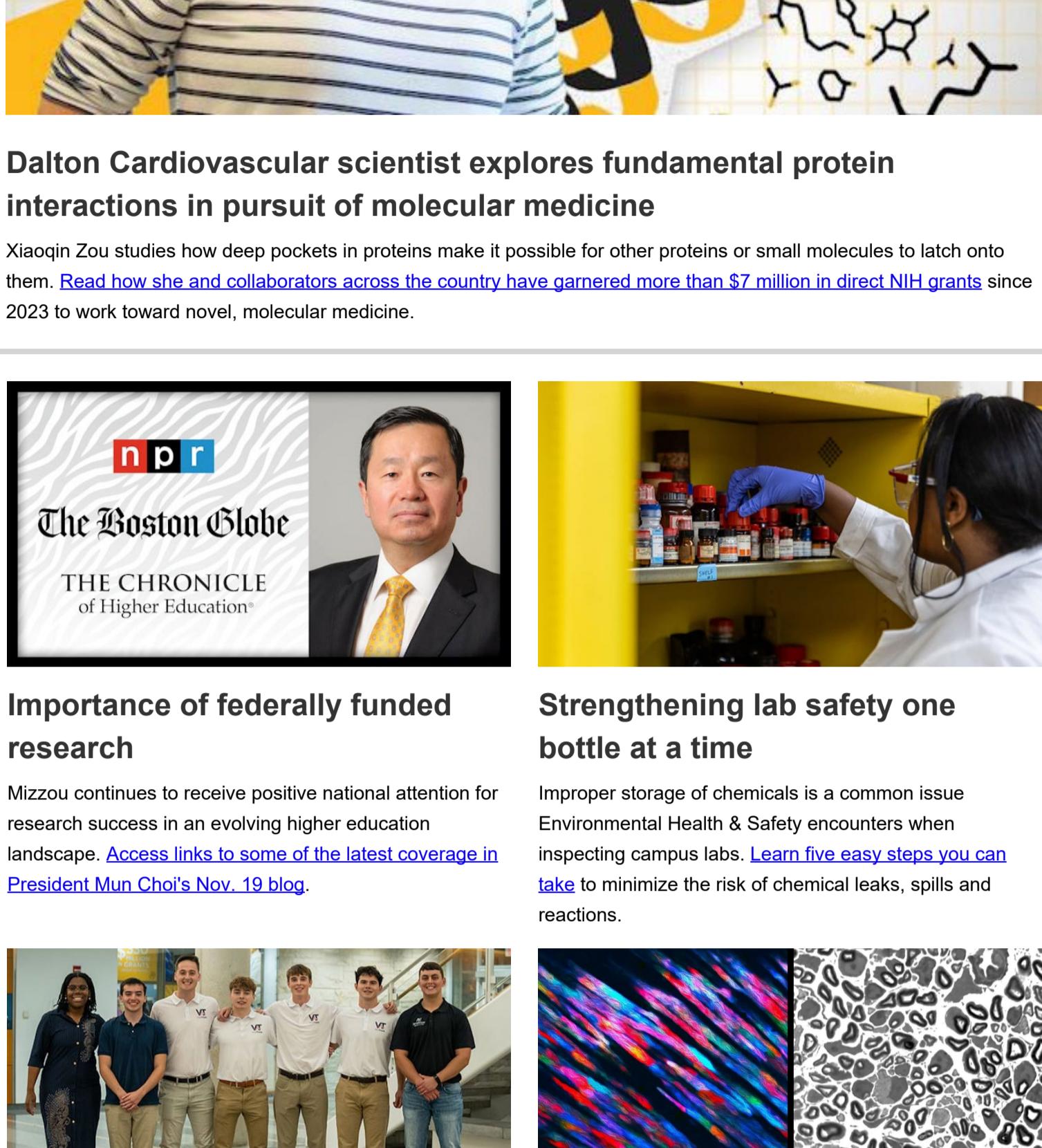


BRIGHT IDEAS

Insights & opportunities from Mizzou Research

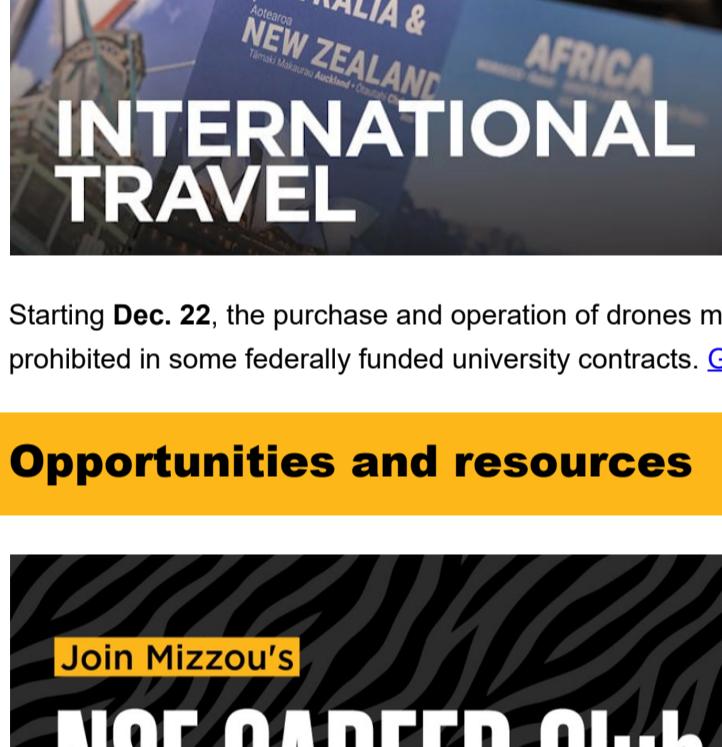
Vol. 8, No. 5 — December 2025

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



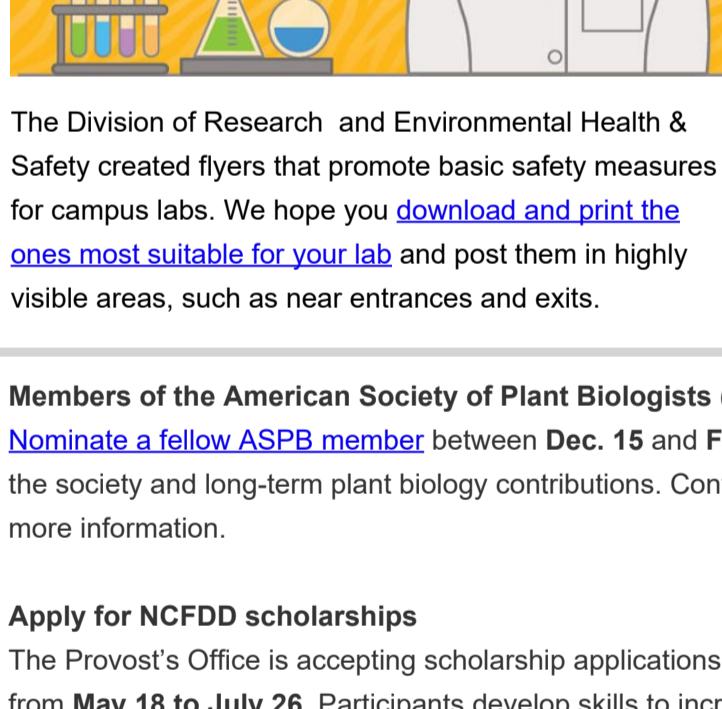
Dalton Cardiovascular scientist explores fundamental protein interactions in pursuit of molecular medicine

Xiaoqin Zou studies how deep pockets in proteins make it possible for other proteins or small molecules to latch onto them. [Read how she and collaborators across the country have garnered more than \\$7 million in direct NIH grants](#) since 2023 to work toward novel, molecular medicine.



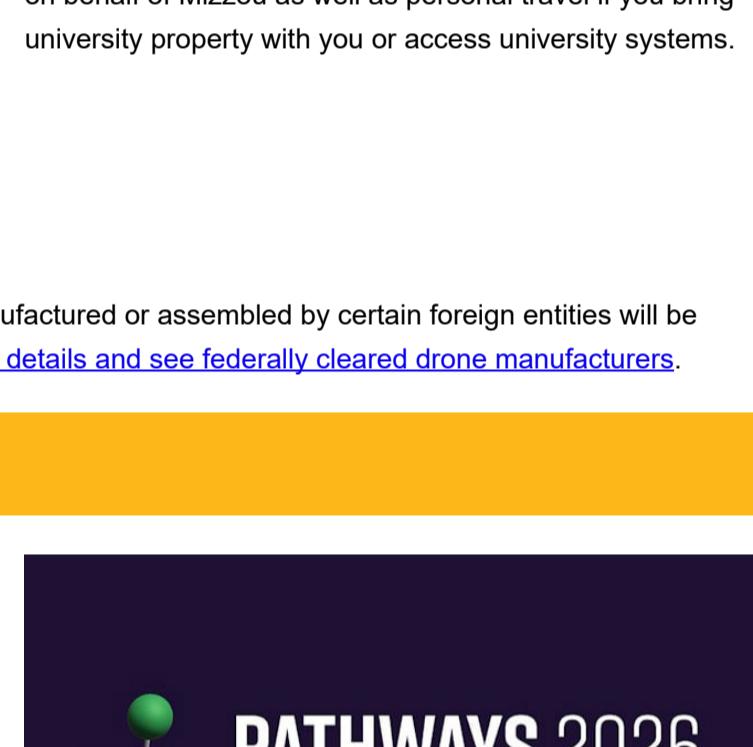
Importance of federally funded research

Mizzou continues to receive positive national attention for research success in an evolving higher education landscape. [Access links to some of the latest coverage in President Mun Choi's Nov. 19 blog.](#)



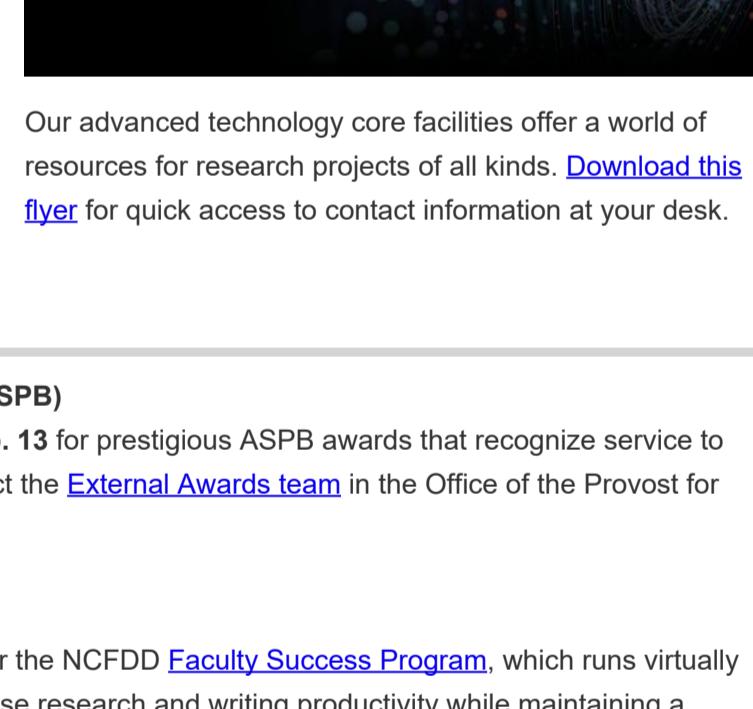
A quest with many guides

Four Mizzou student teams won a combined \$37,000 in funding for their businesses last month after participating in Entrepreneur Quest, a signature program of the Griggs Innovators Nexus in the Division of Research.



Strengthening lab safety one bottle at a time

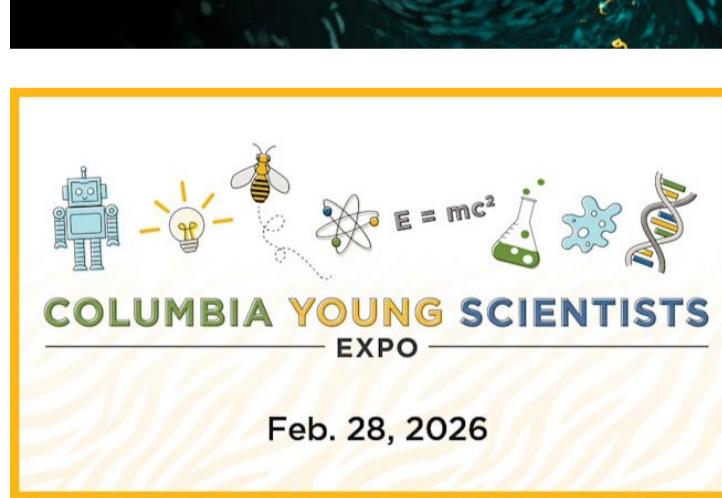
Improper storage of chemicals is a common issue Environmental Health & Safety encounters when inspecting campus labs. [Learn five easy steps you can take](#) to minimize the risk of chemical leaks, spills and reactions.



Decorative data

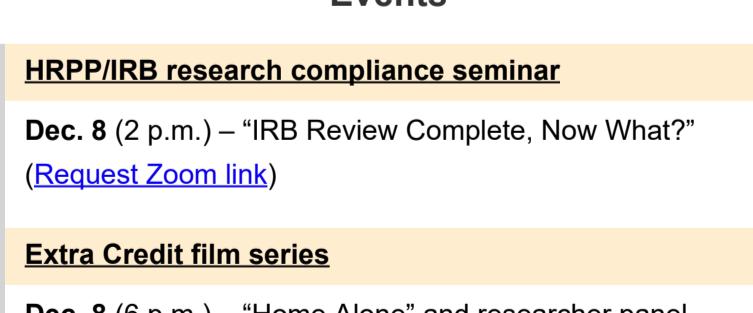
Two Science2Art images created by Mizzou students sold last month during the annual BioNexus KC meeting. [Learn about the research behind the artwork](#) and what inspired these students to participate in the event.

Policy changes affecting researchers



All faculty and staff must submit requests for international travel authorization through eCompliance, a requirement that went into effect Dec. 1. This includes travel conducted on behalf of Mizzou as well as personal travel if you bring university property with you or access university systems.

Opportunities and resources



Early career researchers in Mizzou's CAREER Club plan for, submit or resubmit competitive applications to the National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER Program. Participants receive training, support and consultation from first draft to submission. [Apply by Dec. 19.](#)

Submit poster abstracts by Dec. 19 for the NextGen Pathways Symposium hosted at Missouri S&T March 12-13. Faculty, staff, clinicians, postdocs and students doing health-related research can register to attend this annual event starting Jan. 5.



Share your research through hands-on STEM activities with youth and families at the [Columbia Young Scientists Fair and Expo](#) Feb. 28.

- [Reserve booth space](#) by Feb. 6.
- [Email Christal Huber](#) with questions.

Laboratory Safety Awareness Week, Feb. 9-13

Environmental Health & Safety is hosting interactive demos, expert talks, workshops, games, prizes and more during [National Lab Safety Awareness Week](#). More details coming soon.

Deadlines

Institutional Biosafety Committee

Dec. 15: [Submit](#) research protocols for Jan. 15 meeting.

Institutional Review Board (IRB)

Dec. 25: [Submit](#) human subjects research applications, amendments and annual updates for Jan. 14 full board review.

Mizzou Libraries under grad research contest

Jan. 31: Encourage undergraduates to submit a research project or creative work to Mizzou Libraries for a chance to win a scholarship.

Events

HRPP/IRB research compliance seminar

Dec. 8 (2 p.m.) — "IRB Review Complete, Now What?"

[Request Zoom link](#)

Extra Credit film series

Dec. 8 (6 p.m.) — "Home Alone" and researcher panel discussion

NextGen Precision Health Discovery Series

Jan. 27 (noon) — "Targeting Age-Related Metabolic Dysfunction to Extend Healthspan"

Research, Innovation & Impact

University of Missouri

Division of Research, Bright Ideas and Impact

310 Jesse Hall, Columbia, MO 65211

573-882-9500

[research.missouri.edu](#)