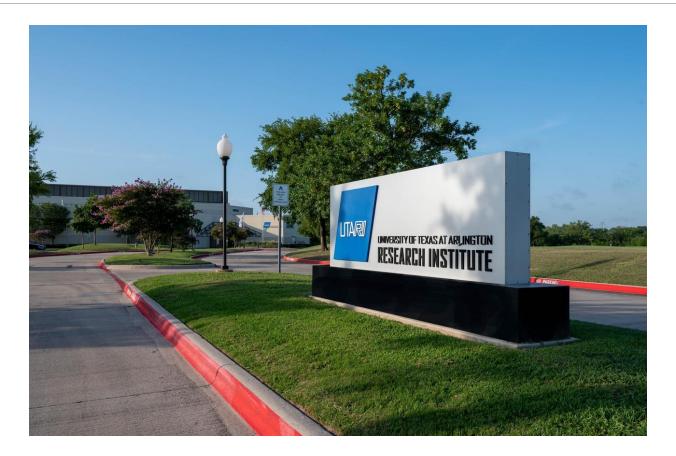


MAY 2025

Featured Stories



The University of Texas at Arlington, with 23 patents granted in 2024, helped propel The University of Texas System to No. 3 in the <u>National Academy of Inventors' prestigious top 100 ranking</u> of U.S. universities awarded utility patents. The UT System's 14 institutions are collectively ranked as a single entity in the National Academy of Inventors' (NAI) annual report. UT Arlington's 23 patents is a 15% jump from the previous year.



UTARI Executive Director Candidate Presentations

We have identified our final candidates in the national search for UTARI's next Executive Director. Each candidate will conduct a 30-minute in-person presentation followed by a 15-minute question and answer session. These forums are open to all faculty and staff.

Please select the presentation(s) you would like to attend so appropriate seating arrangements can be made. Additionally, **Microsoft Teams** links will be provided within each presentation registration page.

Prompt to Candidates: What are the opportunities for UTARI to advance applied research in this current climate, and how would you leverage the strengths of UTARI, TMAC, and UTA faculty to increase external funding from as well as regional prominence with federal, state and industry partners?

Register for Candidate No. 1 – Tuesday, May 6 at 8:30 a.m.

Register for Candidate No. 2 – Tuesday, May 13 at 8:30 a.m.

Register for Candidate No. 3 – Wednesday, May 14 at 8:30 a.m.

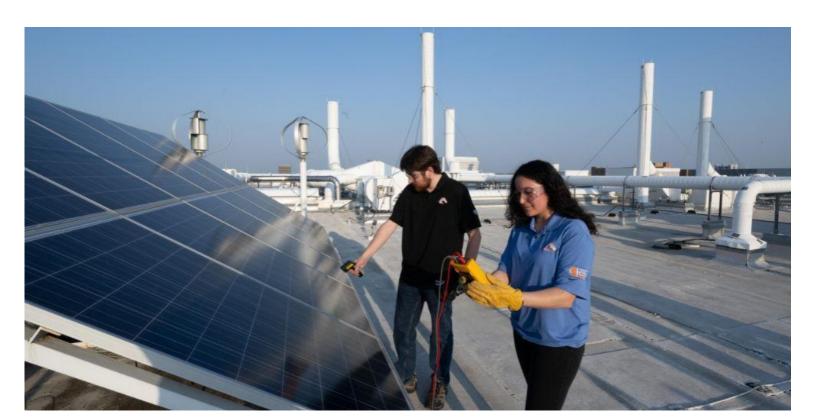
Register for Candidate No. 4 – Wednesday, May 29 at 8:30 a.m.

Contact Nancy.Segovia@uta.edu for accommodation requests.



Harmful microplastics infiltrating drinking water

UT Arlington research, also published in <u>Science of the Total Environment</u>, finds wastewater treatment plants are still not effectively removing dangerous microplastics. One of the main challenges in detecting and mitigating microplastics is the lack of standardized testing methods. <u>Read more</u>



Executive Order Guidance

The Trump administration has issued several Executive Orders that may impact UTA federally funded projects. Specific guidance impacting individual projects will be sent directly to Principal Investigators. However, the Office of Grant and Contract Services has a <u>website tracking all the proposed changes</u>.

Information Items



Attention Tenure-Track Faculty!

UTA's Center for Proposal Development and Academic Research Strategies, Inc., are excited to host monthly individual meeting sessions focused on the NSF Faculty Early Career Development Program Award (CAREER). The NSF Career Award is recognized as the organization's most prestigious honor for junior faculty and these individual sessions aim to assist tenure-track faculty in preparing impactful submissions.

If you're planning to apply for the 2025 <u>Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) | NSF - National Science Foundation</u>, we encourage you to submit a <u>Request for Grant Proposal Assistance</u> to start your journey toward excellence. **Submission deadline: July 23, 2025, by 5pm CST.**



Measles outbreak: what you need to know

Measles case counts continue to rise in certain Texas regions. The threat of measles is low, especially among those vaccinated and persons born prior to 1957, who are deemed to have "presumptive immunity" and do not need vaccination. <u>Stay informed</u> with up-to-date information about measles and <u>review safety information about measles</u> from the Office of Environmental Health and Safety.



Free headshots available

UTA provides free headshots to faculty and staff. Visit the Marketing, Messaging, and Engagement <u>website to schedule a studio portrait</u>. If you schedule an appointment, please show up at your allotted time to prevent delays for your colleagues.



Join DRA Teams channel

Join the Teams channel for Departmental Research Administrators (DRAs) and get the latest information from each other and Pre- and Post-Award staff. The group meets virtually every other month to discuss best practices. Contact <u>Elissa Williams</u> to be added to the Teams channel for DRAs.



Subscribe to *Inquiry+* e-newsletter

UTA's office of research has introduced a monthly e-newsletter that will help tell the story of our research endeavors. Campus researchers will receive the newsletter, but you are encouraged to invite interested partners to <u>sign up</u>.

Upcoming Training and Events

FRI. MAY 2, 11 A.M.

CISE CAREER Proposal Writing Webinar May 2, 2025

The <u>NSF CISE CAREER Proposal Writing Webinar</u>, is organized by the National Science Foundation's Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE). It aims to provide guidance and support to early-career faculty members preparing to submit proposals for the NSF Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program award. **Register now**

TUES. MAY 13, 1 P.M.

MAY DRA MEETING

At the May Departmental Research Administrator (DRA) Meeting, Nisha Dass in PostAward will provide a short demonstration of upcoming mentis upgrades. Contact **Elissa Williams** to be added to the DRA meeting.

TUES. MAY 16, 12 P.M.

Relationships with Corporate and Private Foundations

Development will present a session on understanding the benefits, processes, and finer points of grant seeking in the philanthropic sector. Learn about the clear—as well as subtle—differences between public and private funders and how to navigate the often multi-layered, time-sensitive solicitation process in the private realm.

RSVP by Wednesday May 14th.

If you have an event to promote, submit it to the UTA Events Calendar and tag "Research."

Regulatory Updates

Reporting Personal Travel to a Foreign Country of Concern (FCOC)

Governor Abbott issued <u>GA-48</u> on Nov. 19, 2024, <u>directing all state agencies and public institutions of higher education</u> to harden state systems and safeguard critical infrastructure, intellectual property, and personal information from being accessed by specific foreign nations.

Among GA-48's requirements are mandates that state agencies not allow business travel to a Foreign Country of Concern (FCOC) or accept gifts from entities affiliated with a FCOC. We are currently updating our policies to reflect these requirements.

GA-48 also mandates that state agency employees, including employees of public institutions, **must report personal travel to a FCOC** and conduct a post-travel debrief. This Executive Order affects all UTA employees (staff, faculty, and active UTA student-employees) who are planning personal travel to a FCOC, which includes:

- China (including Macao and Hong Kong)
- Russia
- Iran
- North Korea
- Cuba
- Venezuela

UTA's Research Security Officer within the VPRI Office will administer UTA's implementation of this Executive Order and has initiated the following process for UTA employees:

Before Travel:

- Submit a Pre-Travel Report for Personal Travel
- Schedule a foreign travel defensive briefing with Research Security at researchsecurity@uta.edu
- Arrange a loaner laptop. If you need to take UTA equipment with you to a FCOC, it must be a loaner laptop and not
 your primary device. A loaner can be arranged through <u>technologyloaner@uta.edu</u>
 - Please alert the <u>Loaner Program team</u> immediately once you know your travel dates. It takes time to arrange a loaner laptop due to additional security mitigations needed for travel to a FCOC.

After Travel:

• Submit a Post-Travel Report for Personal Travel within 5 days from return.

For any questions or concerns, please reach out directly to researchsecurity@uta.edu

Collection of Health Insurance Costs for Graduate Research Assistants

In the fall semester of 2023, we took the significant step of providing a health insurance benefit to all PhD and Terminal Master's students appointed as a GTA or GRA for 20 hours per week. When added to 100% support for tuition and mandatory fees, this change substantially improved the financial welfare of these students. Enhanced competitiveness of financial support has driven the number of applications for admission to our PhD programs in fall 2025 to over 4,000, an increase of about three-fold over recent years.

Because of the strategic importance of growing our PhD programs, we made this change before processes were fully designed to recover the cost of this benefit from research grants or other appropriate resources. For the 2023-2024 academic year, the cost of health insurance for GRA students was shared between the Provost's Office and the Graduate School.

We will soon begin recovering the cost of GRA health insurance from grant funds, or from cost centers for GRAs hired on institutional funds. **Read full memo**

NSF Grants Update

On Friday, April 18, many institutions began to receive notifications from the NSF Division of Grants and Agreements on the outcomes of secondary reviews of NSF grants. UTA was notified that one award has been canceled due to not being aligned with current NSF priorities. It is our understanding that this notification is the agency's final decision and not subject to appeal. Office of the Vice President of Research and Innovation (VPRI) staff and members of the Task Force have begun coordinating with the principal investigator to curtail research and work associated with this particular grant.

Researchers in the Media

This Earth Day, It's Time to Learn From Snakes



Todd Castoe, a professor in the Department of Biology, spoke with <u>Time Magazine</u> about his findings on Burmese pythons and their ability to regenerate organs. <u>Read article</u>

Toxic Microplastics Contaminating Drinking Water Supply



Un-Jung Kim, assistant professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, has found that despite advances in wastewater treatment, microplastics are still slipping through, posing potential health and environmental hazards. The story was covered in Phys.org, ScienMag.com and La Republica.

Do you have research news that should be promoted to the media? Contact <u>Katherine Egan Bennett</u> to see how UTA can help <u>raise awareness</u> of your research. Promoting your research is important as some grant funders, journals, and collaborators see news stories as signs of the impact of your research on the community.



Office of Vice President for Research and Innovation

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