

The Research Notebook

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Dear Colleagues,

As you are aware, the government shut-down has temporarily halted our submission of grants to many federal agencies. However, the UTHSC Office of Research Administration will continue to review all applications and other documents required for submission to federal agencies and will submit proposals to DOD and any other agencies that are operational. When the government is back in full swing, Research Administration will submit all grants, progress reports, etc. that are pending. The Office of Sponsored Projects Accounting will submit budget changes and other actions that require agency approval when the agencies are back in service. At that time, we expect the agencies to provide instructions on how to proceed, and will keep you posted as we know more.

Many changes and new initiatives have been implemented in the past few months within the office of the Vice Chancellor for Research. Detailed information regarding some of these activities is included in this edition of the newsletter.

- University of Alabama, Birmingham and UTHSC have established a contract allowing UTHSC researchers access to UAB's Transgenic Mouse Facility services. All orders are coordinated between UAB and the UTHSC Laboratory Animal Care Unit.
- Grant Incentive funding up to \$25,000 per project was recently made available to UTHSC faculty, and applications were received for the August 30th deadline. This round of awards will be announced soon. Investigators may apply for funds during the 2014 fiscal year by submitting applications for the December 30th or April 30th deadlines.
- Cancer Research Award funding in the total amount of \$200,000 was recently made available to investigators in the cancer research community. The deadline for applications is October 15th.
- Rajendra Raghow, Ph.D., has been named the Executive Director of the Molecular Resource Center (MRC). Duties will include oversight of the MRC and general coordination of core facilities across campus in order to improve and expand these core research facilities.
- J. Lacey Smith, M.D., has been appointed the Director of the Research Integrity Office. The Research Integrity Office oversees the responsible conduct of research, research training, and activities related to research, and deals with allegations of possible research misconduct.

I encourage you to contact me if you have questions or concerns regarding the UTHSC research enterprise.

Lawrence M. Pfeffer, Ph.D.
Interim Vice Chancellor for Research



Dr. Lawrence Pfeffer

PI Part in Upcoming AAALAC Site Visit and Laboratory Preparations

On November 5th through 7th, 2013, the UTHSC animal care and use program will be visited by representatives from the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC), International. This is a re-accreditation site visit. All core animal facilities will be inspected thoroughly. In addition, the visitors will choose which animal research laboratories they wish to inspect. During these tours the visitors will likely ask to see locations, equipment and records related to animal use. They may wish to ask questions of any and/or all individuals associated with experiments involving animals. Note that the site visitors will rely on adherence to the ILAR Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (8th edition), the Federal Animal Welfare Act and Regulations, and other key guidance documents as the basis for their assessment. Below, please find a series of suggestions for how you may prepare your research program for such a laboratory visit.

Before the site visit:

- Make sure that all personnel that have contact with animals or animal tissues are current with their registration in the UTHSC Occupational Health and Safety Program (OHSP). AAALAC will closely assess if we have a functional OSHP.
- Make sure that all personnel associated with animal protocols are aware of the approved goals and procedures used in the protocol, have been fully trained to do the work assigned to them, and follow the protocol as approved. There will be emphasis on animal studies that involve survival surgery, the use of hazardous agents, and experiments that may result in more than momentary or slight pain or distress. AAALAC may ask laboratory personnel about studies at random.
- Make sure that all experimental, animal, drug, and chemical documentation (including MSDS sheets) is up to date, organized, and readily accessible. AAALAC may ask to spot-check your records.
- Make sure that there is current Tennessee State Board of Pharmacy Researcher and DEA licensure for all controlled substances used in animal experimentation. AAALAC may ask to see your drug records.
- Make sure that pharmaceutical-grade drugs are being used when they are available and that no drugs are used past their expiration date.
- Make sure that all equipment associated with animal experimentation is in clean and working order. AAALAC may ask to see this equipment.
- Make sure that all canisters used to scavenge expelled anesthetic gases have been weighed before the first use and that any that are overweight have been discarded.
- Make sure that appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available and that all personnel are using it in the correct manner.
- Make sure all animal protocols are up to date, that all animal activities are described in an approved protocol, and that a copy of all documentation is readily available and can be supplied upon request.
- Make sure that each performance site has a copy of the most recent page entitled "Have Concerns Regarding Animal Care or Treatment?" prominently posted. You may be asked what you would do to report animal care concerns. If you do not have this notice, please contact the IACUC office to obtain a fresh copy.

At the time of the site visit:

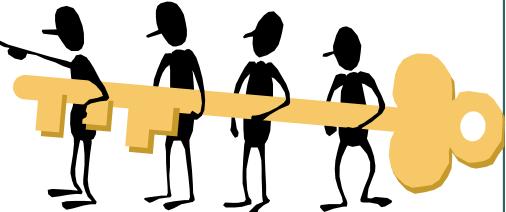
- Please try to be present in the laboratory (or accessible) if possible on the afternoon of November 6th and the morning of November 7th. If you cannot be present, please try to have an informed individual available to answer questions about your protocol(s) in case they should arise.
- Realize that the AAALAC site visitors may view any animal experiments being conducted on those days.
- If asked a question regarding your work, please try to answer it fully, realizing that the AAALAC site visitors are our advocates with AAALAC Council and are engaged in gathering information to support our case for continued full accreditation.

If you have questions or comments about this process, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Research Compliance (448-3904) and we will be more than happy to assist you.

Grant Incentive Funding

Grant Incentive Funding is available in the amount of \$25,000 to UTHSC faculty who have recently submitted a new R01, R15, R21 or equivalent grant that was not funded but received a percentile score of 30% or less. A Principal Investigator (PI) who meets the Grant Incentive Fund criteria should submit an application to the Office of Research. An internal review committee will evaluate applications and make recommendations to Dr. Lawrence Pfeffer, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research. Deadlines for this fiscal year's awards are December 30, 2013 and April 30, 2014.

For more details, visit: http://www.uthsc.edu/research/research_resources/docs/Grant_Incentive_Program_Guidelines.pdf



2013 Cancer Research Awards

The Executive Council of the UTHSC/ West Cancer Center/ Methodist Healthcare Family has made \$200,000 available for research funding to investigators in the cancer research community. This intramural funding will be awarded to investigators based on review of research proposals.

Awards for faculty investigators will be made up to a maximum of \$50,000 per project. It is expected that projects funded through this program will be aimed at securing preliminary data to provide the basis of proposals to obtain external funding. Projects with a multi-disciplinary focus that link basic scientists with clinicians are of particular interest.

Previous recipients of this award are ineligible for funding this grant cycle.

For detailed information to apply for this award, see: http://www.uthsc.edu/cancer/docs/research_proposal_format.pdf

The research proposal should be completed and submitted in one PDF electronically to Andrea Briggs (abriggs3@uthsc.edu) by October 15th, 2013.



Bridge Funding

The Office of Research encourages faculty to apply for Bridge Funding. Up to \$75,000 is available to individual applicants. Any full-time faculty member, tenured or tenure-track, who is a principal investigator on a grant funded for at least three consecutive years by a national funding agency (e.g., NIH, NSF, American Heart Association) and whose application for continued support from that or another national funding agency has not been funded, is eligible for Bridge Funding. Bridge Funding is not intended to substitute for outside research funding, but rather is intended to provide for limited, interim funding to an investigator who had applied for, but failed to receive, renewal funding for ongoing research.

This funding is intended to provide University of Tennessee Health Science Center faculty members with temporary, reduced support in order to retain key personnel and continue laboratory or research operations while full support is being sought from outside agencies.

For details regarding eligibility and the application process, go to: http://www.uthsc.edu/research/research_resources/bridge_funding/ or contact Jane Poulos (jpoulos@uthsc.edu).



UTRF Maturation Grant Applications



The University of Tennessee Research Foundation (UTRF) is announcing a call for submissions for the seventh annual UTRF Maturation Funding program. Proposals are due into your Research Office (through TERA PAMS) by close of business October 18, 2013. The program helps UT researchers further develop technologies that have potential for commercial success. Up to \$15,000 in direct costs will be awarded to the highest ranking proposals.

Guidelines:

- Open to all UT researchers, faculty, staff and students at all campuses and institutes.
- Projects must be related to an existing UT invention/creation disclosure, OR a proposal can be accompanied by a new UT invention/creation disclosure.
- All proposals should generate new data that validate the technology and increase its commercial readiness. They should clearly describe how the expected results will increase the commercial opportunities for the technology.
- Proposals that only generate basic research results should not be submitted.
- Identification of potential commercial partners for collaboration on this proposal is encouraged.

Proposal Requirements

- Proposals should describe the technology and its existing data, plan of work, expected results, budget, and an assessment of how the expected results will increase the commercial opportunities for the technology.
- Funds should be directed to labor, materials, and services necessary to achieve the proposed deliverable(s). Indirect costs are not allowed.
- Funds may not be used for PI salary, but may be used for student, post doc, or technical staff support.
- Proposal should not exceed 3 pages, excluding references, which may be included as a 1-page appendix.
- Proposal must be submitted to your campus research office (through TERA PAMS) by close of business Oct. 18, 2013.

Judging Criteria

- Demonstration of a path for commercial development
- Market potential
- Stage of development

Deadlines & Schedule

- Proposal receipt by your Research Office Oct. 18, 2013 at 5 p.m.
- Awards announced Nov. 18, 2013

For more information: contact Janet Ralbovsky at jralbovs@uthsc.edu or the UTRF website: <http://utrf.tennessee.edu/techtransfer/offices/hsc-technology-maturation-fund.shtml>

Proposal Development Funding

Funding has been established for small pilot project expenses (up to \$5,000). Funds can be requested via e-mail to Jane Poulos (jpoulos@uthsc.edu) and should include specific needs of the project, the name of the proposed grant that this funding will support, and the date the proposed grant is to be submitted. Fund requests are reviewed and approved by the Interim Vice Chancellor for Research.

Copy editing services are also available through the Office of Research, and can be requested via e-mail to Jane Poulos (jpoulos@uthsc.edu). Requests are reviewed by the Interim Vice Chancellor for Research. For more details, please see: http://www.uthsc.edu/research/research_resources/editing_services.php

Golden Idea: Groundbreaking Radiation Therapy Research

For more than 20 years, Stephen Kennel, Ph.D., an associate professor of Departments of Medicine and Radiology, has sought a better way to deliver radioisotopes for the treatment of cancer, and recently, he and colleagues hit on a golden idea.

Previously, targeted radiotherapy (using radioactive isotopes injected into the body to kill targeted cancer cells) used beta agents, which have limited potency. Kennel and Saed Mirzadeh, Ph.D., a senior scientist at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and other medical researchers believed using alpha-emitting radioisotopes, which kill more efficiently, would improve results.

"When many of the alpha-emitting radioisotopes decay, however, they produce 'daughters', generated by the original 'parent' radioisotope," Kennel says. "The radioactive daughters stray from the parent and can damage surrounding normal tissue."

Kennel and Mirzadeh, along with researchers at the University of Missouri tested a theory: Entrap the radioisotope alpha emitter inside of a salt-like crystal to contain the daughters. This provided about 50% containment, so the team added layers of salt-like shell around the crystal. This worked better, but not well enough.

Then they had the golden idea.

"The Missouri team placed a shell of gold around the entire particle," Kennel explains, "and we've seen about 90 percent containment of the destructive daughters."

In preclinical testing, Kennel added a binding agent to the gold shell to allow attachment of an antibody, which directed the particle containing the radioisotope to the targeted site, and injected it into a preclinical model of breast cancer metastasis.

"In the model, breast cancer tumor cells growing as metastatic colonies in the lung were killed," Kennel says. "We are a long way from use in the clinic, but this concept is significant. Learning to bury an isotope in a gold-plated crystal preventing the escape of radioactive daughters and subsequent off-target damage is valuable to further cancer studies."

Reprinted from GSMK's Advance http://issuu.com/utgsm/docs/summer2013_7187ae4194827c

UTCOMC Research Coordinators' Forum

The schedule for the Research Coordinators' Forum has been posted for Fall 2013 and Spring 2014! Some of the topics scheduled are: (a) recruiting and retaining African Americans in clinical research, (b) obtaining meaningful child assent for clinical research, (c) audit readiness, and (d) best practices in reviewing medical literature. More information about topics, speakers, and meeting dates is posted on the UTCOMC website under Research (Research Events and Educational Series). <http://www.utcomchatt.org/subpage.php?pageId=970>

The Research Coordinators' Forum is a monthly brown-bag lunch series designed for research coordinators and other key study personnel. The group usually meets at 12:00 on the 4th Tuesday of the month in the Dean's Conference Room in Suite 100 of the Whitehall Building.

October 22

Recruiting and Retaining African Americans in Clinical Research

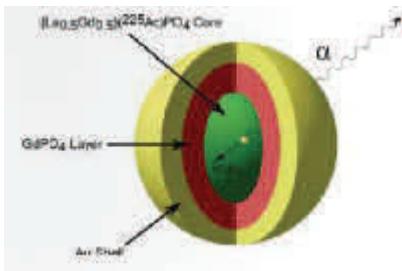
Mona Newsome Wicks, PhD, RN, FAAN
Professor, College of Nursing,
University of Tennessee Health Science Center

November 19

Publication of Work Presented During the UTCOMC Research Week

Victor Kolade, MD, FACP, and Ramesh Jayarajan, MBBS
Department of Internal Medicine, UTCOMC

* Please note that this is the third Tuesday of the month



UAB Transgenic Mouse Facility Services Available to UTHSC Investigators

A contract has been established between UTHSC and the University of Alabama-Birmingham's Transgenic Mouse Facility (TMF), allowing UTHSC researchers access to the TMF services. Available services include production of mouse models using gene targeting as well as DNA and ES cell injection methods. Additional information is available at www.uab.edu/transgenics. To use the TMF services, investigators will submit a TMF service request and animal requisition to the UTHSC Lab Animal Care Unit. The LACU will process the payment to UAB through the contract and in turn bill the corresponding PI's account. Once founders have been produced and are available for transfer from UAB, the LACU personnel will pick up the mice from UAB, transporting directly to UTHSC and eliminating the need for standard quarantine. For additional information on using the UAB TMF services, please contact Dr. Tim Mandrell (tmandrell@uthsc.edu).

Cloud-based Statistical Data Center Available

The Office of Biomedical Informatics (BMI) is equipping a cloud-based statistics data center for users. This data center will host instances of SAS, SPSS, Stata, and StatTransfer and will be available for use by faculty working with the BMI. The data center is essentially a secure virtual private cloud comprised of several multi-core Dell servers, and will be housed onsite in UT-ITS. In addition to hosting instances of common data analysis software, it will have 10 terabytes of secure storage for short-term storage of sensitive data. The system will be accessible by Remote Desktop Projection, and the BMI is working with ITS on determining best methods to ensure all users get the required power for their analysis. BMI and ITS expect to have the system up and running in the next few weeks. For more information contact BMI Director, Dr. Ian Brooks ibrooks1@uthsc.edu.



Save the Date for Grant Consultant Dr. Israel Goldberg

Dr. Israel Goldberg, President of Health Research Associates, will visit the UTHSC Memphis campus **November 13 and 14, 2013**. Dr. Goldberg is under contract with the UTHSC Office of Research and has provided consultation that proved invaluable for the successful awarding of a number of NIH grants to faculty. Dr. Goldberg is available to assist faculty with individual grants, as well as training grants and other programmatic funding.

Faculty members may request one-on-one or small group consultation meetings with Dr. Goldberg during his visit. Long distance consultation can also be arranged. Please contact Lisa Bronte (lbronte@uthsc.edu) for scheduling.

Welcome Cynthia Brown

The UT Research Foundation welcomes Cynthia Brown as Administrative Coordinator. Replacing Tinieka Threlkill, Cynthia will serve as the "front door" to the technology transfer office and general office manager. As Administrative Coordinator, Cynthia is available to assist faculty and staff in submitting invention disclosures and will maintain UTRF's internal patent and licensing records. Prior to joining UTRF, Cynthia worked at UTHSC with the UT Foundation as a Development Assistant. Cynthia can be reached at cdicker8@uthsc.edu, at x8-7827, or at 910 Madison Ave, Suite 827.



Office of Research Administration

New NIH Grant Packages for Fall Deadlines

The NIH has posted new electronic packages that must be used for all deadlines after September 25, 2013. Be sure you have the latest version of the packages before you submit your proposal to ORA (hint: the new forms are labeled: "FORMS C").

ORA has posted the R01, R03, and R21 packages with UTHSC-specific information on our website: http://www.uthsc.edu/research/research_administration/e_grant_submission.php for your convenience.



NIH ASSIST to be Used for Multi-Project Grant Proposals

Beginning September 25, 2013, NIH multi-project grant proposals (P01, P20, P50, and U19) must be submitted electronically using NIH ASSIST.

Additional information is here: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-13-075.html>; and you may view a webinar on the topic here: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/webinar_docs/webinar_20130813.htm.

To start the application, you will need to have your Funding Opportunity Announcement number (e.g., PA-00-000) and enter it at: <https://public.era.nih.gov/assist/>.

Once the application is complete in ASSIST, you will need to route it in PAMS for internal approvals so that ORA can complete the submission process on line.

Reminder: File those Final Reports

PIs, please remember that when a project is complete, both you and the University are responsible for filing final reports and completing all the close-out requirements. For NIH and most federal grants, three reports are due: the final progress report, for which you are responsible; the final invention report, for which both you and the institution are responsible; and the final financial report, which is prepared by the Office of Sponsored Projects Accounting (Gerri Bussell's office) after all the charges are posted to the account by you and your department. All three reports are completed in Commons.



For other types of grants (e.g., foundation grants) and research agreements, please read the grant agreement and/or contract carefully to determine what reports are due and when and be sure that all obligations are met when the project is complete.

Failure to comply with reporting obligations can put both the PI and the institution in jeopardy with regard to future funding from that agency.

Questions About Expenditures and Rebudgeting - Sponsored Projects Accounting

Questions about expenditures on your grants or research contracts should be addressed to the Office of Sponsored Projects Accounting, rather than to Research Administration. Please contact Gerri Bussell at 901 448-5571 or gbussell@uthsc.edu. Be sure to work with your departmental business manager.

Requests for rebudgeting are also handled by your departmental business manager, in conjunction with Ms. Bussell's office.

Office of Research Administration

Electronic Copies of Current Grants

If you have a scanned copy of any funded grant application submitted in paper prior to the implementation of PAMS and would like for us to upload it into PAMS, please send an e-mail to ORA at egrants@uthsc.edu. You may attach the file to the e-mail if it's not too large; otherwise, send the note, and we will contact you with instructions about getting it to us.



Reminder: Conflict of Interest Information Required for Consultants/Non-UT Collaborators

Please remember that both NIH and UT policy require that all “investigators” as the term is defined (including anyone involved in the design, conduct, analysis, or reporting of research or sponsored activity) complete conflict of interest training and disclose any potential conflicts of interest (or state that they have none) prior to submission of grant applications. If you are using collaborators or consultants, please ask them to include that information in their support letter or send a separate e-mail addressing the conflict of interest training and disclosure.

PAMs Tips

Project Title: Please do NOT include quotation marks in project titles entered into PAMS.



Location: UT leases space at several of our affiliated entities (e.g., LeBonheur, Methodist, VAMC, UHS), so please use caution when entering space at those facilities. If the work is being done in UT-leased space in those facilities, enter it under the on-campus block. If the work is being done in non-UT-leased space at those facilities, enter it in off-campus block and use the off-campus F&A rate.

MTA Funding Agency info: For MTAs, please enter the other party (provider for incoming material/recipient for outgoing material) in the block for “Funding Agency” on the General Info page.

Research Administration FAQs

Q: I need to rebudget funds in my existing grant account. What do I do?

A: Contact your departmental business manager, who will work with the Office of Sponsored Projects Accounting to approve internally those requests that can be approved locally and to submit the request to the agency for those that need agency approval.

Q: I'm preparing to resubmit an NIH application that was not funded earlier for the fall deadlines. Is it okay for me to just re-use the same package, but update the budget information?

A: No. The NIH has issued new forms that must be used for all deadlines after September 25, 2013. If we attempt to submit an old form, it will receive an error message and will not be accepted by the NIH.

Q: My collaborator is not requesting any salary, although he/she is assisting me with data analysis and will be included as an author on publications. Does he/she have to submit conflict of interest information and take the conflict of interest training?

A: Yes. All key persons and anyone who meets the definition of an “investigator” (anyone involved in the design, conduct, analysis, or reporting of research or sponsored activity) must take the training and disclose any conflicts.

Contact List



Name	Title	Phone
Office of Research		
Lawrence Pfeffer Ph.D.	Interim Vice Chancellor	448-7855
Jane Poulos	Sr. Business Manager	448-3746
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Vacant	Associate Director	448-8099
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Emanuel Villa	Biomedical Informaticist	448-1202
Rae Schell	Admin. Research Asst.	448-5296
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Jayne Collins McKinnie	Budget Coordinator	448-5652
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Dan Rosson, Ph.D.	Director - Flow Cyt	448-4279
Tiffany Seagroves, Ph.D.	Director - Bio-Imaging	448-5018
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Scott Jackson, D.V.M.	Instr. Colmn/Surg/T. Svc	448-7134
Joyce Jones	Animal Procurement	448-5453
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Barbara Blakely	Spvr - Nash Basement	448-1429
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Rolanda Peterson	Supv - CRB	448-4965
Dennis Martin	Cage Wash Spvr	448-5452
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The Research Notebook
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The Office of Research provides support for the faculty and staff of the Health Science Center in their efforts to obtain external funding for research and other sponsored projects, while ensuring compliance with UT policy, sponsor policy, and applicable law.

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Deborah Smith, Ed.D.	Assoc. Vice Chancellor	448-4823
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Trent Pitts, J.D.	Associate Director	448-3303
Margaret Everett	Program Administrator	448-2037
Ruthie Ruston	Specialist	448-3126
Monica Campbell	Specialist	448-5587
Grants Unit		
Ginny Geer	Manager	448-1668
Jackie Easley	Coordinator II	448-4188
Research Integrity Office		
J. Lacey Smith, M.D.	Director	448-2117
Research Compliance		
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Vacant	Compliance Officer	448-1264
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Mark Miller, Ph.D.	IBC Chair	448-6752
John Denton	IBC Coordinator	448-2164
Vivian Loveless, Pharm.D.	Radiation Safety Chair	448-6931
Institutional Animal Care and Use		
Mary Frances Braslow	Administrator	448-3904
Thaddeus Nowak, Ph.D.	Chair	448-7384
Trevor Sweatman, Ph.D.	Vice Chair	448-4591
Institutional Review Board		
Terrence Ackerman, Ph.D.	Chair	448-4824
Cameron Barclay	Director	448-4824
Donna Hollaway	Compliance Specialist	448-2933
Kim Prachniak	Sr. Regulatory Spec.	448-5060
Margaret Sularin	Regulatory Specialist	448-4824
Elaine Todd	Regulatory Specialist	448-1343
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Holly Herron	Administrator	448-4824
Melanie Saucier	Admin Research Asst.	448-4824
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Vacant	C. Officer - Memphis	448-1869
Vacant	C. Officer - Knoxville	865-305-6192
Electronic Research Administration		
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Tricia Page	Program Manager	448-2753
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