Office of Research & Innovation
Newsletter · March 2021
Colleagues,
It's hard to believe that a year has passed since COVID-19 first changed everything in our professional and personal lives. If we were to count the number of contingency plans, new processes, and decisions, big and small, that we have had to make in response to the pandemic, the number, I'm sure would be astronomical. I'm continuously impressed by and grateful for all the hard work of the ORI team and the University's research community. Together we have ensured the safe continuity of the University's research enterprise and by some measures grown the research enterprise. Furthermore, we rose to address the challenges and opportunities that COVID-19 revealed.

We have been responding to the pandemic for a long time now, but I am hopeful that soon our myriad responses will be leading us back towards a life that feels more familiar. Spring is finally upon us, after a long cold winter. Grass is turning green; flowers are pushing up through the soil. With spring comes the promise of being able to gather with colleagues, friends and family outside. The vaccine rollout and the changing of the social distancing recommendation for schools and institutions of higher learning gives us further hope that life will be returning to normal in the not-too-distant future. As a result, increased on-campus and face-to-face research and educational activity will be occurring in the coming months. Just like we have during this immensely challenging year, the ORI is committed to supporting the research, scholarly and creative activities of our faculty, staff and students. Wishing you renewal, safety, and hope.

With appreciation,

Aleister Saunders

Executive Vice Provost for Research & Innovation
News and Announcements

Exciting New Changes within ORI!
The Office of Research and Innovation is full of many hard working and dedicated individuals. It is our pleasure to announce the promotion of the following team members!

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Stuart Politi has been promoted to Assistant Director of Grants effective March 1, 2021. Stuart has been a member of the Drexel Grants team in the Office of Research & Innovation (ORI) for 4 years and during that time his dedication and strong skills in team building and communication, along with his knowledge base have led to steadily increasing responsibilities within ORI. Stuart came to Drexel with a strong background in research and grants administration, having worked in senior roles in the Offices of Research and Sponsored Programs for the City University of New York (CUNY) Foundation and New York University School of Medicine as well as at CRDF Global, a non-profit foundation supporting international research collaborations based in Washington, DC, for many years. While at Drexel, Stuart has worked most closely with the School of Public Health, the Academy of Natural Sciences, the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department and Westphal’s College of Media Arts & Design.

In his new role, Stuart will oversee research administration for the Grants team and work with the Drexel research community to support Drexel’s research initiatives. Stuart will be a key contributor to overseeing processes and procedures for proposal preparation, review and submissions, non-financial
post-award administration, including the development of processes to best ensure efficient and effective proposal and award management practices, organizing trainings and helping with the implementation of the new grants management software, InfoEd.

**Fun facts**: Stuart plays the cello and was a Peace Corps Volunteer in their Environmental Education Program in the Russian Far East and has travelled and worked extensively with researchers across Eurasia and the Middle East and North Africa, including multiple trips to North Korea.

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**Lauren Geary** is the new **Director of Finance, Operations and Research Business**. Lauren began her career with Drexel at the ExCITe Center in 2005 overseeing research, purchasing, and facilities. In 2007, she joined the Office of Research & Innovation providing research administration support to centrally reporting Centers and Institutes. Under the guidance of Kairi Williams, Lauren was able to build on RA services offered and expand her team, all while taking on an increasingly complex portfolio. Most recently, the Research Business Services team has included support for Lebow College, Westphal College of Media Arts & Design, and a number of additional Schools and Departments within Drexel. Lauren will now be stepping into the role of Director of Finance, Operations, and Research Business, a reimagined position blending her role leading Research Business Services and now to include leadership of the incredibly talented Finance & Administration team. In this new role, Lauren will direct day to day business operations in ORI, overseeing hiring, purchasing, budget, and research & administrative services among many other things.

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**Dr. Craig Johnson** will be our new **Operations Director of Research Core Facilities**. Craig joined the Materials Characterization Core (MCC) team in 2008 as the transmission electron microscopy specialist. His research background includes time working on advanced transmission electron microscopes at a CNRS lab in Toulouse, France and Brookhaven National Lab. Craig received his PhD in Chemistry from Arizona State University, where he studied defect structures in geologically important minerals using high-resolution transmission electron microscopy. In 2018, Craig took on a leadership role in the MCC. In that position, he continues to develop the business and communication strategies for the facility. As Operations Director of Research Core Facilities, Craig will develop tools and services to help Drexel cores enhance their reach, impact and efficiency in service of the Drexel research mission.

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**Carolyn Reneski** has been promoted to the new **Assistant Director of Regulatory Compliance**. Carolyn has been a member of the Office of Research & Innovation for 4 years. She was initially hired as the Post Approval Monitor for the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and with supportive guidance from IACUC and ORI leadership, was promoted to the position of IACUC Administrator in 2018. In addition to overseeing IACUC administration, Carolyn also assisted with the Calhoun fire renovation efforts and has been assisting with Research Ramp Up processes. Carolyn has a degree in Animal Biotechnology and has experience working with a wide variety of animal species in both laboratory and zoological settings. She has continued to develop her knowledge base, becoming a Certified Professional in IACUC Administration (CPIA) in 2019.
Carolyn enjoys assisting staff, investigators, and committee members in their efforts to produce quality, compliant research at Drexel. In her new role as Assistant Director, Carolyn will be responsible for the administration of the Institutional Animal Care and Use and Institutional Biosafety Committees so the committees can effectively perform their functions in compliance with federal regulations, NIH and other sponsor guidelines. She will continue to serve as a member of the IACUC and as the direct point of contact between the faculty and the regulatory committees during the review process and is familiar with the regulatory requirements governing university animal programs.

Please join us in congratulating these individuals on their new titles, roles and responsibilities!

**Announcing the System Naming Contest Winner!**

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 was narrowed down to six finalists. We opened the voting contest from February 25th – March 12th and received hundreds of votes!

*Drum roll please…*

The new system name is **DragonSPOT**: Drexel Sponsored Programs Online Tracking!

Congratulations to Melissa Langley in the College of Arts and Science for submitting the winning name!

Melissa, as a reminder your prizes include:

- Creativity bragging rights 
- Notoriety for your love of research administration system names 
- A great new name for our great new system!

**DragonSPOT** will be used across the new research administration system, training materials, and related communications. Learn more on the Office of Research & Innovation COEUS Replacement Project website¹. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this process!

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¹[https://drexel.edu/research/news/coeus-replacement-project/](https://drexel.edu/research/news/coeus-replacement-project/)
Scientists want virtual meetings to stay after the COVID pandemic (Nature)

A Nature poll shows that a year of online research conferences has brought big benefits, but blending them with in-person meetings in future will be a challenge... It’s been a year since the highly publicized first cancellation of a scientific conference as a result of the pandemic. The American Physical Society (APS) called off its March meeting just days before it was set to begin in Denver, Colorado, on 2 March 2020, kicking off a chain of similar cancellations — and ushering in a ‘new normal’ for researchers.

See the full story here https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-00513-1

NIH director apologizes for ‘structural racism,’ pledges actions (Science)

Responding to concerns about discrimination against Black people, National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Francis Collins today issued an unusual public apology for what he called “structural racism in biomedical research” and pledged to address it with a sweeping set of actions. NIH’s long-running efforts to improve diversity “have not been sufficient,” Collins wrote in the statement. “To those individuals in the biomedical research enterprise who have endured disadvantages due to structural racism, I am truly sorry.” The agency plans “new ways to support diversity, equity, and inclusion,” and will also correct policies within the agency “that may harm our workforce and our science,” he added.

The full story can be viewed here https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2021/03/nih-director-apologizes-structural-racism-pledges-actions

See also: NIH Stands Against Structural Racism in Biomedical Research (Open Mike)

2 https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nature.com%2Farticles%2Fd41586-020-00786-y&data=04|01|cng45%40drexel.edu|005c0f10fe7347e3194908d8de547454|3664e6fa47bd45a696708c4f080f8ca6|0|0|637503801607467183|Unknown|TWfpbGZsb3d8eyUIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVC16Mn0%3D|1000&data=g3jiuzW1p6JW1gWVtpUYFY7GjH9e25oPFr8kQ%3D&reserved=0

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ExCITE’s 2020 Annual Report

The ExCITE Center is home to researchers from across Drexel University as well as partners across Philadelphia. From virtual musical performances to educational workshops, the Center provides a hub for transdisciplinary research collaborations. Their vibrant community of students, staff, and faculty keeps the ExCITE Center active year-round.

Click here to view ExCITE’s annual Report for spectacular 2020 updates!!

(For past reports follow this link: https://bit.ly/exciteannualreport)
Funding Opportunity Resources

Now Available in Research.gov: Three New Proposal Types and Proposal Withdrawal Functionality

Effective March 22, the National Science Foundation (NSF) enabled three new proposal types in the Research.gov Proposal Submission System and in the recently launched Research.gov Proposal Preparation Demo Site. These are the Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASED), Equipment, and Travel proposal types. New automated compliance checks and associated error and warning messages for these proposal types were also implemented. In addition, proposal withdrawal functionality was added for both single submission (with or without subawards) and separately submitted collaborative proposals from multiple organizations. New training resources have also been added to the Research.gov About Proposal Preparation and Submission page.

FASED, Equipment, and Travel Proposals

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Proposers can now select a FASED, Equipment, or Travel proposal type in the Research.gov Proposal Submission System proposal setup wizard, in addition to the existing Research.gov proposal type options:

- Research
- Rapid Response Research (RAPID)
- Early-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER)
- Research Advanced by Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering (RAISE)

All supported proposal types are available in the Research.gov Proposal Preparation Demo Site.

New automated compliance checks for FASED, Equipment, and Travel proposal types have been added to Research.gov and are listed on the Research.gov Automated Proposal Compliance Checks for Proposals dated March 22, 2021 on the Automated Compliance Checking of NSF Proposals9 page.

- A reminder: Error messages prohibit proposal submission to NSF, whereas warning messages still permit proposal submission.

Refer to the Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide10 (PAPPG) (NSF 20-1) for FASED, Equipment, and Travel proposal requirements.

Proposal Withdrawal Functionality

- Proposing organizations can now withdraw both single submission (with or without subawards) and separately submitted collaborative proposals from multiple organizations in Research.gov.
- Organizations no longer need to contact the NSF Help Desk to initiate Research.gov proposal withdrawal actions.
- A new Proposal Withdrawal section has been added to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the Research.gov About Proposal Preparation and Submission11 page left navigation menu.

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• Refer to PAPPG Chapter IV.A. for proposal withdrawal requirements.

**Training Resources**

• New and updated system-related FAQs by topic are available on the Research.gov About Proposal Preparation and Submission page left navigation menu.

• A new 16-minute Research.gov proposal demo video has been added to the Research.gov About Proposal Preparation and Submission page Video Tutorials section.
  - The video highlights key proposal preparation steps including:
    - Setting up a proposal
    - Uploading a document and compliance messaging
    - Preparing Proposal File Update/Budget Revisions

• A new How-to Guides section has been added to the Research.gov About Proposal Preparation and Submission page left navigation menu. The initial topic-specific guide is posted, and new guides will be added to this section going forward.
What's Ahead?

Research.gov is being developed incrementally, and features are expanding to support the transition of all proposal preparation and submission functionality from FastLane to Research.gov in accordance with NSF Important Notice 147: Research.gov Implementation Update issued September 22, 2020. Please refer to the Research.gov Proposal Submission Capabilities to see what is in development.

Questions? If you have IT system-related questions, please contact the NSF Help Desk at 1-800-381-1532 (7:00 AM - 9:00 PM ET; Monday - Friday except federal holidays) or via rgov@nsf.gov. Policy-related questions should be directed to policy@nsf.gov.

We look forward to receiving your Research.gov FASED, Equipment, and Travel proposals and seeing you on the demo site.

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/

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

GSA's Drexel Aetna Student Health Insurance Deductible Subsidy Program (Quarter Students ONLY)

Summary:

For graduate students receiving little or no funding to assist with the cost of education and other living expenses, the added cost of health insurance, including the deductible, can cause hardship. The goal of the subsidy program is to provide some relief for eligible graduate students, especially amid additional financial challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The GSA, in collaboration with the Biomedical Sciences GSA, came together to brainstorm ways to help graduate students during this challenging time and advocated for the subsidy as a way to give back to the very students who support their activities.

Click here for more details:  https://drexel.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1830316

Deadline: 6/01/2021
Events and Education

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 Partnership23, UIDPVirtual 2021, April 12-16, 2021.

Our new strategic plan, Drexel 203024, 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.

UIDPVirtual25’s agenda includes general sessions, breakouts and panels focused on:

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

With institutional access to UIDP Virtual 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

**Did you author or edit a book in 2020?**

The Drexel University Libraries and the Office of the Provost are pleased to continue the annual tradition of honoring Drexel's book authors and editors during the 2021 virtual Celebrating Drexel Authors Event on **Tuesday, April 27, 2021**.

Each year, the Celebrating Drexel Authors Event recognizes faculty, students and staff for their scholarly and creative publications in various formats and promotes the importance of authorship and scholarly communications.

**Are you a 2020 Drexel Book Author or Editor?**
All faculty, staff and students who authored or edited a book published between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020: Please let us know about your publication by completing our Authors Recognition Form by Friday, March 26, 2021.

We continue to welcome donated copies of books to include in the Drexel Authors Collection within the University Archives. For more information or to coordinate your book donation, please contact Libraries Communications Manager Stacy Stanislaw at svs22@drexel.edu.

Further details about the 2021 virtual Celebrating Drexel Authors event program will be forthcoming.

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. Chermside 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 distinguished 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.

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[31] mailto:svs22@drexel.edu

[32] https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsrainternational.us8.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Db4d088df8342e8ff542443e19%26id%3De984c87cea%26%3D6aa0a724d&data=04|01|cng45%40drexel.edu|fd1d30985ff4bab54b8d8bd75b983|3664e6fa47bd45a696708c4f08f8ca6|0|0|637467660618970568|Unknown|TWfpbGZsb3d8eyjWlijoMC4wljAwMDAiLCQIjojV2luMzliLCJTii6lk1haWwilCIJXCVI6Mn0%3D|1000&data=8W1piX0tqfxmltwQAwxcCkhCyMFdFF%2F9jxTNq%2FFejvi%3D&reserved=0
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.

33mailto:emincey@srainternational.org?subject=2021 SRAI Awards
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 LGBTQ+ 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

Drexel Core Facilities

34https://drexel.edu/fashion-style
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