

# THE STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA

## WASHINGTON E-UPDATE

Prepared by Cavarocchi-Ruscio-Dennis Associates, Editor -- Brent Jaquet  
Contributors -- Dom Ruscio, Erika Miller, Tiffany Kaszuba, Zara Day, Michael Rankin, Samantha Kobor

**July 2015**

***Budget and Appropriations Update*** -- Appropriations work continued in earnest on Capitol Hill this month, despite the fact that participants acknowledge that the overall process will grind to a halt soon because of a fight over the budget caps.

With Republicans in the majority in both chambers their leaders say that, while they don't like the tight constraints, they must live within the Budget Control Act passed in 2011. Democrats and the Administration want a new budget deal that would provide relief from the caps similar to the Ryan-Murray two-year agreement in 2013 that paved the way for appropriations bills. Defense hawks – Republicans and Democrats alike – also want budget relief for the Pentagon and that is adding pressure for negotiations. Others say they will not agree to raise defense spending alone without a similar boost to non-defense discretionary programs like education, research and healthcare.

At the same time, the nation's debt ceiling must be increased by October 1, the same date as the start of the new Fiscal Year. The President says he will veto any and all appropriations bills until an overarching agreement is reached. Democrats in the House are voting against bills that make it to the House floor.

In the Senate, Democrats have pledged to prevent appropriations bills from reaching the floor through a filibuster and they made good on that threat the first time by blocking consideration of the Defense appropriations bill. Republican leaders may test that resolve by continually trying to bring up appropriations bills.

As a result, bills are being approved at full committee and then held from further advancement. The disagreements could likely lead to a stop-gap Continuing Resolution in October to fund the government as budget talks materialize. A government shutdown seems unlikely given that Presidential and Congressional elections occur next year -- but it cannot be ruled out at this stage.

To date, the House has moved 11 of the 12 appropriations bills at least through the subcommittee process and six bills have been passed on the floor. The Senate has approved eight bills at the Committee level. It seems likely that both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees will approve all 12 bills before the end of August – for the first time in six years.

## **Pell, NIH funding boosted in 2016 appropriations bills; new regulations blocked**

House and Senate Fiscal 2016 Labor, HHS, Education appropriations bills were cleared by Appropriations Committees in both chambers in the past week as Congress prepared to recess for the July 4<sup>th</sup> district work period.

The House Appropriations Committee approved its version of the Labor, HHS-Education bill – the first time in six years that the bill had progressed to that stage. See the report [here](#).

The Senate panel approved its version June 25. As in the House approach, the Senate LHHS bill takes a rescission of about \$300 million from this year's Pell grant fund surplus to help pay for other accounts in the bill.

The Senate Committee bill provides funding to increase the maximum Pell Grant award from \$5,775 in the 2015-16 school year to an estimated \$5,915 for the 2016-17 school year, as does the House bill. The Senate provides NIH a \$2 billion increase to a level of \$32 billion while the House sets a \$1.1 billion increase. To read a summary of the Senate bill click [here](#).

Both bills include provisions prohibiting the Department of Education from moving forward with several new regulations in higher education. The bill prohibits the Department from moving forward with regulations or policies to develop or implement a college ratings system, define gainful employment, establish requirements for the State authorization of higher education programs, define credit hour, and establish a new accountability framework for teacher preparation programs.

### ***Defense bill***

The Fiscal 2016 Defense appropriations bill, along with its major research components, was approved by the House on June 9. The bill adds \$228.5 million to basic (non-medical) basic research investments for the Army, Navy, Air Force and DoD, a 1.7 percent increase over FY2015 levels. An additional \$1.5 billion is provided for health research and development in a variety of different accounts. To read the report, click [here](#). The Senate approved its version of the bill in Committee on June 11. To read the report click [here](#).

### ***Science bill***

The Commerce-Justice-Science bill was approved by the House June 4 and the Senate's version was approved by the Appropriations Committee June 11. The bills provide funding for NSF, NOAA, NIST, NASA, OSTP and the Patent Office. To read the Senate report, click [here](#). The House report is available [here](#).

## Education Department shifts focus for college ratings plan

In a significant policy shift, the Education Department signaled last week that its college ratings system to be released by the end of the summer will not actually rate schools as originally announced. Instead it will provide consumer tools to allow students with data to compare college costs and outcomes. The ratings proposal by the President two years ago has been highly controversial and opposed by many in the higher education community.

In a Department blog posted June 25, Jamiene Studley, Deputy Under Secretary and Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, noted the new consumer-facing focus of the tools to be developed. She writes:

“Through our research and our conversations with the field, we have found that the needs of students are very diverse and the criteria they use to choose a college vary widely. By providing a wealth of data – including many important metrics that have not been published before – students and families can make informed comparisons and choices based on the criteria most important to them. With assistance from the creative U.S. Digital Services team, we are using feedback from students, parents, college advisors and high school guidance counselors to examine how we can make critical information about college cost and outcomes relevant and useful to guide decisions about college search and selection.”

To read the blog: <http://www.ed.gov/blog/2015/06/helping-families-navigate-their-higher-education-options/>

## Priorities for HEA reauthorization outlined in briefing

Two key leaders in federal higher education addressed their priorities for the next reauthorization of the Higher Education Act at a briefing sponsored by National Journal in Washington June 9. Speaking were Ted Mitchell, the Under Secretary at the Department of Education, and Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

Sen. Alexander said that he plans to release a bipartisan committee draft bill to start HEA discussions in September. He said that he and Committee Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA) have been working on ideas along with the Administration. The Senator said his priorities for reauthorization include: clearing out bureaucracy and reducing regulations on universities, injecting some risk sharing for universities in the student loan process, FAFSA simplification and reform along the lines of the FAST Act (a 2 question FAFSA filled out in junior year), and college affordability. He also expects to simplify student loan repayment, increase data transparency for students and parents, and include campus sexual assault provisions. He mentioned that he met this week with sponsors of the CASA bill on sexual assault and plans a hearing on it in the near future.

Under Secretary of Education Ted Mitchell said his department intends to release its new college ratings before the end of the year. (Sen. Alexander later said he would use legislation to block those ratings if they appear.) He said the Administration's top priorities for HEA reauthorization are: simplification of loan programs, access, and FAFSA; maintaining the Pell grant program; accountability and incentives for states to increase higher education funding.

Mitchell also discussed the importance of diversity and access to higher education, citing the President's previous State of the Union call to implement universal access to education, from pre-school to the university level. He also discussed the importance of a strong, shared system of accountability, and the need for more state funding of higher education. He highlighted the Administration's "First in the World Program," which provided \$60 million for innovative programs in its first year.

## **House hearing examines first amendment protections for public universities**

The state of free speech and association on public university campuses was discussed by a panel of First Amendment activists at a June 2 hearing of the House judiciary committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

Witnesses expressed concern that outdated "speech codes" combined with new, vague anti-harassment policies from the Department of Education have created a culture of censorship that infringes on the Constitutional rights of students and faculty. Subcommittee members and witnesses agreed that college campuses ought to be a place of lively, open-minded discourse and that school administrators have a responsibility to prevent discrimination, but opinions differed on how to achieve the right balance.

On the topic of freedom of association, Chairman Trent Franks (R-AZ), Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX) and witness Kim Kolby of the Christian Legal Society focused on discrimination toward religious student organizations, particularly evangelical Christian groups.

Using examples from the California state university system and Vanderbilt, they argued that "all-comers" policies -- requiring groups to let any student, regardless of their faith, be a group leader or else lose university sponsorship -- are fundamentally intolerant. Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN), Rep. John Conyers (D-MI), and witness Jamie Raskin of the American University Washington College of Law argued that non-discrimination policies have an important historical context and are necessary to ensure that all students have equal educational opportunities.

On the topic of freedom of expression, witnesses Wendy Kaminer and Greg Lukianoff from the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) proposed amendments to the Higher Education Act that would clarify the definition of harassment, prohibit

restrictive “free speech zones,” and protect faculty from administrative discipline over Constitutional academic speech. They said that currently about half of all public colleges and universities have “speech codes” which restrict constitutionally-protected speech and about 1 in 6 institutions enforce a “free speech zone” on campus, which limits controversial expression to a small area and often requires students to seek administrative authorization for use. Lukianoff noted that both types of policies are routinely struck down in court but persist because of campus bureaucracy and misleading directives from the Department of Education. Kaminer summed up FIRE’s campus advocacy efforts, saying, “...don’t react to bad speech with bad laws.”

Webcast of the hearing and full witness testimony can be found here:

<http://judiciary.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings?ID=C256F82E-1F4E-4F60-B702-78A58B81E4F8>

## **Senate hearing examines accreditation models**

A June 17 hearing on college accreditation was the fifth in a series being held by the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee in advance of the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Panelists proposed a number of accreditation systems, including most significantly a risk-based and regional approaches. The risk-based model would require additional information from “high-risk” schools, or institutions with difficult accreditation histories. Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) highlighted the issues that direct his thinking on accreditation as it will appear in the HEA, including regulatory confusion, transparency, and the value of competition in the accreditation process.

Senators and panelists highlighted the value of accreditation transparency as a tool to positively impact students, and the difficulties that accreditors face in complying with federally mandated regulatory processes. Much of the hearing was focused specifically on the recent controversies surrounding for-profit Corinthian Colleges.

The hearing webcast can be found along with a list of panelists and their testimonies [here](#).

## **Rep. Buchanan’s Veterans ID Card Act passes Senate unanimously**

A new bill by Rep. Buchanan (R-Fla.) on the verge of final passage will instruct the Veterans Affairs Department to provide all veterans with an ID card, replacing the decades-old form, the DD-214. Previously the ID cards were only issued if a veteran had served at least 20 years or was seeking medical treatment for service-related wounds

The Veterans ID Card Act ([HR 91](#)), cosponsored by 11 other Representatives from Florida, was amended and passed by the U.S. Senate under unanimous consent on June 22, having been passed unanimously in the House in May. The bill will now move back to the House where it is likely to be approved in July quickly and sent to the President.

Rep. Buchanan noted veterans are forced to carry DD-214 paperwork, which contains sensitive information including Social Security numbers. He said a simple, standardized ID card would be more convenient and would do a better job of keeping their personal information secure.

## **“Gainful employment” rules set to take effect July 1 following two court decisions**

The Education Department’s “gainful employment” regulation survived its second court challenge by for-profit higher education schools June 23. A federal court in Washington agreed that the Department’s rules, set to take effect July 1, could move forward and it denied a suit to block implementation.

The court ruled that the government has the right to require schools to comply with the regulation attempting to ensure that the annual loan payment of a typical graduate does not exceed 20 percent of discretionary income or eight percent of total earnings.

Penalties for failing to meet standards involve the risk of losing federally-based education funds. The Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities representing the for-profit industry had filed the suit. The Department estimates that about 1,400 career-training programs with more than 840,000 students are unlikely to meet the new accountability rules. On May 27, a District Court judge in New York also ruled against an attempt to block the new rules, citing high numbers of student loan defaults and low graduation rates at for-profit schools.

The current version of the Fiscal Year 2016 Labor, HHS, Education appropriations bills in the House and Senate carry provisions that would deny the Education Department funding to implement the rule. That bills however are unlikely to become law until sometime near the end of the year.

## **Senate Committee approves new transportation bill with research titles**

A new surface transportation authorization bill that includes research programs was approved unanimously by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee June 24.

Titled the *Developing a Reliable and Innovative Vision for the Economy Act* or DRIVE Act, S. 1647 was developed by a bipartisan group of committee leaders.

The bill would cover six years, follow the overall approach of the current transportation bill, MAP-21, and increase funding levels over its life.

Research technology and education authorizations would be continued in the new bill. The University Transportation Centers program would be funded each year at \$72.5 million. The Highway Research and Development Program receives \$135 million each year, Technology and Innovation receives \$62.5 million each year, Training and Education receives \$24 million each year and Intelligent Transportation Systems would also receive \$100 million for each of the six years.

Three other Senate committees must weigh in on the bill: Energy and Commerce which has authority for federal rail and highway safety, Senate Banking which handles public transit, and Finance which must find a way to pay for the total cost of the bill.

The current transportation extension is set to expire at the end of July and the nation's Highway Trust Fund is projected to become insolvent at the end of September. Another short-term extension is expected while both chambers consider new legislation.

To view a summary of the bill, [click here](#). To view the full text of the bill, [click here](#).

## **NIH approves new roadmap for world's largest biomedical library**

A new federal report detailing a long-term scientific vision for the NIH's National Library of Medicine (NLM) was approved June 11.

Presented at a meeting of the Advisory Committee to the NIH Director, the new vision for the NLM includes leading efforts in supporting open science, data sharing and research reproducibility; as well as becoming the center of intellectual and programmatic activities in biomedical data science.

The plan calls for NIH to position the NLM as a unifying force in biomedicine that promotes and accelerates knowledge generation, dissemination and understanding in the United States and internationally. The report also cites the need to make NLM the epicenter for biomedical data science, not just at NIH, but across the biomedical research enterprise. In addition, the report recommends dramatically expanding NLM's activities to include research conducted beyond NIH's walls to funded institutions, enabling it to have a greater and wider impact on data science than ever before. NIH plans to work with Congress to implement the necessary infrastructure changes to move this vision forward.

NIH Director Francis Collins fully endorsed the committee's recommendations but said the infrastructure implications will have to be looked at closely to implement the report's directives.

## Rigor and reproducibility stressed in new NIH notices for grantees

NIH notified the research community June 9 of its plans to incorporate “rigor and reproducibility” in grant applications and review, through the issuance of two *Guide to Grants and Contracts* notices and a new webpage.

Pending approval by the Office of Management and Budget at the White House, the policy will go into effect for applications due January 25, 2016 and beyond. Below are links to the NIH Guide Notices.

A [blog](#) by NIH Deputy Director Larry Tabak explains the changes for both grant applicants and peer reviewers. [Read](#) the Guide Notice: Enhancing Reproducibility through Rigor and Transparency. To read the Guide Notice: Consideration of Sex as a Biological Variable in NIH-funded Research, click [here](#). The NIH Office of Extramural Research “Rigor and Reproducibility” Website is located at: <http://grants.nih.gov/reproducibility>

## Two new funding programs open to improve clinical trials

NIH recently released two new Clinical and Translational Science Award announcements, one for Recruitment Innovation Centers and the other for Trial Innovation Centers. Both are aimed at overcoming key roadblocks to multisite clinical trials. CTSA hubs form a national network of medical research institutions that work together to improve the translational research process.

Trial Innovation Centers are intended to “develop, demonstrate and disseminate” new approaches in streamlining multisite clinical research. Recruitment Centers will develop informatics-driven approaches to assess availability of potential participants during trial planning and will innovate new methods for participant recruitment during trial implementation.

Applications are due July 22, 2015 for Recruitment Centers, and letters of intent are due on June 22, 2015. Trial Innovation Center applications are due Sept. 15, 2015, with letters of intent due on Aug. 15, 2015. To read more, [click here](#).

## Highlights of competitive grant opportunities at federal agencies

**Agency:** Department of Agriculture  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

**Program:** Biomass Research and Development Initiative

**Description:** The USDA's, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment (IBCE) and the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Golden Field Office,

Bioenergy Technologies Office have announced the interagency Program to support the development of a biomass-based industry in the United States, as originally established in Section 9001(a) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) (Pub. L. 110-246), re-authorized the Biomass Research and Development Initiative (BRDI) financial assistance program by amending section 9008 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (FSRIA), as amended, (Pub. L. 107-171) (7 U.S.C. 8108).

**Due Date:** July 27, 2015

**Funding:** \$8,700,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=274814>

**Agency:** National Endowment for the Humanities

**Program:** Museums, Libraries and Cultural Organizations

**Description:** This grant program supports projects for general audiences that encourage active engagement with humanities ideas in creative and appealing ways. Many different formats are supported, including permanent and traveling exhibitions, book or film discussion programs, historic site or district interpretations, living history presentations, and other face-to-face programs in public venues. All projects must be grounded in humanities scholarship in disciplines such as history, art history, film studies, literature, religious studies, philosophy, or anthropology. Projects must also demonstrate an approach that is thoughtful, balanced, and analytical (rather than celebratory). The approach to the subject matter must go beyond the mere presentation of factual information to explore its larger significance and stimulate critical thinking. NEH is a national funding agency, so the projects we support must demonstrate the potential to attract a broad, general audience.

**Due Date:** August 12, 2015

**Funding:** \$1,000,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277133>

**Agency:** National Endowment for the Humanities

**Program:** Media Projects

**Description:** Media Projects grants support film, television, and radio projects for general audiences that encourage active engagement with humanities ideas in creative and appealing ways. All projects must be grounded in humanities scholarship in disciplines such as history, art history, film studies, literature, drama, religious studies, philosophy, or anthropology.

Projects must also demonstrate an approach that is thoughtful, balanced, and analytical (rather than celebratory). The approach to the subject matter must go beyond the mere presentation of factual information to explore its larger significance and stimulate critical thinking. NEH is a national funding agency, so the projects we support must demonstrate the potential to attract a broad general audience. They welcome humanities projects tailored to particular groups, such as families, youth (including K-12 students), teachers, seniors, at-risk communities, and veterans, but they should also strive to cultivate a more inclusive audience.

**Due Date:** August 12, 2015

**Funding:** \$1,000,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277102>

**Agency:** National Endowment for the Humanities

**Program:** Enduring Questions

**Description:** The NEH Enduring Questions grant program supports faculty members in the preparation of a new course on a fundamental concern of human life as addressed by the humanities. This question-driven course would encourage undergraduates and teachers to join together in a deep and sustained program of reading in order to encounter influential ideas, works, and thinkers over the centuries. What is an enduring question? The following list is neither prescriptive nor exhaustive but serves to illustrate. • Are there universals in human nature? • What is the source of moral authority? • What is evil? • Can war be just? • Is peace possible? • What is worth dying for? • What is the value of education? • Can greed be good? • What is good government? • What is progress? • Am I my brother's keeper? The grant supports the work of faculty members in designing, preparing, and assessing the new course. It may also be used for ancillary activities that enhance faculty-student intellectual community, such as visits to museums and artistic or cultural events. An Enduring Questions course may be taught by faculty from any department or discipline in the humanities or by faculty outside the humanities (for example, astronomy, biology, economics, law, mathematics, medicine, or psychology), so long as humanities sources are central to the course.

**Due Date:** September 10, 2015

**Funding:** Award ceiling \$38,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277172>

**Agency:** National Archives and Records Administration

**Program:** Literacy and Engagement with Historical Records

**Description:** The development of new online tools for literacy and engagement is highly encouraged. Projects might create and develop programs to engage people in basic archival processes. For example, projects may wish to enlist "citizen archivists" in projects to accelerate digitization and online public access to historical records. This may include, but is not limited to, improving crowdsourcing efforts for identifying, tagging, transcribing, annotating, or otherwise enhancing digitized historical records. Training in digital literacy for such "citizen archivists" should also be included. Projects might also develop digital archives training for the public. For example, projects may seek to increase individual understanding of technology operations and concepts so that people can engage in effective personal digital archiving. The NHPRC is looking for projects that create models and technologies that other institutions can adopt without cost. In general, collaborations between archivists, documentary editors, historians, educators, and/or community-based individuals are more likely to create a competitive proposal.

**Due Date:** October 8, 2015

**Funding:** \$500,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=276991>

**Agency:** National Archives and Records Administration

**Program:** Digital Dissemination of Archival Collections

**Description:** The National Historical Publications and Records Commission desires to make historical records of national significance to the United States broadly available by disseminating digital surrogates on the Internet. Projects may focus on the papers of major figures from American life or cover broad historical movements in politics, military, business, social reform, the arts, and other aspects of the national experience. The historical value of the records and their expected usefulness to broad audiences must justify the costs of the project. The Commission will not consider proposals that charge for access. Grants are awarded for digitizing documentary source materials. Applications that do not include digitization of analog archival records will be considered ineligible. If you are working with born-digital records, please review the Access to Historical Records or the State Government Electronic Records announcements. Applicants may digitize a single collection or set of collections for online dissemination.

**Due Date:** October 8, 2015

**Funding:** \$500,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=276989>

**Agency:** Department of Defense  
Office of Naval Research

**Program:** Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Department of Defense Multidisciplinary Research Program of the University Research Initiative

**Description:** The Department of Defense (DoD) Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI), one element of the University Research Initiative (URI), is sponsored by the DoD research offices. Those offices include the Office of Naval Research (ONR), the Army Research Office (ARO), and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR). DOD's MURI program addresses high risk basic research and attempts to understand or achieve something that has never been done before.

**Due Date:** December 7, 2015

**Funding:** \$145,000,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277226>

**Agency:** Department of Defense  
Office of Naval Research

**Program:** Defense University Research Instrumentation Program

**Description:** This announcement seeks proposals to purchase instrumentation in support of research in areas of interest to the DoD, including areas of research supported by the Army Research Office (ARO), the Office of Naval Research (ONR), and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR). For detailed information regarding technical goals, potential proposers are advised to refer to the full announcement. They also are encouraged to contact DoD program managers before submitting proposals, in order to explore research areas that are of mutual interest to the proposers and DoD administering agencies. A proposal may be submitted to more than one administering agency; however, only one administering agency will fund the proposal, if selected, under the 2016 DURIP.

**Due Date:** September 25, 2015

**Funding:** \$52,000,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277274>

**Agency:** Department of Defense  
Dept. of the Army -- USAMRAA

**Program:** DoD Prostate Cancer Postdoctoral Training Award

**Description:** The Postdoctoral Training Award supports prostate cancer research training opportunities for recent doctoral graduates. These awards primarily provide salary support for the Principal Investigator; the postdoctoral trainee is considered the PI of the application. The PI must exhibit strong potential for, and commitment to, pursuing a career as an investigator at the forefront of prostate cancer research; however, the PI is not required to have previous prostate cancer research experience. Applications must include at least one mentor, appropriate to the proposed training and research project, who has experience in prostate cancer research and training as demonstrated by a record of active funding, recent publications, and successful mentorship. The selected mentor(s) should demonstrate a clear commitment to the PI's training and be well qualified to contribute significantly to the development of the PI toward independence as a prostate cancer researcher.

**Due Date:** August 13, 2015

**Funding:** \$5,000,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=276741>

**Agency:** Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation

**Program:** Central Valley Project Conservation Program and Central Valley Project Improvement Act

**Description:** The CVPCP implements actions that will protect, restore, and enhance special-status species and their habitats effected by the CVP, with a special emphasis on federally listed species.

**Due Date:**

**Funding:** \$2,100,000; Ceiling is \$1,000,000; Floor is \$25,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277014>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Novel or Enhanced Dental Restorative Materials for Class V Lesions

**Description:** The intent of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to stimulate research on the development of novel or enhanced dental restorative materials for Class V lesions that demonstrate superiority in clinical service life over the currently used restorative options. The requirements of Class V restorative materials (those placed within the gingival third of the exposed tooth) are complex, due to the unique material characteristics required by the oral environment and the complications hindering dental treatment in this region. For these reasons,

this FOA encourages research that will produce fundamental improvements in Class V restorative dental materials.

**Due Date:** September 29, 2015

**Funding:** \$2,000,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277183>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Partnerships for the Development of Novel Assays to Predict Vaccine Efficacy

**Description:** The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement is to solicit applications for projects focused on development, or improvement, of preclinical assays to predict human efficacy for specific investigational vaccines.

**Due Date:** September 30, 2015

**Funding:** \$6,300,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277106>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Open Design Tools for Speech Signal Processing

**Description:** This announcement invites Research Project Grant (R01) applications to develop novel acoustic signal processing algorithms for speech enhancement that employ the substantially greater amounts of computing power likely to be available in future generations of hearing aids, cochlear implants, personal sound processors, and consumer electronic devices.

**Due Date:** October 1, 2015

**Funding:** \$1,000,000; Ceiling is \$325,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277083>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Grants for Early Medical/Surgical Subspecialists' Transition to Aging Research (GEMSSTAR)

**Description:** The goal of the GEMSSTAR announcement is to provide support for early-stage physician-scientists, trained in medical or surgical specialties,

to launch careers as future leaders in research on aging or in geriatrics. To achieve this goal, the GEMSSTAR program provides small grants to conduct transdisciplinary research on aging or in geriatrics research that will yield pilot data for subsequent aging- or geriatrics-focused research projects. As part of its focus on facilitating the development of early-stage physician-scientists who will become leaders in research on aging or in geriatrics, the GEMSSTAR program seeks to encourage the provision of supportive environments for candidates, and NIA will consider the extent to which a supportive environment is available to candidates in selecting GEMSSTAR candidates.

**Due Date:** October 7, 2015

**Funding:** \$1,700,000; Ceiling is \$75,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=276990>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Short Courses in High Priority Domains of Behavioral and Social Research on Aging

**Description:** The over-arching goal of this National Institute on Aging (NIA) R25 program is to support educational activities that complement and/or enhance the training of a workforce to meet the nation's biomedical, behavioral and clinical research needs in interdisciplinary areas of science relevant to behavioral and social research on aging. To accomplish this goal, this FOA will support creative educational activities with a primary focus on Courses for Skills Development aimed at enhancing the development of interdisciplinary scientists and of common languages and sharing of tools and analytic approaches across disciplines. Applications that propose to integrate education in economics, neuroscience, and/or genetics with psychology, demography, or sociology are particularly encouraged. This FOA will support short term education programs such as intensive summer institutes and advanced workshops on methodology.

**Due Date:** October 7, 2015

**Funding:** Award ceiling is \$125,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277095>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Smoking Cessation within the Context of Lung Cancer Screening

**Description:** The goal of this Funding Opportunity Announcement is to improve the effectiveness and/or implementation of smoking cessation interventions delivered to current smokers who undergo low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) lung cancer screening.

**Due Date:** October 8, 2015

**Funding:** \$4,500,000; Ceiling is \$500,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277057>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Dimensional Approaches to Research Classification in Psychiatric Disorders

**Description:** This announcement seeks research grant applications designed to develop innovative ways of understanding mental disorders in clinical studies on the basis of experimental research criteria rather than traditional diagnostic categories. This FOA stems from the NIMH Research Domain Criteria (RDoC) project that is intended to further a long-range goal of contributing to diagnostic systems as informed by research on genetics, neuroscience, and behavior. The purpose of this FOA is to encourage applications to study mechanisms that may cut across multiple traditional diagnostic categories

**Due Date:** October 9, 2015

**Funding:** \$3,000,000; Ceiling is \$400,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277036>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Partnerships for the Development of Host-Targeted Therapeutics to Limit Antimicrobial Resistance

**Description:** The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement is to solicit research applications for milestone-driven projects focused on preclinical development of candidate therapeutics that target host-encoded functions required for infection, replication, virulence, proliferation and/or pathogenesis of select bacterial pathogens for which drug resistance poses a significant public health concern.

**Due Date:** September 17, 2015

**Funding:** \$11,500,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277043>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Novel or Enhanced Dental Restorative Materials for Class V Lesions

**Description:** The intent of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to stimulate research on the development of novel or enhanced dental restorative materials for Class V lesions that demonstrate superiority in clinical service life over the currently used restorative options. The requirements of Class V restorative materials (those placed within the gingival third of the exposed tooth) are complex, due to the unique material characteristics required by the oral environment and the complications hindering dental treatment in this region. For these reasons, this FOA encourages research that will produce fundamental improvements in Class V restorative dental materials.

**Due Date:** September 29, 2015

**Funding:** \$2,000,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277183>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Superfund Research Program Occupational and Safety Education Programs on Emerging Technologies

**Description:** The NIH Research Education Program (R25) supports research education activities in the mission areas of the NIH. The over-arching goal of this Superfund Research Program (SRP) Occupational and Safety Education Programs on Emerging Technologies is to support educational activities that complement and/or enhance the training of a workforce to meet the nations biomedical, behavioral and clinical research needs. To accomplish the stated goal, this FOA will support creative educational activities with a primary focus on Courses for Skill Development and Curriculum or Methods Development. The intent is to provide Higher Education Institutions the opportunity to develop continuing education and academic curricula on the occupational health and safety management practices in the areas of emerging technologies (e.g., emerging hazardous waste products, green chemistry, sustainable remediation, and detection technologies) to industrial hygienists and graduate students involved in the research, evaluation, management, and handling of hazardous substances.

**Due Date:** October 9, 2015

**Funding:** See announcement

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277235>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Adherence Studies in Adolescents with Chronic Kidney or Urologic Diseases

**Description:** Adherence to a prescribed treatment regimen, including medications, devices and behavioral recommendations, can significantly impact morbidity and mortality for patients with chronic diseases, including chronic kidney or urologic disease. When adherence to complex and seemingly rigid treatment regimens is poor, the results can be tragic. Adolescence is a particularly challenging time for adherence given the competing demands in an adolescents life, the unique developmental changes, and rapidly changing set of responsibilities as they transition to adulthood. There are few studies in pediatrics beyond the HIV literature that address non-adherence. The purpose of this announcement is to support research to improve adherence in adolescents with chronic kidney or urologic diseases. Applications are invited from new or established investigators to pursue research to better understand factors that influence adherence, develop appropriate measures of adherence, and test innovative strategies to enhance adherence in this vulnerable population.

**Due Date:** November 2, 2015

**Funding:** \$1,330,000; Ceiling is \$450,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277044>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Partnerships for the Development of Host-Targeted Therapeutics to Limit Antimicrobial Resistance

**Description:** The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement is to solicit research applications for milestone-driven projects focused on preclinical development of candidate therapeutics that target host-encoded functions required for infection, replication, virulence, proliferation and/or pathogenesis of select bacterial pathogens for which drug resistance poses a significant public health concern.

**Due Date:** September 17, 2015

**Funding:** \$11,500,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277043>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Maximizing Investigators' Research Award for New and Early Stage Investigators

**Description:** The Maximizing Investigators' Research Award (MIRA) is a grant to provide support for all of the research in an investigator's laboratory that falls within the mission of NIGMS.

**Due Date:** November 19, 2015

**Funding:** \$26,000,000' Ceiling is \$250,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=276988>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** NIDDK Centers for Diabetes Translation Research

**Description:** This announcement invites applications for Centers for Diabetes Translation Research (CDTR). The CDTRs support and enhance diabetes type II translation research (e.g., bedside to practice and the community and dissemination and implementation). The purpose of this Centers program is to enhance the innovation and multidisciplinary nature of diabetes translation research. An emphasis on research to reduce diabetes-related health disparities is encouraged. CDTRs are based on the core concept, whereby shared resources aimed at fostering productivity, synergy, and new research ideas among the funded investigators are supported in a cost-effective manner.

**Due Date:** November 23, 2015

**Funding:** \$3,000,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277201>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** A Community Research Resource of Microbiome-Derived Factors Modulating Host Physiology in Obesity, Digestive and Liver Diseases, and Nutrition

**Description:** The purpose of this announcement is to invite applications from multidisciplinary research teams to create a community research resource of key members of the microbiota and factors they elaborate which modulate host physiology and pathophysiology related to obesity, nutrition, or liver, exocrine pancreatic, or digestive diseases, and to

disseminate it broadly to the research community, in order to advance the development of microbiome-based interventions for prevention and treatment of these diseases. The resource will include annotated genome sequences and cultures of the key microbes, chemical structures of the key compounds they elaborate, datasets used to identify key microbes and compounds, and software for novel analytic methods developed to enable their identification.

**Due Date:** October 19, 2016

**Funding:** \$6,000,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277313>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Exploratory Studies for Delineating Microbiome: Host Interactions in Obesity, Digestive and Liver Diseases and Nutrition

**Description:** This Funding Opportunity Announcement invites applications that explore and interrogate functional interactions between human gut microbiome and host interactions in obesity, digestive and liver diseases and nutrition.

**Due Date:** October 19, 2016

**Funding:** \$1,500,000; Ceiling: \$200,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277315>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** NIMHD Endowment Program for Increasing Research and Institutional Resources Capacity

**Description:** The purpose of this program is to build capacity and research infrastructure and to facilitate minority health and health disparities research at eligible institutions, but not to directly support the research projects itself.

**Due Date:** September 4, 2015

**Funding:** Total: \$7,000,000; Ceiling: \$2,000,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277012>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Extracellular Vesicles and Substance Abuse

**Description:** The purpose of this FOA is to encourage research projects that investigate the interplay between extracellular vesicles (EVs) and addictive processes. In particular NIDA is interested in the potential utility of EVs with respect to understanding neuroplastic mechanisms relevant to substance abuse or as biomarkers or therapeutics.

**Due Date:** November 3, 2016

**Funding:** \$6,500,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277327>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Turkey-US Collaborative Program for Affordable Medical Technologies

**Description:** This announcement invites applications from research partnerships formed between scientists from U.S. and Turkey to accelerate the development of appropriate affordable diagnostic and therapeutic technologies, which address medical needs in low-middle resource settings. Appropriate medical technologies are those that are useable, cost effective, sustainable, and effective in meeting a significant clinical need in a lower-middle resource setting in different world regions.

**Due Date:** January 7, 2018

**Funding:** \$100,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277200>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Ethical Issues in Research on HIV/AIDS and its Co-Morbidities

**Description:** This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) invites applications addressing ethical issues relevant to research on HIV and associated co-morbidities, including research with populations living with or at high risk of HIV acquisition.

**Due Date:** January 8, 2018

**Funding:** \$200,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277110>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Exploiting RNA as a Target for HIV Interventions

**Description:** The purpose of this announcement is to: (1) investigate the role of viral and cellular long non-coding RNAs (lncRNAs) in the regulation of HIV replication, pathogenesis, latency, immunity, and gene expression; (2) exploit lncRNAs for the development of novel HIV interventions; and (3) exploit advances in RNA structural biology to identify novel targets for HIV intervention and functional cure.

**Due Date:** May 7, 2018

**Funding:** \$200,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277054>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Multidisciplinary Studies of HIV/AIDS and Aging

**Description:** This FOA invites applications proposing to study HIV infection, HIV-associated conditions, HIV treatment, and/or biobehavioral or social factors associated with HIV/AIDS in the context of aging and/or in older adults. Research approaches of interest include clinical translational, observational, and intervention studies in domestic and international settings.

**Due Date:** September 7, 2018

**Funding:** See announcement

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277293>

**Agency:** National Science Foundation  
Office of Multidisciplinary Activities

**Program:** Science of Science and Innovation Policy Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants

**Description:** The Science of Science & Innovation Policy (SciSIP) program supports research designed to advance the scientific basis of science and innovation policy. The program funds research to develop models, analytical tools, data and metrics that can be applied in the science policy decision making process and concern the use and allocation of scarce scientific resources. For example, research proposals may develop behavioral and analytical conceptualizations, frameworks or models that have applications across the broad array of science and innovation policy challenges. Proposals may also develop methodologies to analyze

science, technology and innovation data, and to usefully convey that information to a variety of audiences. Proposals that create and improve science, engineering and innovation data, including the design of new metrics and indicators, particularly proposals that demonstrate the viability of collecting and analyzing data on knowledge generation and innovation in organizations, are encouraged.

**Due Date:** September 29, 2015

**Funding:** See announcement

**Website:**

[http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2015/nsf15583/nsf15583.htm?WT.mc\\_id=USNSF\\_25&WT.mc\\_ev=click](http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2015/nsf15583/nsf15583.htm?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click)

**Agency:** National Science Foundation

**Program:** Advances in Biological Informatics

**Description:** The Advances in Biological Informatics (ABI) program seeks to encourage new approaches to the analysis and dissemination of biological knowledge for the benefit of both the scientific community and the broader public. The ABI program is especially interested in the development of informatics tools and resources that have the potential to advance- or transform- research in biology supported by the Directorate for Biological Sciences at the National Science Foundation. The ABI program accepts three major types of proposals: Innovation awards that seek to pioneer new approaches to the application of informatics to biological problems, Development awards that seek to provide robust cyberinfrastructure that will enable transformative biological research, and Sustaining awards that seek to support ongoing operations and maintenance of existing cyberinfrastructure that is critical for continued advancement of priority biological research.

**Due Date:** September 22, 2015

**Funding:** \$15,000,000

**Website:** [Click Here](#)

**Agency:** National Science Foundation

**Program:** NSF Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

**Description:** The program seeks to increase the success of low-income academically talented students with demonstrated financial need who are pursuing associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The program provides awards to

Institutions of Higher Education to fund scholarships, and to enhance and study effective curricular and co-curricular activities that support recruitment, retention, student success, and graduation in STEM.

**Due Date:** September 22, 2015

**Funding:** \$70,000,000

**Website:** [Click Here](#)

**Agency:** National Science Foundation

**Program:** National Science Foundation Mid-Scale Innovations Program in Astronomical Sciences

**Description:** A vigorous Mid-Scale Innovations Program (MSIP) was recommended by the 2010 Astronomy and Astrophysics Decadal Survey, citing "many highly promising projects for achieving diverse and timely science." As described in this solicitation, the Division of Astronomical Sciences has established a mid-scale program to support a variety of astronomical activities within a cost range up to \$30M. This program will be formally divided into four subcategories: 1) limited term, self-contained science projects; 2) longer term mid-scale facilities; 3) development investments for future mid-scale and large-scale projects; and 4) community open access capabilities. The MSIP will emphasize both strong scientific merit and a well-developed plan for student training and involvement of a diverse workforce in instrumentation, facility development, or data management.

**Due Date:** September 16, 2015

**Funding:** \$30,000,000

**Website:** [Click Here](#)

**Agency:** National Science Foundation

**Program:** NSF STEM Teacher Leader Initiative

**Description:** NSF will begin by requesting proposals for new ideas and approaches that can be piloted for up to two years with the goal of discovering successful models for long-term, more established programs to support teacher leaders. Proposed activities should provide more opportunities for the nation to take advantage of these teachers and for them to serve as a resource for improving K-12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education.

**Due Date:** July 22, 2015

**Funding:** See announcement

**Website:** [Click Here](#)

**Agency:** National Science Foundation

**Program:** Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) Research Initiation Initiative (CRII)

**Description:** With the goal of encouraging research independence immediately upon obtaining one's first academic position after receipt of the PhD, the Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) will award grants to initiate the course of one's independent research. Understanding the critical role of establishing that independence early in one's career, it is expected that funds will be used to support untenured faculty or research scientists (or equivalent) in their first two years in a primary academic position after the PhD, but not more than a total of five years after completion of their PhD.

**Due Date:** September 30, 2015

**Funding:** \$7,000,000

**Website:** <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2015/nsf15569/nsf15569.htm>

**Agency:** National Science Foundation

**Program:** Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers Program

**Description:** The Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers (I/UCRC) program develops long-term partnerships among industry, academe, and government. The centers are catalyzed by a small investment from the National Science Foundation and are primarily supported by industry center members, with NSF taking a supporting role in the development and evolution of the center. Each center is established to conduct research that is of interest to both the industry members and the center faculty. An I/UCRC contributes to the nation's research infrastructure base and enhances the intellectual capacity of the engineering and science workforce through the integration of research and education.

**Due Date:** September 25, 2015

**Funding:** \$12,000,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277286>