# HHS Spring Faculty Meeting: Research Updates

April 23, 2021

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We have focused our efforts this year on helping faculty:

- Sustain their research programs through the COVID pandemic,
- Develop their research programs, and
- Prepare and refine their internal and external grant submissions.

Thank you to the Research Advisory Committee members who provide critical advice for program development and participate in reviewing all of the internal grant programs. The faculty on the committee have dedicated significant effort to advancing research in the college:

- Kathy Abrahamson, NURS
- Jonathan Bauchet, HTM/CSR division
- Hari Bharadwaj, SLHS
- Jonathon Day, HTM
- Heather Eicher-Miller, NUTR
- Elliot Friedman, HDFS
- Karen Foli, NURS
- Jennifer Freeman, HSCI
- Nilupa Gunaratna, PUBH
- Qing Jiang, NUTR
- Monica Kasting, PUBH
- Bridgette Kelleher, PSYC
- Lawrence Leonard, SLHS
- Tom Redick, PSYC
- Shirley Rietdyk, HK
- Bruno Roseguini, HK
- Sara Schmitt, HDFS
- Jonathan Shannahan, HSCI

Highlights of our programming and initiatives are below.

1. **HHS Research and Coffee Program**
   In May 2020, we established the Research and Coffee Program as a venue where faculty could stay engaged in research-related discussions, while much of the research activity was limited. This program has been well received, and we will continue to offer this program this summer in a virtual format. We invite you to join us, and we appreciate your input about format and future topics.

2. **HHS Research Newsletter**
   To support faculty research programs, we began publishing the HHS Research Newsletter in December 2020. The newsletter contains: (1) kudos to some of our colleagues on their grants and papers, (2) important information from NIH, NSF, and other federal agencies, (3) notices of funding opportunities within and outside HHS, and (4) highlights some of our HHS Centers and faculty. Please let us know if you have any content or suggestions for this resource.

3. **HHS Grant Funding Programs and Related Resources**
   Knowing that funding is a key component to completing any research project, we coordinate funding programs and provide resources to help attain resources from other sources. For example, we developed the HHS Rapid Response COVID funding opportunity to help faculty gather key pilot data relevant to address problems associated with the pandemic. Other examples can be found below and on our website (https://www.purdue.edu/hhs/research/resources/funding.php)
   a. ***Hanover Research.*** We are working with Hanover Research to provide additional resources for grant development. A link on the website is coming soon where we will house grants calendars, webinars, and other resources. Hanover can also help with reviewing grant submissions. Reach out to Jessica if you are interested in engaging with them.
   b. ***Ross-Lynn Scholar Research Scholar program.*** This program is a revision of the prior PRF Research Fellowship grant program and has two new important criteria - (1) it must align with one or more of the HHS Signature Areas, and (2) it must lead to the development of an external grant submission in the 18 months. **Due April 22, 2021**
   c. ***External Grant Review program*** (**next due date: June 1, 2021** – contact if you need an out of cycle review). This formalized program provides faculty an opportunity to pay an outside reviewer to give feedback on a grant proposal.
   d. ***MRI Pilot Grant program.*** To facilitate opportunities, this program now operates with a rolling deadline.
   e. ***HHS Funded Grants Library.*** We now have the beginnings of a funded grants library that is available to HHS faculty members. To access them, please contact Kim Sagendorf. If you want to share your grant with HHS faculty, please let us know.
   f. ***COMING SOON!!!*** Watch for funding announcements for **strengthening our signature areas** over the summer and fall.
   g. ***Grant-Writing Seminar for Doctoral Students and Postdocs.*** In fall 2021, Jason Harris, Pat Hein, and Jessica Huber will offer a grant-writing seminar for doctoral students and post-docs, in which students will develop an F-31/32 proposal. All students must have a clear idea of their dissertation plan (for doctoral students) or have a clear proposed research question (for postdoctoral fellows). Primary mentors are required to work with their trainee during the semester to support development of the proposal and to review components of the proposal. Instructor permission is required. This course is being offered with the following designators: HHS 60000, SLHS 61900, and HSCI 59000

4. **University- and College-wide Policy Changes.**

Here, I want to highlight some University- and College-wide policy and practice changes. Some of this information was motivated by questions that many of you have been sending to me. If there are other issues that I can look into for you, please let me know.

   a. ***Changes in Requirements for Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Training***
      - All researchers (faculty, staff, and students who are involved in any kind of research) must complete the RCR CITI training modules by June 30, 2021. If you do not have research funding, you are not required to renew this training. Anyone involved in funded research will need to renew this training on the schedule required by the funder (usually every 4-5 years).
      - All researchers must engage in 2 hours of discussion-based training by June 30, 2022. Currently, this training is only required once (no renewal) by the EVPRP. However, I will be working with Heads and the Research Advisory

Committee to develop guidelines that express our commitment to continuing to stay abreast of RCR topics throughout our careers.

- I have asked all departments to offer an RCR session each semester. The College will also offer sessions for faculty within the Research and Coffee Program. These will be clearly labeled. An easy way to obtain these hours is to conduct regular discussions in lab meetings about RCR topics related to your research programs. Training can be logged in at the EVPRP's RCR site by each individual (https://www.purdue.edu/research/regulatory-affairs/integrity/responsible-conduct.php).

***b. Updates on Conducting Human Subjects Research***

First, a big thank you to HHS's own Chris Agnew for his hard work with the Comptroller's office on behalf of faculty involved in human subjects work. See companion document entitled "humansubjects paymentsguidelines_Current" for details. Here are the highlights:

- Changes to drawings/raffle procedures including the elimination of the need to allow people who have not participated in your study enter the raffle
- Changes to upper limits for both gift cards and cash payments to up to $100

***c. Summer Research Precautions Related to COVID-19***

There have been no changes to the SOP process or requirements at this time. The guidelines are being reviewed by the Office of the EVPRP, and I will disseminate more information as soon as I have it. Regarding vaccinations, we cannot ask staff or students whether they are vaccinated or to be vaccinated as a condition of employment or of participation in research laboratory activities.

***d.* College-wide Research Reinvestment Plan**

A college-wide reinvestment plan was disseminated earlier this spring. This plan was developed in close collaboration with the dean, associate deans, and unit heads. Units have until July 1, 2022 to adopt the new policy. In developing the policy, our goals were to:

- ***Provide transparency and equity across all units in the college.***
    - *Not all units had a reinvestment plan.* Having something college-wide ensures that there is transparency about our policies and that everyone in the college has an opportunity to obtain reinvestments in their research.
    - *Not all units allowed for reinvestment for salary coverage at levels below a course buy-out.* Having a college-wide plan with no minimum AY coverage to engage with the plan is especially important for faculty without access to large grants that can support full course buyouts (including those who are funded by NSF or foundations, and those who are junior in rank and are still building their research program). This decouples the reinvestment from course buy-outs and makes it possible for faculty who cannot buy-out of a course to have access to reinvestment in all units.
    - *Oversight for special exceptions.* The plan also requires oversight of special exceptions for particular faculty so that we ensure that each faculty member has access to the same reward structure.
- ***Ensure that faculty return does not negatively impact unit's fiscal health***. Mona Holdcraft and I used financial reporting to set a reinvestment amount

that ensured that units are not losing money when returning part of a faculty member's AY salary. 25% return is a good middle-ground that provides some reinvestment without damaging the unit's fiscal health. This level of reinvestment will allow faculty within units to collectively benefit from research activity by providing funds to use for research support like bridge funding, special equipment needs, research support personnel, faculty travel, and graduate student supplies and travel.