Research Enhancement Assistance Program (REAP)

FY 23: Year End Report
Research Enhancement Assistance Program (REAP)

- Manage Intramural Seed Grant Programs
- Collaborate with the Office of Institutional Advancement
- Develop and maintain Funding Opportunities
- Support Research Café
Research Enhancement Assistance Program (REAP)

FY 22: REAP received fourteen applications, and five intramural research projects were funded by the Office of Research.

- Bridge Grants (2), Early Investigator Grants (2), Team Science Grant (1)
- **Total amount awarded in FY 22: $309,971**

FY 23: REAP received twenty-two applications, and nine intramural research projects were funded by the Office of Research. This is a **57% increase** compared to FY 22.

- Early Investigator Grants (3), New Investigator Grants (3), Team Science Grants (3)
- **Total amount awarded in FY 23: $784,408.20**
Research Enhancement Assistance Program (REAP)

**FY 23:** REAP surveyed 15 applicants about their experience working with REAP, working with InfoReady application software, and receiving reviewer’s comments.

(40% participation rate: 5 ESI and 1 Team Science)

The feedback was positive. Applicants acknowledged a positive experience working with REAP, the instructions on the REAP web page were clear, and most applicants found reviewer’s comments helpful.

**Areas for improvement:** InfoReady was not easy for some to navigate.
Survey was distributed to twenty-four reviewers (internal and external); eleven reviewers participated (46% participation rate)

The feedback was positive. Reviewers acknowledged InfoReady was easy to use, the REAP web page clearly outlines the review criteria, and reviewers had a positive experience with REAP.

Areas for improvement: Some reviewers struggled navigating InfoReady.

Additional Comments from survey participants:

• Provide more time to review applications. With so many commitments, it would be good to have at least a month's time to review applications.

• I have no suggestions. As long as you have the REAPER, then there is no way to improve the process

• When reviewing there were some items that would have been helpful like an outline of what the funds could be utilized on (supplies but not personnel etc.) to help provide clarification for applicants and reviewers.
FY 22: Grant Recipient Testimonials

Bridge Grant Recipient:
“Over past year, we collaborated with Core Facility of UNTHSC, 10X genomics, and Core Facility at UT Southwestern and obtained single cell RNA sequence data from glomerular cells of I-mfa wild type and knock out mice. We also conducted Western blot and examined the effects of knocking down I-mfa and β-catenin on neogenin protein abundance in glomerulus of mice. Therefore, both aims described in the Bridge Funding Program grant application have been accomplished.”

Major accomplishments of the Bridge Funding Program Grant
Submission of a R01 application. “The data obtained from the Bridge Funding Program Grant support will be included into a R01 grant proposal which will be submitted in October 2023 submission cycle.”
Submission of a manuscript. “The data obtained from the grant support will also be included in a manuscript which is planned to be submitted in October. We will acknowledge the Bridge Funding grant in this manuscript.”
Early Stage Investigator Recipient:

“From the early stage investigator grant, I was able to include preliminary results in my R03 submission to make the case for a larger study. The R03 was submitted in February and was discussed and scored. I received an impact score of 20 and was ranked in the 6th percentile. The proposal moves to the next round of funding in September and has a planned start date of December 1. I am working on the just in time documents and IRB for it now. At current, we have completed the data collection and are working on analysis to submit a manuscript.”

Team Science:

“The TEAM Science grant has allowed us to begin to assemble a highly qualified, diverse team of basic and clinical scientists that has/will substantially strengthen translational cardiovascular synergy necessary to augment the scope and impact of research scholarship at the HSC. This along with support from the School of Biomedical Sciences along with departmental SEED grant awards further facilitates scientific collaboration required for establishing overall project synergy and ultimate future success.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School &amp; Department</th>
<th>Investigator</th>
<th>FY 22 REAP Grant</th>
<th>Publications</th>
<th>Grant Submissions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School of Public Health: Health Administration &amp; Health Policy</td>
<td>Dr. Stacy Griner</td>
<td>Early Stage Investigator</td>
<td>Presently analyzing data with the goal of submitting a manuscript.</td>
<td>R03 submitted in February 2023, received an impact score of 20 and was ranked in the 6th percentile. The proposal moves to the next round of funding in September, anticipated start date of 12/2023.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Biomedical Sciences: Microbiology, Immunology &amp; Genetics</td>
<td>Dr. Sterling Ortega</td>
<td>Early Stage Investigator</td>
<td>No publications at this time</td>
<td>R01 (PAR-21-038) - Resubmission 11/5/2023; K01 (PAR-21-234) Scored 10/2021 - resubmitted in 2022 not funded; National Multiple Sclerosis (NMSS) - Submitted but not funded – 07/19/22; National Multiple Sclerosis RFA Submitted but not funded – 05/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Biomedical Sciences: Physiology &amp; Anatomy</td>
<td>Dr. Rong Ma</td>
<td>Bridge Grant</td>
<td>The data obtained from the Bridge grant will be included in a manuscript planned to be submitted in October. HSC’s Bridge Funding grant will be acknowledged in this manuscript.</td>
<td>R01 grant proposal submission set for October 2023. Data from the Bridge grant will be included in this submission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Biomedical Sciences: Microbiology, Immunology &amp; Genetics</td>
<td>Dr. Dong-Ming Su</td>
<td>Bridge Grant</td>
<td>Accumulation of pTreg cells is detrimental in late-onset (aged) mouse model of multiple sclerosis - PubMed (nih.gov)</td>
<td>NIH U01 (RFA-AI-22-060, Immunity in Old Adults) and R01 (re-submission)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Biomedical Sciences: Physiology &amp; Anatomy</td>
<td>Dr. Johnathan Tune</td>
<td>Team Science (2 year grant)</td>
<td>Chronic high-rate pacing induces heart failure with preserved ejection fraction-like phenotype in Ossabaw swine</td>
<td>American Heart Association Merit Award; invited to apply but not funded.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Research Enhancement Assistance Program (REAP)

- Goals for FY 24:
  - Bring awareness, grow, and manage HSC’s Internal Grant Funding Programs (New Investigator, Bridge and Team Science) across campus.
  - Identify and communicate funding opportunities across the institution
    - Connect with faculty to learn and identify opportunities that align with their current research interest.
    - Strategize with faculty to apply for funding opportunities, increase their data set and work towards a competitive R01 application.
  - Encourage faculty to utilize Research Café opportunities
    - Strengthen grantsmanship and budget skills
    - Utilize the expertise of Associate Deans of Research prior to submission
    - Return on investment with an increase in grant funding
Connie Arnold, PhD  
Professor, Department of Medicine  
Chief, Division of Healthcare  
Disparities Feist-Weiller Cancer Center  
LSU Health Shreveport

Riyaz Basha, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Vice Chair, Research  
Pediatrics and Women's Health  
Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine  
UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth

Shawn Bender, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Department of Biomedical Sciences  
University of Missouri

Rance Berg, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Assistant Dean Graduate Education & Admissions  
IBC Chair  
Microbiology, Immunology, and Genetics  
School of Biomedical Sciences  
UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth

Bruce Bunnell, PhD  
Professor, Chair  
Microbiology, Immunology, and Genetics School of Biomedical Sciences  
UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth

Michelle Callegan, PhD  
Director of Vision Research  
Department of Ophthalmology  
Dean A. McGee Professor  
George Lynn Cross Research Professor  
Edith Kinney Gaylord Presidential Professor  
Department of Microbiology and Immunology  
Oklahoma University Health Science Center

Jennifer Cameron, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Microbiology, Immunology & Parasitology  
LSU Health Science Center in New Orleans

Pankaj Chaudhary, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Microbiology, Immunology, and Genetics  
School of Biomedical Sciences  
UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth

Abe Clark, PhD, FARVO  
Regents Professor  
Pharmacology and Neuroscience  
School of Biomedical Sciences  
UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth

Rebecca Cunningham, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Associate Dean for Research  
Pharmaceutical Sciences System  
College of Pharmacy  
UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth

Gregory Dick, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Physiology and Anatomy  
School of Biomedical Sciences  
UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth

Martha Felini, PhD, DC, MPH  
Associate Professor - Epidemiology  
Department of Pediatrics & Women's Health  
Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine  
UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth
Nicole Phillips, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Microbiology, Immunology, and Genetics  
School of Biomedical Sciences  
UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth

Jeremie Pina  
DDS/PhD Candidate  
Fellow, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Derrick Samuelson, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine  
Department of Internal Medicine  
University of Nebraska Medical Center

Xiangrong Shi, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Pharmacology and Neuroscience  
School of Biomedical Sciences  
UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth

Jerry Simecka, PhD  
Regents Professor Pharmaceutical Sciences  
System College of Pharmacy  
UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth

Dorota Stankowska, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Director of SBS Biotechnology MS Program  
Microbiology, Immunology, and Genetics  
School of Biomedical Sciences  
UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth

Dong-Ming Su, PhD  
Professor  
Microbiology, Immunology, and Genetics  
School of Biomedical Sciences  
UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth

Nathalie Sumien, PhD  
Associate Professor Chair, IACUC  
Interim Chair  
Pharmacology and Neuroscience  
School of Biomedical Sciences  
UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth

Erika Thompson, PhD, MPH, CPH  
Associate Professor  
Biostatistics and Epidemiology  
School of Public Health  
UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth

Jonathan Tune, PhD  
Professor, Chair  
Physiology and Anatomy  
School of Biomedical Sciences  
UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth
Thank you!

The Division of Research and Innovation would like to thank our reviewers for dedicating their time and expertise to act as a reviewer for the FY 23 Research Enhancement Assistance Program.