology from the University of Georgia and his Master's and PhD in Child & Family Studies from the University of Tennessee. In his current role he is responsible for proactively developing, implementing and evaluating programs and activities that support the county outreach through UT's network of Family and Consumer Science and 4-H Youth Development Agents.

Much of Dr. Devereaux's time and energy over the past 21 years has been in the area of developing innovative and highly impactful youth programs. Specifically, he has focused his efforts and research on best practices for positively developing youth in afterschool settings. Since 2005, Devereaux has secured \$11 million to develop innovative afterschool programs across the state of Tennessee. In particular, he has begun to change the culture of how afterschool programs address youth development issues. Through a collaboration with Yale Universities' Center for Emotional Intelligence, his findings show the importance of focusing heavily on a student's social/emotional development during the beginning of the school year so as to improve the student's academics as the year progresses. His research has shown students have greater gains in grades and standardized test scores when incorporating significant social/emotional learning programming that teaches students how to recognize, understand, label, express, and regulate emotions.

His other current areas of emphasis include the development of a research-based babysitting program titled, *Babysitting ROCKS*; providing regular child care provider training materials through the *Bright Futures* program, and the development of resources around the topics of adverse childhood experiences (ACES), mindfulness and social emotional learning. He hopes his remaining years with Extension can focus on fathering and the importance of having positive male influences in a child's life. When asked what Dr. Devereaux enjoys most about his time with UT Extension, he would tell you "going out to the counties to see those incredibly hard working county agents. Without them, I'm not successful!"



## COMPLIANCE CORNER >>>

by Jane Burns

### > Protecting Assets

Are you keeping **data and information** secure? The first step in keeping data secure is to **determine what needs to be protected**. Be sure you know *requirements of any grants or agreements* that support your work. Sponsors may include specific requirements about what should be secure and who can access data, such as being a US citizenship or being specifically named in a data security plan and trained. Also consider any *confidentiality agreements* or *other restrictions* placed by sponsors. It may go without saying, but if *intellectual property* is involved, you will need to take secure results of your work. Be aware, also, of *laws* that require security, for instance FERPA requirements that relate to student privacy. Discuss what should be secure with your department head. Discuss **how to secure** it with UTIA Information Technology Services (ITS). UTIA IT security procedures can be found at <https://ag.tennessee.edu/Pages/UTIApolicies.aspx>

To protect assets, also consider **physical security**. Cash, computers, samples, and other assets will need to be limited to those needing access. Common sense should prevail. Special consideration should be given to secure assets when **visitors** are on campus. Do not disclose confidential or sensitive information to visitors. When possible, keep small, valuable assets out of sight. If you have visiting scholars, be use they are allowed access *according to sponsor agreements*. Even if a collaborating industry scientist thinks it is okay, they may not realize they aren't legally covered, for instance, by a confidentiality agreement.



USDA has recently changed how limitations on Facilities and Administrative Costs (F&A) – also known as indirect costs - are determined in proposals with subawards. The new language has resulted in a change to how UTIA OSP must determine the maximum F&A allowed on proposals. There may be a minor reduction in F&A recovery on some proposals, as compared to the old method.



NIFA's new indirect cost rate guidelines state: "Section 1462(a) and (c) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA) limits indirect costs for the overall award to 30 percent of Total Federal Funds Awarded (TFFA) under a research, education, or extension grant. The maximum indirect cost rate allowed under the award is determined by calculating the amount of indirect costs using:

1. the sum of an institution's negotiated indirect cost rate and the indirect cost rate charged by sub-awardees, if any; or
2. 30 percent of TFFA.

In short, the total F&A requested by UT *plus all subawards* must be less than 30% of total funds requested.

What does this mean for proposal preparation? This means that it has become even more important to:

1. Give any subawards on your proposal a budget cap early in the process that includes F&A. This way we know early on the maximum F&A to expect from each.
2. Require subs to limit their F&A to the lower of (1) 30% of their request and (2) their negotiated rate.
3. Get final budgets from subawards well before the proposal due date.

All F&A will then be added together (ours and all subs). If using our negotiated rate leads to exceeding 30% TFFA, we will reduce our portion (as lead), reducing either F&A or a non-F&A bearing cost.

Please start the process with subawards early and abide by the internal timelines provided by your coordinator as much as possible. Your coordinator will help to ensure the overhead on the budget does not exceed the required cap, but it is much easier for OSP to assist when internal timelines are met during the proposal process.

## DRONE USAGE MEETING

To better serve UT Faculty & Staff involved in work involving remote sensing or data collection using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), the Office of Research and Engagement is organizing a UAV Drone interest meeting:

**11:00 AM-12:00 PM on Wednesday, April 17th**  
**Room 262B of the Student Union Building**

The goal of this meeting is to allow interested faculty and staff the opportunity to meet with others with similar research agendas and to discuss policies that govern the use of these increasingly important research tools.



To register for this event, please go to: <https://workshop.utk.edu/workshopinfo.php?workshop=552>

It is time well spent to prepare a reasonable sponsored project budget, based on actual costs.

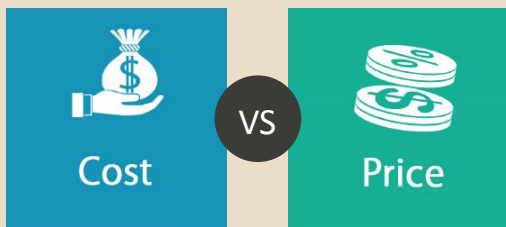
A key issue for a PI is to be sure that the funds awarded will in fact cover the actual costs of the project, and this is a question that your sponsored programs office can help answer.

The budget is a key element of most grant proposals, and serves as a blueprint for spending the project's funds. An effective proposal budget is an outline of the proposed project in fiscal terms. It should consist of all the costs of personnel, supplies, travel and other activities required by the project, including indirect costs.



Costing and pricing are important first steps of the proposal development process. There is a clear difference between **costing** and **pricing**.

- The cost of a piece of research is how much it will cost UT for you to undertake the project in question.
- The price is how much you request (or, eventually get) from your funder



Some sponsors, especially industrial and commercial sponsors, want to only pay what they think the research is worth, which may be below the cost of the project. Therefore, carefully consider the cost to the university, including full indirect costs, before you provide even a ballpark estimate to a sponsor. Ask OSP assistance before sending estimates to sponsors.

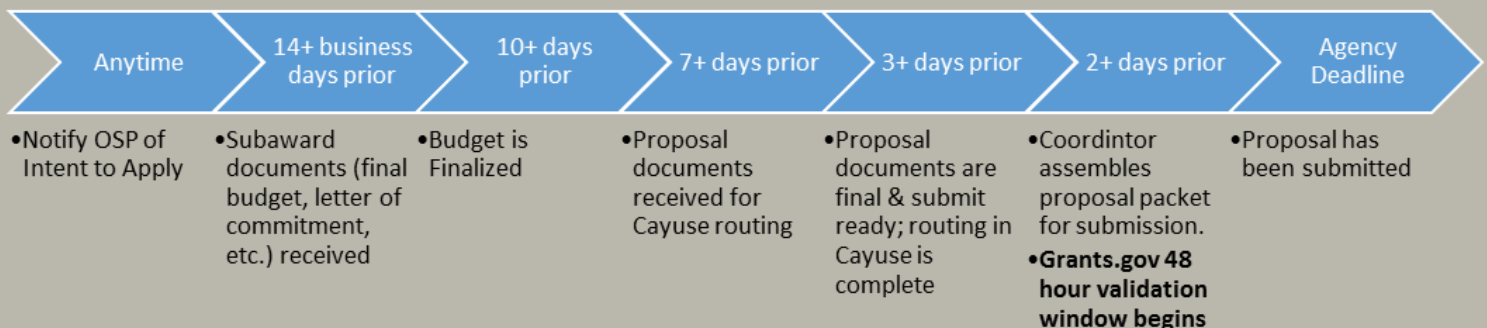
Before you approach a potential research funder you should consider your internal approval process. For instance, department heads may need to be aware of your plans even before you contact Sponsored Programs.

Before sending to a sponsor, proposals need to be routed for approvals in Cayuse. Pre-proposals also need to be routed if they include a detailed budget, matching commitment, an authorized signature, and/or electronic submission by an authorized official.

The review/approval process helps to insure that your project proposal covers costs, meets the sponsor guidelines, and conforms to UT policies.

## Proposal Timeline >>>

Our primary aim with the 3 business-day proposal submission deadline is to work with you in developing a proposal timeline and milestones, to provide you and your peers with the best service we can. This is especially important as we enter a busy proposal season and need to use the timeline as a tool to ensure a complaint and timely proposal submission.



## Changes to 2019 Competitive RFAs and New Awards for Match and Indirect Cost Rates to Meet New Requirements Contained in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334)

You may notice changes to open RFAs and future RFAs and to new competitive awards to adjust the language regarding indirect cost rate limitations and matching requirements. This is due to new provisions in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill). Match Section 7614 of the 2018 Farm Bill removed the matching requirements exception for land-grant universities on NIFA competitive grants imposed under the 2014...More information at this [link](#).

At this year's NERAOC, USDA NIFA employees discussed the new match requirement. The exception for land-grant universities was removed from the Farm Bill, so UTIA will have to provide match for more NIFA programs. In addition, NIFA's legal counsel has determined that, if our request includes 30% indirect cost, our match cannot include any indirect cost. Most attendees believe this is a mis-interpretation of cost principles, and it will be fought. In the meantime, NIFA staff will work with us, as best they can, to help us adjust to this change.

### #FundingOpp >>>

> **The Faculty Development Team has launched a weekly funding digest** featuring information from the NIH Digest, round-ups from the Corporate and Private Foundations Office, limited submissions, and internal opportunities. **[Sign up to receive the digest here.](#)**

> Use **Pivot** to search and save funding opportunities, set up funding alerts, or manage your scholar profile using your UT NetID. Use the [Foundation Directory Online](#) to search a database of the 10,000 largest private, community, and corporate foundations in the U.S.

- **USDA NIFA** : <https://nifa.usda.gov/page/search-grant>
- **NIH**: [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/funding\\_program.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/funding_program.htm)
- **Non-NIH Opportunities for Predoctoral & Graduate Researchers**: [link](#)
- **Postdoctoral Non-NIH Opportunities**: <https://www.fic.nih.gov/Funding/NonNIH/Pages/postdoctoral.aspx>
- **NSF**: <http://www.nsf.gov/funding/index.jsp>
- **Grants.gov**: <http://www.grants.gov/>
- **Tennessee State Government**: <http://www.tn.gov/ruraltaskforce/section/grants-resources>
- **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>

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).

