

OCTOBER 2023

UPCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 | 12 P.M.

A VIRTUAL CONVERSATION WITH CARL MCNAIR

Carl S. McNair, CEO and founder of McNair Achievement Programs and president of the McNair Foundation, will hold a virtual conversation with UTA students and faculty Sept. 27. McNair is best known for creating programs named in honor of his brother, Ronald E. McNair, who perished along with six of his fellow astronauts aboard Space Shuttle *Challenger* on Jan. 28, 1986. Carl McNair's leadership led to the creation of the federally funded Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, also known as the [McNair Scholars Program](#). To participate in the [virtual conversation](#), please [RSVP](#).

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4 | 11 A.M.

READY, SET, RESEARCH

At this [college-wide event located in the SEIR building, room 298](#), students will have the opportunity to learn about research and meet with faculty members. First, Kayunta Johnson-Winters, interim director, office of undergraduate research, will speak about the opportunities for students to do undergraduate research, followed by a moderated panel of undergraduate student researchers, faculty, and advisors. Afterwards, there will be a faculty-student mixer where students can ask faculty directly about undergraduate research opportunities. Faculty and department advisors—please share this event with your students and plan on being at the mixer to talk to students. You do not have to be actively recruiting student researchers to attend.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13 | 12 P.M.

PI RESPONSIBILITIES

Jeremy Forsberg, associate vice president for research, will discuss the Principal Investigators' (PI) responsibilities at UTA for conducting research. He will also cover faculty disclosure and reporting requirements of UTA, concerns of foreign influence, and disclosures necessary to federal agencies. This workshop is open to any UTA faculty, staff, or students interested in PI responsibilities for conducting research. RSVP to Preaward@uta.edu and/or plan to [join online](#).

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 10 A.M.

CPB BIOLOGIC OUTREACH SESSION

The U.S. Customs and Board Patrol Agency will conduct a biologics outreach session with UTA on Oct. 24. The presentation will discuss information regarding importing and exporting biologic shipments. The event will be virtual over Teams. Contact [Drew Harris](#) for more information.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 1 P.M.

eSHIPGLOBAL SHIPPING OUTREACH SESSION

Akash Vasan from eShipGlobal will present the process and related information to successfully ship internationally via eShipGlobal. The event will be virtual over Teams. Contact [Drew Harris](#) for more information.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31 | 10 A.M.

UTA EXPORT COMPLIANCE OUTREACH SESSION

Drew Harris with the Office of Regulatory Services will present general export control information as it relates to UTA's activities. The event will be virtual over Teams. Contact [Drew Harris](#) for more information.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9 | 12 P.M.

EMERGING ANIMALS RIGHTS TRENDS WEBINAR

Americans for Medical Progress (AMP) will host a free webinar November 9 to examine the latest animal rights trends, identify challenges U.S. institutions may likely face in the upcoming year, offer suggestions on how to diminish risk and minimize the impacts of animal rights campaigns, and provide tips for countering some of the most impactful animal rights strategies including records requests, infiltrations, and onsite protests. AMP's presentation will be followed by a Q&A session. [Registration](#) is free.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10 | 12 P.M.

LOGIC MODEL TO MAXIMIZE FUNDING POTENTIAL

Consultants Rene Paulson and Mindy Chandler of Elite Research will discuss the desire of funding agencies to invest their money in programs that are a direct result of solid design. A solid design comes from

a logic model. This workshop is designed to help maximize funding potential by ensuring programs or project designs have solid foundations. This workshop is open to any UTA faculty, staff, or students interested in research funding. RSVP to Preaward@uta.edu or [join online](#).

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2024 | 12 P.M.

STRATEGIES FOR LARGE CENTER PROPOSALS

Consultant Lucy Deckard of Academic Research Funding Strategies will lead a webinar for faculty who have been successful in winning single-PI and small team grants and are looking to transition to larger team and center-level grants. The webinar will discuss how these larger grants are different, the expectations of the funding agencies for large team and center grants, successful strategies for applications, and common mistakes to avoid. This workshop is open to any UTA faculty, staff, or students interested in research funding. RSVP to Preaward@uta.edu and plan to [join online](#).

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024 | 12 P.M.

WRITING WINNING JUNIOR FACULTY PROPOSALS

Consultant Lucy Deckard of Academic Research Funding Strategies will lead a webinar on NSF CAREER and other grants specifically for junior faculty. The seminar will cover how to identify the proper grants and how to write those proposals. Emphasis will be on the NSF CAREER, but other early career grants will also be discussed. This workshop is open to any UTA faculty, staff, or students interested in research funding. RSVP to Preaward@uta.edu and plan to [join online](#).

POLICY AND PROCEDURE UPDATES

New Estimated Fringe Rates for Health Insurance Costs

As part of UT Arlington's effort to support health insurance costs for all Graduate Teaching Assistants and Associates (GTAs) and Graduate Research Assistants and Associates (GRAs) enrolled in a PhD program or in the Master of Architecture, Master of Fine Arts, or Master of Landscape Architecture programs, PIs will need to raise the fringe benefits percentage currently applied to graduate assistant salaries from 10% to 20% in all new grant proposals effective immediately. This estimate is used for budgeting purposes only, actual expenses will be applied to the ProjectID per UTA policy.

For all GRAs and GTAs eligible for tuition support and health insurance support under this policy, the hiring unit must ensure their tuition and fringe benefits are covered from available and allowable funds, as it is guaranteed as part of their employment (even if a sponsor does not allow the cost). PIs of external grants are required to budget and charge tuition support and health insurance at this level in all sponsored projects that

anticipate or employ eligible GRAs or GTAs unless the sponsor explicitly restricts these forms of support as an allowable cost.

[Preaward specialists](#) are available to assist with the inclusion of these costs on budgets during the proposal development process.

Internal Approvals for External Proposals

Faculty are reminded that the mentis BlueSheet is required to be routed prior to submission of an external application for funding. The BlueSheet serves as an internal approval form for the University to assess the proposed research, data/storage needs, additional space needs, renovations, compliance requirements, special needs for materials handling, and any requirements for program substance after program expiration. It also serves as a tool for the Office of Grants and Contracts staff to determine if investigators are following UTA policy and sponsor and/or federal regulations before a proposal is submitted for funding, and to provide a pre-submission review of the budget including indirect cost calculations and any proposed cost share. Approval of the mentis BlueSheet by chairs and deans and/or other stakeholders documents the review and approval of the contents of the application as summarized in the BlueSheet, including space needs, cost share, and unallowable costs (salary cap or unallowable tuition and fringe, per sponsor guidelines). Questions may be directed to preaward@uta.edu.

New NSF Actions Encourage Timely Reporting

To encourage timely reporting, the National Science Foundation plans to exercise its authority to *temporarily withhold cash payments* pending the submission and approval of annual project reports. This includes awards that have overdue project reports of 60 days or more from three participating divisions at NSF: the divisions of Computing and Communication Foundations; Civil, Mechanical, and Manufacturing Innovation; and Information and Intelligent Systems.

NSF relies on annual project reports to monitor the progress made on grants and cooperative agreements, assess the impact of the grants, and communicate any concerns to PIs. NSF award terms and conditions clearly state that PIs must submit annual project reports 90 days prior to the end of the annual budget period of the project, and if reports are not approved by the NSF program officer by this date, the report is considered overdue. This new action is in addition to NSF's existing practice of not issuing new or continuing increments on awards with key personnel associated with awards with overdue reports.

NOTIFICATIONS AND REMINDERS

Guidance on Possible Government Shutdown

The federal government has not yet passed funding bills for the next fiscal year beginning Oct. 1. A shutdown may affect UTA researchers working with federal awards. The Office of Grant and Contract Services has prepared [guidance](#).

Look Out for a Survey from the APLU

VPRI is preparing to apply to the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) to become an [Innovation and Economic Prosperity \(IEP\) university](#). Achieving this distinction is an important priority of President Cowley. The APLU's IEP designation recognizes universities that are strongly committed to fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development. Among many other benefits, achieving this designation will acknowledge UTA's significant ongoing impact to our community. To support this process, members of the UTA community will be asked to complete a survey to overview your community partnerships, their relevance to your unit, and their importance to our students. Please be on the lookout in the coming weeks for a survey from the APLU and make plans to complete it.

Institutional Biosafety Committee Guideline Reminder

All projects involving transgenic animals or recombinant and synthetic nucleic acids, regardless of funding, must be reviewed by the UTA Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) prior to initiation. All projects involving recombinant DNA techniques conducted at or sponsored by an institution that receives National Institutes of Health (NIH) funds for projects involving such techniques must comply with NIH guidelines. You can find the definition of recombinant and synthetic nucleic acids on the [UTA IBC Regulations and Guidelines](#) page. If your work involves substances that meet that definition, or transgenic animals, please contact regulatoryservices@uta.edu for IBC Protocol Application instructions. You may also find more information on the [UTA IBC website](#).

Where to Find Funding Support Information Online

When looking for funding information, be sure to explore the Office of Grant and Contract Services' website for funding ideas. It has pages dedicated to [MSI Opportunities](#), the [Chips and Science Act of 2022](#), [Institutional Level Grants](#), and more. Start on the [Find Funding.page](#) to identify your next opportunity.

New Assistance for NSF CAREER Proposers

Faculty interested in applying for the NSF Faculty Early Career Development Program in July 2024 can receive varying levels of additional assistance from external consultants to develop the strongest possible proposal. Assistance can range from editing to intensive mentoring. Faculty interested in taking advantage of the program should contact elissa.williams@uta.edu. Eligibility information for the CAREER program can be found in the [solicitation](#).

UPCOMING DEADLINES

Due Oct. 27: Undergraduate Summer Research Abroad Applications

Applications are due Oct. 27, 2023, for the [LSAMP Summer Research Academy Abroad \(SRA-A\) program](#). The SRA-A program selects up to 10 students from LSAMP partner schools for an eight- to 10-week study abroad program. Students receive a \$4,000 summer stipend, roundtrip airfare, and a housing and food allowance.

Faculty Research Nominations Due Jan. 12

Each academic year, [UTA has three awards to recognize outstanding researchers](#). The Distinguished Record of Research or Creative Activity Award recognizes a faculty member for achieving a distinguished record of research and scholarship or creative activity. The Outstanding Research Achievement or Creative Accomplishment Award recognizes a faculty member for achieving a particularly important research or creative accomplishment during the past three years. The Academy of Distinguished Scholars admits up to four new members each year. New members must be a past recipient of either the Outstanding Research Achievement or Creative Accomplishment Award or the Distinguished Record of Research or Creative Activity Award. Applications are due Jan. 12.

UTA RESEARCH IN THE NEWS

Quantum Information Science Not in High Schools

Karen Matsler, UT Arlington assistant professor in practice for the UTeach Arlington program, wrote about integrating quantum information science into high school classrooms in [The Conversation](#). The column also was published by [Yahoo! News](#), the [Houston Chronicle](#), the [San Antonio Express-News](#) and many other media outlets.

Texas Medical Schools Reliance on Unclaimed Bodies

Texas medical schools are increasingly using unclaimed bodies in medical education, a practice largely thought to be dwindling because of ethical concerns, UTA's Eli Schupe and Serena Karim wrote in the [Journal of the American Medical Association](#). The story was covered by the [Dallas Morning News](#), [Medscape](#), and [Medpage Today](#). Dr. Schupe was also interviewed by [Spectrum News](#).

Human Destruction of Floodplains

Adnan Rajib, a UT Arlington hydrologist, and doctoral student Qianjin Zheng [published a study in the Nature journal Scientific Data](#) to provide the first-ever global estimate of human destruction of natural floodplains, [Phys.org](#), [SciTechDaily](#), [Electric City Magazine](#), [Bollyinside.com](#), [The Earth Chronicles of Life](#), [Lab Manager](#) and [CWV](#) reported. The study can help guide future development in a way that can restore and conserve vital floodplain habitats that are critical to wildlife, water quality and reducing flood risk for people.

Do you have research news that should be promoted to the media? Contact [Katherine Egan Bennett](#), assistant director of research communications, to see how Media Relations can help [raise awareness of your research](#). Some grant funders may like to see these stories as signs of the impact of your research on the community.



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