



Office of Grants and Sponsored Research

Grants Bulletin

Spring 2018

The Office of Grants and Sponsored Research (OGSR) represents the *preaward* administration office and nonfinancial 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 postaward 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.

For more information, visit stjohns.edu/about/administrative-offices/provost/grants-and-sponsored-research.

SAVE THE DATE: 29TH ANNUAL GRANTS RECEPTION

The 29th Annual Grants Reception will be held on Thursday, **April 26**, from 1:50 to 3:15 p.m. in the **D'Angelo Center Ballroom, Room 416 AB**.

This year, the OGSR will recognize the research efforts of **Matteo Ruggiu, Ph.D.**, (St. John's College, Department of Biological Sciences) and **Vikas V. Dukhande, Ph.D.**, (College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences).

In order to confirm your attendance, please **RSVP** to the attention of Adrianna Berlingerio at berlinga@stjohns.edu no later than **Monday, April 16**.

SUMMER SUPPORT OF RESEARCH

Tuesday April 3: Summer Support of Research applications are due to the OGSR. Proposals should be submitted via e-mail to Jared Littman at littmanj@stjohns.edu and berlinga@stjohns.edu.

The Summer Support of Research program is designed to foster an institutional culture of faculty research productivity. To this end, the University has made available a limited number of funds for full-time faculty. It is the expectation that this program will lead to scholarly productivity as well as the potential to increase our external funding. Therefore, recipients of support from this internal grant are required to submit a proposal to an external funding agency.

RESEARCH MONTH EVENT SERIES

Monday, April 9

Interdisciplinary Research Roundtable:
D'Angelo Center, Room 416A

12:15–1:40 p.m.

Fulbright Scholar Program: Meet Peter Raucci, Outreach and Recruitment Specialist at the Council for International Exchange of Scholars

Please RSVP to <https://stjohns.libcal.com/event/3825873>.

Monday, April 16

Interdisciplinary Research Roundtable:

D'Angelo Center, Room 416A

12:15–1:40 p.m.

Student Success and the Research Opportunity Center: Created to engage more students in research and projects (high-impact practice) that would afford undergraduate and graduate students internal research opportunities. A lively discussion between faculty and students is encouraged to discuss opportunities in research.

Please RSVP to <https://stjohns.libcal.com/event/3825874>.

Thursday, April 19

Student and Faculty Poster Session

Taffner Field House

Noon–3 p.m.

Student/Faculty Oral Presentations

D'Angelo Center Ballroom, Rooms 201, 212, 301, 311, 312, 401, 412

12:15–1:40 p.m.

Thursday, April 26 29th

Annual Grants Reception

D'Angelo Center Ballroom

1:50–3:15 p.m.

Please RSVP to <https://stjohns.libcal.com/event/3917828>.

COLLEGE of PHARMACY PROFESSOR AWARDED NIH SCORE GRANT

Dr. Vikas V. Dukhande, Assistant Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been awarded a National Institutes of Health grant to study the connection between Lafora disease (LD) and diabetes. The total award amount is \$492,000 through the Support of Competitive Research (SCORE) Pilot Project Award (SC2) program of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, a branch of the NIH.

The SCORE program provides research capacity building support to under-resourced institutions with limited NIH R01 funding that have explicitly stated historical missions or historical track records focused on training and graduating students from backgrounds nationally **underrepresented** in biomedical research with B.S./B.A., M.S., or Ph.D. degrees in biomedically-related sciences, who represent an invaluable source of untapped talent.

Dr. Dukhande started his research on LD as a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Matthew S. Gentry, Ph.D., at the University of Kentucky. LD is rare genetic glycogen-metabolic epilepsy. Patients get initial symptoms such as seizures around 10 years of age and survive only 10–15 more years. As LD patients die in the second or third decade of their life, a correlation with type-2 diabetes, a disease occurring at a much later stage in life, is not established. However, at a molecular level there are intricate connections that are clearly evident. The metabolic aspects of LD have provided us insights in sugar metabolism. While connecting these dots, Dr. Dukhande decided to pursue the link between LD and diabetes. Dr. Dukhande's grant focuses on hormonal regulation, signaling, and functions of proteins involved in LD in normal physiology and diabetes pathophysiology. Approximately 10 percent of Americans have diabetes and even though we have medications to manage the disease, in-depth

molecular understanding of its metabolic processes is needed. Dr. Dukhande trains graduate students in pharmaceutical sciences, Pharm.D. students, and undergraduate students in his laboratory. He hopes that his research provides opportunities for students, particularly students from minority backgrounds, to experience biomedical research and become interested in careers in healthcare research.

Dr. Dukhande is highly appreciative of the support that he has received at St. John's University as he mentioned, "St. John's University has been a wonderful place to start my independent research career. I have always received the support from the university, college of pharmacy, and pharmaceutical sciences department in my research endeavors."

"Dr. Dukhande's NIH SCORE grant is for conducting cutting-edge research to help understand the mechanisms underlying diabetes pathophysiology, for the ultimate benefit of learning how to better manage the blood glucose levels in diabetes mellitus," said Vijaya L. Korlipara, Ph.D., Department Chair. "His grant will greatly enhance the department's research environment and profile. Students will benefit from participating in a NIH-funded project. Dr. Dukhande has a very promising future, and I look forward to hearing about new scientific discoveries stemming from his exciting research project."

"As a former NIH-funded researcher, I realize how difficult it is to attain NIH funding," said Russell J. DiGate, Ph.D., Dean, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. "Dr. Dukhande's receipt of this NIH SCORE grant is a testament to his scientific prowess, as well as his patience and determination. As the Dean, I am extremely proud of his success. I can only hope that it will be sustained throughout his scientific career here at St. John's University."

SJC BIOLOGY PROFESSOR AWARDED NATIONAL INSTITUTES of HEALTH GRANT

Yan Zhu, Ph.D. (St. John's College, Department of Biological Sciences) secured a competitive Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA R15) from NIH in the amount of \$492,000.

The objectives of the AREA program are to provide support for meritorious research, to strengthen the research environment of schools that have not been major recipients of NIH support, and to expose available undergraduate and/or graduate students in such environments to meritorious research.

Dr. Zhu stated, "In our newly awarded NIH grant titled *Elucidating the function of cancer-associated MDM2 mutations in p53 regulation*, we will focus on the mechanisms by which the oncogenic protein MDM2, and its cancer-associated mutants, regulate the function of p53. These studies will provide a better understanding of the oncogenic activities of MDM2 and a mechanistic basis for development of novel anticancer strategies. In addition, this project will enhance the research environment at St. John's University by providing undergraduate and graduate students with numerous opportunities to learn the fundamentals of biomedical research."

"This NIH AREA R15 grant was awarded to Yan because of the exceptional scholarly merit of the application, as well as Yan's excellent academic qualifications," said Ales Vancura, Ph.D., Chair of Biological Sciences. "We are very proud of Yan and want to congratulate her on this great achievement. The funding climate has become extremely competitive and Yan's new grant is a testament of her research efforts and research productivity. This grant will enhance the research environment at St. John's University and will provide undergraduate and graduate students with many opportunities to learn the fundamentals of research in biology."

THE SCHOOL of EDUCATION AWARDED US DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION GRANT

Seokhee Cho, Ph.D., the principal investigator of Project BRIDGE and the Chair and Professor, Department of Administrative and Instructional Leadership, was awarded a \$1.9 million Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Research Grant for 2017–2022 from the US Department of Education in collaboration with **John N. Spiridakis, Ph.D.**, Project Director and Professor of TESOL, Department of Education Specialties.

Project BRIDGE is entitled, “Developing Academic Proficiency of Young Gifted English Learners with Advanced Mathematics Program and Language Scaffolding.” Sonmi Jo, Ph.D., Research Director; James R. Campbell, Ph.D., Professor; and Judith F. Mangione, Ph.D., Associate Professor, The School of Education, are key research team members. External collaborators include M. Katherine Gavin, Ph.D., University of Connecticut; Nancy B. Hertzog, Ph.D., University of Washington; and Dr. Diane Rodriguez, Ph.D., Fordham University.

Project BRIDGE is the expansion of Dr. Cho’s previous Project HOPE (2009–2014) for Gifted English learners in grades three through five, supported by the same Javits Grant, US DOE. Project BRIDGE will adopt the same principles of Project HOPE but will serve younger, gifted, English learners from kindergarten through second grade.

Project BRIDGE aims to recognize and nurture the math talent of young, gifted, English learners whose talents are not easily recognized due to their limited English proficiency and educators’ deficit thinking. Teachers will be provided with professional development and mentoring on how to recognize the math talent of gifted English learners and nurture it with language scaffolding. Schools will be provided with an advanced and enriched math program. It is expected the program will demonstrate a positive impact on the math achievement, language proficiency, and reasoning of potentially gifted English learners in kindergarten through second grade, as it did for Project HOPE.

LANGUAGE CONNECTION AWARDED INSTITUTE for INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION GRANT

The Language Connection was recently selected to administer two programs for international students and professionals. The *Programa de Desenvolvimento Profissional para Professores de Língua Inglesa nos Estados Unidos* sends Brazilian teachers of English language to the United States for training in English language and English teaching methodology, as well as professional and cultural exchange. This six-week program brought 48 English teachers to the Manhattan campus in January. During their program, they participated in a number of workshops, including workshops on current pedagogical practices, led by Yvonne Pratt-Johnson, Ed.D., from The School of Education. Participants met with professionals in the field to exchange ideas on teaching and learning, and conducted site visits to New York City public schools, where they observed classes. The program is funded by both government and private funds from Brazil, coordinated and supported by the Fulbright Commission and the US Embassy in Brazil, and administered by the Institute for International Education.

The Language Connection has also coordinated a Friends of Fulbright program, in which 20 students from Argentina came to St. John’s to audit courses in their disciplines and enhance their English for six weeks. The program, administered by the Fulbright Commission in Argentina, seeks to provide Argentine students with exposure to the US educational system, as well as opportunities for cross-cultural communication. The 20 students currently on the Queens campus are auditing classes in St. John’s School of Law, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and College of Professional Studies. In addition to their classes and workshops in English, participants have had the opportunity to meet with administrators and faculty on campus to learn more

about St. John's and education in the United States. Participants will also hold a presentation for the St. John's community on Argentine culture and history later this month.

"It is a pleasure to see St. John's long association with Fulbright and IIE bear fruit in such remarkable ways," said Matthew Pucciarelli, Associate Provost for Global Programs. "We were honored and delighted to host each group of scholars, and hope that these programs are just the beginning of their engagement with the University and with New York City."

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY CENTER

During the spring 2017 semester, our newly created **Student Research Opportunity Center (ROC)** became operational. Located inside the main entrance of the D'Angelo Center, the ROC features two 50-inch, touch-screen monitors that continuously scroll listings of research opportunities available to both undergraduate and graduate students.

Faculty members have submitted information about available opportunities for students, a number of whom have already started to take advantage of this resource. Meanwhile, the Office of Grants and Sponsored Research continues to reach out to students about the ROC and the opportunities it has to offer.

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

THE CLARE BOOTHE LUCE PROGRAM

The Clare Boothe Luce (CBL) program was established to encourage women to enter, study, graduate, and prepare for careers in teaching and research in science, mathematics, and technological fields in which they have historically been underrepresented. Since its first grants in 1989, the Clare Boothe Luce program has become one of the single most significant sources of private support for women in science, mathematics, and engineering. St. John's University is one of 13 educational institutions specifically designated in Mrs. Luce's will to receive the income from an initial allocation in perpetuity. Under this program, St. John's is able to provide a limited number of competitive summer research scholarships to outstanding female undergraduates in the sciences. Summer Undergraduate Student Awards require a faculty mentor.

The application submission deadline (including all required materials, attachments, and recommendations) is **Wednesday, March 28**, to Women in Science, Newman Hall, room 106.

For more information, please visit stjohns.edu/announcement/clare-boothe-luce-undergraduate-research-scholarship-summer-2018.

NIST SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (SURF)

The OGSR commends the efforts of the undergraduate students, who submitted a record-breaking six proposals to the NIST SURF program in February. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is one of the nation's premiere research institutions for the physical and engineering sciences and provides a strong interface between government, industry, and academia.

The SURF program (operating in Boulder, CO, and Gaithersburg, MD) provides an opportunity for the NIST laboratories to encourage outstanding undergraduate students to pursue careers in science and

engineering. The objective of the SURF program is to build a mutually beneficial relationship among the student, their academic institution, and NIST.

One goal of the SURF program is to provide opportunities for the nation's next generation of scientists and engineers to engage in scientific research of the highest caliber at NIST, especially in ground-breaking areas of emerging technologies. This carries with it the hope of motivating individuals to pursue Ph.D.s in biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, materials science, mathematics, nanoscale science, neutron research, and/or physics, and to consider research careers. For more information, visit nist.gov/summer-undergraduate-research-fellowship-surf. The next call for SURF proposals is tentatively expected in the fall.

TIME and EFFORT POLICY

The full institutional Time and Effort policy can be referenced at stjohns.edu/about/administrative-offices/human-resources/hr-policy-manual/policy-318-time-and-effort-reporting-employees-working-sponsored-projects.

In order to certify that effort expended on a project is at least commensurate with the salary charged against the sponsored program, the University employs an after-the-fact effort reporting system for faculty, administrators, and staff who have a portion of their salary or time charged to a sponsored program. Individual effort reports are required for each cycle, as defined below, for all employees who have a portion of their salary or time charged to a federal sponsored program as mandated. The Office of Grants and Sponsored Research shall ensure full compliance with the University’s time and effort reporting requirements, and along with Business Affairs, maintain full documentation, which will be available for inspection by the University’s auditors.

2018 NATIONAL INSTITUTES of HEALTH (NIH) DEADLINES

Program	Deadline
NIH R01 Research Grants– <i>New</i>	February 5 June 5 October 5
NIH R01 Research Grants– <i>Renewal, Resubmission, Revision</i>	March 5 July 5 November 5
NIH R03 , R21 , R34 , Other Research Grants– <i>New</i>	February 16 June 16 October 16
NIH R03 , R21 , R34 , Other Research Grants– <i>Renewal, Resubmission, Revision</i>	March 16 July 16 November 16
NIH R15 Grants– <i>New, Renewal, Resubmission, Revision</i>	February 25, June 25, October 25