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Office of Research Survey Instrument

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Help Us Enhance Research Funding Communications, Plus Earn A Chance to Win a \$50 Amazon.com Gift Card!

The U-M Medical School Office of Research is committed to providing high quality communications to members of the U-M biomedical research enterprise. To better understand and meet the needs of our community, we are currently assessing the actions individuals take when seeking out research funding opportunities. The time you spend completing this brief survey will help us bring you the information you need to find future funding success.

This survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete. Plus, every person who submits a completed survey will be entered automatically in a prize drawing to win a \$50 Amazon.com gift card!

We appreciate your taking the time to complete this survey.

Click on the arrow button below to begin.

Q1: Are you...

- Faculty
- Post-Doc/Clinical Fellow
- Staff
- Student
- Alumna/e
- Resident/House Officer
- Other (please specify): _____

Q2: Is your primary appointment with the Medical School?

- Yes
- No

Q3: If not, please indicate the school in which your primary appointment is located.

- Dentistry
- Engineering
- Information
- Kinesiology
- LSA
- Nursing
- Pharmacy
- Public Health
- SNRE
- Social Work
- Other

Q4: Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about your experience in seeking out research funding opportunities at the U-M.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I know where to find information about internal U-M funding opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know where to find information about external funding opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to use funding databases to search for available research funding opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have difficulty finding research funding opportunities specific to my field of study	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have adequate time to search for available research funding opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have a good understanding of U-M grant submission policies and procedures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know what resources are available to help me with grant proposal preparation and submission	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would like more training and assistance with writing and submitting a grant proposal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know who to contact with questions about research funding opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to find potential research collaborators	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am satisfied with the opportunities available for research mentoring	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am satisfied with the way I currently receive information about available research funding opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q5: The biggest challenge I face when seeking out research funding opportunities is:

Q6: Please indicate the likelihood that you would take the following actions when seeking information about available research funding opportunities.

	Very Likely	Likely	Unlikely	Very Unlikely
Connect with your Department Chair or Administrator	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Review departmental/M-Community group email	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Review newsletters for announcements about funding opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conduct a Google search	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Search using a funding database	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visit an external funding website	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visit the U-M Medical School's Funding Opportunities website	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visit ORSP's Finding Funding website	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visit the M-Library's Grants and Funding Research Guide	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Consult with MICHR's Research Development Core	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visit the M-Library's Health Sciences Grants Information Portal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visit the U-M Foundation Funding for Faculty website	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seek out a Personalized Funding Consultation with a Fast Forward Medical Innovation commercialization expert	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seek out a Personalized Funding Consultation with an M-Library librarian	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q10: Is there another way that you would like to receive information from the U-M Medical School Office of Research about available research funding opportunities? If so, please explain.

Q11: Please rate the usefulness of the following research funding topics that may be included in future communications from the U-M Medical School Office of Research.

	Very Useful	Useful	Not Useful	Not applicable to my job, or I would never use this
Internal U-M policy and procedural changes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
External funder policy and procedural changes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tips and tricks for grant proposal preparation and submission	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information about research training and events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Funding trends within your field of study	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Resources to help find available research funding opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
UMHS awarded grants and research publications	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information on finding research collaborators	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q12: Please comment on any changes you would like to see in future U-M Medical School Office of Research communications about research funding.

Write-in Responses to Some of the Questions

Q5: The biggest challenge I face when seeking out research funding opportunities is:

- Figuring out the best means to find all the appropriate opportunities - breath of terms to search, filtering, etc. Quite time consuming and usually other time pressures stop me from doing a thorough search.
- Becoming aware of opportunities in a timely manner. I often learn about them without adequate time to respond.
- Identifying sources.
- Lack of one source/library or catalog specific to my field of research. Other issues are related to administrative support.
- The eligibility criteria are too specific and we do not fit them.
- Finding something that fits with the type of research that we do, to not dilute our focus
- Hand surgery is a pretty small and specific field. Finding opportunities that are not the "usual" or creating projects to fit other opportunities is difficult.
- I have trouble finding out about all the internal funding opportunities, and I have trouble finding external grants that will fund Post-Docs. I have been told by the NIH I have too much experience to be a good candidate for a training grant but U of M will not let me submit an R series grant. Can Post-Docs submit research grants at U of M?
- Too much paperwork involved these days, other than the research plan. Also, the timeline from the grants office is hard to comply with. The research plan is usually being tweaked up until the due date.
- Finding the time to do it ---- there are so many databases, listservs, etc.
- Identifying and prioritizing small funding opportunities that could bridge gaps in NIH funding.
- Finding opportunities that apply best to me specifically
- Making sure funding opportunity is meeting goals at worksite.
- Connecting with non-governmental sources of funding (e.g. foundations, charitable organizations, etc.); identifying outside funding sources that are interested in my field of study; successfully navigating internal competitions.
- I believe I am too new to the department and have not had any experience or the need for research funding as of yet.
- Having time to search databases.
- To find options for senior postdoc
- Limited funds. The last grant I submitted was an American Heart Association Scientist Development Grant (Midwest Affiliate). My application was streamlined and funding levels were around 7%; very discouraging for a young scientist. Nonetheless, I am resubmitting.
- Finding the most appropriate source of funding for an individual project
- Low funding rates. There are many opportunities just not enough money.
- Finding non-NIH research opportunities, including foundation, crowd-sourcing, and philanthropy. I believe that the University should be more pro-active in helping researchers with crowd-source funding, including providing training and classes
- Time to search for opportunities that are likely to yield funding
- Finding funding for students, and foundations
- Finding opportunities specific to my area of research.
- Finding all the potential sources of funding.
- Timing
- Have to look in a lot of places. No central resource.
- Lack of clarity in some funding opportunities about whether health services research or T3-T4 research is eligible for the FOA or just bench to bedside type work
- The time involved - in seeking out, applying for, and realistically having the time to complete all of the potential projects.
- Research funding for the children's center and in education in general seems low in priority. It seems

people are not interested in the future of education, which is sad.

- Having the time to research possible options besides NIH
- Overwhelmed with information
- The knowledge.
- Knowing where all the resources are to help and adequate promotion of NCRC services, such as MICHR (absent in the NCRC annual report).
- Time and university support
- Time. We are aware of the standard funding opportunities and deadlines for our field of study (foundation, etc.), but it is very time consuming to use Pivot to search for funding opportunities. We have found that we have to carefully review the eligibility criteria, descriptions, etc., which requires a lot of time.
- Trying to find opportunities for my research area which is very difficult to fund--it's not one of these sexy topics like cancer, obesity, or exercise. I spend lots of time just trying to dig thru foundations on my own, tracking down possibilities.
- There isn't much communication going out or at least that I am aware of. If everything like internal and external funding opportunities were in one place that would save time and be an efficient way. Currently, I see some funding opportunities on UMHS global user email (for internal funding).
- Where and how to start exploring available funding opportunities.
- Finding funding opportunities that I'm eligible for (many are only for faculty or grad students, or for people with only PhDs, etc.)
- Statutory limitations with current funding mechanisms.
- Most non-NIH fund sources in my field do not cover salary. This includes most internal funding. While I appreciate the fairly large number of research funding opportunities that are relevant to my work, as a soft-money faculty member one of my most pressing concerns is bringing in funds that will cover my salary, as well as research expenses and salary for any research support I would like to have. This is a problem.
- (1) The lack of secretarial support for producing the reams of documents needed for a grant application
(2) The limited funds available for support
- Too much information / opportunities are not targeted
- Finding non traditional ones, like foundations
- Narrowing my search to find targeted opportunities.
- Grants for core laboratories are hard to find and get.
- Finding the opportunity with enough time to get my team to put together a strong proposal and apply.
- No big challenges in seeking out funding opportunities.
- Political instability in my research locale over seas.
- My field (education) is not a primary focus for NIH or many other funders. Therefore, it requires more creativity and looser boundaries in searching for possibilities.
- Being an international citizen, I have limited resources and I do not get access to them.
- I feel that there is a disconnect between what I do for preparing grants and what the research administrator takes care of such that I'm not always aware of what she is doing. I'd like to know what goes into all the aspects of the grant package to help ensure consistency across all documents.
- I get too much - I have several appointments, and I get too much information, and not targeted well enough. I have spent some time in the past looking at what is out there and played with it, but that is always the problem, if I make a search too narrow, I miss things I should know, if too wide, I get too much
- Basically I only know NIH and NSF, and have not much information on internal opportunities and foundations.
- There have been various issues with limited submission opportunities after a candidate is selected. Since the sponsor guidelines are often very different there does not seem to be anyone who really know the rules, and how to get info, etc. In one case it was about who submitted the info about the candidate selected (Rita Allen), in another what we needed attached (needed an actual letter) from the med school, and in another we need to know about participation in activities related to the organization (St.

Baldrick's). And in each case we have been shuffled trying to figure out how to get the information we need. It might also be nice if there was one place that listed ALL internal funding opportunities for literally everything (OVPR, MICHR, MRC2 other centers, etc. etc. - even non-medical).

- Finding opportunities that I can apply for as a postdoc
- Finding funding for translation between RCTs and CER (a la PCORI), and for work that must be done between investigational patient-centered technologies supported by NSF and the conduct of randomized controlled trials. There is a need for better funding of randomized pilot trials and intervention translation research.
- Getting funded!
- My program is in supporting students and faculty in innovation pursuits, especially helping them design a sustainable approach, while vital it's not a priority for support in grant funding anywhere that I've been searching.
- Statutory limitations from my current funding mechanisms.
- People are inundated with email and sometimes don't respond to requests.
- Finding the time!
- I would like to know how to use
- Finding the right "match" for the faculty in our school
- Finding those that are relevant to research I administer easily.

Q7: Are there additional resources you currently use to gather information about available research funding opportunities? If so, please explain.

- Department research administrator
- Colleagues
- fedbizopps and grants.gov
- Grants.gov
- I get the guide TOC from NIH and updates from grants.com from the various U.S. government agencies that post to that list.
- Sometimes colleagues bring them to our attention directly.
- Direct emails from NIH.
- Looking at federal website
- I keep a spreadsheet/table of sources for our faculty.
- NIH announcements
- Again, information and help setting up crowd funding sources would be extremely helpful
- I had no idea that the library concerned itself with funding
- I get a feed from SMARTS and directly from likely funding organizations; I also get information from organizations tied to the field of study we work in.
- National funding institutes or professional Society emails come directly to me with the details about most things applicable to our group.
- Industry specific list-servs
- More people involved
- Time is the major problem in finding research opportunities beyond NIH
- MSU has a nice page with funding opportunities so I try to search there. Also Google.
- Read e-mails of funding opportunities
- The NIH weekly update
- I mainly consult the NIH guide
- I am on several email lists for funding announcement (internally and externally).
- The "unlikely" button was not visible on this survey form for me to click. I review meeting minutes from NIH/NCI phone conferences and I am on several list serves. For example, I review the NIH TOC every week.
- Now that I know of these resources I am more likely to use them.
- I do have a customized "Daily SMARTS" profile but it has the problem mentioned above - Too much

information

- I keep a master list of internal and external websites to look at for funding opportunities and info.
- I spend a lot of time on the Websites of NSF, NIH and PCORI.
- Cancer center emails
- Offices hours from foundation grants officer, mostly useless

Q8: The resource I find most helpful when seeking out research funding opportunities is:

- Emails from colleagues and the sponsors themselves
- Ideally, I would like an institutional consultant to come to my department, meet and interview each of our research faculty. Then maintain and update every month possible funding sources related to their research field.
- I was unaware of most of the sources in the previous question--now that I know about them, I am more likely to use them.
- Google
- Grants.gov or UM Surgery Research Office
- Fedbizopps and grants.gov
- I am still struggling with finding more opportunities to apply for funding.
- Foundation websites, proposalCentral, and NIH announcements.
- The NIH notices circulated by ORSP.
- Department emails
- General web search engine queries and external funding websites.
- Emails from U-M sources and our chair.
- Google. Also, this is the first time I've heard of most of the above listed U-M resources.
- Advice from colleagues.
- NIH announcements
- I mainly look at the NIH grant website
- Direct emails from NIH, or internal programs highlighting funding opportunities
- Daily SMARTS email
- Email notification of opportunities
- SMARTS -- the feed I set up is very useful, although not terribly specific. I get a lot more off-topic funding opportunities than relevant ones. Lots of sifting through. The vetting process is not terribly useful. Keywords are overly broad.
- The email notices sent out from various groups on campus are good, NIH TOC of funding opportunities
- Internally from colleagues.
- NIH website
- The notifications which come from the UM research offices.
- UMHS Global user, umresearchcoordinator.org
- ORSP site
- Speaking with faculty advisors and UM med school emails
- The weekly emails from NIH and Terry Maxwell.
- Interactions with liaison officers at the National Eye Institute with whom I have longstanding relationships on potential grant opportunities.
- NIH email newsletters
- Google search
- NIH weekly update plus colleagues who forward them
- Grants.gov
- The research administration office in my School.
- Grants.gov
- Monthly/weekly newsletters
- NIH website.
- The funding databases maintained by the OVPR and Library
- Grants.gov, other universities' websites
- Pivot database
- Email from people I know telling me about something coming up. Email from Foundations I have worked with in the past.
- I normally look into the website from the foundation. The website you provided are useful, I have

bookmarked them. Thanks!

- Getting on notification lists for all types of places.
- NIH weekly email
- Information from other successful grantees about proposal development/submission strategy, and samples of successful proposals.
- Word of mouth; Google.
- Becky O'Brien at UMSI

Q10: Is there another way that you would like to receive information from the U-M Medical School Office of Research about available research funding opportunities? If so, please explain.

- Annual meetings??? What's new in the research world or what's coming type meetings perhaps...
- Announcements at faculty meetings within our department
- To be frank, we don't pay a lot of attention to who sends what. So it's a guessing game to answer this question. What do I get from UMOR and what do I get from ORSP and others? Couldn't begin to tell you. We get tons of information from many sources. Not sure I'm clear enough to respond to this question in any useful way -- and I bet that is a common situation. So I'm not sure the data you get from this survey will be particularly meaningful.
- Consider soliciting key words that define specific areas of research interest for faculty members, thereby enabling a focused contact regarding potential research funding opportunities that come along.
- Targeted - with content in the e-mail line
- Send out email indicating (when) new opportunities are available with link to website is sufficient. Don't need to include all info in email, just name, agency, due date.
- Frequency: monthly.
- It would be nice to have ONE website listing the current funding opportunities. I went on some of them earlier they are incomplete and somewhat confusing. Having a weekly/biweekly or monthly eNews letters by email with such a list is nice.

Q12: Please comment on any changes you would like to see in future U-M Medical School Office of Research communications about research funding.

- I would like to see more proactive outreach and face-to-face meeting with Departments with individualized searches and reporting about funding. I would like to see more feedback and transparency about external grants where UMHS can submit a limited number of grants. I have repeatedly submitted different topics to the internal review process. I have never gotten selected; I never get any feedback. This is a huge waste of effort. The applications selected and sent forward are never announced. It seems like the process is not peer review, fair, and objective.
- More information being distributed on internal opportunities would be a great help.
- Thanks for reaching out. More training on where to search would be appreciative.
- Better communication about foundation funding. If faculty could enter their research interests, you could target announcements to appropriate faculty.
- Crowd source funding;
- More opportunities for junior faculty awards, private grants, etc.
- I think it's highly important to help new faculty get funding and find the necessary research collaborators.
- More support/strategies on how to get PCORI or AHRQ funding. Info about Bridge funding program
- Collaborate with Children's Center. How can we help each other?
- I think y'all are doing a fine job. Keep up the good work.
- It would be helpful if there were a contact equivalent to "Help desk" so that any inquiries can be directed to a relevant person. For example, somebody may want a list for "junior faculty grants" or

"postdoc fellowship grant opportunities" but there is nobody who can answer it or direct to the right resources (e.g. the webpage prepared by ORSP).

- More personnel that can be contacted for questions regarding opportunities and grant writing tips.
- It's been good so far
- I work in the School of Education but sometimes find the information from the Medical School useful.
- The problem is time. On one hand, we are supposed to engage in interactions, explore new ideas, inform ourselves, be creative. All that takes time! But on the other, we sign off on our time sheets that 100% of our time is for department research, sponsored research, teaching, administration etc. - What is needed is a 10% (lets say) effort for creative scholarship or something like that.
- I know the Medical School officials are trying to help our faculty with grant applications. Thanks. I will be happy to receive more information and attend some seminars in the future.
- To my knowledge, I have never received these communications.