



# Office of Research & Innovation Newsletter · November 2021

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## A Note from the Vice Provost for Research & Innovation



Dear Colleagues,

Drexel Applied Innovation's mission is to expand the impact of Drexel research through comprehensive technology transfer services. Our approach to successfully achieve that mission is to establish new and meaningful venues to engage with the members of our innovation and entrepreneurship (I&E) ecosystem, ask for feedback and incorporate what we learn into our strategic plan and delivery model.

Earlier this year, we formed the External Advisory Board to gain an outside perspective to elevate our game to the next level. This group consists of innovation experts including two Drexel trustees, the founding Board Chair of VLAB (formerly the Stanford MIT Venture Lab), a deep-tech venture capital investor who has worked with over 80 university tech transfer offices and others, joined by President Fry, Provost Jensen, EVP ORI Aleister Saunders, Anna Koulas and Raj Suri. We also convened the Faculty Tech Commercialization Council to seek faculty feedback on new initiatives and programs and to ideate what Drexel Applied Innovation should be doing next. I would like to thank the inaugural Council members

Ken Barbee, Ming Xiao, Jonathan Spanier, Michel Barsoum, John Kunios, Paul Diefenbach, Aroutis Foster, Chaomei Chen, VK Narayanan, Olimpia Meucci and Rodrigo Espana for their time and insights.

As most of you know, Drexel Applied Innovation has three focus areas: IP & Agreements, Industry Engagement and Entrepreneurial Development. The IP & Agreements focus area led by Bob McGrath protects Drexel discoveries and innovation through patents, copyrights, trademarks, and trade secrets and develops timely and high-quality contracts and agreements to support tech transfer. We are currently searching for outstanding talent to fill 2 licensing manager positions (<https://careers.drexel.edu/en-us/job/496963/licensing-manager-engineering> and <https://careers.drexel.edu/en-us/job/496797/licensing-manager-life-sciences>). We would be grateful for your referrals and social media help so that we can attract top talent. The second focus area, Industry Engagement, is also hiring. The Innovation Portfolio Manager would focus on identifying and cultivating new industry relationships based on our existing portfolio of over 400 licensable technologies and help us find opportunities to elevate transactional relationships to strategic. This position can be found here (<https://careers.drexel.edu/en-us/job/495901/innovation-portfolio-manager>) and we would be grateful for your help here as well. The last focus area, Entrepreneurial Development, creates opportunities for the Drexel research community to gain insight into industry's unmet needs and innovation challenges which can be incorporated into current and future research and supports staff and graduate students to explore commercialization through startups. Although we are not hiring in this focus area, I hope to have an exciting announcement from this area in the coming months.

With these three focus areas collaborating seamlessly with each other as well as with units both inside and outside of ORI, we are committed to providing high-quality, value-add services to support and advance your innovative and entrepreneurial endeavors. I look forward to working with you - any questions or comments, please feel free to connect with me at [sk3434@drexel.edu](mailto:sk3434@drexel.edu)<sup>1</sup>

With gratitude,

Shintaro Kaido

Vice Provost for Research & Innovation

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<sup>1</sup><mailto:sk3434@drexel.edu>

## News and Announcements



### **WHO honors Henrietta Lacks, a Black American whose cells, taken without consent, were used in vaccine research**

Henrietta Lacks is was honored Wednesday, October 13th, by the World Health Organization in Geneva for her enduring contribution to medical science, more than 70 years after her cells were taken without her consent during a 1951 hospital visit in Baltimore.

Descendants of Lacks, a Black American, will meet with WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in Switzerland to acknowledge her legacy and “contribution to revolutionary advancements in medical science,” the global health body said in a statement. Read the full article here<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.washingtonpost.com/science/2021/10/13/henrietta-lacks-who-honored-vaccine-research/>



### **Welcome to Dr. Kate Vanderburgh, new MCC Research Instrumentation Specialist**

Please welcome Dr. Kate Vanderburgh to the ORI family. On November 1, Kate will be joining the team in the *Materials Characterization Core* as the new *Research Instrumentation Specialist* in charge of scanning electron microscopy. Born and raised in New Jersey, Kate is returning home to the East Coast after completing a post-doctoral appointment at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. Kate has her PhD in Materials Science from Vanderbilt University and undergraduate degree in chemical engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology. We are very excited to see her apply her extensive interdisciplinary research experience and expertise in electron microscopy to provide essential training and guidance to our core facility users. Kate's arrival is especially well timed as we are currently shopping for a new SEM with funds from a recently awarded NSF MRI grant. Kate will be coordinating the purchase, installation, and commissioning of this exciting new addition to the facility.

Outside the lab, Kate is an avid hiker. She and her husband, Joe, just completed the 215-mile John Muir Trail through the Sierra Nevada mountains of California. Kate will be joining remotely for the month of November and on campus starting in December.



### HRPP: Fall Updates

We are happy to report some great news. Thanks to a lot of hard work and dedication, our turn around time (TAT) for IRB submissions is holding steady at around 2 weeks. We have added a TAT tracking feature to our website as well. The IRB is also excited to welcome our new IRB Analyst, Erin Murphy, to the team. We are in the process of recruiting and hiring other new staff and hope to have a complete team in the near future.

The biggest news is we have begun implementation of our DragonSPOT Human Research module. This module will be a tremendous improvement and asset for not only the IRB operations but for the research community as well. Updates will be provided as they become available.

### From Catalysis to Structure to Signaling: A virtual symposium honoring Marilyn Jorns

Professor Marilyn Jorns has retired, after serving on the faculty of the College of Medicine since 1982. To honor Dr. Jorns' almost four decades of service, the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology is organizing a scientific symposium on **Monday, November 15, 2021**. This symposium will be conducted as a Zoom (virtual) conference, and is open to all members of the University community. The symposium will feature outstanding speakers presenting cutting-edge science, representing the two areas in which Dr. Jorns made her most significant scientific contributions: Enzyme structure and function, and the production and function of neurotransmitters.

See flyer for details.

**DREXEL UNIVERSITY**  
College of  
**Medicine**  
*Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology*

**From Catalysis to  
Structure to Signaling:**  
A virtual symposium honoring  
**Marilyn Jorns**  
and her contributions to science

*Featured speakers:*  
**Karen Allen, Boston U:** Structure-guided Insight into Function, Mechanism, & Evolution of Enzymes in Bacterial Glycoconjugate Synthesis  
**Catherine Drennan, MIT:** Shake, Rattle, & Roll: Capturing Snapshots of Ribonucleotide Reductase in Action  
**Fumito Ichinose, MGH:** Sulfide catabolism and hypoxia tolerance - lessons learned from hibernating squirrels  
**David Thomas, UIC:** Nitric oxide, the third pillar of epigenetic regulation

Monday, 15 November 2021  
1:00 - 4:30 PM  
Zoom ID 820 0160 7346  
Contact lb32@drexel.edu for passcode

### Drexel Research and Expertise Can Have Immediate Impact

A recent article in *Beyondish* described the success that local food entrepreneur, Kiki Aranita, has had creating unique food products that showcase her Hawaiian heritage at her Rittenhouse Square area restaurant, Poi Dog Philly. Some of Poi Dog's signature sauces are making the jump from the restaurant to the home kitchen and can be purchased both online and in select stores across the country. Taking a restaurant product and creating a packaged product is not as easy as one might think, and the transition of Poi Dog's sauces was made much easier thanks to the help of the Drexel Food Lab in the College of Nursing and Health Professions. Professor and chef Jonathan Deutsch, Ph.D. and his team led by fellow chef Rachel Sherman worked closely with Aranita and her team on the fundamentals of making bottled sauces.

The short-term project that helped get Poi Dog Philly's sauces on store shelves used a new contract called a Research Services Agreement (RSA). In use since late 2018, the RSA really came into its own during the pandemic, and Drexel Applied Innovation executed more than 20 in the last fiscal year alone. It is intended for use with well-defined, short term projects where the University's expertise and environment can help companies get fast answers to questions they cannot tackle on their own. Though the Drexel Food Lab has been its main beneficiary to date, it is also suitable for projects in other disciplines as well. Those interested in learning more about how an RSA can be used may contact Dr. Robert McGrath in Applied Innovation.

Check out the article here<sup>3</sup>.



### ULAR News – AAALAC, International Site Visit

Drexel University hosted Dr. Stephen Kelley and Dr. Larry Handt from AAALAC, International on October 6-7, 2021, for a site visit of the Animal Care and Use program. The visitors were diligent in their review, touring animal facilities and research laboratories, meeting with the IACUC, and reviewing documents and protocols. At the end of the visit, Drexel was presented with the site visitor's findings which will be further reviewed at the AAALAC Council meeting in January. Our program received many commendations including the strong Occupational Health and risk assessment program, the thorough and focused training program, the dedicated IACUC, the outstanding environmental enrichment program, the clean well-maintained facilities and equipment, the well-cared for animals, and the excellent veterinary care program. The site visitors identified some areas for improvement which are being addressed by senior administration, the IACUC and ULAR. Many thanks to the ULAR team and the research laboratories who worked hard to prepare for a successful AAALAC, International site visit.



### Predatory publishers' latest scam: bootlegged and rebranded papers to thwart publishing rackets that undermine scholars and scholarly publishing, legitimate journals should show their workings

In 2018, the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) won a US\$50-million ruling against the publisher OMICS for deceptive business practices. The FTC's investigation found that OMICS accepted and published nearly 69,000 articles in academic disciplines with little or no peer review. The judgement against the infamous publisher, located in Hyderabad, India, proved difficult to enforce. But the ensuing stigma still carries a penalty. In the two years after the FTC filed its complaint, the articles OMICS published under its imprint fell by 40%. After all, a publisher with no reputation is preferable to a publisher with a bad one. Read the full story here<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup><https://beyondish.com/poi-dog-philadelphia/>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-02906-8>





## Dragon Discoveries- Research highlights from the College of Engineering

Check out the new annual research highlights from the College of Engineering, Dragon Discoveries<sup>5</sup>.

## Funding Opportunity Resources



Funding search tools:

Pivot-RP<sup>6</sup>

Funding Institutional<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup><https://www.coe.drexel.edu/dragon-discoveries/>

<sup>6</sup>[https://pivot-proquest-com.ezproxy2.library.drexel.edu/funding\\_main](https://pivot-proquest-com.ezproxy2.library.drexel.edu/funding_main)



The NIH Research Education Program (R25) supports research education activities in the mission areas of the NIH. The overarching goal of this R25 program is to support educational activities that encourage individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups underrepresented in the biomedical and behavioral sciences, to pursue further studies or careers in research. To accomplish the stated overarching goal, this FOA will support creative educational activities with a primary focus on: Courses for Skills Development Research Experiences

**Click here for more details:** <https://drexel.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1845644>

**Deadline:** 12/17/2021

## Events and Education



### SRAI Post-Award Intensive

This interactive training program will enable participants to expand their basic understanding of sponsored programs' post award requirements to better "play by the rules." It will provide an overview of key regulations such as 2 CFR 200, and examples of best practices to meet the requirements. By providing a hands-on approach to understanding sponsors' solicitations, proposal guidelines and award conditions you will be aware of the impact on budget planning, development, review, and monitoring. Discussion and exercises include topics such as methodologies for assessing costs and concerns associated with personnel effort, consultants, equipment, supplies, travel, subcontracts, total direct cost, program income, indirect costs, and cost sharing.

When: November 2, 5, 10, 16 2021

Registration open through October 25.

Register Today!<sup>11</sup>



Online Resources and Links



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- [Office of Research & Innovation](#)<sup>12</sup>
  - [Find Your Pre-Award Program Administrator](#)<sup>13</sup>

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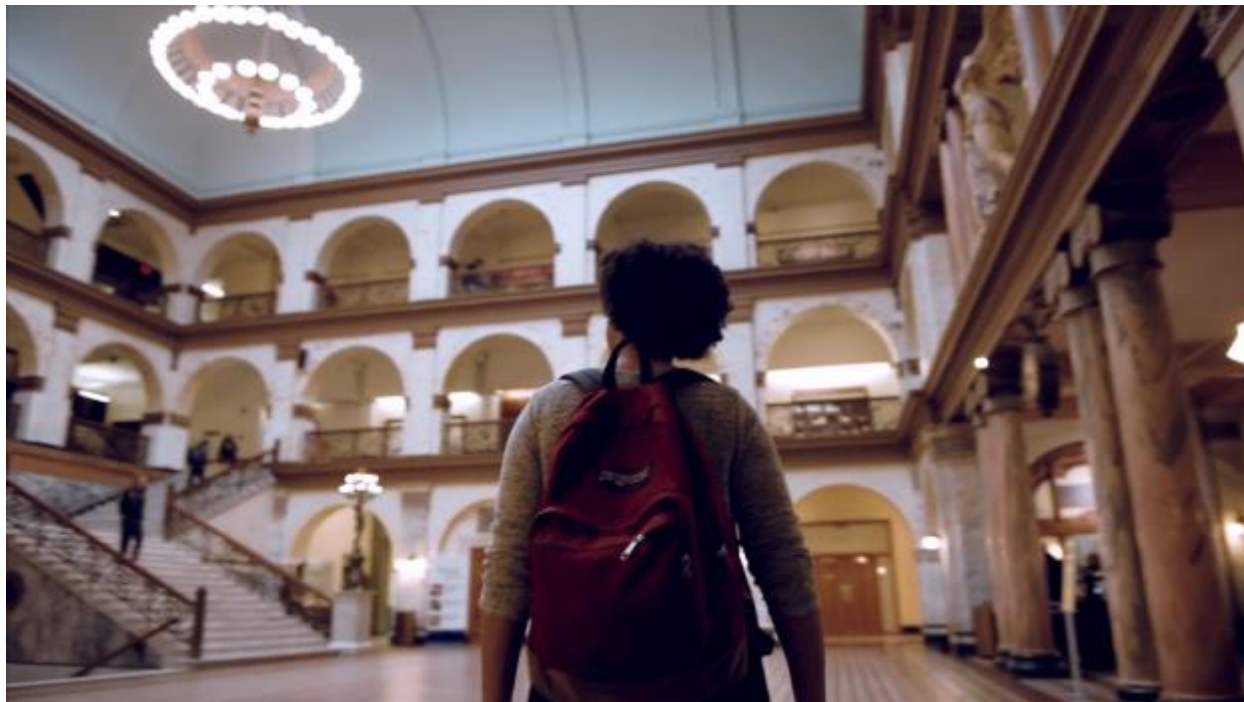
<sup>11</sup><https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsrainternational.us8.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Db4d088df8342e8ff542443e19%26id%3D5f6c898b98%26e%3D6aa0a724dd&data=04|01|cng45%40drexel.edu|3135abafd8c04495c27f08d98379366d|3664e6fa47bd45a696708c4f080f8ca6|0|0|637685378912769970|Unknown|TWfPbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjojV2luMzliLCJBTiI6lk1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D|1000&sdata=C%2BT%2BzSO6qYwbWA85CGILY%2FOZX5WVDDfEK8%2BsZw%2BcMA%3D&reserved=0>

<sup>12</sup><https://drexel.edu/research>

<sup>13</sup><https://drexel.edu/research/about/find-program-administrator/>

- [Resources and Forms](#)<sup>14</sup>
  - [Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Research Ramp-Up Guidance](#)<sup>15</sup>
  - [Contact members of the Office of Research & Innovation](#)<sup>16</sup>
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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<sup>17</sup>.

To locate a resource contact in the Office of Research & Innovation visit this page<sup>18</sup>.

Office of Research & Innovation | 1505 Race Street | Philadelphia, PA 19102 | [drexel.edu/research](https://drexel.edu/research)<sup>19</sup>

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.

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<sup>14</sup><https://drexel.edu/research/resources/documents-and-forms/>

<sup>15</sup><https://drexel.edu/research/resources/response-to-covid-19-pandemic/>

<sup>16</sup><https://drexel.edu/research/about/contact/>

<sup>17</sup><mailto:crystal.n.gatling@drexel.edu>

<sup>18</sup><https://drexel.edu/research/about/contact/>

<sup>19</sup><https://drexel.edu/research>