News & Updates

Continuing Guidance Regarding the Government Re-Opening

The Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) has been and will continue to distribute new announcements from federal agencies regarding the recent re-opening of government operations. The following are the latest notices regarding the resumption of extramural activities:

- National Institutes of Health—NOT-OD-14-007 (October 22, 2013)
- National Science Foundation (October 23, 2013)
- Office of Management and Budget—all agency contingency plans

OSP appreciates your patience through this challenging experience and will provide updates as soon as possible via email announcements and through the OSP website. If you have questions and/or concerns about an upcoming proposal to be submitted to a U.S. funding agency, or regarding the re-establishment of deadlines—please contact your assigned OSP staff member or send an email to OSP@american.edu.

Foundation Center Webinar - Grant Research & Resources

The Foundation Center, in collaboration with the Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation, is offering a free, online webinar on how to become a better grantseeker. Take part in an informative discussion on the world of private grantmaking and the essentials of grantseeking from foundations and corporations. Learn how to best identify which grantmakers to approach and which tools and resources can help make your search more effective. Registered participants will learn:

- The structure and methodology of private grantmakers
- How to access the best resources for seeking private grants
- How to get free assistance from the Foundation Center’s network and websites

Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2013
Time: 1:00pm EST
Duration: 1 hour

Registration is required to view the webinar here >>
Funding Search Information Sessions
OSP has created a series of informational sessions for those interested in independently searching for funding opportunities. The sessions will provide training on how to use our current funding search databases, and will assist faculty and staff in developing user profiles to receive directly announcements of funding opportunities related to their research interests.

⇒ **Next Sessions:**
  - General Overview: November 7, 2013, 10:30-12:00 PM, Butler Board Room—*Open to all AU faculty and staff*
  - Unit/School Oriented (School of Communication): November 12, 2013, 10:00-12:00 PM, Butler Board Room—*Open to all SOC faculty and staff*

To view more information about the Funding Search Information sessions and how to register here >>

Research Administration Certification (RAC) Program
RAC is a comprehensive training and certification program designed to assist AU departmental and school/college level staff with research administration and management responsibilities. This 8-session program provides pertinent information to enable participants to effectively manage sponsored awards.

⇒ **Next Session:** Session 3—Grants Management I (Pre-Award)
  - November 14, 2013, 10:00-12:00 PM, McDowell Formal Lounge—*Instructor Led*

View more information about RAC and how to register for the instructor-led and online courses here >>

Grant Administration Roundtable (GAR) Sessions
OSP and Grants and Contracts Accounting (GCA) would like to invite you to the next GAR session where they will be discussing the following topics:
- Revisions to the Principal Investigator's (PI) Handbook
- Introduction to the Proposal Budget Template

⇒ **Next Session:** December 3, 2013, 10:00-11:30am, Butler Board Room

View more information about GAR and how to register here >>

Faculty Grant Writing Workshop—Provost Office
This grant writing workshop, offered in both the Spring and Fall semesters, focuses on the fundamentals of proposal writing, targeting funding opportunities and enhancing proposal writing skills.
Presented by Dr. Ralph Pollack, former AVP for Research at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC)
- November 11, 2013, 9:00—5:00pm

In addition, 1-on-1 sessions can be scheduled for November 12 and November 13 for individual faculty members who attended the Spring 2013 workshop and who feel they would benefit from a follow-up meeting with Dr. Ralph Pollack. Individual consultations can be arranged for any faculty member writing an application for external funding.

For more information about the workshop, click here >>

For faculty that are interested in attending the workshop and/or the 1-on-1 consultations should contact Anita Brown.
Research Matters

OSP SPOTLIGHT

Each month, OSP Monthly highlights a specific American University faculty/staff member for their contributions in providing cutting-edge research or a research related program that serves to create and advance knowledge, and enrich the resources of our educational community while answering and accelerating challenging issues we face today. This month, we are featuring Kathleen Monika Konaklieva, Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry.

Q&A with Monika Konaklieva

Q: Please tell us about what your research interests are:
Monika: My research group is focusing on the synthesis and evaluation of new antibacterial, neuroprotective agents and lipoprotein metabolism modulators, as well as development of efficient and environmentally-friendly synthetic approaches for their preparation. These directions encompass: 1) The synthesis of antimicrobial compounds which were designed to have an unprecedented mode of action against bacterial enzymes; 2) the effect of the neurotransmitters involved as mammalian nervous system messengers and immune system and 3) the design and synthesis of modulators of the lipoprotein metabolism associated with atherosclerosis. My research group typically consists of 5-10 students, both graduate and undergraduate/honors and post baccalaureate pre-medical students who are actively involved in the ongoing organic-synthetic medicinal chemistry projects for preparation of the antibacterial and neuroprotective agents mentioned earlier. We have collaborations for evaluating the compounds we have designed and synthesized within the Washington DC area with the Tuberculosis (TB) Research Laboratory, NIAID/NIH and Cardiopulmonary Branch, NHLBI/NIH; as well as within AU, namely the BCaN Center and the Center for Food Studies, as well as with other medical universities across the country, such as Midwestern University.

Q: In your own words, what is the main purpose/importance of your research?
Monika: To design novel antibacterial compounds that have different modes of action, as compared to those in clinical use against different bacteria (e.g., those highly resistant to current types of antibiotics) and to improve present understanding of the role of certain metabolic pathways in lipid and lipoprotein metabolism, and how their modulation could provide novel interventions in the treatment of cardiovascular and neurodegenerative/psychiatric disorders.

Q: Currently, what type of research are you primarily focused on?
Monika: 1) The development of a library of compounds with activity against latent tuberculosis. Despite advances in chemotherapy and the widespread use of the Bacillus Calmette-Gue'rîn (BCG) vaccine in the developing world, Tuberculosis remains a leading infectious killer worldwide with an estimated 1.4 million deaths in 2010 alone. As of 2011, there were about 440,000 cases of Multi Drug Resistant (MDR) - TB per year, accounting for 150,000 deaths, and 25,000 cases of Extreme Drug Resistant (XDR)-TB. Cases of MDR-TB and XDR-TB have been reported in the U.S. and other developed countries, and a totally drug resistant (TDR)-TB has been recently documented in Asia. Although drugs exist to treat TB, they are not effective against bacilli that persist in a dormant or latent state within host lesions. Our compounds are non-toxic to mammalian cells within their antimicrobial activity range and have activity against aerobically growing, as well as non-replicating persistent MTB. They have the potential to be used not only in chemotherapy treatments against active tuberculosis but also against the tuberculosis reservoir represented by the 2 billion asymptotically infected people.

2) Development of a library of compounds with activity against glutamate neurotoxicity. L-glutamate (Glu) is the principal excitatory amino acid neurotransmitter in the mammalian central nervous system (CNS). Although crucial for normal neuronal excitability, high doses of Glu in the synapse (often induced by stress) can lead to nervous cell damage and cell death, a process known as excitotoxicity. Excitotoxicity is associated with a broad spectrum of diseases including: Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s, depression, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), brain tumors, epilepsy, HIV dementia, and stroke. We have been developing compounds that show a protective effect against glutamate cytotoxicity. Our current efforts are directed towards improving of the activity of the initial lead compound, as well as an understanding of its mechanism of action.

Q: What are some of the ways to learn and find out about your research?
Monika: A Google search would allow for a quick overview of the published research articles.

Q: What inspired you to enter your field of research initially?
Monika: Drug development.
### Disadvantages and Advantages of Public vs. Private Funding

#### ADVANTAGES

**PUBLIC**
- Purpose set by legislation
- Focus on functions usually impacting significant groups in society
- Have the most money and more likely to award large grants/contracts
- More likely to pay all project costs and/or cover indirect costs
- Easier to find information about and to stay current on funding priorities
- Application processes and deadlines are public information and detailed
- Use prescribed formats for proposals. Many use “common” application forms
- Possibilities of renewal clearly stated
- Plentiful staff resources. Most projects have specific contact person
- More likely to have resources for technical assistance
- Funds available to wider array of organizations (for profit and nonprofit institutions)

**PRIVATE**
- More likely to focus on emerging issues, new needs, populations not yet recognized as “special interests”
- Often willing to pool resources with other funders
- Wide range in size of available grants—some can make very large awards, others are strictly limited
- More willing source of start-up or experimental funds
- Full length, complex proposals not always necessary
- Can be much more flexible in responding to unique needs and circumstances
- Able to avoid bureaucratic requirements for administering grants
- Can often provide alternative forms of assistance, i.e., software/hardware donations, materials, expertise, etc.
- Fewer applications in many cases
- Can generally be much more informal and willing to help with the proposal process

#### DISADVANTAGES

**PUBLIC**
- Are much more bureaucratic
- Lengthy proposal requirements and complex application, administration and compliance procedures
- Reviewers may tend to favor established applicants
- Sometimes difficult to sell new ideas and high-risk approaches
- Cost to applicants much higher. May entail extensive compliance procedures
- Changing political trends affect stability of some programs. Availability of funds can change rapidly

**PRIVATE**
- Average grant size is usually much smaller
- Priorities can change very rapidly, continuation of support can be difficult to predict
- Information on policies and procedures must generally be researched, can be time consuming
- Less likely to cover all project costs and most do not cover indirect costs
- Limited staff, fewer opportunities for personal contact and/or site visits
- May not be clear about reasons for rejection. May be difficult to improve for resubmission

(Adapted from “Getting Funded - A Complete Guide to Proposal Writing” by Mary Hall).
NOTES & TIPS

Modified Total Direct Cost - What Not to Include

As a reminder, AU’s negotiated rate assesses indirect costs on a Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC) basis. Per OMB Circular A-21, Modified Total Direct Costs excludes indirect costs on the following:

- **Equipment Costs:**
  - Purchase including shipping and sales tax of tangible, non-expendable personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of $5,000 or more per unit. This includes software costing $5,000 or more per copy license (including the cost of sales tax, shipping, and any installation charges).
  - Fabrication of equipment

- **Rent, Alterations and Renovations:**
  - Off-campus rental of space and related maintenance costs (janitorial, utilities) but only if they are included in the rental agreement.
  - Rent, alterations and renovations does not include other kinds of rental costs, such as for hotel rooms, equipment, or automobiles.

- **Tuition Remission:**
  - Direct-costed expenses for tuition and fee remissions (including graduate student health insurance) for University students.

- **Scholarships and Fellowships:**
  - Financial aid paid directly to University students (scholarships, fellowships, stipends, dependency allowances).
  - This category does not include disbursement of salaries and wages.

- **Subawards/Subcontracts in Excess of $25,000:**
  - That portion over $25,000 of each subcontract with a third party.
  - Facilities and Administrative (F&A) costs are assessed on the first $25,000 during each competitive project period.
  - The initial $25,000 of each subaward is included in the base.
  - When issuing multiple subcontracts to the same institution, exclude that portion over $25,000 of the combined amount of all of the subcontracts to that institution.

- **Participant Support Costs:**
  - Defined as pass-through costs to support program participation directly attributable to an individual who is not an employee of AU or a consultant providing a service.

**POST SUBMISSION Considerations—A Checklist**

- Retain the submission verification confirmation provided by OSP or the funding agency directly. This is to ensure enough time to remedy online glitches that occurred after submission.
- If allowed, contact program officials and partners to let them know the proposal/application has been submitted.
- Don’t panic when you receive a call or inquiry from the funding agency regarding your proposal/application. Generally the funding agency is contacting you to clarify information regarding your proposal/application in anticipation of issuing an award.
- If your proposal/application is not funded, don’t become disheartened. If permitted, contact the program official to gather information on the weaknesses and strengths of your proposal.

*(Courtesy of ‘The Grant seeker’s Checklist’—CD Publications, 2013)*
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Arts & Humanities

**Sculpture Space—**Artist Residency**
Sculpture Space is unique in North America for its service to sculptors who come to Utica, NY to make new work. The program has helped advance the careers of over 400 national and international artists since 1976. Artists-in-residence have access to specialized resources available in the Mohawk Valley to make sculpture on a scale which they otherwise might not afford, in a supportive environment conducive to experimentation. Work that is made and first seen in Utica is often exhibited in galleries, museums and sculpture parks worldwide.**

**Deadline:** December 1, 2013

**Institute of Museum and Library Services—**Become a Preserve America Community**
Community leaders are encouraged to apply for the Preserve America community designation, which recognizes a community’s efforts to care for and share its cultural and natural heritage. The designation also makes the community eligible for special federal funding. Preserve America is a White House initiative conducted in cooperation with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and other federal agencies.* Through participation in Preserve America, communities share knowledge about the nation’s past, strengthen local identities and local pride, increase neighborhood participation in preserving the country’s cultural and natural heritage assets, and support economic vitality.**

**Deadline:** December 1, 2013

**A Blade of Grass—**Fellowship for Socially Engaged Art and Organizational Project Grants**
The organization provides funding for artists and art-focused nonprofits focusing on social change through the arts. The fellowship supports 1) socially engaged projects featuring artists in leadership roles 2) dialogue-based projects emphasizing active and sustainable partnerships with communities; and 3) projects where artists engage community members as equal partners on locally relevant issues.**

**Deadline:** December 2, 2013

**National Endowment for the Humanities—**Sustaining Cultural Heritage Traditions**
Helps cultural institutions meet the complex challenge of preserving large and diverse holdings of humanities materials for future generations by supporting preventive conservation measures that mitigate deterioration and prolong the life of collections.**

**Deadline:** December 3, 2013

**Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation—**USArtists International Grants**
USArtists International is committed to ensuring that the impressive range of expression of the performing arts in the U.S. is represented abroad, and that the creative and professional development of American artists is enhanced through participation at significant international festivals. Through USAI, grants are available to American dance, music and theater ensembles and solo performers that have been invited to perform at significant international festivals anywhere in the world outside of the U.S.**

**Deadline:** December 6, 2013

**National Endowment for the Arts—**Translation Grants/Projects**
This program supports projects that translate specific creative works of prose, poetry or drama from other languages into English. NEA encourages translations of writers and of work that are not well represented in English translation. Priority will be given to projects involving work not previously translated into English.**

**Deadline:** December 9, 2013

**Brown University—**John Carter Brown Library Research Fellowships in Colonial History**
The John Carter Brown Library will award forty research fellowships for the year July 1, 2014—June 30, 2015. Sponsorship of research is reserved exclusively for scholars whose work is centered on the colonial history of the Americas, North and South, including all aspects of the European, African, and Native American involvement.**

**Deadline:** December 15, 2013

This program seeks applications for a year-long workshop on the analysis and presentation of multimedia history and literature. The digital revolution presents challenges and opportunities to customary ways of conducting research, presenting findings, storytelling, and reading. Likewise, the widespread availability of media recording technology enables text, oration, graphics, objects, and even embodied performance to supplement, or even to constitute entirely, new forms of scholarly and artistic production. Multimedia scholarship thus invites us to reconsider how history and literature have been, could be, and should be represented.**

**Deadline:** December 16, 2013
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Social Sciences & Sciences

National Science Foundation—Physics at the Information Frontier
Physics at the Information Frontier includes support for data-enabled science, community research networks, and new computational infrastructure, as well as next-generation computing. It focuses on cyber-infrastructure for the disciplines supported by the Physics division while encouraging broader impacts on other disciplines. Disciplines within the purview include: atomic, molecular, optical, plasma, elementary particle, nuclear, particle astrophysics, gravitational and biological physics.
**Deadline: November 29, 2013**

American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation—Joint Grant Awards Program
The Joint Grant Awards Program (JGAP) supports research that poses questions of high relevance to family medicine. The program goals are: 1) Support research of value to the practicing family physician 2) Encourage proposals by junior investigators 3) Fund pilot studies
**Deadline: December 1, 2013**

The McKnight Foundation—McKnight Technological Innovations in Neuroscience Awards
These awards support scientists working on new and unusual approaches to understanding brain function. The program seeks to advance and enlarge the range of technologies available to the neurosciences. It does not support research based primarily on existing techniques. The Endowment Fund is especially interested in how technology may be used or adapted to monitor, manipulate, analyze, or model brain function at any level, from the molecular to the entire organism. Collaborative and cross-disciplinary applications are invited.
**Deadline: December 2, 2013**

Burroughs Wellcome Fund—Preterm Birth Initiative
The initiative is designed to bring together a diverse interdisciplinary group with expertise in genetics/genomics, immunology, microbiology and proteomics along with the more traditional areas of parturition research such as maternal fetal medicine, obstetrics, and pediatrics to address scientific issues related to preterm birth.
**Deadline: December 2, 2013**

National Institutes of Health—National Institute on Drug Abuse National Early Warning System
This opportunity solicits applications for a single Coordinating Center to support novel data acquisition strategies, data harmonization, analysis and dissemination activities on emerging and current drug abuse trends across selected communities. The Coordinating Center will (1) establish and develop key community-level indicators for monitoring drug abuse trends and early identification of new synthetic drugs and emerging issues including establishing harmonization of indicators and of presentation and analysis of indicators across the selected communities; (2) identify and develop novel sources of data including data available via the internet and obtain relevant data from various sources; (3) conduct cross-site data analyses from the harmonized Coordinating Center data; (4) develop and execute a dissemination and publication plan of results and findings from the Coordinating Center data, including development and maintenance of a website for disseminating data and findings; (5) establish an Early Warning Network composed of local experts on drug abuse data from the selected communities, as well as NIDA-supported community-based researchers, to assist in the ongoing monitoring and interpretation of data and (6) provide operational, administrative and logistical support for the Coordinating Center data harmonization and dissemination initiative.
**Deadline: December 3, 2013**

Health Resources & Services Administration—Public Education Efforts to Increase Solid Organ Donation
These funds educate the public about the need for solid organ donation and encourage positive decreased donation decisions, documentation and family discussions. The specific purpose is to promote broader implementation and evaluation of interventions to increase public commitment to solid organ donation.
**Deadline: December 3, 2013**

American Federation of Aging Research and Rotary International—Coins for Alzheimer’s Research Trust Fund
The purpose of this Foundation is to collect and provide funds for leading edge research for the cure/prevention of Alzheimer’s Disease. This is accomplished by providing financial support for the early and conceptual plans of those projects that may not yet be supported by extensive preliminary data but have the potential to substantially advance biomedical research. These projects should be distinct from those designed to increase knowledge in a well established area unless they intend to extend previous discoveries toward new directions or applications.
**Deadline: December 4, 2013**
Saucony—Run for Good Program to Fight Youth Obesity
The Saucony Run For Good Foundation is committed to informing the public about the cause and prevention of childhood obesity and provides funding to optimize the impact and success of community organizations that promote running and healthy-lifestyle programs for youth. The foundation awards between ten and twenty grants a year for programs that encourage active and healthy lifestyles in children. To be eligible for a grant, organizations must have 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, operate a program that serves youth age 18 or under, and be able to demonstrate positive impact on the lives of program participants through their increased participation in running.
Deadline: December 13, 2013

Massachusetts Institute of Technology—McGovern Institute for Brain Research—Scolnick Prize in Neuroscience
The Scolnick Prize is awarded annually by the McGovern Institute to recognize outstanding advances in the field of neuroscience. The prize is named in honor of Dr. Edward M. Scolnick, who stepped down as President of Merck Research Laboratories in December 2002 after holding Merck's top research post for 17 years. Dr Scolnick is now at the Broad Institute, where he established the Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research.
Deadline: December 15, 2013

The Gruber Foundation—International Prize Program in Cosmology, Genetics, and Neuroscience
The Gruber Foundation honors individuals in the fields of cosmology, genetics, neuroscience, justice and women’s rights, whose groundbreaking work provides new models that inspire and enable fundamental shifts in knowledge and culture.
Deadline: December 15, 2013

United States-Japan Foundation—US-Japan Policy
This Foundation supports a variety of policy-related studies, initiatives and exchanges in pursuit of its mission; to promote stronger ties between the United States and Japan through greater mutual knowledge and understanding, to increase broad awareness of important policy issues, and to address common concerns in the Asia-Pacific region through the US-Japan perspective.
Deadline: December 15, 2013 (Letter of Inquiry)

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society—Screen to Lead Program
LLS is sponsoring and issuing a request for applications from qualified academic laboratories for drug discovery support specifically geared towards medicinal chemistry and/or drug target screening in hematological malignancies. LLS recognizes a significant need for investigators to receive resources for high-throughput screening and optimization of small molecules into drug-like compounds suitable for in vivo testing in a disease-relevant model that can be used for further preclinical proof-of-concept testing of the new drug target.
Deadline: December 15, 2013

McKee Foundation—Grants
The purpose of the Robert E. and Evelyn McKee Foundation is to use its funds exclusively within the U.S. for the benefit of charitable, educational, religious, medical, community funds, and civic institutions. The Foundation awards grants in the following categories: 1) Civic, cultural and religion 2) Education, literature, and science 3) Hospitals 4) Medical, medical research, and mental health 5) Welfare and rehabilitation 6) Youth activities 7) Community funds
Deadline: December 15, 2013

TJX Foundation - Foundation Grant
The TJX Foundation has a primary mission of contributing to programs that provide basic-need services to disadvantaged children, women and families in communities where TJX companies do business. The Foundation seeks to support charities that conform to the following guidelines: civic/community, domestic violence prevention, education, health, and social services.
Deadline: December 16, 2013

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation—Environmental Solutions for Communities
This program is designed to support projects that link economic development and community well-being to the stewardship and health of the environment. Funding priorities for this program include: supporting sustainable agricultural practices and private lands stewardship, conserving critical land and water resources and improving water quality, restoring and managing natural habitat, species, and ecosystems that are important to community livelihoods, facilitating investments in green infrastructure, renewable energy and energy efficiency, and encouraging broad-based citizen participation in project implementation.
Deadline: December 16, 2013

Baxter—Bioscience Grants
The Bioscience Grants program was established to foster advances in scientific research and medical education. With an emphasis on the patient as a priority, the program is designed to support novel therapeutic discoveries. Grant proposals demonstrating exceptional scientific merit and therapeutic alignment are given priority for funding and product awards.
Deadline: December 31, 2013
National Institutes of Health

NIH Funding Opportunities—Grants & Funding Page

(See search by keywords to narrow down your search to locate funding opportunities)

**Education**

Vernier/NSTA—**Technology Award**
The Vernier/NSTA Technology Awards promote the innovative use of data-collection technology using a computer, graphing calculator, or other handheld in the science classroom.

**Deadline: November 30, 2013**

National Endowment for Financial Education—**General Grants (Financial Literacy Research)**
The grants program seeks innovative research that can make a profound contribution to the field of financial literacy. Inquiries are encouraged from disciplines in fields as diverse as: behavior, economies, neuroscience, sociology, psychology, marketing, finance, education, change theory, decision sciences and others. Project outcomes should be actionable in the field of financial literacy, directly relevant to the financial well-being of the public, and able to be applied broadly.

**Deadline: December 3, 2013**

Northrop Grumman Foundation—**Commitment to Education Grant**
Providing unique education experiences related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) for students and teachers is the Northrop Grumman Foundation’s top priority. The Foundation supports diverse and sustainable national-level programs that enhance experience for students and provide teachers with the training and tools they need to be successful in the classroom.

**Deadline: December 6, 2013**

Brady Education Foundation—**Research & Program Evaluations in Early Education**
The Brady Education Foundation seeks to close the achievement gap for children at risk for poor school outcomes due to environmental factors associated with living in poverty. The Foundation pursues its mission by promoting collaboration between researchers and educators via the funding of research and program evaluations in education.

**Deadline: December 15, 2013**

**General**

Federal Contracts

Federal Business Funding Opportunities

(See search by keywords to narrow down your search to locate funding opportunities)
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Newsletter-L@listserv.american.edu

Here is some of what to expect in next month’s OSP Monthly:

- OSP Spotlight with Victoria Connaughton, Associate Professor, Department of Biology
- Redesign of Funding Opportunities & Announcements Webpage

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