

Cornerstone

Office of Research and Grants | Transformational Scholarship at Azusa Pacific University

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Office of Research & Grants

680 Alostia Ave., Suite #115
Azusa, California 91702
626.815.2082

<http://www.apu.edu/researchandgrants/>

grants.apu.edu

Your APU Grants Hub



Return-to-Research

With or Without Return-to-Normal

Plans to return-to-campus, and eventually to return-to-normal, are underway even as evidence about a resurgence in COVID-19 cases is being carefully monitored. Of course, the meaning of return-to-normal is now uncertain given conflicting ideas on what to expect in a post-COVID-19 pandemic world. But, for researchers whose activities require face-to-face interaction with other persons, i.e., human subjects, return-to-normal certainly implies resumption of research, or return-to-research, that allows for in-personal interactions, albeit with appropriate precautions and safeguards. The APU Institutional Review Board (IRB), which reviews and approves all research by APU student, faculty, and staff involving the use of human subjects, is now implementing processes for research with human subjects in face-to-face settings to resume.

How does the return-to-research process for IRB-approved protocols work? Researchers with projects having current IRB approval, but put on hold because of COVID-19, can now request to resume their project through the IRBManager portal. By going to their protocol application on IRBManager, researchers will see the option to pull up a newly created IRB form, *Resuming IRB Approved Research During COVID-19* form. Following online completion of this form and its review and approval by a designated IRB member, researchers would be able to resume their studies. To be sure, the completion of this IRB form is not a request to amend the approved research protocol. Instead, it is an added layer of precaution in light of the special circumstances brought on by the pandemic.

For the time being, a similar process would apply to new studies, that is, those yet to be reviewed by the IRB. The protocol application to the IRB would be made in the usual way through IRBManager without specific reference to COVID-19 concerns. Once the application is reviewed and approved by the IRB... (continued on Page 4)

Congratulations!

Recent Grant Funding

(March 2021 – June 2021)

Tasha Bleistein, Nori Henk (CLAS). *Civil Communication Virtual Exchange Proposal*. Funded by Family Health International 360 (FHI 360). (\$66,397)

Robert Duke (SOT). *Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative: Support for Assessment and Planning Activities*. Funded by Lilly Endowment, Inc. (\$49,471)

Denise Edwards-Neff (CLAS). *SCIO Support Structures*. Funded by the Scholarship and Christianity in Oxford (SCIO). (\$104,000)

Sabrina Friedman (SON). *Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) Program for Professionals*. Funded by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (\$1,912,252)

Heather Hamm (SFS). *John Burton Book Fund*. Funded by the John Burton Advocates for Youth. (\$2,000)

Anita Henck, Stacy Kula (SOE). *Inclusive Instruction Rubric for Curriculum Audit*. Funded by Branch Alliance for Educator Diversity. (\$16,500)

Aurelia Macabasco-O'Connell (SON). *Jonas Scholarships 2021 - 2023*. Funded by Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare - JCNVH. (\$30,000)

Sally Mansour (BAS). *National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative - Category III*. Funded by U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (\$1,936,127)

Sally Mansour (BAS). *Garrett Lee Smith (GLS) Campus Suicide Prevention*. Funded by U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (\$297,686)

Mary Rawlings (BAS). *UCLA Subcontract (LA County DCFS) Stipends Renewal*. Funded by Los Angeles County. \$45,986 (supplemental)

Student Accomplishments

2021 Virtual STEM Research Symposium

"The quality of presentation at the 2021 STEM Research Symposium is very high and getting better every year. Our APU STEM students were able to articulate complex mathematical scientific concepts with excellent clarity."

*Bradley McCoy, PhD
Professor & Chair, CLAS Department of
Mathematics, Physics and Statistics*

On April 17th, the third annual STEM Research Symposium (SRS) took place on Zoom with over 70 in attendance. SRS is a showcase of undergraduate research and a celebration of the Student-to-Scholar program. This year, President Ferguson offered the welcome as well as visited the oral sessions. Faculty, staff, as well as family and friends came to support the 35

presenters in their poster and oral presentations. The following awards were recognized by Dr. Denise Edwards-Ferguson, interim dean of CLAS:

Outstanding Oral Presentation in Biology and Chemistry	Abbigael Aday; Tiffany Nakla; Annelise Shaw
Outstanding Oral Presentation in Engineering & Computer Science, Math, Physics and Statistics	Zack Conner; Kate Tickle
Honorable Mention Oral Presentations in Engineering & Computer Science, Math, Physics and Statistics	Will Cook, Emily Gottry
Outstanding Poster Presentations in Biology and Chemistry	Tonhi Gailey, Christine Messner & Cameryn Nakamura
Outstanding Poster Presentation in Engineering & Computer Science, Math, Physics and Statistics	Emily Gottry, Sarah Petry

Congratulations to all the award winners, and many thanks to all of the undergraduate researchers and faculty mentors for their hard work.

The 2021 STEM Research Symposium Program is still available at [this link](#) and photos are posted [here](#).

2021 Virtual Social Work Showcase

During April 27-May 8, 2021, the Department of Social Work hosted a virtual poster showcase displaying the year-long efforts of our students. The MSW students presented on their community-based Capstone Projects while graduating BSW presented the applied Senior Research Projects. All research was conducted at internship sites across Southern California leaving an extraordinary impact on social service delivery especially during a challenging year.

Drs. Olivia Sevilla and Anupama Jacob spearheaded the effort. The posters are still available to view on the [Social Work Showcase site](#). Congratulations on this amazing virtual showcase. The following students were recognized:

"Our students and faculty have demonstrated amazing resilience as they moved forward to continue to serve their clients, agency sites, and communities through these projects. It brings me so much joy, I burst with pride every year, but especially this year."

*Mary Rawlings, PhD, LCSW
Professor & Chair, BAS Department of Social Work*

BSW Research Project Awards	1 st . Nicole Rimal; 2 nd . Gabrielle Osborn & Rachael Kinoshita; 3 rd . Bailee Cameron
BSW Research Project Honorable Mentions	Kadyn Gianis; Taylor Nicholson; Morgan Smith
MSW Capstone Leadership Awards: Full-time cohort	1 st . Serena Lee; 2 nd . Esther Rha; 3 rd . Gabriela Vargas
MSW Capstone Leadership Awards: Part-time cohort	1 st . Alissa Fernandez; 2 nd . Rosemary Baraja; 3 rd . Carla Sandoval
MSW Capstone Leadership Honorable Mention Posters	Leila Aguirre; Brittney Baca; Pulinda Chang; Alondra Corona; Christina Mulder; Ashley Nirmalnath; Jamie Nolta



Faculty Spotlight

This Cornerstone’s final *Great Grant Getters* segment spotlights Mary Rawlings, PhD, LCSW, and her team’s recent success in obtaining exceptional new federal funding for scholarships to APU’s Master of Social Work (MSW) program in the School of Behavioral and Applied Sciences (BAS). Dr. Rawlings, a full-professor, has chaired the

Department of Social Work since 2003. But, she was no stranger to APU prior to 2003 as she completed her bachelor degree at APU and taught as an adjunct and in a part-time role since 1996.

In July 2020, APU received the exciting news that the U. S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) would be funding APU’s Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS) proposal for a total of \$2,700,000 over five years. This significant new award followed a series of successful grant applications by Dr. Rawlings and her team for APU’s social work program. She and Amy Tauati, MSW, received an earlier HRSA SDS award of \$1,200,000 from 2016 to 2020, and Dr. Rawlings was the principle investigator on two other program grant awards through UCLA, one with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services as the prime funder, that totaled \$1,386,000. Altogether, since 2014, this *Great Grant Getter* and her team have brought in external awards of nearly \$5,300,000 to build APU’s social work program and provide scholarships for deserving students.

The goal of the current HRSA SDS project is to provide scholarships to students from disadvantaged backgrounds to support workforce development of trained clinical social workers. The idea is to increase the numbers of underrepresented minority persons as providers of behavioral health services and to equip professionals who are ready to serve in medically underserved communities. The program emphasizes recruiting and retaining qualified students, training through partnerships, and facilitating workforce entry of eligible full-time clinical social work professionals.

Dr. Rawlings knows that writing for grant awards is hard and, at times, tedious work. When asked about challenges in grant-writing, she remarked on the importance of getting started on grant applications as early as possible, pointing out that it always takes longer than one would think. She is also aware of the increasingly critical importance of having good data to support grant requests, especially large federally-funded ones, and she noted experiences with unexpected obstacles that arose in gathering data needed to support her HRSA SDS proposal. But, in the end, it certainly was worth the effort to overcome challenges as Dr. Rawlings and her team are able to provide significant scholarships to students and build the MSW program. Not only are these funds life-changing.... *(continued on Page 4)*



*“The task of the modern educator
is not to cut down jungles but to irrigate deserts”*

C.S. Lewis, 1943

Calendar & Events

Events/Workshops

Grant Skill Development

September 17 (10:30-11:20 am)
Finding Funding: PIVOT Advanced Search

September 24 (10:30-11:20 am)
Grants Budget Development Lab

October 1 (10:30-11:20 am)
Grants at APU: Unfolding the Routing Process and Cayuse SP Demo

October 8 (10:30-11:20 am)
Federal Grant Applications: Cayuse Proposals/424 Demo

Program Dates/Deadlines

Jr. Faculty Mentoring Program

August 31, 2021:
Application Available

October 4, 2021:
Mentoring Program Q&A Session

October 15, 2021:
Intent to Apply Due Date

October 29, 2021:
Application Deadline

January 2022: New cohort to start

[Watch Brief Mentoring Program Video](#)



Research Ethics Deadlines

IRB (Human subjects research)

IACUC (Animal subjects research)

September 1, 2021: Full Board Review deadline for May meeting

October 6, 2021: Full Board Review deadline for June meeting



US Scholar 2022-23

Application Deadline

September 15, 2021

Contact [Donald Isaak](#) or [Mary Wong](#)



Summer Stipends 2022

August 15, 2021

APU Application Nomination due date
[More details here](#)

September 22, 2021

NEH Application due date

Contact [Marta Cenac-Mehedinti](#)

Recognition

Abebaw Yohannes, Ph.D. [MedPage Today](#) featured several quotes from Dr. Yohannes along with their write-up on the implications of his recent publication, [Long-Term Benefits of Pulmonary Rehabilitation in Patients with COPD](#), in the *Chest* journal.

Chong Ho (Alex) Yu, Ph.D. was awarded the [Distinguished SAS Educator Award](#) for all of North and South America. The SAS selection “recognizes an educator who has made significant contributions to advancing analytics education and preparing students for careers in analytics and data science... award is given to an educator whose efforts and impact in the field and engagement with SAS have spanned more than five years.”

Karen Strand Winslow, Ph.D. recently published a chapter, [The Purpose, Principles, and Goals of Egalitarian Biblical Interpretation](#), in the *Oxford Handbook of Feminist Approaches to the Hebrew Bible* (ed. Susanne Scholz). This intriguing work by Dr. Winslow was referred to in the last *Cornerstone* issue, but without the titles to guide readers to their sources for further information.

16th Nursing Research Symposium

Over 800 students, faculty, alumni, and community nurses participated in this year’s virtual 16th Annual SON Research Symposium titled “The Pandemic: Local & Global Impact on Nursing, Public Health, Education, & Research”. Examining the impact of COVID-19 across healthcare systems, speakers illuminated all on the unprecedented challenges facing patients, families, & frontline teams, reexamined relevant teaching/learning and leadership strategies, and called for interdisciplinary research that improves overall care-related outcomes. This well-received conference elucidated opportunities to better explore, define, and implement novel



approaches to navigate this dynamic healthcare environment, at home and abroad. Event Information and Virtual Poster Hall is still available



on the [Nursing Research Symposium site](#). Congratulations to School of Nursing leadership and faculty for putting together such a vibrant event!!

Faculty Spotlight

(Continued)... for many students, but they eventually bring new hope and expectations to whole communities

Finally, Dr. Rawlings emphasizes the value of her department working as a team along with others, such as colleagues in the Office of Research and Grants, in securing the grant funds. She was especially enthusiastic about the team effort between herself, Amy Tauati (SW), and Marta Cenac-Mehedinti (ORG). But it does not stop there, as Dr. Rawlings remarked, “Implementing the grant is also a team effort. While as the PI you provide overall oversight and budget management, having a great team is what makes it doable and fun!”

Kudos to our Great Grant Getter, Dr. Mary Rawlings, and her wonderful team for their exceptional success in getting resources for her program while positively impacting APU students and the broader community.

Return-to-Research (IRB)

(Continued)... as it considers conventional protections needed in studies with human subjects, PIs whose projects require face-to-face interactions with human subjects will then be requested to cycle back through IRBManager and complete *Resuming IRB Approved Research During COVID-19* form.

To be sure, the IRB form, *Resuming IRB Approved Research During COVID-19*, requires similar information on health precautions and safeguards as did the more general Return-to-Campus (RTC) event form, *COVID 19 Return to Campus Proposal*, managed by the RTC Committee. Indeed, the IRB form has been reviewed and approved by the RTC Committee to promote consistently safe processes throughout all APU activities. The IRB form, however, localizes the request to resume research with the IRB since that group is familiar with the context around the research and can, therefore, efficiently review, adjudicate, and respond to the request.

What projects will be impacted by these return-to-research processes for IRB-approved protocols? Only those studies that involved face-to-face interactions with human subjects. APU’s IRB reviews 200 new protocol applications per year, many of which collect data from persons without requiring face-to-face interactions and which were not, therefore, required to pause during the pandemic. We are pleased to report that IRB-approved projects which were paused due to the pandemic may soon be actively resuming.

APU researchers who work with human subjects are encouraged to contact the IRB chair, Michael Wong (mswong@apu.edu), or the IRB coordinator, Martha Bellin (mbelin@apu.edu) with any questions.

Co-hosted by the Office of Institutional Research and Office of Research and Grants

SAS Workshops

Session 1. Introduction to SAS Software and Resources
August 13, 2021 | 9am-11am PST
Instructor: Angela Fullenkamp
[Registration link](#) (register by August 12)

Session 2. SAS VIYA and PHYTON Integration for Machine Learning
August 20, 2021 | 9am-11am PST
Instructor: James Harroun
[Registration link](#) (register by August 19)

Session 3. SAS Visual Analytics 1 for SAS VIYA Basics: Data Visualization using COVID-19 Data
August 27, 2021 | 9am-11am PST
Instructor: Rachel Nisbet
[Registration link](#) (register by August 26)

New Faculty Support



Office of Research and Grants (ORG) offers resources for advancing faculty in their scholarship efforts. A list of such resources is available on the [ORG site](#). Additionally, the [Grants Handbook](#) is available here.