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University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture Sponsored Programs Office

2019 January

Office of Sponsored Programs Newsletter

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Message from the Interim Director

As 2019 begins, we'd like to thank you for your work with OSP during the past year. We rely on the teamwork and appreciate the support of leadership, principal investigators (PIs), business managers, and others in the UTIA community.

This newsletter features UTIA PIs Rob Holland, Dr. Nicole Labbé, and Dr. Richard Gerhold. Also, Rumira Xhaferaj highlights UT Research Foundation's Innovation Awards ceremony we recently attended, which recognized several UTIA researchers.

A familiar but important topic, Everly Manes' article explains OSP's 3 business day deadline. Because our office works with PIs on proposals from the beginning of proposal development, the timeline developed by PIs and their OSP coordinators is an important tool in meeting the 3-day deadline.

We continue to monitor the federal government shutdown and its effect on federally-funded projects. As notices are received, we will continue to

forward them to PIs and other appropriate parties. For more information, we've included information from the recent e-mail notification we sent to all UTIA employees.

Best wishes to Debbie Hampstead in her new role with AgResearch, working on metrics for UTIA's strategic plan. Also, congratulations to Coordinator, Will Helmrath, who begins work in a pre-award job at the UTK College of Engineering on Feb. 1. We appreciate their work with our office and wish them both well in their new roles. A new coordinator position will be posted soon, so please pass it along to qualified candidates or let us know if you are interested.

We wish you the best in the New Year and look forward to working with you on upcoming projects.

Thank you,
Jane Burns



Rob Holland

Rob was raised on a family farm in Giles County where he was active in 4-H and is a former national 4-H winner. He has a BS degree in Agribusiness from UT Martin and an MS degree in Agricultural Economics from UTK. In 1993, Rob began his Extension career by serving 5 years as an Area Farm Management Specialist in East Tennessee. He then joined the Agriculture Development Center (the original name of the Center for Profitable Agriculture) on the Ag Campus in 1998. He moved with the Center to Middle Tennessee in 2002, where he currently serves as Extension Specialist and Director of the Center for Profitable Agriculture.

In his Extension work, Rob has traveled to every Tennessee County to work with local community leaders, entrepreneurs and farm families in various aspects of enterprise evaluation, business planning and market analysis. He has been involved with creating scores of Extension educational publications and outreach programs including the *Value-Added Beef Program*, *Farmers Market Boot Camps* and *Adding Value to Tennessee Agriculture workshops*. He has also collaborated on industry analyses for value-added dairy processing, the Tennessee grape and wine industry and agritourism. He has provided leadership to teams, committees and collaborative efforts which have been funded by various grants and other external sources. He has collaborated on more than 90 external funding projects that have generated some \$2.3 million in external funding which supported various research and outreach.

Rob has two children, a daughter named Reagan and a son named Clark. When he's not working, Rob enjoys kayaking, travelling, spending time at the family farm and hitting as many locally-owned, rural restaurants as possible.



Dr. Nicole Labbé *ORCID 0000-0002-2117-4259*



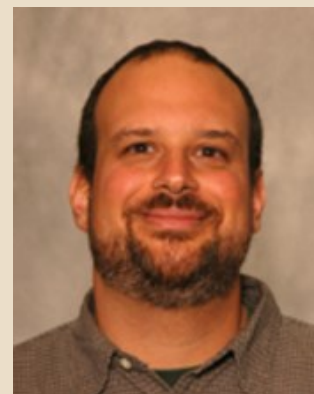
Dr. Nicole Labbé is a Professor of Biomass Chemistry in the Center for Renewable Carbon, with her academic appointment in the Department of Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries at the University of Tennessee. She received her Ph.D. in Wood Sciences from University of Bordeaux, France. Her research focuses on understanding properties of lignocellulosic biomass –appearance, variability, and potential for conversion to various products such as fuels, chemicals, and value-added materials. Specifically, Niki studies novel biological and chemical routes to directly convert and/or fractionate biomass into bio-based products. In 2018, Dr. Labbé and Dr. Naskar from Oak Ridge National Laboratory, in collaboration with several other institutions and an industrial manufacturer, initiated a new research program to develop and commercialize bioplastics with engineered properties and deployable cost for residential and commercial buildings' siding applications. The overarching objective of this USDA \$2.9 M grant is to reduce the nation's dependence on petroleum-derived chemicals through the development of integrated pathways for the extraction of value-added polymeric products from waste/under-valued streams from biorefinery.

Ultimately, Dr. Labbé's research goal is to provide detailed understanding of plant cell walls; their roles in plant function; and anatomical, physical, and chemical factors that control biomass recalcitrance during conversion. She is also developing high-throughput techniques coupled with multivariate statistical analyses to rapidly screen and monitor biomass quality and performance from laboratory to biorefinery.



Dr. Richard Gerhold ORCID [0000-0003-1592-3759](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1592-3759)

Dr. Gerhold received his BS in wildlife science (1997) and DVM (2001) from Purdue University. Upon graduation from veterinary school, he was employed as the staff veterinarian at the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) at the University of Georgia. Duties at SCWDS included investigating wildlife mortality events, wildlife postmortem exams, training biologists with wildlife chemical immobilization and diagnostic or research sample collections, and supervising the chronic wasting disease surveillance in the southeastern US. Additionally, he received a MS and PhD from University of Georgia in Veterinary Pathology working on classical and molecular parasitology with a particular emphasis on avian protozoa. Following his PhD, Dr. Gerhold completed a two year post-doctoral fellowship at the Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries Department at the University of Tennessee researching Lyme disease and tick-borne diseases. He is currently an assistant professor of parasitology at Department of Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine at University of Tennessee. Duties include teaching in the first year parasitology course and fourth year parasitology rotations, diagnostic services, and research. His research interests include wildlife and public health associated parasite epidemiology, protozoa, and avian diseases. Dr. Gerhold's current funded projects include development of serological tests for meningeal worm (*Parelaphostrongylus tenuis*) and arterial worm (*Elaeophora schneideri*) in cervids, epidemiology of *Toxoplasma gondii* in wild and domestic animals, determining diseases of wild turkeys in middle Tennessee, investigating diseases of elk in Tennessee, and coccidia vaccine development and use in domestic poultry. In addition he belongs to the Center for Wildlife Health at the University of Tennessee which is group of researchers from numerous departments and colleges at the University of Tennessee that perform research on various wildlife diseases.



COMPLIANCE CORNER >>>

by Jane Burns

> Risk Assessment

Individuals in charge of compliance at UTIA are working with UT's system-wide [Office of Institutional Compliance](#) (OIC) to conduct UTIA's required Risk Assessment, which covers laws and regulations related to a variety of topics, such as human resources, information technology, safety, and research compliance. UTIA compliance officers are developing corrective action plans to address priority areas, working with the UTIA Compliance Committee and the OIC. Members of the UTIA Compliance Committee include Michael McEntee (chair), David White, John Stier, Mike Buschermohle, Tonya Kenley, Sandy Lindsey, and Jane Burns.

> Responsible Conduct of Research Training

Mark your calendar to join us Tuesday, April 16, in 156/157 Plant Biotechnology Building for a Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) workshop. This 2-hour lunchtime session, led by Dr. Neal Stewart, will meet USDA and NSF's RCR training requirement. For more information about RCR, see the [UTIA RCR website](#) or contact janeburns@utk.edu.

> UT IRB 101 Workshop Videos

Thanks to the generosity of Derrick MacGillivray and Tami Wyatt in the College of Nursing, captioned video versions of our UT IRB 101 workshop are available to you at the links below. The full workshop is divided into four sections so that if you have attended previously and need only a refresher on a particular part, you may go there directly.

[IRB 01 - Introduction to UTK IRB](#)

[IRB 02 - IRB Process Overview](#)

[IRB 04 - IRB Post Approval Issues](#)

[IRB 03 - Common IRB Approval Delays](#)

The Office of Sponsored Programs was invited to attend the 2018 UTRF Innovation Awards Ceremony on December 5, 2018. A number of us were able to attend (Jane Burns, Cathy Creswell, Kathy Dalton, Liz Hebert, and Rumira Xhaferaj). This is an annual ceremony organized and hosted by the UTRF Multi-Campus Office to recognize the inventors who positively impact our society through innovative technology. UTIA was very well represented with a number of its inventors being recognized for patented technologies, license agreements secured, and other awards.



The following UTIA inventors have partnered in 2018 with UTRF regarding patents: Shigetoshi Eda, Philip Ye, Priya Ranjan.

The following UTIA inventors have partnered in 2018 with UTRF on licensing their technologies to bring their innovations to market: a Stewart, David Mann, Shigetoshi Eda, Jennifer Richards, Robert Miller, Gary Bates, David McIntosh, Richard Gerhold, and Alycia Chapman.

Recipients of 2019 UTRF Maturation Grant funding were also recognized at the ceremony. The Maturation Grant program, open to UT researchers, faculty, staff and students at all campuses and institutes, helps further develop technologies that have the potential for commercial success. Oudessa Kerro Dego and Tarek Hewezi were recognized as recipients of 2019 Maturation Grants. Dr. Kerro Dego was also nominated for the Innovation Driver Award.

For more information on the awards and pictures from the ceremony click:

<https://utrf.tennessee.edu/utrf-2018-innovation-awards-celebrate-ut-researchers/>

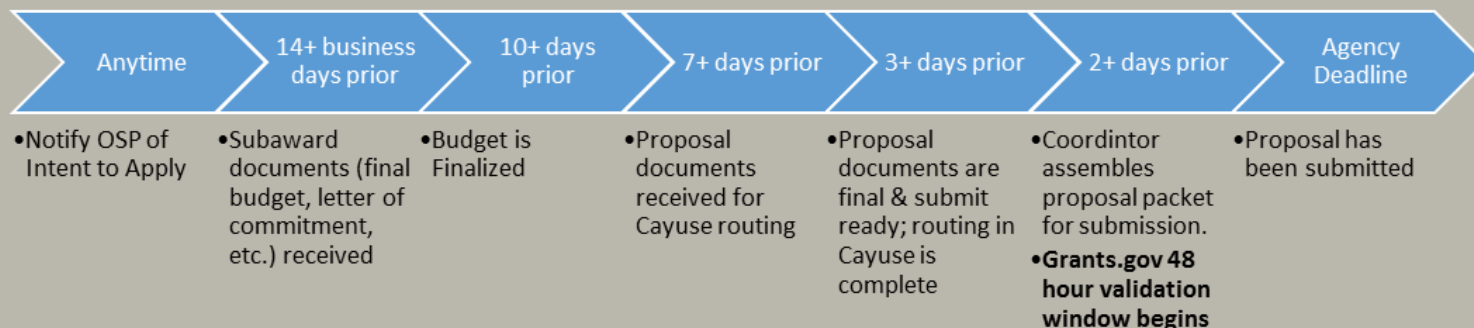
Clarification of Proposal Timeline >>>

by Everly Manes

> As we enter a New Year, many of us will set new goals. This year, the Office of Sponsored Programs' goal is to remind you of the importance of meeting the 3 business-day proposal submission deadline and make this information readily available.

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.

Further, marking proposals that meet timelines and milestones will allow us to collect data for metrics leadership is tracking. Additional details and information are available on our [website](#).



Federal Government Shutdown >>>

During the partial shutdown of the United States government, UTIA Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) is monitoring the effect on sponsored projects and will communicate information, as received. Generally speaking, unless otherwise notified, activity funded by these agencies will follow this guidance:

- If the work does not involve accessing federal agency locations, resources, data, personnel, or additional funding, the work can **continue** as long as you have available award funding. However, it is advised to be prudent in your expenditures and only incur expenses necessary for performance of current needs.
- For projects that do involve accessing federal agency locations, resources, data, personnel, or additional funding, the work must **cease** until appropriations have been reinstated and further notice from the agency sponsor. Note, there is an exception if the “safety of life or the protection of property would be compromised in some significant degree by failure to carry out the function in question”. Please notify aggrant@utk.edu if your work may fall under this category.



Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/information-for-agencies/agency-contingency-plans/>

Please notice dates of entries on this website, as some are not related to this year's shutdown.

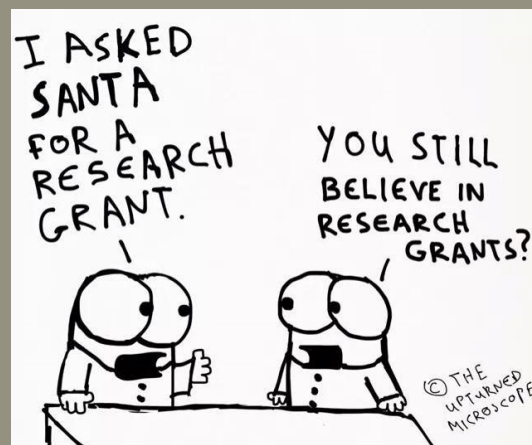
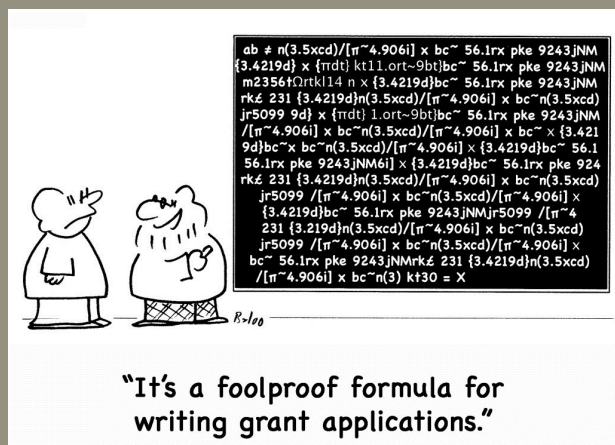
If you receive any notice about the effect of the shutdown on your project or any guidance from the funding agency or from a collaborating organization, please forward the information to aggrant@utk.edu.

In addition to the lack of support many federal agencies are now providing, changes in awards and processing of new awards are likely to be delayed, even after the shutdown. Continue to be very cautious about spending funds before an award document is received. All expenditures must occur in the period of performance, which is unknown until the award document is received.

If you have questions about your funding, please contact aggrant@utk.edu or Jane Burns at 865-974-7123 or janeburns@utk.edu.

Remember Marketing and Communications in Your Grant Proposals

We know you have a lot to include when preparing grant proposals, however, adding funds to include marketing and communications support is one way to enhance your grant. Many grants call for some form of marketing and/or communications component. The UTIA Marketing and Communications office provides everything from writing, editing, design services, and strategic communications planning, to social media, video services, and much more. For a complete list of services, please visit utia.tennessee.edu/marketing. The Marketing and Communications team has worked successfully with researchers in offering individualized services to promote grants, as well as designating staff time to a project. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Marketing and Communications at 974-7141 or utiamarketing@tennessee.edu.



#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
- **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.

