

THE RESEARCH CATALYST

Office of Research Services Newsletter | September, 2024



Dear DePaul University Community,

Welcome back! As the Associate Provost for Research, it is my honor to welcome you all as we embark on a new academic year filled with promise and opportunity. Over the past year, we have witnessed remarkable achievements and strides in our research community. Our faculty have been extraordinarily successful in securing both external and internal funding, which is crucial for driving cutting-edge research and fostering innovation.

This year, DePaul researchers received prestigious grants totaling \$12.1M from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and other major funding bodies. These funds support a wide range of projects, from pioneering biomedical research to impactful social sciences studies that address critical societal issues.

Internally, we have allocated over \$1M to support seed funding initiatives, interdisciplinary projects, and early-career researchers. Our internal grant programs have enabled numerous innovative projects to take flight, paving the way for future external funding opportunities.

Our faculty's dedication and excellence have been recognized with several distinguished awards. Externally, three DePaul's faculty received the designation of "Researchers-to-Know" from the Illinois Science and Technology Coalition (ISTC): Dr. Jacob Furst (School of Computing/CDM), Dr. Heather Quinn (School of Design/CDM), and Dr. Michelle Stuhlmacher (Geography/LAS). Internally, five faculty received the Spirit of Inquiry Award in recognition of their outstanding contributions to research, creative activities, and innovation: Drs. Roselyne Tchoua (CDM), Nezih Altay (BUS), David Sher (CSH), Sheira Malik (LAS), and Jess King (CDM). These recognitions are a true testimony that our faculty are the driving force behind our research excellence and that their contributions will be instrumental in mentoring the next generation of researchers and expanding our research capabilities.

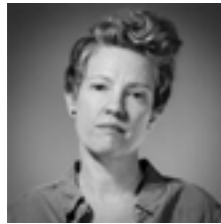
In closing, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our staff supporting research for their unwavering commitment to excellence. Your hard work, creativity, and dedication are the foundation of our success. As we embark on this new academic year, let us continue to support one another, embrace new challenges, and strive for excellence in all our endeavors.

Warm regards,
Daniela Stan Raicu
Associate Provost for Research
DePaul University



SPIRIT OF INQUIRY AWARDS

The University Research Council (URC) makes annual DePaul University Spirit of Inquiry Awards. The Awards honor specific research, scholarly or creative achievements that exhibit commitment to that spirit of creative inquiry, which we endeavor to inspire in our students. The 2024 Spirit of Inquiry Award Winners are highlighted below.



Jess King | Professional Lecturer | Jarvis College of Computing and Digital Media

“Jess’s contributions to the field of screenwriting and storytelling are truly groundbreaking. Their insightful work on inclusive screenwriting has not only challenged existing paradigms but has also opened up new avenues for narrative exploration.”

- Anu Rana, Professor



Nezh Altay | Associate Professor | Driehaus College of Business

“Dr. Altay is a prolific researcher and a leading name in humanitarian operations and supply chain management research. His never-ending scholarly inquiry and interest in alleviating human suffering through his research are prime examples of Vincentian values.”

- Alyssa Westring, Professor



Shiera Malik | Associate Professor | College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

“Dr. Malik’s scholarship embodies precisely those characteristics of quality, rigor, and originality that this award recognizes with precisely the kind of scholarly, curricular, and communal reach it celebrates.”

- Lisa Mahoney, Associate Professor



David Sher | Associate Professor | College of Science and Health

“One of the big strengths of Dr. Sher’s research program is the large and diverse group of mathematicians with whom he collaborates. This includes mathematicians in the US, Canada, UK, Italy, Finland, and Switzerland, and seems to be growing with each new project.”

- Karl Liechty, Associate Professor



Roselyne Tchoua | Assistant Professor | Jarvis College of Computing and Digital Media

“Roselyne’s interdisciplinary and human-centered approach to scientific inquiry and her focus on using the outcomes of her research for positive social impact are attributes that exemplify the best Vincentian traditions of commitment to service.”

- Bamshad Mobasher, Professor

MEET THE STAFF



ORS is excited to welcome Stacey Wagner as our new Senior Grant and Contract Specialist on the Pre-Award Team. Prior to this role, Stacey worked for 9 years in various departments within Northwestern University developing expertise in research administration with a particular focus on federal sponsors, like NIH and NSF. As a DePaul alum, Stacey is excited to use her research administration knowledge and skills to support DePaul in expanding its research enterprise and to hear about the research happening at the university. Outside of work Stacey loves to scuba dive, cook, sew, and attempt to keep her houseplants alive.

RESEARCHMATCH

The DePaul University IRB has joined ResearchMatch, a nonprofit program funded by the NIH. ResearchMatch helps to connect people interested in research studies with researchers from top medical centers across the U.S. and serves as a subject pool for health-based research studies.



ResearchMatch.org (RM) is an online recruitment and education platform that matches people interested in participating in research with researchers throughout the United States. ResearchMatch is hosted by Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC). ResearchMatch is a not-for-profit activity and is free for any participating site and their researchers. VUMC’s Institutional Review Board (IRB) provides regulatory oversight of ResearchMatch as a whole and relies on each institution to provide local IRB oversight.

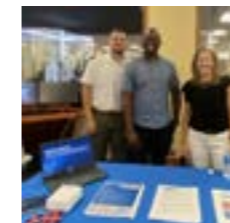
Those who join RM as a volunteer freely share their health or medication information with ResearchMatch with no data pulled from a volunteer’s electronic health record. Volunteers are connected with researchers conducting studies that may ‘match’ the volunteer’s interests and background. Once users join RM as a volunteer, they may receive an email message letting them know that a ResearchMatch researcher thinks they

may be a possible ‘match’ for their study. The researcher cannot contact volunteers directly until the volunteer chooses to release their contact information.

Researchers on ResearchMatch are able to message a de-identified cohort of potential participants based on their research study’s criteria (e.g., women between the ages of 45 and 80 with heart disease). They are only allowed to contact potential volunteers if their IRB has approved all aspects of the study and given permission to use ResearchMatch as a recruitment tool. DePaul University IRB approval should be sought before attempting to recruit through ResearchMatch.

More information can be found on the [DePaul University IRB website](#).

NEW FACULTY ORIENTATION



ORS staff participated in the annual New Faculty Orientation, sharing information on the various faculty support services the department offers.



FEATURED RESEARCHERS



Jes Klass is adjunct faculty for the School of Design, School of Cinematic Arts, and School of Continuing and Professional Studies, and is the Creative Director for the DePaul Instructional Game & Innovation (DIGI) Lab. DIGI partners with faculty, staff, and university community members to create games and experiences that help the DePaul University Community learn through games and play. The games DIGI creates are often part of research that help get to the bottom of exactly how and why we learn so well through play. DIGI creates a space for students (undergraduate and graduate) to get experience that parallels that of working in an indie game studio. The DIGI ethos is focused around professional development, collaboration, and mentorship, ensuring that students who work with DIGI get as much from their work experience as they're giving back to the university through the projects they collaborate on. Each team (Art, Programming, Production) has a lead that has worked in the lab for at least 2 years. This gives the Leads the experience of managing, project managing, giving actionable feedback, and taking client/collaborator meetings while ensuring that the students on their teams also get mentorship from their lead and from DIGI staff. As DIGI continues to grow and create educational games, Jes is working to ensure that students are top candidates as they enter the games industry.



Eric Norstrom, PhD is an associate professor in the Department of Neuroscience in the College of Science and Health. He studied psychology and music as an undergraduate and earned his PhD in neurobiology from the University of Chicago with a focus on prion diseases followed by a postdoctoral fellowship centered on Alzheimer's disease. His primary research focuses on the molecular mechanisms of Alzheimer's disease pathogenesis, with a particular emphasis on protein interactions and metabolism at the cellular level. Using cell culture models and in vitro systems, he seeks to understand what events lead to the cellular toxicity associated with Alzheimer's. His published work has elucidated mechanisms of prion reproduction and toxicity, Alzheimer's related protein interactions in living animals and cells, and technical advances in protein biochemistry among other topics. In addition to the important task of advancing scientific knowledge Dr. Norstrom has provided mentorship to dozens of students, guiding them through research projects that explore these critical processes. In 2023, he developed a course-based undergraduate research experience course (CURE) for the Department of Neuroscience which guided students through the development, execution, and communication of a novel research project from his lab. He has a secondary interest in the neuroscience of music and has developed a Science as a Way of Knowing course on the topic while currently formulating research questions to pursue in his lab. Dr. Norstrom currently serves as the chair of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).



SCHOLARSHIP LEARNING COMMUNITIES (SLCS)

Scholarship Learning Communities are small groups of faculty that meet regularly through the academic year to learn about a chosen topic together. Faculty of any rank are eligible to facilitate or participate in SLCS. Facilitators receive an honorarium of \$1,000 and participants receive an honorarium of \$300 at the end of the experience. [Find out more here.](#)



ChatGPT and Text Generative AI in Research
Facilitator: Ignacio Luri, Driehaus College of Business

This learning community will explore ChatGPT and other Text Generative AI applications to learn their implications for research. Meetings will be held monthly, with each meeting covering a different TexGenAI tool or a different aspect of this complex technological and sociocultural issue. Meetings will be discussion-heavy, with participants taking turns to lead each discussion.



Sustainability at DePaul - Finding Synergies and Collaborations
Facilitator: Kyle Grice, College of Science and Health

The goal of this learning community is to bring together scholars in sustainability-related areas from across DePaul to share our scholarship, find synergies, and develop collaboration opportunities. A key output will be a document about the sustainability-related research and scholarship at DePaul to identify funding opportunities to support collaborations identified through the SLC.



AI, Ethics, and Society
Facilitator: Bamshad Mobasher, Jarvis College of Computing and Digital Media

The goal of the AI, Ethics, and Society Scholarship Learning Community is to bring together an interdisciplinary group of scholars to explore focused research questions related to the societal impact of AI technologies and ethical considerations for the development and deployment of these technologies in different domains. The activities of this learning community will hopefully lead to further cross-college and cross program collaboration on AI-focused research projects or grant proposals, especially those with a societal impact.



Academic Writing Success & Accountability Group
Facilitator: Kim Amer, College of Science and Health

Writing scholarly manuscripts requires dedicated time, concentration, confidence and mentorship. To increase successful publication of scholarly manuscripts this group will have monthly meetings with specific content and writing goals. Follow up each month will focus on individual successes. Weathering decisions regarding publication will also be discussed.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



FALL 2024 EVENTS

Grant Writing Support Cohort

This group is for faculty with an identified federal proposal submission in mind. September 13, 27, October 11, 25, November 15, December 6, 10-11:30 via Zoom. [Register by September 6](#)

Council Grant Programs & AGIF Funding

This workshop will provide an overview of internal grant programs. September 19, 3:00 – 4:30 via Zoom. [RSVP](#)

Lunch & Learn: DePaul and RFUMS Collaboration for AI in Biomedical Discovery and Healthcare

Learn about currently funded DePaul-RFUMS research projects and discuss future research and funding opportunities. September 20, 10:00 – 2:00 at DePaul-Lincoln Park campus. [RSVP](#)

Proposal Budgeting 101

This workshop will provide an overview of the various considerations that factor into developing a grant budget and provide recommendations on how to put together your budget. September 27, 2:00 – 2:30 via Zoom. [RSVP](#)

eProtocol Overview

Find out about IRB review, the IRB website, and the eProtocol online submission process. This workshop will be helpful for anyone involved in human subjects research. October 4, 11:00 -12:00. [RSVP](#)

Paid Leave Workshop

This workshop will provide information on Paid Leave Programs, including eligibility requirements and salary implications. October 11, 1:00 – 2:00 via Zoom. [RSVP](#)

Grant Journal Entries: How and Why?

In this workshop, we will discuss grant-related cost transfers and walk through how to complete a Grant Journal Entry. October 17, 2:00 – 2:30 pm via Zoom. [RSVP](#)

Intro to Grant Writing

This set of sessions is designed for faculty who are new to grant writing, or who are exploring various ideas for funders and projects. October 18, 25, November 1, 1:30-3pm via Zoom. [Register by September 18](#)

Coffee & Connections

Share your research interests, explore potential collaborations, and build a robust professional network for interdisciplinary research opportunities. November 8, 10:00 – 11:00 am. In-Person, Loop Campus. [RSVP](#)

[Visit the ORS Events Page to find out more](#)

AGENCY UPDATES

Uniform Guidance Updates

In April, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released the [Final Rule updating Uniform Guidance](#). There are several major updates being implemented with this change, which will go into effect for federal awards made on or after October 1, 2024, including: equipment, indirect costs, prior approvals, fixed price subawards, and closeout costs.

NSF Updates

The National Science Foundation implemented a new [PAPPG](#), which took effect on May 20, 2024, including: proposal formatting, biosketches, and mentoring plans.

NIH Updates

Salary cap has been raised to \$221,900 (NOT-OD-24-057)

New NIH “Forms-I” grants application forms will be required for due dates on or after January 25, 2025 (NOT-OD-24-086)

Effective March 25, 2024, PIs should not mark-up changes within resubmission applications (NOT-OD-24-061)

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<https://offices.depaul.edu/research-services/>

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