

RESEARCH MATTERS

MESSAGE FROM
THE VICE PRESIDENT
FOR RESEARCH

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ROBERT H. MILLER, PHD

Welcome to the Spring, 2013, edition of Research Matters. We have seen a series of promising developments within our research community, and I am pleased to report on a few of them here:

- **Chief Innovation Officer:** We created this new position to nurture relationships between the university and industry partners. Our inaugural appointment to this key role is Joe Jankowski, PhD, MBA, a leader of our technology transfer team since 2003. You can read more about him on page 2.
- **SPARTA:** This acronym (for Sponsored Programs Application for Research Tracking and Administration) is the name of our new electronic system for research proposal development and submission. The name emerged through a campus-wide contest, and you can find more details about the system's implementation on page 3.
- **Research ShowCASE:** This event returns April 12 by popular demand. The annual gathering went on a two-year hiatus, but strong lobbying among graduate students and others persuaded us that its value is too great to postpone yet again. Information about the celebration of Case Western Reserve's research, scholarship and creative endeavors is on page 3.
- **Faculty Distinguished Research Awards:** We launched a new program to recognize outstanding research and scholarly contributions. A committee of Distinguished University Professors selects recipients each year, considering criteria including the candidates' national and international scholarly reputations as well as the way their efforts enhance the institution's overall standing. We expect to announce approximately five winners per year; the 2013 recipients will be unveiled at *Research ShowCASE*.

Finally, on a less positive note, we all share concern regarding federal budget negotiations and the impact of sequestration on our robust research enterprise. The university's Office of Government Relations and members of my staff are tracking developments closely. We hope to provide guidance to all researchers shortly about how to proceed with budgeting for next year.

CWRU's New Chief Innovation Officer



A leader of the university's technology transfer office for the past decade, Joe Jankowski, PhD, MBA, now has assumed the new position of Chief Innovation

Officer. In this capacity, he will administer the university's new seed investment program, a \$6 million fund established in partnership with University Hospitals and the State of Ohio's Third Frontier Program. He will also coordinate Case Western Reserve's emerging translational and commercialization programs.

One of Jankowski's primary responsibilities will be development of a campus-wide perspective on all of the various activities that constitute our innovation ecosystem – not only with regard to research but also in education and outreach. His goal will be to use that knowledge to help advance innovation through identifying trends, synergies and opportunities for collaboration.

The CIO also will oversee the operations of the newly established Case Technology and University Hospitals Venture Fund. This program will allow collaboration on promising concepts from our campus innovators and our regional entrepreneurial and investment communities.

Research ShowCASE Returns

The university will feature the work of more than 400 faculty members, postdoctoral investigators, and graduate, undergraduate and high school students as Research ShowCASE returns to campus April 12 after a two-year absence. Vice President for Research Robert H. Miller reinstated the program at the urging of graduate students and other scholars who valued the opportunity to present projects and interact with peers during the annual event. This year's program will include the announcement of the inaugural recipients of Case Western Reserve's new Faculty Distinguished Researcher awards.



The event also will include displays of robotics as well as new medical devices and discoveries; reports on social justice and art as well as human and animal behavior and more. *Research ShowCASE* celebrates research, lets students learn more about presentation skills and helps nurture corporate and industry partnerships.

Research ShowCASE is a free, public event at the Veale Convocation, Athletic and Recreation Center.

Q&A about our new Electronic Research Administration (ERA) project

What is new with the ERA project?

A: The Electronic Research Administration project has been under way for nearly a year. Keep your eyes out for training sessions forming in the summer and fall, as well as for other opportunities to see the work the project team has completed.



What will it be called?

A: SPARTA (Sponsored Programs Application for Research Tracking and Administration) is the name we chose and our new logo is above.

Where are we in the process right now?

A: We began development last summer, and are continuing to develop and test our customizations. This phase of the project will be concluding within the next few weeks. We have held several user testing sessions where we gathered feedback to help us ensure that the resulting system will meet the needs of our



research community. We have also met with representatives from each school to talk about reporting needs to make sure we are able to capture any information required for reports.

What happens after that?

A: Once development and internal testing is finalized, we will hold training sessions for users to become familiar with the system. We expect SPARTA to go live in the fall of 2013.

What can I do to participate in the project?

A: If you are interested in participating in user testing sessions and haven't been involved yet, please contact jeffrey.simpkins@case.edu. We will post any announcements related to the SPARTA project on our website.

For More Information **CONTACT**

| AREA | NAME | EMAIL | PHONE |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
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SIGN UP for Research ListSers

The Office of Research Administration now provides two weekly e-newsletters.

One, issued on Fridays, details research funding opportunities. The other, sent on Tuesdays, provides other news regarding research such as updates to policies or new programs offered on campus.

If you would like to join one or both listservs, please visit: ora.ra.cwru.edu/spiderweb/oraSubscriptions.cfm.

The respective titles of the emails are: **Research Funding Opportunities** and **CWRU Research—News and Updates**.

