

BRIGHT IDEAS

Insights & opportunities from Mizzou Research

Vol. 8, No. 7 — February 2026

View grants and contracts awarded in December.



SHOW ME RESEARCH WEEK

April 20-24



Seeking presenters, judges

Celebrate research and creative achievements during [Show Me Research Week, April 20-24](#).

- Make sure students [register](#) their oral and poster presentations by **March 31**.
- [Sign up](#) to be a judge by **April 3**.



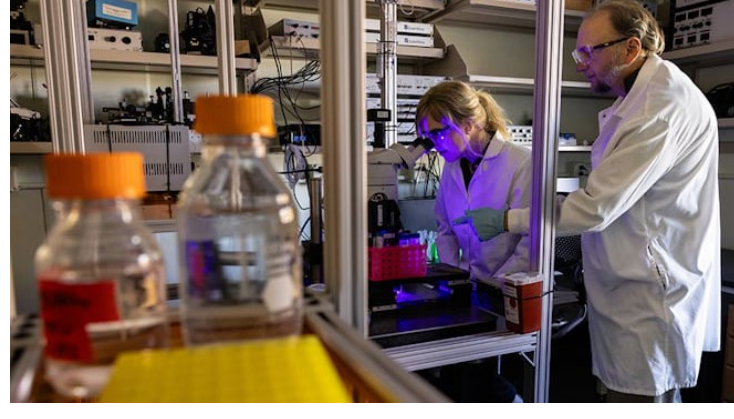
Handy for grant proposals

Core directors have updated their facilities descriptions, so now you can copy and paste them directly into your proposals. [Download each core's statement from this page](#). Be sure to turn off pop-up blockers in your browser to download.



Cybersecurity milestone

Researchers at Mizzou and the UM System are among the first in the nation who can [compete for certain federal grants that involve sensitive data](#). The university earned this chance after a stringent cybersecurity certification.



Prevent this lab hazard

Although common in research laboratories, peroxide-forming chemicals can quietly become serious explosion hazards. [Learn what goes wrong and how to prevent it](#) in this story from Environmental Health & Safety.

Professional development

Research writing retreats

Find a quiet place to read, write and think in community with other scholars during five upcoming writing retreats. The Professional Development team will be on hand for individual consultations **9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. on Feb. 12** (Room 171, Bond LSC). Drop in and out as needed. [Register for this month's retreat and see more dates](#).

Communicating your research

[Early career faculty are invited to hear tips](#) that will help them more effectively communicate their research to campus and the public from **9 a.m.-noon on Feb. 20** (Room 171, Bond LSC). A panel of researchers also will share success stories. [Register by Feb. 16](#).

Managing postdoctoral researchers

The [Postdoc Hiring, Mentoring, Separation and Policy Pitfalls](#) webinar at **noon on March 4** is designed for faculty who supervise postdoctoral researchers. It will provide guidance on topics such as eligibility criteria, salary requirements, evaluations, visas, termination policies and more. [Register and check out other spring webinars](#).

Virtual Principal Investigator Leadership Program

[Learn best practices](#) and avoid common pitfalls in project management, meeting grant deliverables and team effectiveness from **noon-1:30 p.m. on April 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10**. [Register by March 31](#).

You'll find more details about these sessions on the [Professional Development website](#).

Resources and opportunities



Engaging private funders

The Foundation Relations team in Advancement manages university relationships with charitable foundations and other private organizations. [Check out their regularly updated list of curated funding opportunities](#).

Protect our research credibility

Speak up if you notice unsafe or unapproved research practices, mishandled confidential information or misuse of grant or other research funds. [Share your concern with a trusted supervisor or use the UM System Integrity and Accountability Hotline](#).

Postdoctoral salary minimums to increase

Effective Jan. 1, 2028, the annual minimum salary for both new appointments and reappointments of postdoctoral scholars will increase to \$58,656. Current minimum salaries at Mizzou:

- Reappointments \$47,476
- New appointments \$55,000
- Teaching postdoctoral scholars, nine-month appointment \$43,992 (Appointments longer than nine months should be adjusted proportionally.)

[Email Valli Sarveswaran for more information](#).

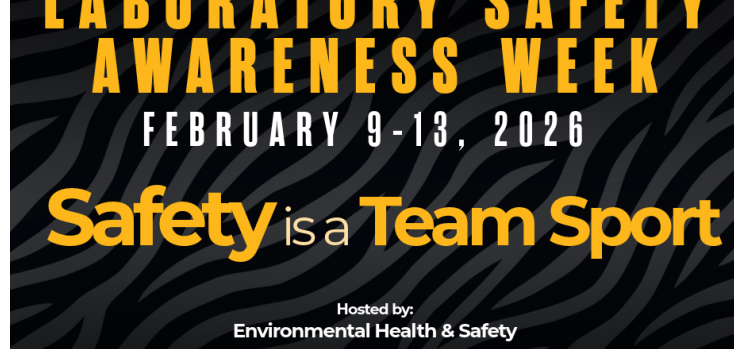
Do you have a winning image?

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

Virtual sessions from Mizzou Libraries:

- Feb. 11, 1 p.m. – [AI research tools: demos and ethical considerations](#)
- Feb. 18, 1 p.m. – [Maximizing your research identity and measuring research impact](#)

Mark your calendar



[Lab Safety Awareness Week](#) showcases people, practices and innovations that protect our campus community.

Enjoy extinguisher demos, prizes and [nominate a colleague for the Safety MVP Award](#) by **3 p.m. on Feb. 13**. Watch presentations on personal protective equipment **Feb. 10** and compressed gas **Feb. 13**.



The W. M. Keck Foundation funds science, engineering and medical research with grants from \$1 to \$1.5 million.

[Join an info session with this Zoom link](#) **Feb. 11** (noon), **Feb. 27** (9 a.m.) or **March 10** (4 p.m.) MU's [limited submissions](#) due date for research summaries and CVs is **April 6**. [Email Donna Van Pelt for more details](#).

Deadlines

Institutional Review Board (IRB)

Feb. 25: [Submit](#) human subjects research applications, amendments and annual updates for March 11 full board review.

Institutional Biosafety Committee

March 2: [Submit](#) research protocols for April 2 meeting.

NCFDD Summer Faculty Success Program

March 2: [Apply for a scholarship by 5 p.m.](#) for this summer's 12-week virtual program to increase your research and writing productivity.

Limited Submissions (foundation funding)

March 9: [William T. Grant Scholars program for early career researchers](#)

April 6: [W. M. Keck Foundation Research Program](#)

Research Council Grants

March 30: Applications due by 5 p.m. [Email internal funding staff](#) with questions.

Events

Saturday Morning Science

Feb. 7 (10 a.m.) – “Uncovering Egypt's First Capital: Secrets From the City Behind the Pyramids”

HRPP/IRB research compliance seminar

Feb. 9 (2 p.m.) – Policies to protect research continuity in an emergency ([Request Zoom link](#))

Extra Credit film series

Feb. 9 (6 p.m.) – “The Best Man” and researcher panel discussion

NextGen Precision Health Discovery Series

Feb. 24 (noon) – “[Live Longer, Live Stronger: The Science of Muscle and Bone Health in Aging](#)”

Grant Connections meeting

Feb. 25 (10 a.m.) – Research Support Services and annual survey Q&A ([Zoom link](#))

Columbia Young Scientists Fair and Expo

Feb. 28 (1-4:30 p.m.) – Hands-on STEM activities for families at Memorial Union North

In case you missed it



Alarm Will Sound, a group featuring music faculty [Stefan Freund](#) and [Bill Kalinkos](#), won the Grammy Award for Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance for their recording of Donnacha Dennehy's composition, “Land of Winter.”

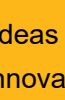
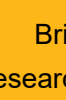


Last month, Science News published a story highlighting new research from Curators' Distinguished Professor Ron Mittler and his team that shows why [plants packed close enough to touch are more resilient to stress than solo stalks](#).



Research, Innovation & Impact

University of Missouri



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