



# DISCOVERY

OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

*Electronic versions available at [wmich.edu/research/news.html](http://wmich.edu/research/news.html)*

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## OVPV VISION AND MISSION

**VISION:** TO BE A LEADER AND CATALYST FOR SCHOLARSHIP EXCELLENCE

**MISSION:** THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH ADVANCES THE OVERALL SCHOLARSHIP AGENDA OF THE UNIVERSITY; SUPPORTS THE SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVES OF WMU FACULTY, STUDENTS AND STAFF; AND ASSURES COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATIONS.

**WWW.WMICH.EDU/RESEARCH**

## DISCOVERY UPDATES

**Happy New (Academic) Year!** Welcome back or a first-time welcome to new faculty and staff arriving this year. What will we DISCOVER in the next few months?

**The Associate Vice President for Research search** is underway. The Associate Vice President for Research (AVPR) reports to the Vice President for Research (VPR) and helps provide leadership in growing Discovery and the research enterprise at Western Michigan University (WMU). The AVPR exercises operational management and oversight of the core central and divisional research administration functions for the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR). S/he works closely with faculty, staff, administrators, internal units, and external organizations including industry, government, and communities. The position description and application procedures can be found at the WMU Human Resources Website under Careers and Job Postings or specifically at: <https://www.wmujobs.org/applicants/jsp/shared/frameSet/FrameSet.jsp?time=1474474683959>. If you have questions or would like to nominate someone, please contact Dr. Susan Stapleton, Chair of the Search Committee and Dean of the Graduate College at [susan.stapleton@wmich.edu](mailto:susan.stapleton@wmich.edu).

**PURE has been added to the WMU Discovery Experts** system from Elsevier. It offers new capabilities and possibilities for faculty, staff, students, and external constituents to connect, explore, and collaborate. The system continues to automatically upload your scholarly publications from over 20,000 global sources. You can update your profile to tailor it more closely to your current research interests and enter information about your many other activities that are not automatically entered by Elsevier. Faculty and staff can enter additional information in many pre-selected formats including curriculum vitae, courses and

curriculum, and creative works in video or picture format, among others. Researchers receive reports of current and possible collaborators at WMU and in the global community. Administrators can review consolidated reports for their units. Faculty and staff should be receiving automatic periodic information about possible grants that are available from funding agencies and are related to their academic and research profile. You may access the system through the WMU Research website or at: <https://wmich.pure.elsevier.com/>. If you have questions or seek details, contact Jay Hoinville at [jay.hoinville@wmich.edu](mailto:jay.hoinville@wmich.edu).

**Strategic Planning** of the past year was extensive and resulted in the new WMU Strategic Plan approved by the Board of Trustees. This year will see many initiatives to create and implement plans to help raise Discovery including increased emphasis on data driven decision making systems, and the roles of individuals, units, centers, institutes, and discovery communities. Please let us know your thoughts and if you would like to contribute to the effort to best position WMU to lead nationally and globally.

Best wishes,

Dan Litynski, VP for Research

## \$1.6 MILLION IN GRANTS DURING APRIL AND MAY

Western Michigan University passed the \$1.6 million mark in externally funded awards in April and May, pushing the year-to-date total above \$21 million since the start of the 2015-16 fiscal year, WMU trustees learned at their June meeting.

### RESEARCH GRANTS

Research grants led the way, falling just short of \$1 million, followed by grants for instruction at \$334,316. Grants for public service came in at \$297,102.

Notable research awards included a \$195,121 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to **Dr. Anthony DeFulio**, assistant professor of psychology. The continuation grant will be used to develop an intensive intervention that incorporates the most effective techniques for promoting ART—antiretroviral therapy—adherence in drug users.

Other notable research awards included a new grant of \$143,882 from the Michigan Department of Transportation to Drs. **Jun-Seok Oh** and **Valerian Kwigizile**, professor and assistant professor, respectively, of civil and construction engineering, to evaluate the benefit of the Michigan Department of Transportation's continuous counting station locations to the overall monitoring program in terms of cost savings and access to additional data.

### INSTRUCTION, PUBLIC SERVICE GRANTS

Grants for instruction were topped by a \$133,294 continuing award from the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency to **Dr. Richard W. Malott**, professor of psychology, to provide funding for four doctoral associate positions in the Early Childhood Classroom at KRESA.

The largest public service grant was a \$214,200 award from the U.S. Small Business Administration to **Tamara Davis**, regional director of the Small Business Development Center. The new grant will be used to provide no-cost business consulting, secondary research and low-cost training to small businesses in seven counties in southwest Michigan.

## SEPTEMBER 30 DEADLINE FOR INTERNAL FUNDING

Two internal funding awards have a September 30 deadline. Plan now to apply for these funding awards.

### Support for Faculty Scholars Award (SFSA)

Guidelines for the application for this internal grant are outlined on the website, but the requirements include an application limited to three pages or 1500 words. This award does not require submission to an external funding proposal.

### Undergraduate Research Excellence Award (URE)

Students may apply for monies to work with an externally-funded faculty member. Details on the application process are available online as well.

Visit [wmich.edu/research](http://wmich.edu/research) for more information, or contact Melanie with questions at [melanie.greer@wmich.edu](mailto:melanie.greer@wmich.edu).

## CONTRACTS FOR INVESTIGATORS BREAKFAST SESSIONS

Beginning in September, Kathy Purnell will host a series of breakfast sessions designed to familiarize investigators with the wide range of contracts that support research, creative activity and sponsored projects. All sessions will meet in W. Walwood, OVPR Conference Room 262, from 7:45 –9 a.m.

Participants are encouraged to bring agreements “in progress” relevant to the week’s topic, but it is not required. Sessions are open to faculty and staff, with one specifically open exclusively to graduate students in the spring.

Given limited space, please register for sessions. Breakfast is included with the sessions.

### Fall 2016

- *Building relationships through subawards, MOUs and master agreements* – October 19
- *Business Associate Agreements (BAA) and HIPAA compliance* – November 16
- *Federal Contracting: What to embrace and what to avoid on the “FAR”- side* – December 14

The full schedule and registration for fall and spring semester is available at [wmich.edu/research](http://wmich.edu/research).

## PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR LAUDED FOR RESEARCH EXPERTISE

A longtime Western Michigan University psychology professor is being lauded in numerous circles this year for his research expertise and contributions to society.

Most notably, **Dr. Alan D. Poling** received this year's International Humanitarian Award from the American Psychological Association at its annual convention in August in Denver. The award is APA's highest honor. It recognizes extraordinary humanitarian services and activism by psychologists, including the professional or volunteer work they conduct in the psychology field with underserved populations.

APA is the leading scientific and professional organization representing psychology in the United States. Its mission is to advance the creation, communication and application of psychological knowledge to benefit society and improve people's lives.

In February, Poling received the Outstanding Contributor Award for the 2015-16 fiscal year from the California Association for Behavior Analysis for his lifetime contributions to behavior analysis.

Just three months later, the Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis presented him with its 2016 Award for Scientific Translation. The honor, bestowed during the Association for Behavior Analysis International annual convention, recognizes society members and nonmembers for their activities that have an impact on the application of science or for their technology transfers that address socially significant problems.

### HELPING TO SAVE LIVES

Poling was nominated for APA's humanitarian award by **Dr. Amy L. Damashek**, WMU associate professor of psychology, in light of his work since 2009 with APOPO, a Belgian humanitarian organization based in Tanzania. As this year's award recipient, he spoke on "Scientific Research, Human Welfare and Me" in an invited address to APA convention attendees.

APOPO trains African giant pouched rats to pinpoint buried land mines and identify tuberculosis in laboratory samples. The rodents—dubbed HeroRATs—offer a cost-effective way to detect these two scourges in low-income and low-resourced countries.

"They're remarkable in their physical abilities," Poling says. "They climb well. They dig well. They're quick. And they learn readily." Plus, he notes that the rodents are so light they hardly ever trigger a mine, and they have highly sensitive noses as well as several behavioral characteristics that keep them healthy and working hard.

APOPO's founder, Bart Weetjens, recognized the potential value of detection rats in 1998, and his organization spent

years breeding, domesticating and training HeroRATs. Poling joined the team in 2009 to increase its research capacity, improve the scientific rigor of that research and further streamline rat-training processes. He has been going to Tanzania periodically since then, often with students.

Weetjens says initially APOPO wasn't producing many scholarly papers, so not everyone appreciated what HeroRATs could do. He says Poling is responsible for the steep increase in overall reliability and effectiveness of detection-rat technology in recent years as well as for scientifically substantiating the rats' value as land mine and TB detectors in Africa and Asia.

"If APOPO's HeroRATs were finally accepted as a reliable detection tool, credits go to Dr. Poling and his researchers," Weetjens says. "Looking back over the last seven years...it is not exaggerated to claim that Dr. Al Poling and his team of researchers have significantly impacted humanitarian action in the world."

In announcing Poling's humanitarian award, APA not only acknowledged Poling's work with APOPO, but his broader research activities.

"Throughout a career spanning more than three decades, Alan Poling has studied learning in humans and other animals and used principles of learning to change behavior in beneficial ways," APA wrote. "He has also played a significant role in building capacity in [Africa and Asia] by writing proposals to secure funding and by providing talented and dedicated graduate students who, like Poling, are willing to live, work and deliver humanitarian services under challenging conditions for protracted periods."

### ALAN POLING

A WMU faculty member since 1978, Poling teaches in the behavioral analysis program, directs the behavioral pharmacology laboratory and participates in the University's growing high-profile efforts to improve the lives of those with autism and other developmental disabilities.

Poling and his student teams have conducted research and done conceptual work in such areas as applied behavior analysis; behavioral pharmacology; clinical psychopharmacology, with special emphasis on the effects of psychotropic drugs in people with developmental disabilities; gender issues; animal welfare; quantitative analysis; learning processes; and research methods.

In 1996, Poling received WMU's Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award, the highest honor the University can bestow on a faculty member, and in 1999, he was named a Distinguished Alumnus of West Virginia University.

Source: University News

## SCHEDULE FINALIZED FOR DISCOVER DISCOVERY WORKSHOPS

OVPR, partnering with the Office of Faculty Development, will once again offer a year-long series of workshops designed to orient faculty to the research enterprise. The series spans fall and spring semesters; new faculty as well as veteran faculty are invited to attend these workshops. Registration is required so lunch can be provided.

Held bi-weekly at the Fetzer Center, 12:30-1:45 p.m., the research series highlight the discovery activities and external funding by which to support those efforts.

Registration is available at [wmich.edu/research](http://wmich.edu/research).

### Fall 2016 workshops:

- *A birds-eye view and your research agenda* – October 4
- *Funding brought to you by Buster Bronco* – October 18
- *Get tender—Legal tender! How to find funding for your projects* – November 1
- *What's worth doing is worth doing for money—how to create a budget that gets you where you are going* – November 15
- *FRACAA Work Session: You want the dime, you do the time* – November 29

### Spring 2017 workshops:

- *Students in research — at a university?? You don't say . . .* – January 24
- *Yes, they are talking about you behind your back. What do grant proposal reviewers really think?* – February 7
- *Project evaluation — sponsors want bang for their buck!* – February 21
- *International research and contracts and IP, oh my!* – March 21
- *That's a wrap!* – April 4

## FACILITIES & ADMINISTRATIVE COST RATES (F&A)

The work of WMU faculty, staff, and students on externally-funded projects includes direct and indirect costs. Direct project costs are usually straightforward and easily attributed to a specific project. Indirect costs, termed Facilities and Administrative Costs (F&A), are also real costs that are essential for a project's implementation, but would take much time by faculty and staff to attribute and track in relation to specific projects.

F&A costs include such expenses as research space and equipment, utilities, custodial services, security, payroll, purchasing, fiscal management and tracking, and department administration. To relieve the burden on researchers, F&A costs are agreed upon through formal negotiations every four years with our cognizant agency, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. They are based upon data presented by the University via a cost analysis and are expressed as a percentage of total direct costs minus exclusions.

Having such a rate helps the university reduce the costs of having to determine how much of these resources each individual project uses or consumes. The current rate is 51% of modified direct costs.

Project budgets are required to include full recovery of F&A costs at the appropriate negotiated rate. More information about specific rates and F&A policies are available on the OVPR website ([www.wmich.edu/research/policies/proposalsubmit](http://www.wmich.edu/research/policies/proposalsubmit)).

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