UNC-Chapel Hill Office of Research Development is proud to introduce our new monthly newsletter, FUNDAMENTALS. Each month, we will provide UNC researchers with updates related to extramural funding, on-campus research development opportunities and other timely information in support of Carolina’s research enterprise. We look forward to working with you in advancing the frontiers of human discovery.

- UNC ORD Team

Nathan Blouin named Interim Director of the Office of Research Development

In July 2016, Nathan Blouin joined the Office of Research Development (ORD) as its new deputy director, involved with high-level strategic planning and interdisciplinary team development throughout the University. In January 2017, Blouin was named the Interim Director when Director Eliana Perrin left for a new position at Duke University. Blouin has been proactively meeting with researchers and leadership from across campus and has engaged ORD in hosting several large multidisciplinary events.

"It's an exciting time to support Carolina's unique research endeavor in this role," Blouin says. "My team and I look forward to broadening our engagement with researchers across
campus, from the humanities to the sciences. We strive to serve people both locally and globally through high-impact scholarship, excellence in research, and advancing the frontiers of human knowledge."

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**Upcoming NSF Day | April 19, 2017**

UNC-Chapel Hill will host National Science Foundation's "NSF Day" April 19, 2017! UNC’s NSF Day will feature engaging talks from program officials across NSF's science and engineering directorates, as well as presentations about cross-cutting funding opportunities that will be of interest to your faculty, researchers, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and professional staff. [Click here for more information](#)

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**ORD’s DoD Funding Workshop**

Over 120 faculty from across campus convened for the recent Department of Defense Research Workshop hosted by the Office of Research Development. The workshop speakers, [Dr. Bill Berry](#) and [Dr. Kathie L. Olsen](#), discussed how to better partner with the DoD and its research priorities. Check [our website](#) for more details, follow-up information, and slides from the presentation.
**Policy Briefing**

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research recently invited experts to brief research leadership on policy changes affecting University research. Representatives from UNC’s [Office of Federal Affairs](https://www.unc.edu) and Van Scoyoc Associates consulting firm met with the Vice Chancellor, Associate Vice Chancellors for Research and Research Chairs and Deans. The February 14, 2017 policy briefing gave an overview of FY17 Continuing Resolution (CR), the upcoming FY18 Congressional Budget, and what those negotiations might looks like at the agency level.

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**Internal Grant Opportunities:**

**FIRE grants**

Thank you to everyone who recently submitted FIRE grant applications. We look forward to reviewing your creative research ideas and announcing new winners in next month’s newsletter! The Fostering Interdisciplinary Research Explorations (FIRE) Grants program is funded by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and the Institute for the Arts and Humanities to encourage radically interdisciplinary innovation that transcends the boundaries of conventional partnerships. In 2017, we plan to fund three $25,000 grants to explore new interdisciplinary research partnerships.

*Deadline was: Monday, March 6, 2017*

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**FIRE Grant Spotlight**

In 2015, the FIRE grant brought together a new partnership between Kristen Lindquist from the department of linguistics and Misha Becker from the department of psychology and neuroscience to explore children’s development of verbal and perceptual correlates of human emotions.

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**URC small grants**

Thank you to everyone who recently submitted URC publication proposals. We look forward to reviewing them and notifying winners as soon as possible. The University Research Council (URC) administers a small grant program for faculty and professional
librarians at UNC. This award program has been redesigned to emphasize support for junior faculty.

**Upcoming Limited submission opportunities:**

[NIMHD Specialized Centers of Excellence on Minority Health and Health Disparities (U54)](mailto:lindleyd@email.unc.edu) Please notify Denise Lindley at lindleyd@email.unc.edu if you are interested in participating and did not attend the initial planning meeting on March 3rd.

Check our [Limited Submissions webpage](#) for current internal calls.

**FACAs (Federal Advisory Committee Act)**

Have you recently served on a review panel or committee? We want to hear from you! ORD is looking to hear about your experiences so that we can encourage other faculty to volunteer for these opportunities, and, share intelligence about agency funding priorities with the campus audience.

**Planning for NSF CAREER Proposals**

For two years, the Office of Research Development has held successful programs related to the NSF CAREER award. Last year, UNC broke records receiving eight CAREER awards!

With the next round of [NSF Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER)](#) proposals due in July, ORD is connecting past CAREER winners with future winners through several small group mentorship meetings.

Please contact Denise Lindley if you plan to apply for the CAREER award this year and would like support or if you are a successful CAREER winner who is willing to help. Mentorship could involve having a single meeting, sharing a successful proposal or reviewing proposal drafts.