

Texas Tech Health

Research

OFFICE OF RESEARCH

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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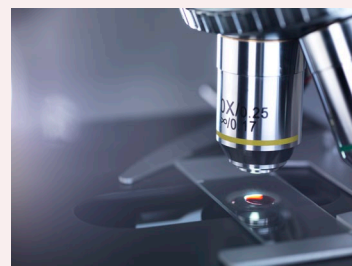
[October 2026]

WELCOME TO THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

Welcome to the new academic year! As we kick off this year, the Office of Research is dedicated to supporting your research and scholarship every step of the way.

Whether you are developing a new project, looking for funding opportunities, or navigating research administration and compliance, our team is here to help turn your ideas into impactful outcomes. As our campus continues to grow, including the exciting research opportunities ahead with the new cancer center, there has never been a better time to bring your research goals to life.

We look forward to highlighting the incredible work, achievements, and discoveries happening across our institution. Our door is always open, whether you want to stop by for a quick chat or to let us know how we can best support your success this year!



ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

As part of our continuing commitment to support Texas Tech Health El Paso faculty and the broader research community on campus, the Office of Research is excited to announce its new quarterly newsletter! We aim to use this platform to provide updates on policy changes, relevant news, expert insights, important dates, and funding notices to our community.

At the Office of Research, we are committed to empowering our faculty and research teams with the guidance, resources, and tools they need to transform their research, public service, and instructional ideas into opportunities that create meaningful impact. Research is at the heart of Texas Tech Health El Paso's mission to advance our region and improve the health and well-being of our community.

Visit us: Fourth floor of MSBII • elp-or@ttep.edu

AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Office of Research proudly congratulates the following principal investigators on their successful funding awards. We are honored to celebrate their achievements and the meaningful contributions their work makes to our institution and community.

Lead PI	Sponsor	Total Award Amount
Taylor Yong, M.D.	Orthopaedic Trauma Association	\$35,000
Mei-Zhen Cui, Ph.D.	NIH - National Institute of General Medical Sciences - NIGMS	\$241,702
Xuemin Xu, Ph.D.	NIH - National Institute of General Medical Sciences - NIGMS	\$1,708,547
Jessica Chacon, Ph.D.	University of Texas Rio Grande Valley - UT Rio Grande Valley	\$33,165
Hareesh Babu Bhaskaran Nair, Ph.D.	VaRi Bioscience GmbH	\$100,000
Amir Hernandez, Ph.D., M.P.H. Jennifer Molokwu, M.D., M.P.H., FAAFP	University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston - UTHSC Houston	\$89,841
Hareesh Babu Bhaskaran Nair, Ph.D.	American Cancer Society	\$75,000
Michael D. Parsa, M.D., FAAEM, FACEP	Texas Medical Association	\$2,998
Amanda Chiao, Au.D.	American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology	\$20,000
Paisith Piriawat, M.D.	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board - THECB	\$1,227,440
Hareesh Babu Bhaskaran Nair, Ph.D.	Lizanell and Colbert Coldwell Foundation	\$30,000
Munmun Chattopadhyay, M.Sc., Ph.D.	Lizanell and Colbert Coldwell Foundation	\$30,000
Ramadevi Subramani Reddy, Ph.D.	Lizanell and Colbert Coldwell Foundation	\$30,000
Silvina Tonarelli de Maud, M.D.	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board - THECB	\$2,608,310
Ignacio Montoya, M.D.	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board - THECB	\$613,720
Jessica Chacon, Ph.D.	American College Health Foundation	\$3,500
Sheldon Rao, M.D.	American Cancer Society	\$30,000
Rohit Balasundaram, Ph.D., M.P.H., B.D.S.	American Association of Public Health Dentistry	\$10,000
Patricia Ortiz, M.D.	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board - THECB	\$555,555
Marie Leiner, Ph.D.	The US-Mexico-Canada Strategic Alliance	\$10,000
Rick Black, D.D.S., M.S.	WellMed Charitable Foundation	\$20,000
Juan Figueroa-Casas, M.D.	University Health Network	\$27,500
Jene Hurlbut, Ph.D.	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board - THECB	\$181,407
Munmun Chattopadhyay, M.Sc., Ph.D.	Texas Tech University System - TTU System	\$50,000
Mir Quadri, B.D.S., M.S., Ph.D.	Texas Tech University System - TTU System	\$50,000
Irene Sarosiek, M.D.	NIH - National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases - NIDDK	\$61,800
Radosveta Wells, M.D.	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board - THECB	\$306,000
Susan McLean, M.D.	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board - THECB	\$102,000
Daniel Camacho, M.B.A.	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center - TTUHSC Lubbock	\$208,400
Alyssa Benavides, Ph.D., M.P.A.	ADP Foundation	\$10,000
Mir Quadri, B.D.S., M.S., Ph.D.	The William J. Gies Foundation for the Advancement of Dentistry (ADEAGies Foundation)	\$30,000
Alyssa Benavides, Ph.D., M.P.A.	ADP Foundation	\$15,000
Maureen Francis, M.D.	American Breast Cancer Foundation	\$7,500

FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATES

Federal research activity continues under the recently passed Continuing Resolution, which maintains mostly FY2026 funding levels through Dec. 11. Federal agencies are expected to continue releasing funding opportunities and issuing awards during this period.

For Texas Tech Health El Paso researchers, NIH and other federal agencies continue to emphasize research rigor, transparency, research security, and compliance with evolving grants policies. Investigators should remain attentive to changes in proposal requirements, disclosure requirements, and other sponsor guidance when preparing and managing federally funded projects.

Federal funding priorities also continue to emphasize biomedical research, biotechnology, innovation, commercialization, and the translation of research discoveries into practical applications. These areas may provide new opportunities for Texas Tech Health El Paso investigators and collaborative research teams.

Sponsored Programs will continue to monitor federal funding and policy developments and share updates and relevant opportunities with the research community.

TRAINING SPOTLIGHT

Research Security, NIH Common Forms and Other Support

NIH and other sponsors are moving toward standardized disclosure forms, including RST, NIH Common Forms, and Other Support, to strengthen transparency and research integrity. The training will cover NIH Common Forms, including the Biographical Sketch and Other Support, senior/key personnel responsibilities, new NIH RST training requirements, and their connection to NSPM-33, the CHIPS and Science Act, and research security.

Contact: sponsoredprograms.ep@ttep.edu

Effort Reporting

Required under 2 CFR § 200.430, effort reporting documents that employee time and salary charged to sponsored projects reflect the work performed. This training will cover key definitions, calculations, best practices, examples, and expected effort commitments for Texas Tech Health El Paso researchers.

Contact: sponsoredprograms.ep@ttep.edu

Training availability: Trainings will be available on the Sponsored Programs website. For more information: sponsoredprograms.ep@ttep.edu

SPONSORED PROGRAMS

The Sponsored Programs team supports faculty and research teams throughout the lifecycle of externally funded projects—from identifying funding opportunities and developing proposals to award review, administration, and closeout.

Our team provides guidance on sponsor requirements, proposal and budget development, institutional approvals, award and agreement review, post-award administration, and sponsor prior approvals. We work closely with principal investigators, departments, and institutional partners to help ensure sponsored projects are submitted and managed in accordance with sponsor and institutional requirements.

Whether you are exploring a new funding opportunity, preparing a proposal, or have questions about an existing award, Sponsored Programs is here to help you navigate the process and identify the appropriate next steps.

— Leslie Casas, CRA, Post-Award Director
Esmeralda Zazueta, CPRA, Pre-Award Director

Questions: General Sponsoredprograms.ep@ttep.edu Pre-Award preaward@ttep.edu Post-Award postaward@ttep.edu

CLINICAL RESEARCH

The Clinical Research Support Program (CRSP) provides flexible Clinical Research Coordinator (CRC) support to investigators and research teams who need additional expertise or operational capacity to successfully conduct clinical research. Services can be tailored to the specific needs of each study, ranging from targeted regulatory or administrative assistance to ongoing day-to-day study coordination.

CRSP coordinators provide experienced support throughout the study lifecycle, including study startup, regulatory submissions and maintenance, participant recruitment and scheduling, study visits, data entry, sponsor and monitor coordination, and study closeout.

CRSP services are provided through a cost-recovery model, with fees determined by the type, complexity, and level of support requested. This flexible approach allows investigators and departments to access experienced clinical research personnel based on their individual study needs without requiring dedicated coordinator staffing for every study.

— Brenda Castillo, Clinical Research Director

Questions: elp-clinical-research@ttep.edu

RESEARCH COMMITTEES

Research studies and associated activities conducted at Texas Tech Health El Paso may require oversight from an institutional body to comply with state and federal regulations depending on the characteristics of the study. Our university is served by two Institutional Review Boards (IRBs), an Institutional Biosafety Committee, an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and a Conflict of Interest in Research Committee. Please explore the individual tabs on the sidebar to the left for further information regarding Texas Tech Health El Paso's research committees and how they may relate to your specific research.

— Myrna Arvizo, Senior Director, Research Committees

Questions: IRB elpasoirb@ttep.edu • IACUC IACUC@ttu.edu • IBC amanda.ortiz@ttep.edu

LABORATORY ANIMAL RESOURCES CENTER

The Laboratory Animal Resources Center (LARC) supports the humane care and use of laboratory animals in research, testing, and teaching across Texas Tech Health El Paso. Our LARC personnel provide expert veterinary care, daily animal husbandry, regulatory guidance, and operational infrastructure necessary to maintain a high-quality animal research program. LARC works closely with investigators and research teams to support compliance, ensure robust facility standards, and uphold full AAALAC accreditation, demonstrating our commitment to the highest standards of animal care and scientific excellence.

Questions: larcelp@ttep.edu

COMPLIANCE

Texas HB 130: New Requirements for Human Genomic Sequencing Research

Texas House Bill 130, the Texas Genomic Data Protection Act, became effective Sept. 1, 2025, establishing new requirements intended to protect human genomic information and restrict access to genomic data and sequencing technologies associated with certain foreign adversaries. The law applies to research facilities conducting research involving genome sequencing or the human genome in Texas. To support institutional compliance, Texas Tech Health El Paso investigators conducting research that involves human genomic sequencing must submit or update the applicable Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) application to document these activities. Investigators should ensure that human genomic sequencing activities are appropriately identified in the IBC record and updated whenever relevant study activities change. Questions regarding applicability or IBC requirements should be directed to the Research Compliance Unit.

- Diego Escobar-Garcia, Associate Director

Questions: elp-researchcompliance@ttep.edu

RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

The Research Administration and Operations team provides comprehensive administrative management, space and research equipment oversight, and operational support to advance research activities across Texas Tech Health El Paso. Our team assists faculty, staff, and students by coordinating research space and workspace needs, and overseeing key operational projects throughout their life cycle to help keep your research moving forward. We also support campus research showcase initiatives, including the annual symposium that highlights faculty and student research achievements. Beyond events, we help support research continuity by managing research area access and facilitating research volunteer onboarding.

- Crystal Lopez-Torres, Assistant Managing Director for the Office of Research

Questions: elp-or@ttep.edu

EQUIPMENT OVERSIGHT AND LABORATORY SUPPORT

In close daily collaboration with the Research Facilities Support team, we oversee the management and safeguarding of critical research infrastructure assets and core laboratory equipment. Together, we coordinate preventive maintenance schedules, vendor service contracts, 24/7 environmental and freezer monitoring, and specialized operational support for our vivarium and BSL-3. This joint approach ensures institutional research spaces remain fully functional, safe, and operational.

Questions: elp-orbuildingsupport@ttep.edu

RESEARCH IT

Zoom is now the primary video conferencing platform at Texas Tech Health El Paso. With Webex scheduled to be discontinued after October 1, Office of Research faculty and staff are encouraged to begin using Zoom as much as possible for meetings and collaboration.

What should you do now?

- *Use Zoom for new meetings instead of Webex whenever possible.*
- *Move recurring Webex meetings to Zoom and update meeting invitations with the new Zoom information.*
- *Review your Webex recordings and message history and save anything you need to retain before October 1.*

Need help?

The Research IT team is available to assist with the transition. If you have questions, experience issues using Zoom, or need help moving existing meetings from Webex, please reach out to IT Research Team.

Questions: Roberto.Galindo@ttep.edu

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Over the summer, the Office of Research acquired access to Atom Grants. Atom is an AI platform developed for research teams. The platform uses AI tools to help researchers and their teams discover funding opportunities matched to their research interests and forecast upcoming opportunities based on sponsor history with grants and awards.

Sponsored Programs hosted training sessions on the use and setup of Atom. These trainings will be available on the Sponsored Programs website. Please contact the Pre-Award Unit of Sponsored Programs at preaward@ttep.edu or 915-215-5836.

For now, we have curated funding opportunities found using the platform listed below.

Use this link to access Atom: atomgrants.com/signin

Sponsor	Deadline	Award Amount	Program Title (Funding Instrument)
AO North America	Anticipated reopening November 2026	\$35,000 over 2 years	Kathryn Cramer Early Career Research Development Award
Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas	Nov. 18, 2026	\$250,000 over 2 years	Catalyst Pilot Research Award
Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas	Nov. 18, 2026	Up to \$4m over a 5-year period	Research Training Award for Workforce
Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas	Dec. 8, 2026	\$1.5m for new projects; \$2.5m for expansion projects; maximum 5 years	Cancer Screening and Early Detection
Diabetes Research & Wellness Foundation	Dec. 30, 2026	\$50,000 up to 2 years; exceptions may apply	Diabetes Research & Wellness Foundation Research Grants
Conquer Cancer / The ASCO Foundation	Jan. 28, 2027	\$200,000 over 3 years	Career Development Award Special Competitions
American Cancer Society	LOI: Feb. 9, 2027; Full Application: June 1, 2027	Up to \$1.65m over 4 years	RFA: Cancer Health Research Centers (CHERCs)

Congratulations



Esmeralda Zazueta
Director



Joshua Rayner
Research Administrator II

For successfully obtaining your
Certified Pre-Award Research Administrator
(CPRA) certification.

Thank you for your dedication
to research excellence!

OPEN OFFICE HOURS Meet the Office of Research team

The Office of Research hosts an open house on the first Wednesday of every month. We welcome faculty and staff interested in research, public service, or instruction to meet our teams, learn how we can support their work, and have their questions answered.

**NEXT
OPEN HOUSE****Oct. 7, 2026****9 – 11 a.m.****MEB 1110****Nov. 4, 2026****1 – 3 p.m.****MEB 1110****Dec. 2, 2026****1 – 3 p.m.****MEB 1110****AI USE ATTESTATION**

This newsletter template was developed with assistance from ChatGPT (OpenAI), model: GPT-5.6 Sol.

Use of generative AI was primarily for routine drafting, formatting, organization, and revision activities. AI assistance was incorporated throughout the development and revision process and was not limited to isolated or incidental tasks.

Human oversight and professional judgment remained integral throughout the development process. Final responsibility for the accuracy, applicability, and institutional appropriateness of the content presented in the newsletter rests with the responsible institutional personnel. AI-generated content does not supersede applicable laws, regulations, policies, official guidance, or subject matter expertise.