

# RESEARCH MATTERS

## New OMB Uniform Guidance

The final revision of the New Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Uniform Guidance for Federal Financial Assistance was released on December 26, 2013. The new "super" circular replaces the administrative, accounting and audit rules by combining eight OMB Circulars into one Uniform Guidance. The objective is to streamline OMB guidance for federal awards, to reduce administrative burden and to strengthen oversight of federal funds to reduce risk of fraud, waste and abuse.

The Office of Research Administration is leading an implementation effort and has created a working group to determine the impact of the new regulations to existing policies and processes. The effective date for implementation is December 26, 2014, and will apply to all agreements signed on or after that date. The Office of Research Administration will provide updates as they become available.

## RESEARCH BY THE NUMBERS

Fiscal Year 2014 was a challenging one for the CWRU research enterprise. Like other large research universities, we faced shrinking federal research budgets brought on by the sunset of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) stimulus funding program, and the cutbacks imposed by the sequester.

Nevertheless, our research enterprise did very well. The final tally of external research funding awards to CWRU was \$311.4M\*, an 11.5% increase from the previous year.

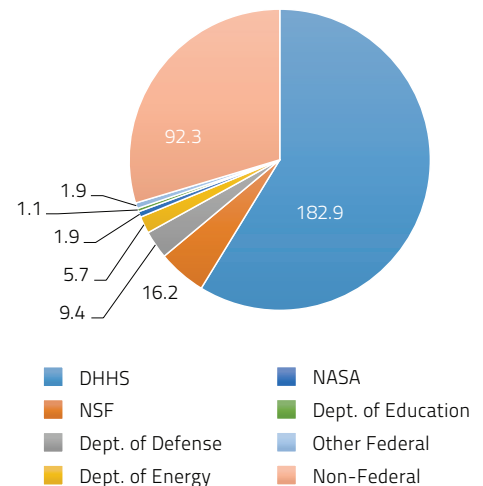
Of that figure, \$219.1 M came from federal sources. We saw a 7.0% increase in DHHS funding from FY13 to FY14 and a whopping 128% increase in funding from the Department of Energy.

Additionally, funding from all "other federal" sources (this excludes DHHS, NSF, NASA, and the Departments of Defense, Energy and Education) was up 55.6% from \$1.2 to \$1.9 M last year.

Funding from non-federal sources continues to rise. We saw our research funding from the Ohio Development Services agency grow from \$2.4M in 2013 to \$8.1M in 2014, an increase of 237.5%. Other governmental awards from non-federal sources rose from \$1.3M in 2013 to \$7.0 in 2014, an increase of 438.5%

With regard to national research rankings, we continue to shine. The most important figure to track in order to measure our relative success is dollars spent on research, not dollars awarded. In FY 14, we spent approximately \$337.4M on research activities. This represents funding from all sources: federal, state, corporate, foundation and university dollars. To put this in perspective, CWRU spent only \$255.2M on research in FY 2005.

Total: \$311.4 Million \*



\* Does not include an estimated \$90M in CCLCM awards.

# Industry Research Partnership at CWRU

Industry is playing an increasing role in advancing CWRU research especially when the relationship grows into a strategic partnership like the one shared with Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Building upon UL's global leadership in setting safety standards and CWRU's expertise in photovoltaic (PV) materials, the Solar Durability Lifetime Extension Center is developing tools to help industry assess the lifetime performance of materials, devices and systems to better predict failure and uncover latent safety issues. Together the team is pioneering Lifetime and Degradation Science; a novel, data-science approach to reliability that is generating a paradigm shift in engineering, reducing lifecycle costs and increasing customer confidence.

In just a few short years our strategic partnership with UL has impacted both industry and CWRU:

- UL provided access to their sun farms in Taiwan and India for CWRU faculty to continue building their research platform.
- A blueprint for high fidelity weather metrology and power telemetry of PV power plants has been developed and replicated around the world, providing the real-world exposure data required to fully understand lifetime performance.
- Measuring the thermal performance and uniformity of commercial microinverters, the team developed an unbiased model to estimate maximum temperature and performance given almost any weather condition and module power. That knowledge is helping companies determine if an installed microinverter will exceed temperature limits.

For information on partnering with industry, contact [corporaterelations@case.edu](mailto:corporaterelations@case.edu).

# The New Face of **CWRU Innovation**

Renowned economist Michael Porter has noted that "Innovation is the central issue in economic prosperity." Accordingly, CWRU is doing its part to contribute to our regional and national economy. This will not be a surprise to most, as CWRU and its affiliates harbor a strong history of invention and enterprise creation; what may be a surprise, though, are the new faces of university innovation: students. Student innovation, at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, has emerged as a primary source of opportunity and pride for the university. Earlier this year, seven student teams presented products at the Consumer Electronics Show, the largest showing by any university, and student design activities have contributed to global testing of an innovative medical diagnostic tool that portends to improve accuracy and reduce costs of malaria detection throughout the world.

The emergence of the student innovator and entrepreneur is neither a surprise, nor a coincidence. Forward-thinking CWRU leadership, at both the faculty and administrative levels, has continued to actively contribute to the development of student-focused entrepreneurship and innovation resources. In the late-90s, the College of Arts & Sciences established STEP (Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Program) which has become a globally-recognized graduate entrepreneurship program. In the following decades, CWRU's graduate innovation curriculum expanded to include the Master of Engineering and Management Degree and FUSION programs. Recently, cutting-edge programs in intellectual property (IP) protection and entrepreneurship have expanded to include undergraduates, via the Blackstone LaunchPad, MBAs, via the Weatherhead Design & Innovation capstone program, and law students, via the Intellectual Property & Venture Law Clinic; the latter serving to not only train future IP professionals but also to provide legal services to our growing student entrepreneurial ecosystem. Excitingly, on October 16<sup>th</sup>, CWRU will break ground on the permanent home of Think[box], a 50,000 sq-ft invention center that will provide blended space for our entire innovation community- especially students, faculty, and alumni - to tinker and creatively invent.

While these programs and resources speak to our innovative spirit, our most valued assets are the talents and spirit of our student innovators. It will be fun to keep our eye on their progress, and in time, to enjoy the fruits of their labors that undoubtedly will shape the future of our campus, region and the world.

## School of Medicine Core Facilities

The School of Medicine (SOM) recently hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Institutional Research Core Facilities Retreat. The event was developed to provide Core stakeholders with information to develop operational efficiencies, increase the visibility of Core Facilities and coordinate activities. Critical goals and strategies to propel the SOM Core Facilities forward and to maximize their impact on scientific achievements were discussed. Committees were created and tasked with developing a plan to achieve these goals.

The Core Steering Committee (CSC) has developed research clusters for the School's core facilities and coordinated review and collaboration. These groups meet regularly to discuss common issues, collaborate on instrumentation grants and share best practices for administrative processes. The CSC also provides support and advice to core facilities, which in the past year has resulted in:

- Establishing working definitions of Core Facilities and Service Centers
- Re-opening of the Rodent Behavior Core
- Transferring the Electron Microscopy Core to the West Quad

The School of Medicine is also partnering with the Office of Research Administration and the other Schools to develop a central core facilities portal website that will be available to core facilities throughout the University.

If you are interested in learning more about the School of Medicine Core Facilities, visit the website: [corefacilities.case.edu](http://corefacilities.case.edu) or contact [somcores@case.edu](mailto:somcores@case.edu).

## Research ShowCASE and Intersections

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015

The Office of Research and Technology Management and SOURCE (Support of Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors) are pleased to announce that Research ShowCASE and the Spring Intersections will be held on **Friday April 17, 2015**. Hundreds of researchers, scientists and scholars will come together for a day of collaboration, creativity and innovation. It will truly be a day to celebrate research at CWRU.

Last year, the spring undergraduate research symposium, Intersections, and the graduate research event were held together for the first time. With outstanding success, plans are under way to once again combine the events.

Exhibits of real-world applications, critical insights, and creative and intellectual activities will be on view for students, faculty, staff, alumni, business and industry leaders and the community, highlighting the full range of faculty, postdoctoral, undergraduate and graduate research at CWRU.

Research ShowCASE is a free public exhibit and is held in Veale Convocation Center.

## Sparta and Conflict of Interests

Research Tracking + Administration

The Office of Research Administration (ORA) will use the Click SPARTA system to collect Financial Interest disclosures beginning in February 2015. SPARTA has had a positive impact on streamlining the pre-award system and, by using specialized Click SPARTA COI software, we have created a much more user friendly Conflict of Interests (COI) system.

As with SPARTA pre-award, the COI software module will increase transparency so that the status of each disclosure will be readily available to each CWRU employee required to disclose,

but multiple levels of security will ensure that confidential information is securely safeguarded. SPARTA COI will also give ORA the benefit of being able to review research project specific conflicts as they arise to better serve the CWRU community.

SPARTA COI will have the look and feel of SPARTA which will ease the transition from the current collection system. Training will take place prior to the February 2015 release and will be announced at a later date. The COI Office staff is also available to provide help and assistance both online and in-person.

# For More Information **CONTACT**

AREA	NAME	EMAIL	PHONE
<b>CWRU RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION</b>			
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Sponsored Projects (post-award)	Erica Dempster	spadocs@cwru.edu	216.368.4280
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<b>UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMPLIANCE PROGRAMS</b>			
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Technology Transfer Office (TTO)	Erica Paythress	exp164@case.edu	216.368.4439

## **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](http://ora.ra.cwru.edu/spiderweb/oraSubscriptions.cfm).

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

