



Office of Research & Innovation
Newsletter • [February 2021](#)



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[A Note from the Executive Vice Provost for Research & Innovation](#)



Dear Drexel Research Community,

As you know, February is [Black History Month](#). Units all across Drexel have been holding [events](#) in celebration of Black life, such as the [ExCITe Center](#)'s 7th Annual [STEAM Workshop](#), which featured a panel discussion from Drexel professors and Dr. Bettina Love's talk on the struggles and the possibilities of committing ourselves to an abolitionist goal of educational freedom, as opposed to reform, and moving beyond the educational survival complex.

This month, our background graphic above features several Black Americans who made and are making significant contributions to scientific and medical research. These include astronaut Ronald McNair, a mission specialist who died during the launch of the Space Shuttle Challenger, and Dr. Hadiyah-Nicole Green, a medical physicist who is known for her development of a potential cancer treatment method involving laser-activated nanoparticles. You can find more information on these amazing influencers of scientific progress [here](#) or by clicking on the link in our graphic above.

It is also important to remember that the Black experience with medical science in our country has not always been positive. From the story of [Henrietta Lacks](#), a Black woman whose cells were taken and used in medical research without her consent, to the [Tuskegee Study](#), where Black men were misinformed about a medical study in which they participated and failed to be treated for their condition, it is easy to see why there is widespread cultural mistrust of medical science among the Black community.

Cultural mistrust has particular significance during this time of a worldwide pandemic, which is [disproportionately](#) affecting [Black communities](#), who are at [greater risk](#) of infection and death, although they are not being prioritized for the [vaccine](#). Our colleagues from the College of Nursing and Health Profession discussed this during a recent Tuesday Topics session, "[Ethically Speaking: Vaccine Testing, Approval, and Distribution](#)," which can be viewed in its entirety [here](#).

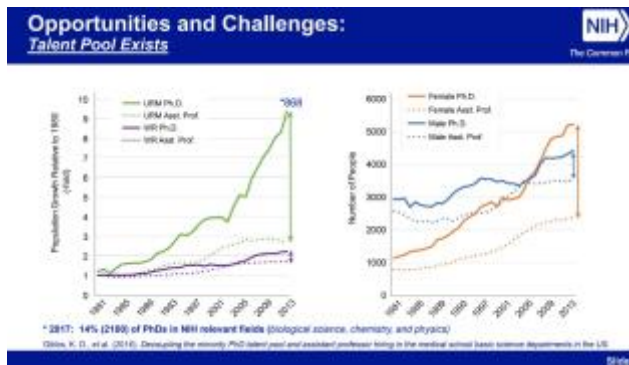
In efforts to help address some of the roots of these structural inequities, the National Institutes of Health Common Fund has created a [Faculty Institutional Recruitment for Sustainable Transformation](#) (FIRST) program. This program "aims to enhance and maintain cultures of inclusive excellence in the biomedical research community," creating "[i]ntegrated, institution-wide systems to address bias, faculty equity, mentoring, and work/life issues." The program will [provide funding](#) at a number of universities to support a cluster of 10 or more newly hired young faculty members to help improve [faculty diversity](#).

We deeply value the existing diversity within our Drexel research community, and look forward to creating even more opportunities for advancement especially for our Black faculty. Thank you all for everything you do to help make Drexel a welcoming and inclusive place to conduct research.

Wishing you all health and safety,

Aleister Saunders

Executive Vice Provost for Research & Innovation



1 - [Faculty Institutional Recruitment for Sustainable Transformation](#)

News and Announcements



Financial Conflict of Interest Program Updates

A few weeks ago, Heather Skinner joined the Office of Research & Innovation as the new Director of Research Compliance, overseeing Export Compliance, Financial Conflicts of Interest (FCOI), and Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC), and also serving as the Research Integrity Officer. We are pleased to be adding Heather to the team, and invite our research community to join in welcoming her to Drexel.

In order to help Drexel researchers better navigate compliance regarding FCOI, please review the following assessment and updates to the FCOI program. Interactions between research institutions, government, the private sector, and industry help ensure the rapid application of scientific discoveries and the efficient translation of research findings. Although such interactions are encouraged in many forms, they have become increasingly complex and can lead to relationships involving a Significant Financial Interest (SFI). An FCOI exists when Drexel, through procedures outlined in the FCOI Policy and in accordance with federal regulations, reasonably determines that the investigator's SFI could affect the design, conduct, or reporting of their research. An FCOI may arise even though no improper conduct or unethical behavior has occurred.

The University has the responsibility to manage SFIs between investigators personal financial interests and their institutional responsibilities. The University must identify and then manage, reduce, or eliminate FCOIs to strengthen accountability and transparency, promote research objectivity, maintain the integrity of research findings, and to ensure prudent stewardship of public funds.

The goals of Drexel's FCOI Policy are:

- to affirm the University's commitment to promoting the highest level of integrity and objectivity in research
- to protect the University's business interests
- to comply with applicable laws and regulations.

As such, a more robust and transparent policy is currently being drafted. The Financial Interest Disclosure Forms I and II, which investigators submit with proposals to identify whether or not they have an SFI, are also being updated, to better align with federal regulations.

To provide for a deeper and more consistent case review process, the case analysis and management plan templates are being updated as well. Going forward, there will be further review of what the SFI is and how it specifically relates to the project.

To better assist in rolling out these changes, as well as in reviewing individual cases, we will be forming an FCOI Review Committee, which we hope to have ready to meet by the end of March. The FCOI Committee will be an administrative committee composed of University administrators and faculty members who will review the investigator's disclosure(s) that the FCOI Staff deems a conflict. In addition to reviewing and approving the updated Policy and Forms I and II, the Committee will be tasked with determining whether or not an FCOI exists, and if so, how to manage, reduce, or eliminate it so that research can move forward.

The concept of shared governance is a unifying principle for many academic institutions that promote transparency, accessibility, timeliness, collaboration, and consistency in University operations. As such, we are seeking volunteers across the University to serve on this committee. If you are willing to serve in this capacity or know someone that is well suited, please indicate your interest [here](#).

As more updates are made, we will provide adequate notice to the University. If you see areas that need improvement or areas in which the FCOI department can better interact with yours, or would like to request FCOI training, please do not hesitate to reach out to Heather at hfs33@drexel.edu. Heather and

her department look forward to meeting with Drexel's research community to educate and provide thorough rationales of these improvements.

National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity

Drexel University has joined the National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity (NCFDD) as an Institutional Member. The NCFDD is a nationally recognized, independent organization that provides online career development and mentoring resources for faculty, post-docs, and graduate students.

The organization provides a variety of virtual programs and resources including:

- Weekly **Monday Motivator**
- Monthly **Core Curriculum Webinars**
- Monthly **Guest Expert Webinars**
- Access to **Multi-Week Courses**
- Access to **Dissertation Success Curriculum** for graduate students
- Private **Discussion Forum** for peer-mentoring, problem-solving, & moderated writing challenges
- Monthly accountability **buddy matches**
- Access to **14-Day Writing Challenges**
- Access to the **Member Library** that includes past webinar materials, referrals, and readings

To take advantage of these resources, the Office of Faculty Advancement & Undergraduate Affairs encourages all faculty at Drexel to activate their free Institutional Membership as soon as possible:

1. Go to <http://www.facultydiversity.org/join>
2. Choose your institution from the drop-down menu.
3. Select "Activate my Membership"
4. Complete the registration form using your institutional email address (i.e. abc123@drexel.edu)
5. Go to your institution email to find a confirmation/welcome email.
6. Click "Activate Account" in the email.

If you have any questions about the membership, please contact the Office of Faculty Advancement at facultyaffairs@drexel.edu. If you have any technical questions, please email NCFDD at Membership@FacultyDiversity.org.

Human Research Protection Updates

The IRB/HRPP remains busy handling an increased volume of research submissions. Our Regulatory Coordinator, Kirstie McClung, is leaving Drexel on February 26th to pursue another job opportunity. We are sad to see her go and wish her all the best for her next adventure! Issues related to Reliance

Agreements will be handled by the HRPP Director, Gabrielle Rebillard, until a replacement coordinator is hired.

The AAHRPP reaccreditation process continues to move forward. We have now scheduled the official site visit for April 27th-28th, 2021. This will be entirely remote, and in preparation for this, training will be provided. We look forward to continuing the remainder of a successful reaccreditation process.

Supporting Minority Entrepreneurship in the Philadelphia Region

The Raynier Institute & Foundation, a Seattle-based philanthropic organization with Philadelphia roots, has partnered with Drexel University and the University City Science Center to improve access to capital for minority entrepreneurs in the area. The institutions will collaboratively manage a seed fund created by a \$500,000 grant from the Foundation, which was founded by an heir of Philadelphia transportation and real estate magnate Peter Widener, and supports programs of high merit for the betterment of humanity.

The fund is intended as a step toward addressing persistent inequality in minority business ownership by providing access to funds, guidance, and networks early in the entrepreneurship process. A recent study by a pair of venture capital rating groups suggests that while the disparity in start-up funding has been improving, the fact remains that over the last five years, less than a quarter of new businesses have been started by minority entrepreneurs.

Read the full article featuring our Director of Applied Innovation, Shintaro Kaido, [here](#).

COEUS Replacement Project – Naming Contest!

Last fall, the Office of Research & Innovation received dozens of name suggestions (some serious, others hilarious) for the University's new research management software system that will replace COEUS. With the help of University Communications and the Office of General Counsel, the field has been narrowed down to six finalists. Now, you can pick your favorite naming contest submission for the new system. Voting will be open until March 12.

[Cast your vote in the Naming Contest for COEUS Replacement Project here!](#)



Join the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

If humane, justified animal research is an important and interesting topic to you or someone you know, consider joining Drexel's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). The IACUC oversees animal use in research by reviewing every proposed project involving the use of vertebrate animals to assure that:

- the use of animals is justified by furthering science and benefitting society

- research animals are spared unnecessary pain and distress
- all research involving animals is conducted in full compliance with federal and state laws and regulations.

The IACUC is currently seeking new nonscientific and nonaffiliated members. The non-scientist must be someone whose primary concerns are in a nonscientific area and who should not have scientific training. The non-affiliated member cannot be affiliated with the institution in any way other than as a member of the IACUC and cannot be a member of the immediate family of a person who is affiliated with the institution.

Meetings are convened once per month, normally the second Wednesday of the month beginning at noon and lasting, on average, 2.5 hours. Preparation for the meeting involves reviewing protocols and meeting materials, which typically takes 2-3 hours.

The best fit for this committee is someone that accepts that there is a societal benefit to using laboratory animals while having expectations of their humane and ethical treatment. If interested in finding out more, please email Carolyn Reneski at chr43@drexel.edu.

Funding Opportunity Resources



Ever Wondered What Happens During the Scientific Review of an NIH Grant Application? (NIH Extramural News)

Understanding how peer review works is key to writing a good grant application. In this 44-minute video, [NIH Peer Review: "Live" Mock Study Section](#), scientists have gathered virtually to review three fictional applications in response to a fictional Request For Applications (RFA).

Click the link at the bottom of the image to view the full article and watch their discussion to learn how applications are scored, what questions are commonly asked, and what mistakes to avoid in your application.



2 - [Review of an NIH Grant Application](#)

Institutional Letters of Support for Proposal Submissions

Research development works with Drexel leaders to secure letters of support and commitment for proposals being submitted for sponsored research to funding agencies, regional governments, and other special interests. For those looking to get started with this process, you can find instructions and a letter template on our website [here](#). Please note that letters should be of the highest quality before you send them to our office for review. Should you have any questions, please email researchdevelopment@drexel.edu.

To learn more about the process, please visit, <https://drexel.edu/research/proposal/prepare/letter-of-support/>

NIH PAR-20-051: NEI Center Core Grant for Vision Research (P30 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Summary:

The NEI Center Core Grant combines three or more Resource and/or Service Cores for a group of R01 investigators to enhance their research, consolidate resources, avoid duplication of efforts, and/or contribute to cost effectiveness by providing a service with lower costs or higher quality than could be attempted for independent projects by several individual Program Directors/Principal Investigators (PD(s)/PI(s)). Shared resources and facilities that are accessible to a group of independently funded investigators lead to greater productivity for the separate projects and can provide instrumentation and facilities that are too costly to be maintained by an individual investigator. The design and purpose of each Center Core may vary in how it serves its users. This program is designed to enhance an

institution's environment and capability to conduct vision research and to facilitate collaborative studies of the visual system and its disorders.

Click here for more details: <https://drexel.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1814973>

Deadline: 3/30/2021

2021 NIH PAR-20-297: NIOSH Centers of Excellence for Total Worker Health (U19)

Summary:

The purpose of this FOA is to solicit meritorious applications for Centers of Excellence for TWH to develop and conduct a broad range of multidisciplinary research, intervention, outreach and education, and evaluation activities that advance the overall safety, health, and well-being of the diverse population of workers in our nation. Center structure should take advantage of diverse scientific resources and focus on local, regional, or national worker safety and health issues. Centers should emphasize creating and implementing evidence-based solutions to address evolving challenges and opportunities related to worker safety, mental and physical health, and well-being. Collaborations in partnership with academic institutions, nonprofit organizations, and other groups focused on occupational safety and health are expected.

Applicants must concisely describe the occupational health burden within their service area and directly link research and outreach activities to help alleviate the burden. Applicants should also clearly articulate the anticipated impacts of the proposed work, both during the project period and beyond.

Click here for more details: <https://drexel.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1824022>

Deadline: 4/29/2021

Events and Education



MCC Research Instrument Specialist candidate seminars

Please join the Materials Characterization Core Research Instrument Specialist candidate seminars on March 3, 10 and 12 from 11:30am to 12:30pm, via [Zoom webinar](#). This will be a chance for users of the MCC facilities and instrumentation to meet our candidates for the position that will be responsible for managing our SEM and FIB instruments.

March 3:

Kathleen Moyer, PhD

Lawrence Livermore National Lab

Using Electron Microscopy to Solve Nanoscale Challenges for Energy Storage Systems

March 10:

Alexander Meledin, PhD

RWTH Aachen University

Exploiting advanced electron microscopy to link materials structure and composition to its properties and synthesis

March 12:

Zoltan Balogh, MS

Denmark Technical University

Focused Ion Beam Applications in Academic Research

Please contact Craig Johnson (clj46@drexel.edu) for abstracts and more information.

Join the Drexel Autism Research Consortium

The A.J. Drexel Autism Institute (AJDAI) is re-starting the Drexel Autism Research Consortium for 2021. The idea of this gathering is to develop robust, Autism-specific collaborations amongst University researchers. Please join AJDAI on **March 8th at 9:30 am via zoom** (meeting planner to follow).

The Drexel Autism Research Consortium seeks to bring the University together across disciplines to pioneer new approaches to Autism research and to find some commonalities and connections between schools, colleges, centers, institutes, programs, goals, and ideas. There is such an interesting range of work being done at Drexel and we aim to generate new ideas and research activities.

Please indicate your interest in joining by way of response to this [survey](#). A calendar invite will be sent from Meredith Bloom based upon your response. This event will be held quarterly, so if you are not able to attend in March, please keep an eye out for the next session. Anyone engaged in research at Drexel is welcome to join – please feel free to share with colleagues. AJDAI looks forward to seeing you there!

SRA International Training Intensive: Basics of Research Administration

Meet the experts and LevelUP from **February 4 - March 11, 2021**. In this brand new cohort offering, participants will work through micro-credentialing modules on their own time, then interact with instructors weekly through online Zoom classes in real-time. Discussions with your peers and instructors will continue through an easy-to-use digital platform providing a study community in the virtual world. The program will include five micro-credentialing modules with six 90-minute cohort sessions online to discuss key elements and review course concepts.

The course includes the following LevelUP micro-credentialing modules:

- [Relationships, Roles and Responsibilities in Research Administration](#)
- [Principles in Pre-Award Administration](#)
- [Principles of Award Negotiation and Set-Up](#)
- [The Research Compliance Framework](#)
- [Post Award](#)

For more details click here: <https://www.srainternational.org/meetings/intensive-training/online-intensive-program/basics-ra-2021-online>

Save the Date: Institutional Access to UIDPVirtual April 2021

The Office of Research & Innovation has funded institutional access for faculty and professional staff to attend in the [University-Industry Demonstration Partnership](#), UIDPVirtual 2021, **April 12-16, 2021**.

Our new strategic plan, [Drexel 2030](#), embraces deeper collaboration with external partners. As an institution member of UIDP, our faculty and professional staff have access to UIDPs community and resources to help strengthen industry partnerships with Drexel.

[UIDPVirtual](#)'s agenda includes general sessions, breakouts and panels focused on:

- Strategic University Industry Partnerships
- Contracting and Administration
- Talent and Workforce
- Industry, Government, University (Triple Helix) Matters

With institutional access to [UIDPVirtual 2021](#), you will need to use your Drexel Connect email address (abc123@drexel.edu) to register for access to all sessions. Please [sign up](#) to receive the special link to register with no additional fee.

For those who have never attended a UIDP event, it is a wonderful way to meet and interact with the UIDP community and become familiar with UIDP resources.

Should you have any questions regarding our membership or the conference, please email researchdevelopment@drexel.edu

[Nominate Your Mentors, Peers, and Impactful New Faces for a 2021 SRAI Award](#)
[2021 SRAI Awards Nominations](#) **Deadline: May 14**

Recognize the long-term exemplary contributions your peers have made to the research administration profession and the Society. Submit your nominees for the SRAI Awards today!

Awards' Categories

- **The Herbert B. Chermiside Award for Distinguished Contribution to Research Administration:** Showcases distinguished contributions in the development of research administration as a profession.
- **Hartford-Nicholsen Award:** Recognizes SRA International members whose services demonstrate leadership in the Society, and who have made a major, distinguishable contribution which has been of benefit to the entire Society.
- **Excellence Award:** Recognizes up to three SRA International members who have excelled in meeting the Society's purpose of expanding the knowledge and tools of research administration as a newcomer (less than 5 years), mid-career (5– 10 years) or advanced professional (more than 10 years).
- **The Technology Innovation and Application Award:** Showcases and recognizes innovations and applications in using technology tools in promoting, processing or advancing research administration work.

The Partnership Award for International or Inter-collegiate Collaboration: Honors and recognizes a partnership across institutions, national, or international borders.

The nominator must be a current member of SRAI (exceptions apply) and may only submit one nominee for each award. For the Excellence Award, a nominator may only submit one nominee for each category. All Awards are open to self-nomination. *Questions? [Contact Emily Mincey](#) at SRA International*



Student Conference on Global Challenges

The Office of Global Engagement (OGE) invites you to mark your calendars for the 14th Annual Student Conference on Global Challenges. This year the student-selected topic is “Disaster!” and the conference will be held on **Tuesday, May 18, 2021**, during the Week of Undergraduate Excellence.

The Student Conference on Global Challenges: Disaster! will be an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to present their research and engage in critical dialogue about the multitude of hazards that impact society's well-being. These perils range from climate and natural disasters to pandemic and economic threats.

OGE would like to request that you and your faculty include the conference in your Winter and Spring syllabi and encourage students to submit proposals for presentation topics. In addition, OGE would be happy to visit classes to share details about the conference.

Students may join some or all conference activities throughout the day. We encourage all students to:

- Apply to present their research on one of six student panels (open to undergraduate and graduate students)
- Submit an abstract to present a poster
- Join us as attendees for all or part of the conference activities

Each year faculty members serve as moderators of the six student panels. If you are interested in moderating or would like our office to speak to your class about conference opportunities, please contact Casey Devine at md3683@drexel.edu.

OGE anticipates a mostly virtual conference offering but will add in-person opportunities if University guidelines allow.

Special thanks to Pennoni Honors College and Undergraduate Research & Enrichment Programs for their collaboration on this event.

OGE looks forward to working with you and your faculty on a successful event.

Fashion, Style & Queer Culture Conference May 2021

The Office of Research, The Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design, Drexel University Online, with The Department of Design, are proud to present Fashion, Style & Queer Culture, **May 20-22, 2021**. In this third Fashion & Style conference, we will focus on how fashion and style is portrayed in queer culture. This conference moves beyond fashion as clothes and is broadly interdisciplinary, considering all areas of media, arts and design. Members of the LGBT community have recaptured the terminology 'queer' as it becomes a new area of study allowing LGBTQA to re-examine how we look at lifestyle. But as the queer theorist Thomas Piontek (2006) has discussed – through the prism of identity and its discontents the field (queer) studies modelled itself on other areas such as ethnic studies programs, perhaps to be intelligible to the university community – this conference aims to see the other interdisciplinary connections and approaches to queer. With the advent of queer theory, there are now many perspectives available that frequently find themselves at odds with the traditional, and while fashion has been one of them, this conference hopes to examine all areas, representations and expressions of queer culture found in style, art, exhibition, religion, education, the humanities, health, medicine, business, social sciences, everyday lifestyles, practice-based disciplines and other various forms that are indicators of this phenomenon. We welcome all disciplines throughout the university as this conference will be free to all those who are affiliates of Drexel! **Abstracts from those at Drexel are due February 1, 2021.**

More information can be found here: [Fashion, Style & Queer Culture Conference](#)

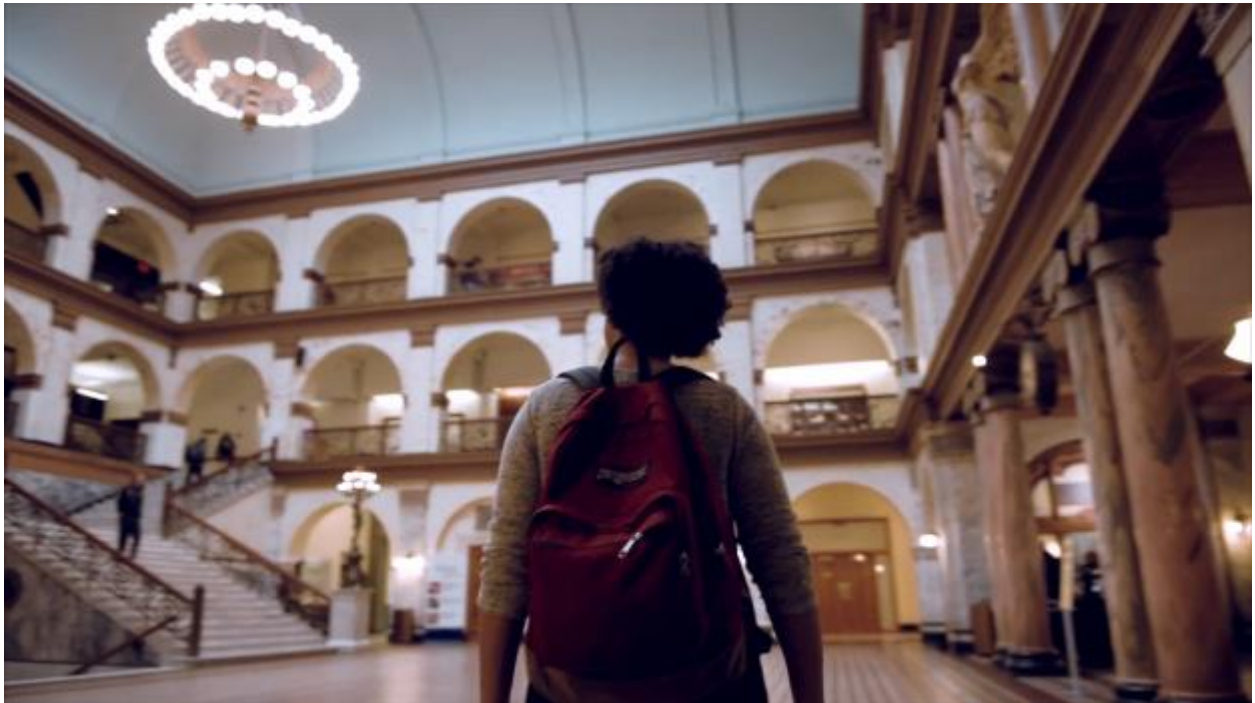
Online Resources and Links



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- [Office of Research & Innovation](#)

- [Find Your Pre-Award Program Administrator](#)
 - [Resources and Forms](#)
 - [Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Research Ramp-Up Guidance](#)
 - [Contact members of the Office of Research & Innovation](#)
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Contact Us



We Want To Hear From YOU! Let us know what you like (or don't like) about our newsletter and which research administration topics you'd like to learn more about. All feedback is welcome. [Contact Us.](#)

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This message was sent to all Faculty and Staff, as well as Drexel Graduate students, via Drexel Announcement Mail and has been approved by Aleister J. Saunders, PhD, Executive Vice Provost for Research and Innovation.