



# Research Revelations

University of Louisiana at Monroe

## Responsible Conduct of Research training now required

In the Federal Register dated August 20, 2009, the National Science Foundation (NSF) announced its implementation plan of the America COMPETES Act provisions that requires training to ensure responsible and ethical conduct of research for students and post-doctoral fellows. All proposals submitted after January 1, 2010 must certify that the institution has a training plan in place to comply with this requirement.

In turn, ULM is establishing a working group to develop the policies and process for our

training program that must be operational by December 31, 2009. The main requirement is that the institution must train and track those working under NSF funding. If you are interested in participating in the working group, please contact [ospr@ulm.edu](mailto:ospr@ulm.edu).



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## New Themes for NIH

During the first few weeks in office, the National Institutes for Health (NIH)'s new director, Francis Collins, explained the five broad themes for NIH. He wants NIH to 1) increase its focus on genomics and other technologies that help understand fundamental biology; 2) translating discoveries into treatments and practices;

3) providing data to allow for sound policy decisions about health care; 4) investing in global health (international); and 5) provide stable and predictable funding for the biomedical research community post American Recover and Reinvestment Act.

Collins would like to hear from the research community regarding important issues. He encourages the community to send a brief (<1 page) summary describing the matter to [NIHlistens@nih.gov](mailto:NIHlistens@nih.gov).

## American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) Updates



### Restriction on Communications

ULM has been successful in securing some of the billions of dollars that the US Congress authorized through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Stimulus reporting requirements are stringent in order to ensure proper use of the appropriations.

One lesser-noticed requirement is that President Obama prohibited oral communication between federal agency officials and registered lobbyists concerning

specific ARRA projects. On the surface this does not seem to apply to ULM; however, a subsequent memo from the Office of Management and Budget's Director indicated that this restriction applies to all oral communications from non-federal employees during the period after the submission through the issuance of the award.

In order to ensure ULM complies with this new directive, please

contact OSPR prior to any verbal or written communication with the federal government. This review is necessary to ensure that the communication is appropriate.

**Over the past five years, the government has been increasing their scrutiny of institutions of higher education.**

### Fraud Enforcement

The Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009 expands the provisions found in the False Claims Act. Over the past five years, the government has been increasing their scrutiny of institutions of higher education. Recently, Cornell University paid \$2.6 million to settle a case where the researcher failed to disclose scientific overlap among various funded research projects. Various reports suggest that the new law provides the government broader authority while restricting previously accepted protections.

The FERA expands the length of the statute of limitations from six

years to the date the claim was filed. It allows the government to prosecute entities for failing to return an overpayment. They government is also reviewing proposals and reports for untrue statements regarding effort full-time equivalents, etc. Now, FERA reaches through the main award to the subrecipients due to the language change regarding who presents the information to the federal government. The last major enhances whistleblower protections. The definition no longer requires the claimant to be an employee; it allows the claimant to be "contractors" and/or "agents" of the entity.

The penalties associated with FCA and FERA violations are serious. The civil fine ranges between \$5,500 and \$11,000 per violation. The additional penalty is three times the amount that the government suffered. Please review ULM's policies and procedures to ensure that you are compliant with governing regulations. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact OSPR at [ospr@ulm.edu](mailto:ospr@ulm.edu) or extension 1039.

## NIH announces significant changes to grant applications

Beginning with the new Federal fiscal year (October 1), NIH will implement new application packages for all grant mechanisms. All new or resubmission applications targeting due dates on or after January 25, 2010 (for FY2011 funding consideration) **must** use the new application forms and instructions (even if the initial submission followed the current application forms and instructions.)

**Shortened Page Limits.** The page limit for the new Research Strategy section will be 6 or 12 pages, according to the chart below. One additional page will

be allowed for Specific Aims. As always, if the FOA requires page limits that differ from the application instructions, the FOA page limits should be followed. For resubmission and revision applications for most programs, the Introduction will be limited to one page.)

To coordinate with the enhanced peer review criteria, changes will be made to 1) Research Plan, 2) Resources, and 3) Biographical Sketch.

Although not immediately required in competing applications, institutions may begin to include a Personal Statement and 15 or fewer publications in Biographical Sketches.

For more details, click [HERE](#)



## National Institutes of Health Issues Guidelines on Human Stem Cell Research

President Barack H. Obama issued Executive Order 13505: *Removing Barriers to Responsible Scientific Research Involving Human Stem Cells*. The E.O. states that NIH “may support and conduct responsible, scientifically worthy human stem cell research, including human embryonic stem cell (hESC) research, to the extent permitted by law.”

The NIH Guidelines implement Executive Order 13505, and

establishes policy and procedures under which the NIH will fund such research, and ensure that NIH-funded research is conducted in accordance with applicable law. Internal NIH policies and procedures, consistent with Executive Order 13505 and these Guidelines, will govern the conduct of intramural NIH stem cell research.

These Guidelines are effective on July 7, 2009.

Find more information at <http://stemcells.nih.gov/policy/2009guidelines.htm>



## OSPR Star of the Month



### September 2009 Star

Dr. Seetharama Satyanarayanajois (Jois)

Basic Pharmaceutical Sciences

College of Pharmacy

<http://ulm.edu/research/star.html>



## Vote for the Star of the Month

The Star of Month recognition is back! Please visit our website at <http://ulm.edu/research> and cast your vote for the next Star of the Month.

Every day, ULM's faculty reach new heights and become nationally recognized in many areas for their research and scholarly activities. For these reasons, OSPR highlights their

sponsored program activities through brief descriptions of their funded projects as well as through various recognition programs, in addition to OSPR's new recognition programs of Star of the Month program, yearly recognition reception for proposers and awardees, and releases for various publications.

### October 2009 nominees are:

- **W. Greg Leader, Dean, College of Pharmacy**
- **Sandra Lemoine, Dean College of Education & Human Development**
- **Denny Ryman, Dean, College of Health Sciences**

[VOTE HERE](#)

## OSPR funding database – a new tool for ULM researcher

In our previous issue, we have announced a new research tool – searchable, customized database of funding opportunities.

At this time, most of the opportunities listed are closely related to the professional expertise of those faculty members who have informed us of their research interests.

If you have not talked to us

about your research/activity interests, we would like to hear from you. Send us an email to [ospr@ulm.edu](mailto:ospr@ulm.edu) or visit us in Library 211.

Database is expanding daily, so check often for new opportunities.

You will need to log into the system with your ULM e-mail credentials. This will allow you to save searches and express interest for funding opportunities.

Check it out at:

[http://www.ulm.edu/research/funding\\_database/welcome](http://www.ulm.edu/research/funding_database/welcome)

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*Your business tag line here.*

We're on the Web!  
[www.ulm.edu/research/](http://www.ulm.edu/research/)

**Vision Statement** - The University of Louisiana at Monroe strives to distinguish itself in preparing students for meaningful lives and service to humanity by excelling in student-centered learning—turning vision into action.

**Mission Statement** - The University of Louisiana at Monroe emboldens the human spirit through student-centered learning, explores the truth through meaningful research, and enriches the human experience through useful service to those in the mid-South and the world beyond. A comprehensive senior institution of higher learning, ULM offers a complete educational experience emphasizing a learning environment where excellence is the hallmark. The University dedicates itself to student learning and advancing knowledge through pure and applied research. With its human, academic, and physical resources, ULM enhances the quality of life of the surrounding communities.

## Awards received from July to September

Thilla Sivakumaran, LA  
Department of Education,  
\$30,000

Georgia Sanderson, LA  
Workforce Commission,  
\$455,967 (5 awards)

Denny Ryman, HRSA, \$471,240

W. Greg Leader, HRSA \$188,100

Christine Berry, LA Department  
of Insurance, \$33,900

Cyndy Robertson, LA  
Endowment for the Humanities,  
\$2,500

Rite Massey, Corporation for  
National and Community  
Services, \$82,171

Chris Gissendanner, NIH,  
\$70,000

Loren Hayes, NSF, \$11,061

Amal Kaddoumi, INBRE, \$54,000

Robert Hanser, US Department  
of Justice, \$117,515

Larry Ellerman, Governor's  
Office of Homeland Security and  
Emergency Preparedness,  
\$20,000

Catherine Estis, US Department  
of Education, \$345,483

