

# BRIGHT IDEAS

Insights & opportunities from Mizzou Research

Vol. 8, No. 9 — April 2026

[View grants and contracts awarded in February.](#)



## Making our world better

Mizzou investigators conducted \$553 million in research in FY2025, setting a new record and marking 12 consecutive years of growth. This number represents discoveries that improve lives, strengthen communities and drive innovation across Missouri and beyond. Thank you to every researcher, partner and team member whose dedication makes Mizzou's research enterprise a powerful force for good. [See 2025 highlights in our annual report.](#)



## Supporting faculty exploration and art

The Division of Research awarded another round of [Research Council grants](#), an investment that gives researchers and creators a boost when publishing articles, recording music, applying for external funding and more.



## Mizzou IRB team earns reaccreditation

The Human Research Protection Program and Institutional Review Board (IRB) [completed a rigorous reaccreditation process](#), reaffirming MU's commitment to the highest standards of ethical research involving human participants.



## A statewide research forum for better health

Researchers from across the state assembled at Missouri S&T to share discoveries aimed at improving global health at the [third annual NextGen Pathways Symposium](#). The event will be held at Mizzou in 2027.

## Professional development

### NSF CAREER panel on Zoom

[Learn from Mizzou NSF CAREER award recipients](#) from **noon-1 p.m. on April 14**. They will share their winning projects and experiences with the CAREER award application process. [Register.](#)

### Foundation Funding 101 webinar

[Explore the basics of foundation funding](#) with Donna Van Pelt, executive director of foundation relations, from **noon-1 p.m. on April 15**. Participants will learn key differences between public and private funding, what to include in a two-page concept paper and essential resources. [Register.](#)

### Social Capital research interest group (RIG)

Faculty, staff and students are invited to the launch of the interdisciplinary [Social Capital RIG](#) from **9-11:30 a.m. on April 30** at the Reflector, Townsend Hall. The program includes highlights from the International Social Capital Association's conference, networking and next steps. [Register.](#)

### Preparing for promotion and tenure

Join Hansa Magee, director of research analytics, and Brenda Cook, administrative consultant in the Office of the Provost, on Zoom from **noon-1 p.m. on May 8** for tips on saving time and avoiding headaches when [reporting grant activity](#) for promotion and tenure. [Register.](#)

### Summer grant-writing workshop

Join a three-day, intensive [grant bootcamp and writing retreat](#) from **9 a.m.- 3 p.m. on May 18-20** at Bond Life Sciences Center. Bring a funding request, and the Professional Development team will walk you through the process of developing a responsive proposal. [Register by May 12.](#)

## Opportunity and celebration



The [Advanced Light Microscopy core \(ALMC\)](#) is accepting entries for their annual contest. Upload a TIF file of an image taken or prepared on any ALMC instrument by **April 13**.



Faculty Excellence Week includes an [appreciation lunch](#) from **11 a.m.-1 p.m. on May 4** and invitation-only events **May 5** (award recipients) and **May 11** (Kemper Fellows).

### South African Education Program virtual symposium

[Learn about funding available](#) for scholarly projects and activities with South African collaborators at **noon on April 8**. [Register.](#)

### Faculty mentor roundtable sessions

Stop by Room N214 A in Memorial Union from **noon-12:45 p.m. on April 27** for [insights on a range of external awards](#).

### Mizzou Libraries acquires Sage Impact Collection

[Faculty and students now have access to Sage digital resources](#), including research methods and more than 1,000 peer-reviewed journals.

### Provide feedback on your classroom and lab environments

[Please complete a brief online survey](#) for each classroom and lab in which you teach. Your feedback will help campus address urgent needs and plan future improvements.

## Mark your calendar



Don't miss [Show Me Research Week, April 20-24](#), an annual campuswide celebration of student research and creative poster and oral presentations, the Humanities Symposium, a Visual Art and Design Showcase and an awards ceremony.



In this semester's last Saturday Morning Science event, [William Fleck](#), director of the School of Visual Studies, [will demonstrate how the visual arts help us develop attentiveness, descriptive skills, awareness and empathy](#) at **10 a.m. on April 18** in Room 171, Bond LSC.

## Deadlines

**SEC Academic Leadership Development**  
**April 13:** Nominations due by noon for 2026-27 program.

**American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)**  
**April 17:** Fellow nominations due.

**National Endowment for the Humanities**  
**April 22:** Fellowship applications due.

**Institutional Review Board (IRB)**  
**April 25:** [Submit](#) human subjects research applications, amendments and annual updates for May 13 full board review.

**Institutional Biosafety Committee**  
**May 4:** [Submit](#) research protocols for June 4 meeting.

## Events

**HRPP/IRB research compliance seminar**  
**April 13** (2 p.m.) – Discuss new required and optional training modules. ([Request Zoom link.](#))

**Extra Credit film series**  
**April 13** (6 p.m.) – Watch "Tremors" and researcher panel discussion.

**Grant Connections meeting**  
**April 22** (10 a.m.) – Learn about MU Resources, Part III: export controls, conflict of interest and research compliance ([Zoom link](#)).

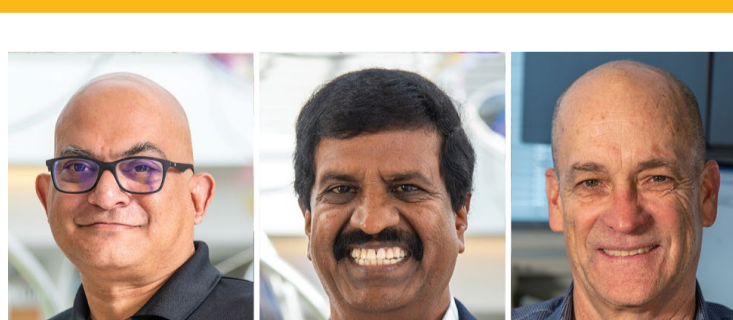
**Cancer Research Day 2026**  
**April 28** (8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.) – Event includes networking and innovative cancer research. ([Register by April 17.](#))

**NextGen Precision Health Discovery Series**  
**April 28** (noon) – This month's topic is ["Rethinking Fertility: Why the Oviduct Matters."](#)

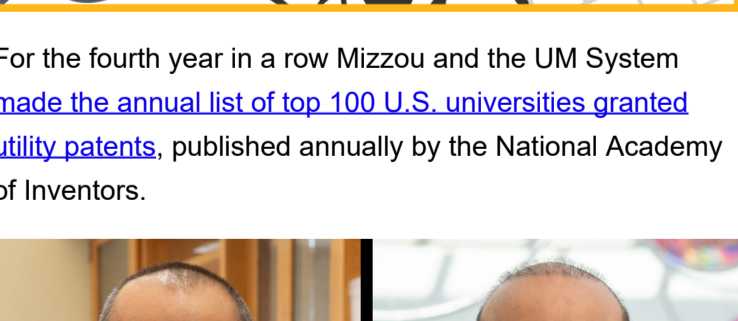
## In case you missed it



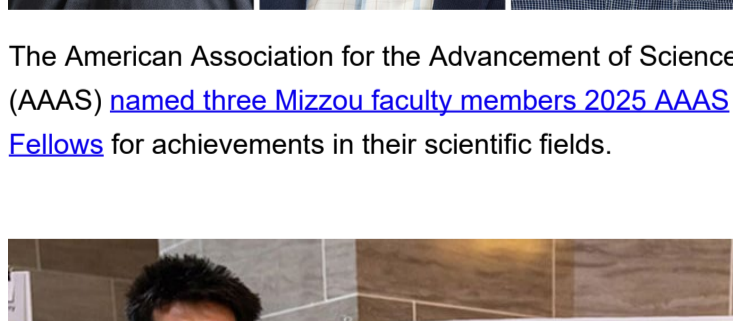
For the fourth year in a row Mizzou and the UM System made the annual list of [top 100 U.S. universities granted utility patents](#), published annually by the National Academy of Inventors.



The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) [named three Mizzou faculty members 2025 AAAS Fellows](#) for achievements in their scientific fields.



The [inaugural Safety MVP Award winners](#) are Wing-Cheung Lai, senior research specialist in biochemistry, and Anand Soorneedi, Bond LSC postdoctoral fellow. Both go above and beyond to foster a culture of safety in their labs.



Ten Mizzou research teams traveled to the Jefferson City to present their work to lawmakers and government officials as part of Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol. [See photo gallery of Tigers and their research posters.](#)



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