



Office of Grants & Sponsored Research

Grants Bulletin

Spring 2021

The Office of Grants and Sponsored Research (OGSR) represent the pre-award administration office and non-financial post award administration at St. John's University. We provide service and support related to research activities across all schools and units at the University and work closely with the Office of Business Affairs regarding post-award items such as the financial management of sponsored projects.

Sponsored programs include research, instruction and training, public service, evaluative testing, and other scholarly and creative activities conducted under the direction of University faculty and staff and funded by organizations external to the University in accordance with award regulations.

Please visit our website for more in-depth information at:

<https://www.stjohns.edu/academics/research/grants-and-sponsored-research>

RESEARCH MONTH EVENTS

April is recognized as Research Month at SJU and during this time, we celebrate the incredible research efforts of the St. John's community. Research opportunities add an important and valuable dimension to a St. John's education. Experience working on research projects is considered a high-impact educational practice and we are thrilled to share with you the work of our students and faculty. The diversity of topics and projects in which our students participate is a testament to the outstanding talent of St. John's student body. Please explore the Research Month website and consider joining the events.

Many thanks to the volunteers for their hard work, dedication, and efforts to make Research Month an important highlight for St. John's. A list of the Research Month committee members can be found below the calendar of events. The link for a calendar of events is provided below.

32nd ANNUAL GRANTS RECEPTION

The 32nd Annual Grants Reception will be held remotely on **Thursday April 29, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Please register at <https://stjohns.libcal.com/event/7612553>

This year, we will recognize the efforts of **Yong Yu, Ph. D.** (Professor, Department of Biological Sciences), **Francis Fallon, Ph. D.** (Professor, Department of Philosophy) **Tanaji Talele, Ph.D.,**

(Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences) and **Christina Quartararo** (Executive Director, Inbound Programs, Office of International Education) for their contributions to research and sponsored programs.

RESEARCH IN A COVID ENVIRONMENT

Please join us in a discussion concerning research in the COVID era with panelists:

Ray DiGiuseppe, St. John's College, Psychology, IRB Chair

Vivek Gupta, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences

Jared Littman, Director Office of Grants and Sponsored Research, IRB member

Mary Noe, CCPS, Criminal Justice, Legal Studies and Homeland Security, IRB member

Ketankumar Patel, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences

The meeting link will be sent prior to the event, so please look out for an email from

CTL@stjohns.edu.

The panel will take place virtually on **Thursday April 22** from 2:00 PM-3:15 PM.

Please reference the full calendar of research month activities at:

<https://www.stjohns.edu/academics/research/research-month-2021>

RESEARCH FINANCIAL CONFLICT of INTEREST POLICY

The research financial conflict of interest policy has been updated February 2021 and can be found on our website at the link provided below:

The policy can be referenced on the OGSR website at:

[Updated Financial Conflict of Interest Policy](#)

STUDENT RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY CENTER (SROC)

The **Student Research Opportunity Center (SROC)** is located inside the main entrance of the **D'Angelo Center**, featuring two 50-inch touch-screen monitors that provide listings of research opportunities available to both undergraduate and graduate students.

The SROC was created to engage more students in research and projects (high impact practice) that would afford undergraduate and graduate students internal research opportunities. Students can benefit from these opportunities by gaining knowledge and experience to support their career goals. Our aim is to create the researchers of tomorrow. At St. John's University, you will find a very supportive researcher environment at every level.

We invite and encourage faculty to take advantage of the SROC by filling out the [Research Project Student Request Form](#) information about any opportunities you can offer.

The SROC benefits students as well as faculty by promoting the culture of research on campus. As positions are posted, we will contact students to alert them of new research opportunities available via the SROC.

New Awards to Note:

Dr. Aaron Muth, Assistant Professor of Medicinal Chemistry (College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences), is the recipient of a **\$492,000** *Support for Competitive Research (SCORE SC2)* grant from the **National Institutes of Health** (NIH/NIGMS) for his project titled “Developing Chemical Probes to Decipher Gankyrin Biology”. The aim of this project is to develop chemical probes selective for the oncoprotein, gankyrin. Gankyrin is an understudied protein which is overexpressed in numerous cancer types and appears to play a key role in regulating cancer proliferation and metastasis. This research aims to utilize our novel gankyrin-targeting probes to shed light on gankyrin’s biological role in certain cancers. These chemical probes will also aid in validating gankyrin as an important therapeutic target for multiple cancer types. Ultimately, this project will provide the chemical tools required to fully understand gankyrin’s biological roles which will directly impact therapeutic advancements in a variety of cancer types.

Dr. Daniel Ness, Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, is the recipient of the Robert Noyce Teaching Scholarship Program grant in the amount of **\$623,615** for the first three years sponsored through the National Science Foundation (NSF) for his project titled “St. John’s University (SJU) Noyce Spatial Thinking Academy”. The total award across the five year project period from the NSF is **\$1,200,000**. In collaboration with Co-Project Directors **David Bell, Gina Florio, Nancy Morabito**, and **Richard Rosso**, this program aims to serve the national need of providing STEM students with the foundations of spatial skills, which serve as key tools and techniques that undergird numerous STEM concepts and will help in developing highly effective STEM teachers and teacher leaders.

The Spatial Thinking Academy is a five-year project designed to motivate talented students in the STEM disciplines and STEM professionals to become successful STEM teachers in high-need public schools. The current project echoes the Noyce Foundation’s mission—to improve the lives of students by strengthening STEM instruction provided within K-12 educational systems. To this end, the Spatial Thinking Academy seeks to improve the lives of students by strengthening STEM instruction within K-12 educational systems through the use of spatial thinking skills as a cross-cutting theme—one that is required for career readiness in the 21st century scientific community.

The Spatial Thinking Academy will include partnerships with disadvantaged, high-need schools in the greater New York City metropolitan area. The goal and scope of the project will be to recruit, support, and retain talented STEM students who will pursue a career as a biology, chemistry, physics, environmental science, or mathematics teacher in high-need public schools. In doing so, the Spatial Thinking Academy will support thirty-six (36) talented STEM individuals to serve in these schools and will provide two pathways leading to New York State Teacher Initial Certification. Pathway 1 is designed for twenty-four (24) undergraduate STEM majors who will complete a STEM degree at the end of the fourth year and complete a master's degree in Adolescent or Childhood education during the fifth year. Funding will be planned for year five, which will include a summer professional development transition into the fifth academic year. Pathway 2 is designed for twelve (12) recent STEM graduates or STEM professionals seeking initial teaching certification as career changers. They will enroll in a one-year program to complete a master's degree in Adolescent or Childhood education and will be funded for that year, which will include a summer professional development transition into the academic year.

INTERNAL REVIEW PROCESS FOR ALL OUTGOING PROPOSALS

All outgoing proposals being submitted to the attention of an external sponsor (including individual applications and Fellowships) must first be vetted through the Office of Grants and Sponsored Research prior to agency deadlines to ensure compliance to institutional and external regulations, adhering fully to this internal review process.

Any awards that subsequently result from independent submissions without prior OGSR administrative review will be automatically deemed as non-compliant with this internal process and run the risk of being declined by the University.

In order to guarantee the submission of all competitive grant proposals, it is required that all final applications for external support be in receipt of the Office of Grants and Sponsored Research for internal review no later than **five (5) business days prior to the applicable agency deadline**.

Sufficient lead time should be provided for institutional review and endorsement, and to accommodate applicable submission mechanics (either electronically or hard copy). The OGSR will do everything possible to ensure that a proposal is submitted complete and on time; however, as the amount of processing time is reduced, so are our chances to take the appropriate actions leading to strong, competitive grant awards.

***All cost share requests must undergo initial vetting and secure the approval of Business Affairs,** and advance time must be afforded them to review any and all SJU contributions prior to your submission. All such final proposals (bearing the approvals of your Chair, Dean or Supervisor) should be in receipt of the OGSR no later than **ten (10) business days prior to the agency deadline**.

Once your budget is finalized, the assigned OGSR Grants Specialist will provide you with the electronic **Cayuse SP internal review** platform for routing through administrative channels. Through use of this system, OGSR will initiate an electronic routing chain which will require the initial approvals of (in following order) the PI, Chair, Dean (or applicable Director).

The following supporting documentation should be uploaded into Cayuse for review:

- **Final Budget/Justification**
- **Abstract**
- **Proposal Narrative**

Only after these internal authorizations are in place, the OGSR will submit the complete proposal to the attention of the sponsor.

Proposals not following these described procedures and internal deadlines will be **deemed as non-compliant with institutional process**, and their submission cannot be guaranteed as a result.

Enjoy research month activities and have a successful rest of the semester. Please contact the OGSR with any sponsored program needs.