

OSP Times



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

Office of Sponsored Programs Newsletter

NIH Grants: The Importance of Environment

The importance of environment is often neglected in many unfunded NIH proposals. NIH specifically asks the principal investigator to explain how “the scientific environment in which the work will be done contributes to the probability of success.” Along with evidence of institutional support, NIH also wants to know about the unique features of the scientific environment that may benefit the study. Listing lab space and equipment is important, of course, but there are additional ways to emphasize a positive environment that could give you the edge over your competition.

For example, are there other researchers with NIH funding within the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) that will support you or mentor you? Do



TTUHSC Stock Photo

you plan to work with a consultant or engage in a useful collaboration? Would such a collaboration strengthen your proposal? If so, do more than simply attach a letter of support—explain how the collaboration will make a difference.

Have you considered the value of our geographic area as it pertains to your re-

search? Dr. Grammas, a multiple NIH award recipient, has graciously allowed us to share a portion of one of her grants that effectively addresses the positive aspects of the TTUHSC environment and its geographic location.

As part of a description of our institutional environment, the multi-campus structure of

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Special Quotes:

- Imagination is more important than knowledge.

—Albert Einstein

- Did you ever observe to whom the accidents happen? Chance favors only the prepared mind.

—Louis Pasteur

- The creation of something new is not accomplished by the intellect but by the play instinct acting from inner necessity.

—C. G. Jung

New Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) Website

When you get a chance, please check out our new OSP website. The website address is listed in the highlighted box to the right of this article.

Lots of new funding links have been added, as well as

grant opportunities and deadlines, including OSP and agency deadlines.

You'll also find a useful page called “Route Sheet Instructions,” which will help you fill out our newly designed OSP route sheet.

To assist you in preparing grant applications, a document called “Quick Facts” has also been posted.

We'll be adding more content in the future, so be sure to check in with us regularly.



NIH Grants: The Importance of Environment

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the TTUHSC was emphasized. The relevance of our geographic location and patient population in relationship to our institutional structure was discussed in a variety of ways and included data from the U.S. Census Bureau and information from sources such as the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services. Some examples follow:

- Located on the western plains of Texas, TTUHSC is a multi-campus regional structure composed of Schools of Allied Health Sciences (SOAH), Medicine (SOM), Nursing (SON), Pharmacy (SOP), and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS). The demographics of Texas and the particular needs of West Texas communities have mandated that the TTUHSC adopt aging as a strategic priority. Texas is home to the fourth largest population of adults over the age of 60 in the nation at 3.1 million.
- Texas has the second largest Hispanic elderly population, trailing only California, and the third largest older black population, following New York and California. Hispanic elders will continue to outnumber



The Grammas Lab
TTUHSC Stock Photo

other race/ethnicities along the Texas-Mexico Border region in the future.

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Community of Science Training (COS) Sessions

COS training is now available. COS is the largest, most comprehensive database of available grant opportunities. It includes more than 24,000 records representing over \$33 billion in funding and is updated daily. Funding can be found for many purposes, such as research, travel, conferences, postdoctoral positions, and fellowships. In addition, COS is a wonderful tool for networking and collaboration building.

The first training session is scheduled at 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 17, 2007 (Lubbock location). Another training session is scheduled at 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 24, 2007 (Lubbock location).

In November, a training session is scheduled from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 14, 2007 (Amarillo location). In December, a training session is scheduled from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. on Wednesday, De-

ember 12, 2007 (El Paso location). More training dates in November and December will be announced.

The groups will be kept small in number to provide individual attention. To sign up for one of the training sessions and obtain further details regarding the training location, please contact Lee Ann Paradise at Lee.Paradise@ttuhsc.edu.

American Diabetes Association: Research Award

OSP Deadline: December 21, 2007

Agency Deadline: January 1, 2008

Amount: Awards are \$20,000 to \$100,000 per year for up to 3 years. Investigators may request up to \$20,000 for salary support and up to 15% for indirect costs.

Award Description: These awards provide grant support to both new and established investigators. Applications will

be considered in any area that is relevant to the etiology or pathophysiology of diabetes and its complications.

For more details, go to:

<http://www.diabetes.org/diabetes-research/research-grant-application-forms/nationwide-research-awards.jsp#research>



To help support diabetes research, be a part of **STEP OUT TO FIGHT DIABETES** on October 20, 2007. For more information, contact Angelia.Heare@ttuhsc.edu.

NIH Grants: The Importance of Environment

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- In Texas, minority populations are rapidly growing and by 2040, they will constitute almost half of all older adults, with Hispanics comprising 31%. As the leading training institution in the West Texas region, the TTUHSC is working to address the issues facing a rapidly growing aging population.
- The mission of the TTUHSC is to improve the health of people by providing educational opportunities for students and health care professionals, advancing knowledge through scholarship and research, and providing patient care.
- West Texas is the service area legislatively mandated for the TTUHSC. The region comprises 50% of the land mass and 14% of the population of the state. It fills an area of 131,323 square miles and is larger than all but four states. Demographic shifts in West Texas populations, as well as the socioeconomic and epidemiological characteristics of its subgroups, have created major and specific demands for service in which the TTUHSC has gained extensive experience, particularly related to aging.

Also included were colorful, easy-to-read maps and charts, as well as bulleted lists that showed how the Garri-son Institute on Aging had successfully led a variety of activities, such as building a model nursing home on campus and implementing new strategies to expand research discovery.

Like Grammas, you can draw connections between the TTUHSC environment and your research plans. Doing so may help your proposal to be more favorably scored. Although the importance of environment may be overlooked at times, it is no less vital than other aspects that are more commonly mentioned.

What is Cost Sharing (or Matching)?

Cost sharing is a commitment made by TTUHSC to fund a portion of the total cost of a sponsored project. *Mandatory* cost sharing is required by the sponsor, whereas *voluntary* cost sharing represents resources offered by TTUHSC that are not required to secure a grant.

In either case, when a cost sharing commitment is made in a grant application and the grant is awarded, this becomes a binding commitment that must be fulfilled and documented. A future article

will describe how to document cost sharing.

Cost sharing commitments are reviewed and approved by OSP. As a preferred alternative to making voluntary cost sharing commitments, indicators of institutional commitment and support can be conveyed strongly in ways that do not create future financial obligations. Please contact OSP for suggestions.

“Mandatory cost sharing is required by the sponsor, whereas voluntary cost sharing represents resources offered by TTUHSC that are not required to secure a grant.”

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Community Health Leaders Award

OSP Deadline: October 16, 2007

Agency Deadlines: October 19, 2007
(Brief Nomination).

Amount: Ten awards in the amount of \$125,000 each will be made for the 2008 award cycle. Each new leader receives \$20,000 and \$105,000 goes to benefit the organization of the leader.

Award Description: Consumers, community leaders, health professionals, gov-

ernment officials, and others who have been personally inspired by people providing essential community health services are encouraged to nominate individuals for the award. Nominations from development officials, public relations departments, or professional grant writers will not be accepted.

For more details, go to: <http://www.rwjf.org/applications/solicited/cfp.jsp?ID=19839>



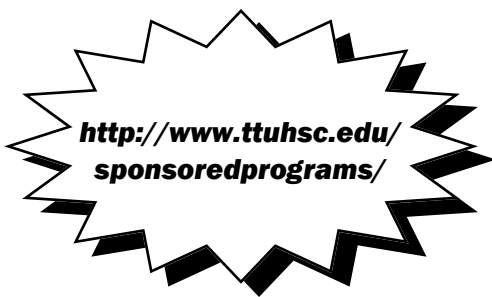
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3601 4th Street, MS 6271
Lubbock, TX 79430

Lee Ann Paradise
Managing Editor
Phone: 806-743-2960
Fax: 806-743-2976
E-mail: Lee.Paradise@ttuhsc.edu



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OUR MISSION

The purpose of the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) is to assist faculty and staff in identifying, obtaining, and maintaining external funding that support the TTUHSC mission of instruction, research, and patient care. Numerous resources are utilized to assist faculty in identifying possible funding opportunities, including the Community of Science (COS), the world's most comprehensive funding database with utilities for identifying collaborators and interactive CV updating. The OSP is responsible for reviewing and approving proposals seeking external funding from federal, state, and local agencies and negotiates the contractual funding agreements with such entities (with the exception of clinical trials with drug companies). Upon receipt of an award, the OSP provides assistance and oversight, including budget set-up and project revisions.

The OSP provides administrative support for three federally-mandated research committees: animal research (IACUC), biohazardous materials research (IBC), and recombinant DNA research (RDBC). In addition, the OSP assists with several internal TTUHSC seed grant programs.

Selected Funding Deadlines

OSP Deadline: 10/16/2007

Sponsor Deadline: 10/23/2007

- Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board — Advanced Research Program (ARP, pre-proposals)

<http://www.arpatp.com/>

OSP Deadline: 10/16/2007

Sponsor Deadline: 10/23/2007

- Susan G. Komen for the Cure — Promise Grants (pre-applications)

<http://cms.komen.org/komen/>

OSP Deadline: 10/29/2007

Sponsor Deadline: 11/05/2007

- NIH R01 Research Grant Program (renewals, resubmissions)

<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm>

OSP Deadline: 11/09/2007

Sponsor Deadline: 11/16/2007

- NIH R03, R21, R34, R36 (renewals, resubmissions)

<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm>

OSP Deadline: 11/09/2007

Sponsor Deadline: 11/16/2007

- American Health Assistance Foundation — National Glaucoma Research Foundation

<http://www.ahaf.org/glaucoma/research/glresrch.htm>

OSP Deadline: 11/28/2007

Sponsor Deadline: 12/05/2007

- NIH Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)/Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/sbir.htm>