

# DISCOVERY DIGEST

A CAMPUS RESEARCH RESOURCE

DECEMBER 2025

**Contents**  
**Featured Stories**  
**Information Items**  
**Training & Events**  
**Regulatory Updates**  
**Research Achievements**

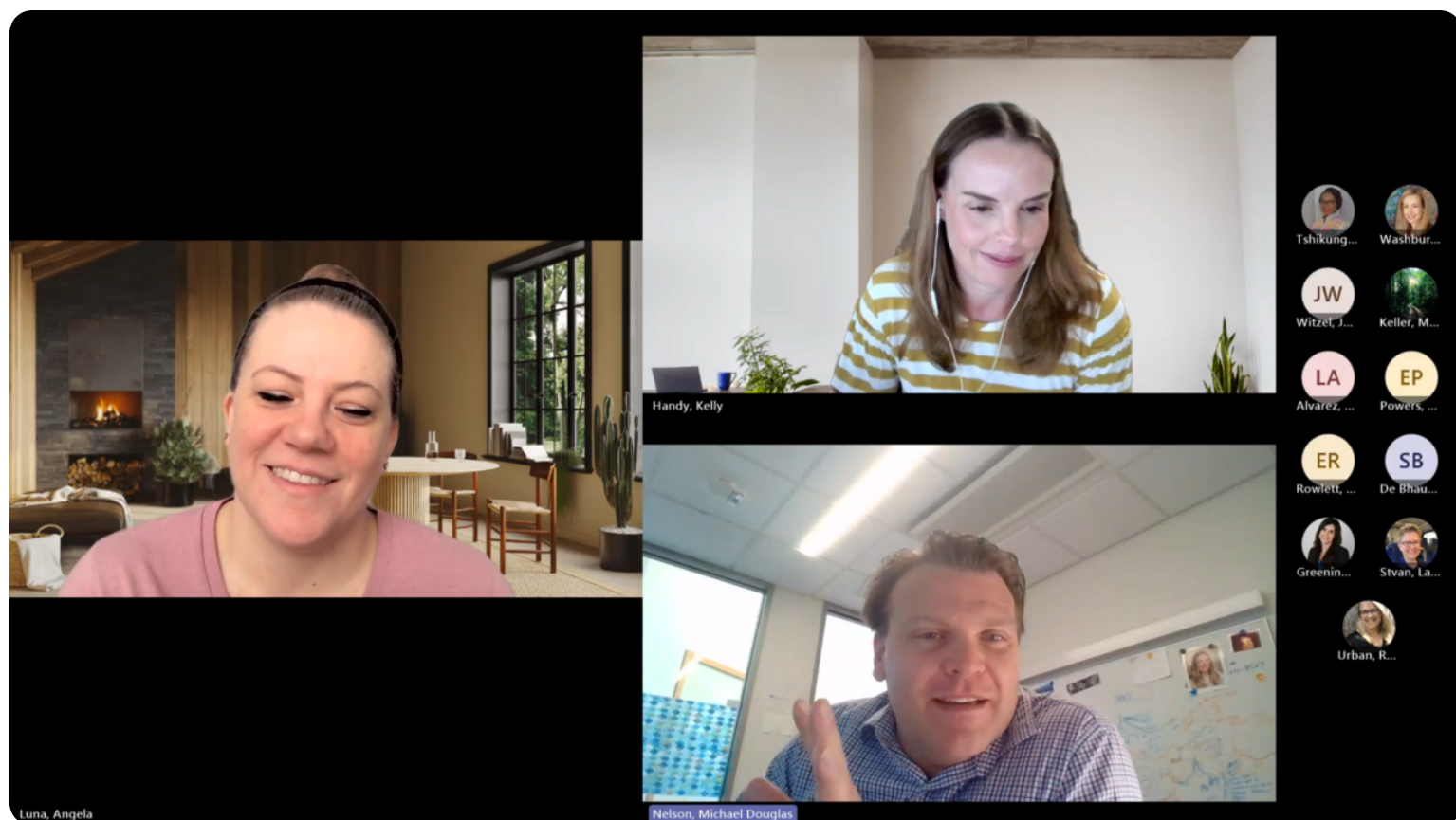
## *Featured Stories*



# UTA study explores zinc's power to heal blast injuries

Researchers at UTA are pursuing a potential breakthrough that could help soldiers recover from devastating blast injuries. [Zui Pan](#), professor of graduate nursing at UTA, is leading the 20-month study exploring how zinc might protect and regenerate muscle tissue damaged by trauma. The multidisciplinary study team also includes bioengineering professors [Jun Liao](#) and [Yi Hong](#), along with Yingjie Liu, an assistant professor of research at UTA's [Bone-Muscle Research Center](#). [Science Magazine](#), [Bioengineering.org](#), [Gene Online](#), [Interesting Engineering](#) also covered the story.

READ MORE



## In case you missed it! Mentis Updates to IRB Access for Personnel - Recording

Mentis has a new feature to manage access to IRB protocols, and the IRB staff held information sessions to learn how this new function works. In case you missed the session, you can view the recording using the button below.

WATCH NOW

presents

# Winter Open House

with **Brandon Hurtado**  
*Owner of Hurtado Barbecue*



Date: Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Time: 4:30 PM-6:00 PM  
Where: UTA's CETD, 400 S Center St

*Snacks and coupons  
to be provided.*

## CETD Winter Open House

Join the UTA Center for Entrepreneurship & Technology Development (CETD) on Wednesday, Dec. 3 for a special fireside chat featuring Brandon Hurtado, UTA alumnus, entrepreneur, and owner of the award-winning Hurtado Barbecue. Brandon will share his journey from UTA student to building one of Texas' most recognized barbecue brands, including lessons learned, pivotal decisions, and insights for aspiring founders and creators.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

## Information Items





## Nominate Your Colleagues for UTA Faculty Research Honors

The UTA Faculty Research Honors nomination season closes soon. Nominating a colleague highlights groundbreaking research and supports their professional advancement. All academic units and faculty are strongly encouraged to submit nominations. The nomination window closes Friday, Dec. 12. Review the [official Faculty Research Honors Overview and Nomination Guidelines](#) for details.





## Call for Proposals: Core Facilities Funding Program

Researchers and users of UTA Core Facilities are strongly encouraged to collaborate with the leadership of the relevant Core Facility to suggest additions that provide essential capabilities. All proposals will undergo review and evaluation by the Core Facilities Steering Committee, a faculty-led body responsible for governance and strategic oversight of UTA's Core Facilities. **The deadline for submission is Friday, January 2, 2026.** For further questions or additional guidance, please contact: [corefacilities@uta.edu](mailto:corefacilities@uta.edu).

[Learn more](#)





## Important Changes to Proposal Submission Deadlines

New procedural deadlines for proposal preparation and submission will take effect **Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026**. These deadlines are a necessary step toward ensuring a more consistent, efficient, and well-supported process for the entire institution. [Learn more about what's changing](#)

**For guidance, attend an information session:**

Dec. 11, 2025: [Information session \(online and in-person at 9 a.m.\)](#)

Jan. 6, 2026: [Information session \(online and in-person at 4 p.m.\)](#)





## Research Enhancement Program Announcement

The Research Enhancement Program (REP) is open for [26-27 REP Proposals](#). This investment by UTA builds upon our [Carnegie R1 Classification](#) legacy to harness researcher creativity and foster interdisciplinary collaboration. We encourage proposals that leverage existing UTA research facilities, equipment, and specialized capabilities.

### Program Highlights:

- Project Duration: 15 months
- Funding Offered: Up to \$16,000 per project
- Submission Deadline: **Friday, Dec. 5, 2025**

Please take this opportunity to collect valuable data and develop competitive proposals for future extramural funding. We look forward to your innovative ideas!





## Upcoming Career Awards

Applications are open for the [AABB Early Career Scientific Research Grants Program](#). The Association for the Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies awards grants for investigator-initiated original research in all aspects of blood banking, transfusion medicine and biotherapies. **Submission deadline is December 1, 2025.** Please contact UTA's Center for Proposal Development by submitting a [Request for Grant Proposal Assistance](#) to start your journey toward excellence.

Please see attachment for additional current career awards.

[View additional awards](#)





## CFSC Survey: Coordinating Major Research Instrumentation

The Core Facilities Steering Committee (CFSC) seeks to coordinate efforts related to [major research instrumentation acquisitions at UTA](#) by connecting potential users and fostering collaboration across departments. The goal is to:

- Identify faculty interested in acquiring major instrumentation through grant funding mechanisms (e.g., NSF MRI, NIH S10, DOD DURIP)
- Help align these efforts with appropriate core facilities
- Facilitate connections among faculty who may share interests in specific instrumentation capabilities and thus provide project ideas to enhance grant applications
- Support development of strong, collaborative instrumentation proposals

[Take the survey.](#)

---

## *Upcoming Training and Events*

Thursday, Dec. 11, 9 a.m.

**Proposal Submission Deadlines**

Join the Office of Grant and Contract Services for an info session on new proposal submission deadlines effective Jan 1, 2026. Learn about updated timelines, [PREP form](#) requirements, final submissions, and exception procedures. [RSVP](#) for details.\* Contact [elissa.williams@uta.edu](mailto:elissa.williams@uta.edu) for assistance. \*In-person sessions may be canceled based on registrations. [Register here](#).

---

**Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026, 4 p.m.**

### **Proposal Submission Deadlines**

Join the Office of Grant and Contract Services for an info session on new proposal submission deadlines effective Jan 1, 2026. Learn about updated timelines, [PREP form](#) requirements, final submissions, and exception procedures. [RSVP](#) for details.\* Contact [elissa.williams@uta.edu](mailto:elissa.williams@uta.edu) for assistance. \*In-person sessions may be canceled based on registrations. [Register here](#).

---

*If you have an event to promote, submit it to the [UTA Events Calendar](#) and tag "Research."*

---

## **Regulatory Updates**

---

### **NOT-OD-26-012: Updated Guidance on Reopening of NIH Extramural Activities Following the October 1, 2025 - Lapse in Appropriations**

All grant applications submitted late for due dates between October 1, 2025, and December 5, 2025, will be accepted through 5:00 PM local time December 8, 2025. There is no additional 2-week late window. This notice applies to all relevant Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), including those that indicate no late applications will be accepted. Institutions need not request advance permission to submit late due to the government shutdown and a cover letter providing a justification is not required.

Contact the Office of Regulatory Services at [regulatoryservices@uta.edu](mailto:regulatoryservices@uta.edu) if you have any questions about these NIH notices.

---

## **Research Achievements**





**Satellites and AI put UTA on front lines of flood fight**

**\$450,000 gift fuels nuclear research at UTA**

*Do you have research news that should be promoted to the media? See how UTA can help [raise awareness](#) of your research.*

**UTA** Office of Research  
and Innovation

© 2025 The University of Texas at Arlington



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™  
Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.  
View this email [online](#).

701 S. Nedderman Dr. | Arlington, TX 76019 US

This email was sent to .  
*To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.*

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.