



*ORA Services –  
Research Admin.,  
Grants & Contracts,  
Tech Transfer &  
Startup Incubation*

341 Woods Hall • One University Blvd. • St. Louis, MO 63121

## OFFICE OF **RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION**

The Office of Research Administration (ORA) provides support services to faculty, graduate students, and staff seeking external grant funds for research, instruction, and service from federal, state, and local government programs, as well as private foundations. In addition, the ORA facilitates technology transfer through assisting inventors in filing for patent applications, negotiating licensing agreements, and establishing start-up companies.

The ORA works together with faculty committees to award and administer internal research grants, including coordination of the University of Missouri Research Board competition, Research Awards, the Small Grants Funds, the Chancellor's Awards for Research and Creativity, and the Grants Incentive Funds. The ORA also works through faculty committees to monitor University compliance with federal and state research regulations.

The ORA also supports the Vice Provost for Research on a wide range of strategic initiatives that align with the University's mission, including creative activities of faculty and staff and economic development in the region. Such initiatives include the development of IT Enterprises, an information technology business incubator near campus; oversight of the Center for Emerging Technologies, a biotechnology business incubator in Midtown St. Louis; serving as part of the CORTEX (Center of Research Technology and Entrepreneurial Expertise) life sciences district collaboration; and supervising interdisciplinary research centers, such as the Center for Nanoscience and the Center for Neurodynamics.

### **GRANTS**

Grants provide resources for further development and investigation of existing ideas and projects. Winning a grant for research, artistic projects, public service, or curriculum development also is important for your professional advancement and recognition. In addition, grant funds enhance the University's prestige and increase its ability to support future endeavors.

#### *How can the ORA help?*

The Office of Research Administration can provide assistance and guidance at every stage of the grant application process, and offers the following services:

- Access to funding information, forms, guidelines and other resources through the ORA web site and monthly newsletter, "Spirit of Innovation," which also offers research and tech transfer news, recognition of recently funded faculty, and more
- Customized electronic grant database searches
- Initiating contact with funding agency program officers
- Assistance with narrative and budget development
- Electronic submission to federal agencies
- Assistance with post-award accounting

WEB

[www.umsl.edu/services/ora](http://www.umsl.edu/services/ora)

TELE **516-5899**

FAX **516-6759**

#### *Internal awards*

The ORA also administers two UM-St. Louis internal research and creativity grant competitions (Small Grants Fund and UMSL Research Award) and coordinates UMSL's interaction with the UM System's Research Board competition. More information can be found on the ORA web site.

## TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Technology transfer is the process of converting findings from research laboratories into useful products. Discovering new compounds for a therapeutic drug, inventing an efficient device to screen for vision deficiencies, or developing a novel algorithm to efficiently identify optimal solutions to problems with enormous potential solution sets (e.g. bridge design, pharmaceutical design, etc.) are examples of technology transfer efforts that improve our lives. Technology is most often transferred by protecting the University's intellectual property (IP) as developed by faculty and staff, using patents and sometimes copyrights or trademarks, then licensing the innovations to industry or facilitating the establishment of a start-up company around the technology.

### How can the ORA help?

The Office of Research Administration offers the following services to help guide faculty and staff through technology transfer activities:

- Access to invention disclosure forms and other resources via the ORA web site
- Assistance with invention disclosure forms
- IP management (patents, copyrights, trademarks, invention waivers)
- Innovation marketing and licensing
- Development and legal review of agreements, including material transfer, confidentiality, research collaboration, and interinstitutional agreements
- Assistance with start-up companies (establishment, identifying venture capital sources, identifying and assistance with SBIR/STTR funding opportunities, etc.)

## ANIMAL WELFARE & RESEARCH COMPLIANCE

The ORA oversees the Animal Welfare Unit and all research protocols related to human and animal research. The Animal Welfare Unit Manager/ORA Compliance Officer works to ensure that all animals are cared for and research is conducted within the framework of the applicable regulations and accrediting agency constraints. The Animal Welfare Unit and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) align goals to ensure that research involving animal subjects is conducted ethically and that animal subjects are provided optimum facilities, environment and care.

## ORA STAFF

**Nasser Arshadi**, Vice Provost for Research, oversees the mission of the ORA, collaborates with chief research officers within the UM system, promotes UMSL projects and research, and supervises UMSL's research and entrepreneurial operations on- and off-campus.

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**Dianna Batsch**, Accountant, handles post-award accounting (invoicing, financial reports, closeouts) for Psychology, Center for Trauma Recovery, Children's Advocacy Center and all departments outside of Arts and Sciences.

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**Karen Boyd**, Manager, Business/Fiscal Operations, oversees pre- and post-award and grant accounting activities, internal and external grant audits, policies and procedures and grant compliance.

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**Charles Ellis**, Senior Accountant, provides financial oversight to non-grants related activities including technology transfer, incubator operations and research centers. He also monitors compliance issues with large grants.

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**Randy Gress**, Accountant, handles post-award accounting (invoicing, financial reports, closeouts) for the Public Policy Research Center and all of Arts and Sciences except Psychology, the Center for Trauma Recovery, and the Children's Advocacy Center, along with technology transfer invoicing.

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**Larry Hinkle**, Animal Technician II, provides daily care to all lab animals, maintains facility equipment, orders supplies, and assists researchers with technical services.

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**John Hancock**, Manager, Animal Welfare Unit and Compliance, oversees the operations of UM-St. Louis' research animal facility, satellite facilities and labs; monitors training and maintenance; and maintains financial and research records to ensure compliance with regulations.

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**Amanda La Brier**, Executive Assistant II, serves as assistant to the Vice Provost of Research and acting business manager of IT Enterprises.

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**Virginia (Ginny) Schodroski**, Grants and Contracts Specialist, assists faculty and staff in preparing budgets and with the submission of their funding applications, ensuring that all documents comply with University and granting agency regulations. She also sets up the accounts for awards to the faculty.

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**Brenda Stutte**, Grants and Contracts Specialist, assists the faculty with submissions of externally funded research proposals to federal agencies, manages the internal awards program, and provides accounting services in the distribution of the Grant Incentive Fund.

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**Tamara Wilgers**, Director of Technology Transfer, Senior Grant Writer, directs all campus technology transfer and commercialization activities (e.g., invention disclosures, patenting, licensing, NDAs, MTAs, etc.), seeks funding opportunities for campus projects and research, serves as the ORA's "Spirit of Innovation" newsletter editor, and advises faculty and staff in preparing grant applications.

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