



Welcome to The DIVISION OF RESEARCH Welcome Back Newsletter

Amplifying Charlotte's World-Class Research & Innovation

DIVISION OF RESEARCH (DR) NEWS

Greetings and welcome to the new academic year! We're excited about supporting and accelerating the work of our faculty, staff, students, and external research partners!! We know advancing your ideas, inviting collaboration, securing funding, identifying industry and community partners, managing awards, amplifying your real-world solutions, protecting your intellectual property, and bringing to market your inventions are monumental works of passion. Please know that we are here to help with the heavy lifting – to surround you with guidance, resources, and support for every phase of the research journey.

As an emerging Carnegie Classified Research 1 (R1) University, we're excited about what that means – opening the door to new partnerships and helping us bring more federal funding to Charlotte which ultimately means more innovation, more impact, and more meaning. In addition to looking forward, we thought you might like to take a minute and reflect on our collective accomplishments in FY24. And what a year it was! In case you missed it, here's the video for the [Chancellor's annual campus report](#) where UNC Charlotte's research accomplishments are prominently featured (see time code 3:21). A tremendous thank you for your exceptional contributions to research across campus.



As for the DR newsletter, we hope you enjoy this special *Welcome Back Edition* to kick off the academic year, and our monthly updates the 3rd Wednesday of the month throughout the school year. Each will have research highlights, new funding award announcements, professional development and training opportunities, division spotlights, updates on policy changes, and more.

On behalf of our entire DR staff, we look forward to working with you as we move Charlotte forward!

~ *John Daniels (Vice Chancellor for Research) &*

Deb Thomas (Associate Vice Chancellor for Research)

Celebrating An Awesome Year: The Office of Research Commercialization and Partnerships (ORCP) is one of our multi-faceted DR Offices, serving as the primary gateway for intellectual capital assets and putting them to work, as well as forging industry-government-investor business relationships with our **amazing university researchers**. Take a look at ORCP's fiscal year highlights!

FY2024 University Business Partners:

- 49 active UBPs on Millennial Campus
- 8 new UBPs
- 6 new co-working UBPs
- 42 Millennial Campus space renewals

FY2024 Intellectual Property Management:

- 36 new inventions created and processed
- 56 new patents filed
- 7 new patents issued
- 5 new licenses and options
- 3 new spinout companies

DR NEWS CONTD...

Growing The Team: The Office of Research Protections and Integrity (ORPI) is increasing the support to COI and IRB programs. A position has been posted and it is available [here](#).

A Few Quick Reminders: DR reorganized and renamed two of our Offices.

- **The Office of Research Commercialization and Partnerships ORCP** represents the merger of the Office of Research Commercialization and Development and the Office of Research Partnerships. The combined holistic approach results in a seamless experience for our internal and external commercialization partners.
- **The Office of Sponsored Projects Administration (OSPA)** is the former Grants and Contracts Administration. It remains the go-to for college-based post award support. Read more about OSPA below in our "DIVISION SPOTLIGHT" section.

POLICY UPDATES & NOTES

Research Protections & Integrity Resources: Research misconduct is "fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or reporting research results." The Office of Research Protections and Integrity handles allegations of research misconduct with a dedication to confidentiality, objectivity, and adherence to all applicable policies and procedures. Research misconduct concerns can be reported to Research Integrity Officer Dr. Angelica Martins at A.Martins@charlotte.edu or by phone at 704-687-1876. Reports can also be made anonymously via the ORPI website with [Ethic Point](#). If you have concerns but are not confident that they match the definition of research misconduct, please contact our office to discuss the matter, with no obligation to pursue the issue formally.

UPCOMING TRAININGS

Interested In Professional Development? DR's Office of Research Services (ORS) has you covered. You can find our fall slate of workshops [here](#).

Biosafety Seminar: The Carolinas Biological Safety Association (CaBSA) is hosting a Hybrid Technical Seminar presented by Dr. Kathryn Harris, Senior Outreach and Education Specialist from the Office of Science Policy (OSP). The presentation will cover the following:

- Overview of April 2024 amendments to the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules
- NIH OSP review of requests to lower the minimum required biosafety containment level for research subject to the NIH Guidelines

Contact Biosafety Officer Dr. Cathy Moore at uncc-ibc@charlotte.edu for attendance & membership.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

Leading The Way In Childhood Literacy: Out of the 15 state colleges that train future North Carolina teachers, UNC Charlotte's Cato College of Education received a "highest rating overall in literacy instruction," as stated in [this UComm article](#). The story also featured a recent UNC Charlotte graduate, Caitlin McGennis, as she put her dual elementary and special education major to work with 3rd graders at Berewick Elementary School in South Charlotte. McGennis took students through a writing exercise designed to develop reading skills and critical, independent thinking. While student-teaching at Berewick, McGennis shared that writing "plays a big role" in building reading skills. For more on McGennis' experience, the amazing class of 3rd graders, how research informs teaching children to read, and the \$23 million endowment headed to the Cato College of Education, you'll want to read more!

ANNOUNCING NEW FUNDING AWARDS FOR JULY

Award PI	Department	College	Other Personnel
Simon M Hsiang	Dept of Industrial & Systems Engin	COEN	
Tara Lani Cavalline	Engineering Tech & Constr Mgmt	COEN	
Bridget Elizabeth Anderson	Urban Institute	urbanCORE	Angelique Miriam Makeba Gaines
Rajib Paul	Epidemiology and Comm Health	CHHS	Ahmed Arsalan Arif
Colleen D Hammelman	Geography and Earth Sciences	CHESS	

UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENT

The 2024 BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES SYMPOSIUM
September 9th, UNC Charlotte Dubois Center
Powered by the Division of Research
Hosted by the College of Science, College of Engineering, & College of Computing and Informatics in Collaboration with NCBiotech



DIVISION SPOTLIGHT

THE OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION (OSPA)

The Office of Sponsored Projects Administration (OSPA) helps faculty, staff, and students manage their research grants to ensure financial compliance and proper accounting on sponsored awards. OSPA joins a research project the moment an award is released and sticks with it even after the research is done. OSPA is led by its Executive Director, Darl (Darlene) Booker, and has four focus areas:

- **Award Management** - Setting up grant award funds, managing award budgets and invoices, and ensuring every aspect of the award is compliant with local, state, and federal guidelines
- **Financial Compliance** - Overseeing cost-sharing, any external grant fund audits, patent/invention reporting, and financial reporting
- **Subrecipient Monitoring** - Monitoring sub-awards, processing sub-award invoicing, conducting desk reviews, and more
- **Award Closeout** - Closely monitoring project end dates, ensuring all budget release approvals are complete, final financial expenditure reporting, and final patent/invention reporting

As Booker explains, everything that touches a researcher's fund has to run through OSPA. "Whether it's international travel, award salaries, or subcontractor invoices, we review any type of expense that actually hits that award, just to make sure it applies to the grant," shares Booker.

Booker adds OSPA is driven by strict compliance and a love for research. "We care deeply about the sponsored projects and seeing that the primary investigators (PIs) make a positive difference with their work. So we are committed to making sure that there are no compliance weaknesses or short-comings so we can continue to receive funding into the university."

The OSPA team is made up of 12 amazing personnel. The office went through a name change recently so if you're still hearing or saying "Grants & Contracts Administration" or "GCA," you're not alone. But we're excited about the new name AND even more excited that OSPA offers the same great support and oversight that helps accelerate our local to global world-class research. So say it with us... "the Office of Sponsored Projects Administration" or "OSPA"!