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University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture Sponsored Programs Office

2018 July

Office of Sponsored Programs Newsletter

STAFF >>>

Debbie Hampstead
Director

Jane Burns
Assistant Director
& Compliance Officer

Rumira Xhaferaj
Assistant Director

COORDINATORS

Cathy Creswell
Kathy Dalton
William Helmrath
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



Tic Toc...USDA NIFA AFRI Deadlines are Almost Here!

**NOTIFY OSP NOW IF YOU
INTEND TO APPLY**



The AFRI Foundational and Applied Science Program RFA has been released. This program supports grants in six AFRI priority areas to advance knowledge in both fundamental and applied sciences important to agriculture.

The six priority areas are:

- Plant Health and Production and Plant Products;
- Animal Health and Production and Animal Products;
- Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health;
- Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment;
- Agriculture Systems and Technology; and
- Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities.

Research-only, extension-only, and integrated research, education and/or extension projects are solicited in this Request for Applications (RFA). See Foundational and Applied Science RFA for specific details.

Please click the link below for more information.

<https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-foundational-applied-science-program>



Dr. Jacqui Whittemore *ORCID 0000-0003-2624-2262*

Dr. Whittemore received her DVM from the University of California, Davis College of Veterinary Medicine in 2000. After two years in small animal general practice, she completed her residency in internal medicine and a PhD in clinical sciences at Colorado State University. She is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Medicine, where she also serves as the Acree Research Chair of Medicine.

Dr. Whittemore enjoys balancing the rigors of research, clinical practice in internal medicine, and teaching. Her major research focus is on identification and amelioration of adverse effects of exogenous therapies, such as antiplatelet, immunosuppressive, and antibiotic therapies, on the gastrointestinal tract and microbiome/metabolome of dogs and cats, with special attention given to the protective effects of probiotics. Secondary active areas of research include development and validation of veterinary simulators to minimize live animal use for veterinary training (for which she holds a patent), and development/validation of minimally-invasive techniques to decrease patient morbidity and improve outcome. Her research is continually fed by insights from her formative period in general practice, insightful comments from students and house officers, and management of complex cases on the clinic floor. When not buried in statistics or hunkered over records in the clinic, Dr. Whittemore can be found developing new online and hands-on resources for use in her immersive endoscopy courses for small animal specialists and technicians. To date, her small group, on-site course has been attended by over 150 people from 11 countries and 25 U.S. states (<https://batchgeo.com/map/62f3ede349cb35c46ec4bac035c0b1e0>). Dr. Whittemore is pleased to be unveiling an online-only version of her course this summer to broaden its impact and reach.



Dr. Jennifer DeBruyn *ORCID: 0000-0002-2993-4144*



Dr. Jennifer DeBruyn, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Biosystems Engineering & Soil Science. She received her B.Sc.H in Biology from Queen's University (Kingston, Canada) and her Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Tennessee. She is a microbial ecologist, studying how microbes interact with each other and their environments to perform critical functions for their ecosystems.

Having grown up on a field research station in northwest Ontario, environmental science has always been her primary interest. As a PhD student, she worked on pollutant remediation in sediments. As a faculty member in BESS, her main research areas are decomposition and biodegradation in both agricultural and natural ecosystems. One of her focus areas is the biodegradation of agricultural plastics, where she and her students investigate impacts of biodegradable plastics on soil health and study microbes that can break down plastics. They are answering questions that are critical to policy questions related to use of biodegradable plastics in agriculture. Another focus area is the decomposition of vertebrate (human and animal) mortalities. This has included work at the UT Anthropology Research Facility where she and her students are addressing questions about the postmortem microbiome which may be useful for forensic investigations and inform carcass disposal practices for livestock producers. Dr. DeBruyn's work has been funded by USDA, NSF, EPA, and DOJ.

Dr. DeBruyn also holds an appointment with UT Extension, where her primary focus has been development of the "Backyard STEM" program, a curriculum development and training program for 4-H agents focused on environmental science education for youth.

Dr. Natalie Bumgarner



Dr. Natalie Bumgarner is an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in the Plant Sciences Department. She received her undergraduate and Master's degrees from West Virginia University and her PhD from Ohio State University. Before coming to University of Tennessee in 2014, Natalie worked with CropKing, Inc. where she did applied research and provided technical support to greenhouse vegetable growers. Natalie's current responsibilities include developing outreach and teaching materials as well as conducting applied research that together support the success of the many citizens of Tennessee who grow vegetables, fruits, turfgrass and ornamental plants. She also conducts many training programs for citizens and agents throughout the year and serves as the statewide coordinator for the Tennessee Extension Master Gardener program that engages nearly 2,500 active volunteers to support horticulture outreach within county Extension programs across the state.

Her current areas of emphasis include developing new training materials to support the Master Gardener program as well as vegetable garden and sustainable landscape educational resources. In terms of applied research, Natalie conducts vegetable production research in Knoxville and co-leads a statewide citizen science home garden variety trial program. She is also currently leading a curriculum development grant for secondary teachers to support instruction in controlled environment food production.

Although officially stationed at UTIA in Knoxville, Natalie has a statewide Extension appointment and collaborates with regional and county staff along with volunteers across Tennessee as well as several national consumer horticulture efforts. It is these collaborations that are the best part of the job for her. In fact, a description of her favorite day on the job would always include "volunteers, vegetables (or ornamentals) and the opportunity to work with county agents to support local horticulture outreach in Tennessee".

What is a Person Month and how do I calculate it? >>>

by Cathy Creswell

A 'person month' is the metric for expressing PI effort devoted to a project. The effort is based on the PIs appointment type: 12 month (calendar year, or CY), or a 9 month (academic year, or AY). A 9 month appointment can split time between the academic year and the 3 month summer term.

To convert percent effort to person months, multiply the effort percentage by the number of months of your appointment. For example:

- 10% of a 12 month calendar year appointment = 1.2 person months ($0.1 * 12$);
- 25% of a 9 month academic appointment = 2.25 person months ($0.25 * 9$).
- For a 9 month appointment asking for summer salary, 10% of a 3 month summer term = 0.3 person month ($0.1 * 3$).

The 'person month' is used on the Current and Pending Support form for NSF to gauge the PIs entire commitment to the project, therefore, all effort including cost shared effort, should be reflected on the form.

Link to a person month calculator: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/person_months_conversion_chart.xls



International collaboration between universities is becoming more and more prevalent as barriers to communication are removed and research expertise grows. In the past few years, faculty at UTIA have partnered on proposals and projects with researchers in universities from Belize, Cambodia, China, Germany, Ghana, South Korea and Spain just to name a few. As UTIA faculty seek out opportunities from US Federal agencies to fund collaborative projects, travel to the foreign universities to exchange ideas, help implement the project plan, and to learn or teach a unique technique may be necessary. Often times this type of international travel can be anticipated during the proposal writing process and a budget for this travel should be detailed within the budget justification.



All US Federal sponsors require that foreign travel is approved prior to the trip taking place. If international travel needs arise during an award project that were not budgeted at the proposal stage, it is crucial that faculty inform their business managers, the Sponsored Projects Accounting office and the Office of Sponsored Programs, so that funds for the trip can be approved by the sponsor and rebudgeted correctly. The UTIA Office of Sponsored Programs, through its Director Debbie Hampstead and Assistant Director and Compliance Officer Jane Burns, will be taking on more review responsibility to ensure that any international travel is in accordance with the sponsored projects terms and conditions. Additionally, the OSP pre-award coordinators will be budgeting international travel on a separate budget line in order to assist the departmental business managers in recognizing when international travel has been specified at the time of proposal.

After the sponsor has approved the travel, please remember that all University travelers must complete the international travel registration through the Center for International Education. Additionally, travelers using federal funds are required to use U.S. air carrier services when traveling to and from foreign countries under the provisions of the “Fly America Act.” There are exceptions to the law and two of the most common are:

- 1) no US flag air carrier provides service on a particular route, but only to and from the nearest interchange point with US flag air carrier service; and
- 2) transportation is provided by an air transportation agreement (currently four “Open Skies Agreements” with the European Union, Australia, Switzerland and Japan).

Additionally, prior to travel, please consult with the Compliance Officer, Jane Burns, regarding any export control considerations.

Resources:

- **US Flag Air Carriers (Airline Code):** Airtran Airways (FL), Alaska Airlines (AS), American Airlines (AA), Delta Airlines (DL), Frontier Airlines (F9), Hawaiian Airlines (HA), Jet Blue (B6), Southwest Airlines (WN), Spirit Airlines (NK), United Airlines (UA), USAirways (US), Virgin America (VX)
- **UT System Policy:** [FI0705](#)
- **UTIA International Travel Policy:** <https://ag.tennessee.edu/Documents/UTIA%20Policies/Fiscal%20Policy%20705.pdf>
- **Fly America Act:** <https://www.gsa.gov/policy-regulations/policy/travel-management-policy/fly-america-act>
- **International Travel Registration:** <https://cie.utk.edu/travel/>

Notes from NSF Proposal & Award Policy Newsletter

NSF announced that since April 30, 2018, proposers could begin submitting through Research.gov. Proposers can choose to submit through Research.gov or Fastlane. *Currently there is not a timeframe for full transition from Fastlane to Research.gov and both applications will operate concurrently.* UTIA will continue to submit proposals through Fastlane as long as we are able.

Are you taking full advantage of resources available to help you comply with federal regulations or university requirements? Not sure if you should mark “human subject” on your proposal? Wondering where to find the UTIA approval form for outside pay, the agreement for visiting international scholars, or the faculty handbook? Check out the [UTIA Compliance website](#) and our newly developed [Resources for UTIA Investigators](#).

Thanks to those of you who have met with us to discuss your work and the new Resources form. We have enjoyed learning more about what you do. Whether you are new at UTIA or have been here many years, we are happy to meet with you, especially if you have questions about compliance. Feel free to e-mail or call [Debbie](#) (865-974-7123) or [Jane](#) (865-974-7375).

Remember, too, to join us for our compliance lunches, covering a variety of topics. At our [Workshops and Learning Opportunities site](#) you can not only see upcoming opportunities, but also find videos and materials from previous sessions. You can use this for your own learning and to help those you mentor. Our next lunch features FBI Special Agent Beth O’Brien, scheduled August 21.

#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.

