



OARS Research News

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February 2010 Edition



Graduate School and Office for the Advancement of Research and Scholarship
102 Roudebush Hall, Oxford, OH 45056 <http://www.muohio.edu/oars>
phone: 513-529-3600 fax: 513-529-3762

Message from Dr. Bruce Cochrane, Dean of the Graduate School, and Associate Provost for Research



We are pleased to bring you the first OARS newsletter for 2010. Once again, we have highlighted a few of our faculty members and their innovative research and scholarly projects. I only wish that space would allow us to do so for more; what you will see is but a small sample of the imaginative and creative work that is being conducted at Miami.

Perhaps the most striking feature of research and scholarship at Miami is its disciplinary breadth and originality, and the projects described in this issue demonstrate that well. They range in scope from increasing our understanding of active volcanoes to learning about how plants grow in the microgravity of outer space (as I write this, Dr. John Kiss's Tropi-2 project is orbiting overhead in the International Space Station). It includes work on solar technologies that may increase the efficiency and lower the cost of converting solar energy into electricity, as well as the unique blending of art and technology that led to the development of Professor Andrea Ridilla's oboe reed gouging machine. And Miami is not just Oxford – the regional campuses are extremely active in conducting funded projects that contribute to the public mission of the University as a whole. Finally, I am particularly pleased that we can feature the work of graduate student Loren Hoffmann, who, as a master's student working under the direction of Professor Stephen Berry, completed a ground breaking and award winning study of memory and learning processes in rat brain.

We continue to be proud of the success of our faculty members in competing for prestigious national awards. Last month, Dr. Carol Dabney-Smith, received a highly prestigious Early Career Award from the Department of Energy. This \$750,000 grant was one of 69 projects chosen for funding from among approximately 1750 applications, and it will support her work on protein transport across membranes in photosynthesis. Dr. Dabney-Smith joins Dr. Janet Burge (Computer Science and Software Engineering) and Dr. Michael Brudzinski (Geology) as recent Miami recipients of federal early Career awards, a testament to the ability and dedication of our younger faculty members from a wide range of disciplines.

Miami's identity is shaped not only by its faculty, but also by its undergraduate and graduate students, and one of our favorite undertakings is the organization of events that showcase the research and scholarship of them. The Undergraduate Research Forum has become a signature event, and planning is well underway for this year's

Forum, which will take place in the Shriver Center on **Wednesday, April 14th**. Online registration is now open; the deadline for students to submit their work is February 28. At the Forum, we will announce the winner of the Miami University Interdisciplinary Technology Development Challenge. With a record seven student teams participating, this competition will undoubtedly reach a new level of excellence.

This past semester featured the first annual Graduate Research Forum, at which nearly 150 Miami graduate students presented their work, either in panel presentations or as posters. With the assistance of faculty members and graduate school alumni, six students were selected as having the most outstanding presentations; they will be receiving travel awards that will help make it possible for them to present their work at regional or national conferences. You can learn more about all of the work presented at <http://muohio.edu/grf>. Next year's Graduate Research Forum is scheduled for **Friday, November 5**; more details will be forthcoming over the next several months.

As we mentioned in the last issue, effective this year, the NSF is requiring that institutions certify that students funded on grants receive meaningful training in the responsible conduct of research (RCR). Since that time, the NIH has issued a similar regulation. Dr. Neal Sullivan, the University Compliance Officer, has been instrumental in developing an appropriate training program, and he will be happy to assist you as you develop new proposals for NIH or NSF funding.

Finally, I would like to use this opportunity to thank Dr. John Czaja, who retired this month, for all of the contributions he has made to OARS over the years. While he was involved with many aspects of research at Miami, what we will remember him most for is his passion for undergraduate research and his willingness to nurture that undertaking at its infancy. Today's multifaceted program, one which engages students in research and scholarship at all levels of their intellectual development, is viewed as a national model for undergraduate research programs, and we owe John a huge debt of gratitude for his role in making that possible. I know you will join me in wishing him well in his retirement.

So please take a few minutes to learn more about research at Miami, and about upcoming opportunities for OARS to assist you in pursuing your research agendas. Research and scholarship are a crucial part of Miami's mission as an engaged University, and we are constantly looking for ways that we can better facilitate and promote them.

Research News

Space Shuttle Endeavour Delivers Miami Botanist's Experiment to the International Space Station

Two Space Shuttle Missions and an ISS (International Space Station) Experiment from Miami



February and March 2010 are busy months for the lab of **Dr. John Z. Kiss** (Botany). On February 8,

2010, space shuttle mission STS-130 lifted off from the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) in a spectacular night-time launch. This mission carried the Tropi-2 experiments of Dr. Kiss and his lab group to the ISS (International Space Station). Pictured above are Dr. Kiss (PI), Christina Johnson (Botany Graduate Student), Kathy Millar (Postdoctoral Associate) and Richard Edelmann (Director of the Electron Microscopy Facility and co-PI) who will participate in the mission experiments.

The research, which focuses on understanding how light and gravity affect plant growth, shows that plants may be used in regenerative life support on Mars or the moon, according to Dr. Kiss. Future astronauts could be able to grow plants as part of life support systems on long-term space missions, according to NASA.

After running two six-day experiments on the ISS, Tropi-2 will return to Earth in the space shuttle Discovery. Tropi-2 is a semi-autonomous space-based experiment to study *Arabidopsis thaliana* (the thale cress plant) seedling sprouts to observe their response to light and gravity at the cellular level.

“Specifically, the seeds will be grown in various levels of gravity including microgravity-- or the weightlessness experienced on the ISS-- as well as gravity levels on the moon and Mars,” Kiss said.

The second project, STS-131, will focus on the role of the actin cytoskeleton, and in contrast with the first experiment, will be performed on the space shuttle only. Thus, when mission STS-131 returns in March or early April 2010, two different experiments will be retrieved

by Dr. Kiss and his lab group, who will be quite busy analyzing these results.

Dr. Kiss has been awarded more than \$ 1 million by NASA for the Tropi research projects. In the past four years, Kiss's research with Tropi-2 has involved eight undergraduate students, two graduate students, and two post-doctoral scholars at Miami.

“It was an exciting adventure to be a part of the flight build and also being able to see the samples depart on STS-130. I was very happy!” shares Kathy Millar.

“The NASA space project is exciting. There is so much to be learned about the role of plant cells in gravity perception. A spaceflight experiment is just the kind of opportunity that I sought when I chose Miami for graduate school”, said Christina Johnson.



Miami University and NASA Teams (group photos by H. Kiss).



STS-130 Lift-Off, Feb. 8, 2010, 4:14 am (photo by J. Oris).

OARS Research News

Highlights on Miami Faculty Research

Professor Andrea Jayne Ridilla, Department of Music



Andrea Jayne Ridilla is a Professor of Music and teaches a wide variety of courses in the Department of Music and the Miami University Honors Program.

She joined the Department of Music in 1987 and her specialty is the oboe. Professor Ridilla received her Bachelor of Music degree at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and she holds two professional degrees: Bachelor of Music and Master of Music from The Juilliard School in New York City.

Professor Ridilla's main area of research is in oboe performance and it takes her all over the world. In 2009, she was awarded a U.S. Patent for an oboe reed making gouging machine that she developed with co-author Udo Heng, of Reeds 'n Stuff in Annaberg, Germany. The machine is being marketed internationally and is available in the U.S. by Forrests Music in Berkeley, California. Few people understand the complexities and the importance of the reed in oboe playing. The oboe uses a double reed that lasts approximately 12 hours of playing time. In addition to the delicate nature of the double reed, the oboist must be prepared to make a new one at any time because reeds change with atmospheric variations, especially at higher altitudes where the air is very thin.

Andrea recorded a solo CD, *L'Amore Italiano...* the lyrical oboe in opera and film with the Sofia Philharmonic in Bulgaria, which was released in May 2009 on the Kleos label of Helicon Records in New York. The CD was received most favorably both in the marketplace and in reviews in prestigious journals. The project was a collaborative one with Miami colleagues. Dr. Ricardo Averbach, Associate Professor of Music and conductor of the Miami University Symphony Orchestra, was the orchestra conductor and Glen Roger Davis, Associate Professor of Music, composed two pieces for the recording. "The orchestra responded so well to Dr. Averbach's impeccable knowledge of the scores, and he speaks fluent Bulgarian!" said Ridilla.

Dr. Davis' compositions received international critical acclaim. *Fanfare Magazine* (March 2009) writes, "Andrea Ridilla plays with exceptional control and a beautiful tone." *The American Record Guide* (March/April 2009) writes, "Ms. Ridilla's playing is heartfelt and expressive."

Other areas of her research related to oboe playing are in the anatomical and physiological aspects of oboe tone production. Dr. Richard Drake, Course Director of Gross Anatomy at the University of Cincinnati Medical School graciously extended an invitation to Professor Ridilla to audit a Gross Anatomy lab at the time of respiratory system analysis to assist in her pedagogical research. Her former oboe student Dr. Paul Droessler, (double major in Oboe Performance and Zoology at Miami) who is now a practicing psychiatrist in Cincinnati, was in the course and Andrea shadowed him. The tables were turned—Professor Ridilla was the novice and her former student, Paul was now the more informed member of the team.

At Miami, Professor Ridilla has won numerous teaching awards including the Miami University Excellence in Teaching Award, Cincinnati Consortium of Colleges and Universities Excellence in Teaching Award, Miami University Alumni Enrichment Award and the Star Award for Excellence in Teaching awarded by students.

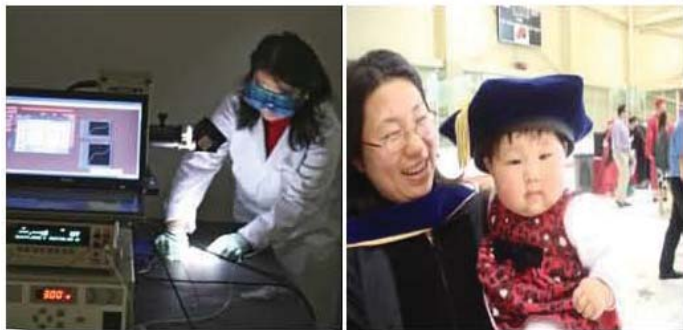
As outreach to the youth in Ohio and for student recruitment to Miami, Andrea regularly visits the public schools with her new faculty wind trio, Miami Breeze. On the state level, she was invited to give a presentation on oboe tone production "Blow...Blow...Blow the Man Down...but Gently and with Ease!" at the Ohio Music Educator's Conference (OMEA) in Cincinnati in January 2010.

In the summer of 2010, she plans to teach her opera course on site as a Miami Plan course in Italy in a 16-day, 4-credit course in Italy based in Florence. Students will travel to Milan to see an opera at the famous, La Scala Opera House, and an opera at the impressive ancient Roman amphitheater, the Arena di Verona. The human voice and the oboe are inseparable compatriots—To sing is to play and to play is to sing.

OARS Research News

Highlights on Miami Faculty Research

Lei Kerr, Assistant Professor, Department of Paper and Chemical Engineering



Our most abundant resource—sunlight—is absolutely free, but the cost of the technology designed to collect its energy still prevents most consumers from reaping the benefits.

Dr. Lei Kerr graduated from the University of Florida in May 2004 and joined the faculty of Miami University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Paper and Chemical Engineering in 2004.

Her research at Miami focuses in two areas: (i) dye-sensitized solar cells, and (ii) p-type ZnO (Zinc Oxide) materials. Solar energy is increasingly viewed as an unlimited, abundant, clean, and sustainable energy source. The major limitation of current silicon and thin film solar cells is their high materials and processes cost. Low cost materials and processes are needed to make solar energy more economical. One such attractive alternatives is dye-sensitized nanocrystalline solar cells (DSSCs).

Dr. Kerr has developed the following two labs: Solar Cell Materials Processing and Solar Cell Testing. Her research group's focus is to improve dye sensitized solar cell efficiency and enhance the cell stability using nanotechnology. ZnO has certain advantages over GaN (Gallium Nitride) such as its high excitation binding energy of 60 meV, abundant supply of Zn and the availability of using ZnO as substrates. It is an ideal semiconductor candidate that can be widely adopted in light emitting diode industries. However, the development of a ZnO application in optoelectronic devices is hindered due to the difficulty in synthesizing p-type ZnO needed to create a p-n homo-junction. At this time, there is no recipe for

making good p-type ZnO in a reproducible manner.

At Miami University, Dr. Kerr has devoted her efforts in developing a low cost process to grow p-type ZnO:N in a reproducible manner and studying the defect chemistry in ZnO, which is essential to control ZnO electrical properties.

She believes it is essential for the younger generation of students to learn about energy and energy sources, a changing environment and a sense of interdependence of systems on Earth. Thus, she has been actively integrating her solar energy research into undergraduate and graduate student education. For example, generating a small design project from her research will help students relate engineering concepts to real life examples. The results and findings from the design project will also advance her research as a scholar in her field.

In a project sponsored by the Department of Energy (DOE) for \$407,067, one of the graduate students on Dr. Kerr's research team takes on the challenge of replacing the liquid electrolytes in dye-sensitive solar cells—a step that will greatly advance the technology's commercial viability.

“My research goal is to develop a device that converts sunlight directly into electricity,” says Kerr, “Both of these new solar cell technologies have great potential. The material cost is low, the manufacturing cost is low, and the cells have a good life span.”

Solar energy research is booming right now,” says Kerr, who developed her expertise in nano-material after joining the SEAS (School of Engineering and Applied Science) faculty. “Our own group has produced impressive results. We're getting closer to the answers, most definitely.”

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Denise Spranger (MU Farmer School of Business)
and Donna Barnet (MU Marketing Communications).

OARS Research News

Highlights on Miami Faculty Research

Professor Stephen Berry, Department of Psychology



A study by Miami University researchers Loren Hoffmann, graduate student in psychology, and Stephen Berry, professor of psychology, has shown that learning is enhanced in rabbits with the use of a brain-computer interface to control oscillatory potentials in the hippocampus, an important structure for memory formation.

This technology provides a useful means of observing and manipulating clearly different functional brain states, without lesions or drugs, that could be adapted in the future to other species, brain structures, or oscillatory frequencies, say the researchers.

Their study, “Cerebellar theta-oscillations are synchronized during hippocampal theta-contingent trace conditioning” is published in the Dec. 15, 2009, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

The hippocampus has been strongly associated with memory processes in animals and humans and is characterized by the prevalence of neurobiological oscillations in the theta bandwidth, according to the researchers. They have shown that the presence of naturally occurring theta in rabbits is positively correlated with the rate at which an animal learns eye blink conditioning, a simple learning task.

They used a brain-computer interface to select periods of time when an animal was naturally exhibiting hippocampal theta (high theta group) and, conversely, selected periods of time when an animal was explicitly not displaying hippocampal theta (low theta group). The rabbits in each group then received trace eye blink classical conditioning trials. For the high theta group, learning rate increased.

“The difference in behavioral learning for these two groups is striking,” Hoffmann said, “often a doubling of learning rate and up to four times faster in older animals.”

Also, there was a corresponding synchronization between hippocampal and cerebellar oscillatory frequencies.

“This is interesting not only because both of these brain regions are essential for normal learning of the task, but because the mechanisms underlying hippocampal-cerebellar interactions during the learning process hadn’t been shown before,” Hoffmann said.

“Generalizing across species, studies have shown theta oscillations to be implicated in human cognitive processing. If tasks could be acquired and performed when there are periods of maximal theta, cognitive processes might be enhanced.”

Researchers are beginning to develop non-invasive recording techniques in humans that can mimic our cognition-enhancing interface, with encouraging results, according to the researchers.

“If successful, the substantial benefit and lack of side effects could result in widespread use for cognitive enhancement technologies,” Hoffman said.

Hoffmann received her master’s degree in December 2009 and is currently in the doctoral program in brain and cognitive psychology at Miami, with adviser Berry. Their research was noted as a “Hot Topic” by the Society for Neuroscience at its annual meeting last fall. She was also the recipient of the William M. and Karl U. Smith Promise Award given annually to the outstanding doctoral student in the Neurosciences at Miami University.

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OARS Research News

Highlights on Miami Faculty Research

Professor Elizabeth Widom, Department of Geology



Dr. Widom (third from the left)

Understanding the Past, Present and Future Behavior of Active Volcanoes

More than 500 million people live in the shadow of active volcanoes, and close to 300,000 people have been killed by volcanic eruptions in the past 300 years. Hence, volcanism is one of the most important geologic threats to civilization. Understanding the processes operating in magmatic systems beneath active volcanoes, and the time scales over which those processes operate, is important for understanding the behavior of volcanic eruptions and their potential triggers. Linking processes and time scales of magma evolution to eruptive behavior and eruptive volume is one of the fundamental goals for understanding the past, present and future behavior of active volcanic systems, and for assessing associated volcanic hazards.

In these contexts, Dr. Widom and her students have been studying historic and recent eruptions of active volcanoes in various tectonic settings around the world, including the Azores (volcanic islands in the North Atlantic), Mount Fuji (Japan), and several Mexican volcanoes including Popocatepetl and Parícutin that threaten Mexico City and other major urban areas. They are also currently in the planning stages of a new project in Dominica, the most volcanically active island of the Lesser Antilles.

Dr. Widom's research involves a combination of field work, where they study the volcanic deposits and collect samples from historic and recent eruptions of active volcanoes, and laboratory work where they study and utilize a variety of chemical and isotopic analytical techniques to decipher the complex processes that lead to highly explosive eruptions. Processes such as fractional crystallization, crustal assimilation, magma recharge, and magma mixing and mingling, all can contribute to the development of highly explosive, silicic, gas-rich magmas and ultimately trigger eruptions. Chemical signatures of a wide spectrum of trace elements serve as "fingerprints" of some of these different processes. In addition, Sr, Nd and Pb isotope analysis of single crystals and glass from

individual volcanic rock samples allows more cryptic processes to be deciphered.

One of the unique aspects of their work is the combination of these geochemical and isotopic "fingerprinting" techniques with analysis of short-lived radioactive isotopes of the U and Th decay series, which serve as "rock clocks" that record ages and rates of geologic processes occurring over time scales ranging from decades to a few hundreds of thousands of years. Preliminary data from Dr. Widom's most recent studies are suggesting that, in some cases, the time necessary for magmas to evolve to the point of eruption can be as short as a few decades, and that the longer a magma resides beneath a volcano without erupting, the larger the resulting eruption. Continued studies on additional eruptions from these and other volcanoes will help to better understand these relationships in the future.

Graduate Student Photos Below: (Upper), Fara Rasoazanamparany; (Lower), Zu Watanabe, AndreRowland-Smith, and Amy Gelinias.



Research News

Endings and Beginnings: Grant funded activity on the Hamilton Campus

What do you do when you're at the end of a grant-funded project you've managed too well, and there's money left over? What do you do when you're at the beginning of a grant-funded project and you don't know where to start? These relatively happy problems are facing the Hamilton Campus now. First, the story of an ending; and last, the story of a beginning.

The beginning of the ending was in 2007, when Miami University Hamilton (MUH) was awarded \$711,600 to provide a history and civics summer camp for high school students for three years. The award, from the US Department of Education Congressional Academies program, was one of only two in the nation.

The history covered at Camp Journey to Freedom (JTF) included the Civil War period, with emphasis on the role of African Americans. The civics content examined how the existence of slavery shaped the original Constitution; and how post-Civil War Constitutional amendments created a new definition of citizenship.

Approximately forty primarily low-income campers each year stayed at Camp Campbell Gard in Hamilton for two weeks and traveled to plantations in Kentucky, the Underground Railroad Museum in Cincinnati, and the Lincoln Museum in Springfield, Illinois. Each camper recorded their experience through podcasts, and photos taken using free digital cameras they could keep. Each camper also received a \$500 scholarship to the college of their choice.

"This was a terrific opportunity for students to learn more about our nation's search for freedom and civil rights while at the same time having a great summer camp experience," said Dr. Martin Johnson, MUH history professor and director of the program.

But Dr. Johnson managed the project so well, there was \$69,000 remaining in the budget at the end of the three-year period. Dr. Johnson called the Department of Education Program Officer and requested an extension, and then had to design an extension-year program. In the extension year, Dr. Johnson and Dr. Oleta Prinsloo, history, MUH, will bring the Journey to Freedom experience, including a series of weekend workshops and camp experiences, to approximately 40

students who could not attend summer camp. Like the two-week residential camps, these weekend camps will mix classroom instruction and field trips to selected Underground Railroad sites.

In addition, Drs. Johnson and Prinsloo will add an interactive and immersing "How to run a history and civics academy" section to the existing Camp JTF web site that will contain materials for teachers to use when this program ends. In this way, Camp JTF will serve as a pilot program that will allow others, such as youth groups, school districts, and universities, to replicate the Congressional Academy program in a variety of settings. A summer residential camp may be beyond the capabilities of many groups, but weekend camps could be a useful alternative.

Dr. Johnson gained as much from this program as his students. He said "Camp JTF really opened my eyes to how much young people appreciate learning in new and interactive ways. The field trip and web-based programs we developed sparked a lot of enthusiasm and have led me to rethink my classroom instruction more generally. In addition, it became very clear that high school and other students want summer experiences that can become the springboard for the next steps in their lives." A happy ending.

Miami Hamilton recently had a happy beginning when they were awarded almost \$18,000 to conduct a National Endowment for the Arts program called The Big Read.

The purpose of the Big Read is three-fold: 1) get an entire community to read the same book; 2) bring great literature back to the center of American community culture, and 3) encourage lapsed, as well as reluctant readers to get back into reading.

Hamilton's Big Read program will be centered on John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*. The Big Read will take place in January/February 2010 at various locations around Hamilton, and it will include three art exhibits, five film screenings, seven book discussions, nine expert lectures, professional storytellers, high school theatre student performances, and a dance appropriately called "The Dust Ball." All events will be open to the public.

(Continued on next page)

Research News

Endings and Beginnings: Grant funded activity on the Hamilton Campus (con't)

The project is being co-directed by Sue Sepela, Assistant Director, Office of Learning Assistance, and Chlele Dienno, MUH Marketing Director. Other partners in the program include the Hamilton Lane Library, Garfield Middle School, Hamilton High School, the Fitton Center/Butler Tech program called Options Academy – The Arts, and several informal reading groups.

Where do you start a project with this many events? “My calendar is my best friend” says Sepela, who is now calling the project “The Big Readiness.” “I started making arrangements in June, and I’m trying to do something every day” she says. “The work load is stressful now, but the Big Read is a perfect fit for MUH—part of our

mission is to serve our community, and this project will involve many elements of the City of Hamilton.” Amy Lamborg, grant coordinator at MUH says “We applied for this award thanks to Cecilia Berg, of the Hefner Zoology Museum. She was awarded a Big Read grant to conduct programs on Jack London’s Call of the Wild last year. Her highly successful project was the inspiration for our application.”

To get involved, or obtain more information, contact Sepela at 785-3027, sepelase@muohio.edu.

Written by Amy Lamborg,
Grant Development Coordinator-Miami University
Hamilton Campus, lambora@muohio.edu

February 2010- NIH Director’s Column, by Sally Rockey

ARRA Funds Continue to Make a Difference for The National Institutes of Health (NIH). With the one-year anniversary of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) approaching, the impact and importance of the recovery act is ever present. The second quarter reporting closed and the NIH released an initial set of recovery act investment reports, the important scientific work being done daily by our grantees, as well as the benefit brought to the economy continues to impress me.

Over the past year, the NIH has issued more than 30 ARRA funding opportunity announcements resulting in more than 12,000 grants that have been awarded through ARRA. I was very pleased with the second quarter recipient reporting. We had a compliance rate of 99.84% of NIH’s grant recipients submitting reports to FederalReporting.gov. Thanks to everyone for all their hard work.

The support and advancement of scientific research has been and will continue to be an important priority of ARRA and the current administration. As such, it is essential for everyone to understand and appreciate the significant research being conducted by ARRA grantees. In conjunction with the President’s goal for transparency, the NIH has released a collection of Recovery Act

Investment Reports. These reports highlight investments in biomedical research topics all made possible by select ARRA grants. They describe, in plain language, the needs for research on specific diseases or other health-related topics and how ARRA-funded projects are addressing these needs. NIH Institutes and Centers involved in awarding ARRA grants, coordinated by the NIH Office of Science Policy, created a total of 166 such reports. Although we awarded much of the ARRA money in FY 2009, we have recently released multiple opportunities focusing on:

- **Comparative Effectiveness Research**, which evaluates the usefulness—or ‘effectiveness’—of different treatments for the same illness.
- **NIH Basic Behavioral and Social Science Opportunity Network (OppNet)**, a trans-NIH initiative to expand the agency’s funding of basic behavioral and social sciences research (b-BSSR).
- **NIH Directors Opportunity for Research in Five Thematic Areas (RC4)**, which will support research directly related to Dr. Collins’ five themes for NIH that were outlined during an August town hall meeting. These and other funding opportunities are listed at the following site: <http://grants.nih.gov/recovery/>.

Research News

Summer Proposal Writing Workshop

OARS is sponsoring a Proposal Writing Workshop for faculty who are NEW to External Funding.

The workshops will consist of:

1. Hands on, interactive workshop with group meetings, approximately 7-8 times during the semester.
2. The identification of funding sources.
3. The step-by-step proposal development process.
4. Building a proposal budget.
5. Learning about research compliance issues and the

Miami internal approval and submission process.

Participants who complete the workshop and then submit a proposal to an external funding agency, will receive \$500 towards operating expenses.

The meeting day(s) and time(s) will be selected based on participant availability. To Sign up to participate in a **Summer 2010 workshop**, contact **Anne Schauer** (schauerap@muohio.edu) at 529-3735.

Locating Grant Funding Opportunities

OARS will host two more workshops for faculty and staff on strategies for locating grant opportunities using the internet. The hands-on workshops will take place on **March 24, 2010**, and **March 25, 2010** from 2-4 PM. in the computer lab located at 201 Gaskill Hall.

Space is limited, so if you plan on attending **one** of the sessions, please contact **Helen G. Kiss**, kisshg@muohio.edu, Assistant Director & Information Coordinator, 529-3600 to make your reservation.

NSF Regional Grants Conference at Case Western

The second National Science Foundation Regional Grants Conference of fiscal year 2010 will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, and hosted by Case Western Reserve University on **March 22-23, 2010**. Key representatives from the National Science Foundation (NSF), as well as your colleagues - faculty, researchers, and grant

administrators - representing colleges and universities from around the U.S. will participate. For more information, go to: <https://www.signup4.net/public/ap.aspx?EID=NATI309E&OID=50>, or call (216) 368-5930.

NIH Application Changes for 2010 Submissions

NIH put into production the final phase of the "Enhancing Peer Review Initiative," implementing two major changes for due dates on or after **January 25,**

2010: (1.) Restructured/Shortened Applications, and (2.) New Forms and Instructions. For more information, go to: <http://enhancingpeer-review.nih.gov>.



The Funding Corner

Before the Spring semester comes to an end, faculty and staff may want to see me to discuss their current research and scholarship projects so that we can update the grant funding information that is sent to them. As

the information will be coming to you electronically, it would be best if we work together at your office computer. All you need to do is send an e-mail to me (kisshg@muohio.edu) or call at 529-3600 to set up an appointment. Together we will discuss the type of funding available for your research and scholarship.

Helen G. Kiss, Assistant Director, & Information Coordinator, 529-3600.