

# BRIGHT IDEAS

Insights & opportunities from Mizzou Research

Vol. 8, No. 6 — January 2026

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



## Organoids complement mice as new approach methodologies gain focus

Many research questions depend on use of animal models, but new approach methodologies (NAMs) have received more attention since new 2025 guidance from the NIH emphasized a diversification of methods. [Read how some researchers are using organoid NAMs to mimic the human body in the lab to test their theories.](#)



## Our research keeps growing

Thanks to your hard work, Mizzou has seen 11 years of consecutive growth in research expenditures. [Take a look at the university's 2024 annual report.](#)



## Funding for the new year

The Division of Research [awarded another round of Research Council grants](#), which often give faculty a leg up when seeking external funding, publishing books and more.



## Microscopic masterpieces

The Advanced Light Microscopy Core illuminates discovery across disciplines and laboratories. Hear from Director Tara Finegan and enjoy picturesque research images [in this MIZZOU magazine story.](#)



## Biosafety cabinet mastery

A biological safety cabinet is often a critical tool in labs working with cell cultures and biohazardous materials. [Learn the steps – from preparation to cleanup – in safely maintaining this shared research space.](#)

## Professional development

### Facilitating Campus Youth Programs

Participants will learn how to provide youth (K-12) programming on campus in two sessions (Room 572, Bond LSC): **11 a.m.-1 p.m. Feb. 5** (lunch provided) and **1-3 p.m. March 12**. Topics include youth protections, pre-camp logistics, age-appropriate activities, day-of-program management and more. [Register by Jan. 29.](#)

### Researcher Writing Retreat

Find a quiet place to read, write and think in community with other scholars during this semester's first retreat at **9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Feb. 12** (Room 171, Bond LSC). The Professional Development team also will be available for consultations. Drop in and out as needed. [Register for retreat.](#)

### Communicating Your Research

[Early career faculty are invited to hear tips and resources](#) for creating a personal brand and sharing their work with campus and the public at **9 a.m.-noon Feb. 20** (Room 171, Bond LSC). A panel of researchers also will discuss ways they have successfully marketed their research. [Register by Feb. 16.](#)

### Virtual Principal Investigator Leadership Program

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

Get more info about all of these sessions on the [Professional Development website](#).

## Opportunities and resources



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

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



[Register by Jan. 30](#) to attend the NextGen Pathways Symposium hosted at Missouri S&T **March 12-13**. Faculty, staff, clinicians, postdocs and students doing health-related research attend this annual event.

### Comparative radiation research workshop, Feb. 26-27

Researchers and clinicians are invited to gather in Denver, Colorado, for a [workshop on the impact of veterinary comparative models](#) in advancing radiobiology, radiation oncology and translational science.

### Biomedical Entrepreneurship Training Program for Aging (BETA)

Health care professionals, postdocs and graduate students interested in bringing new medical products into clinical practice should submit an application by **Feb. 2** [to receive training and a \\$4,000 fellowship from this NIH-funded program.](#)

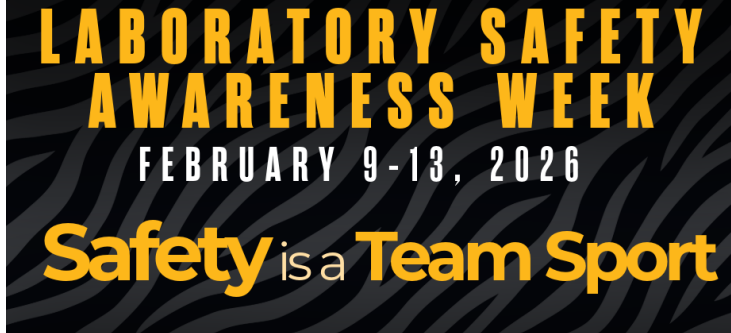
### From Mizzou Libraries:

- Faculty, staff and students can now access [U.S. and U.K. government documents from today back to 1660](#) using the ProQuest discovery platform, a collection of nine databases.
- The MSpace Institutional Repository, where Mizzou authors can share copies of their articles, data and other research, has been overhauled. [See the higher-performing MSpace in action.](#)

## Mark your calendar



Raghda (Didi) El-Behaedi, assistant professor of Mediterranean archaeology, [will share her work uncovering Egypt's first capital city](#) and discuss what ancient life was like beyond the pyramids, **10 a.m. Feb. 7**, Room 171, Bond LSC.



Don't miss skill-building workshops, interactive demos, expert talks, lab-ready materials, games and prizes during [Lab Safety Awareness Week](#), Feb. 9-13. This campuswide event is hosted by Environmental Health and Safety.

### Deadlines

#### **Institutional Biosafety Committee**

**Jan. 19:** [Submit](#) research protocols for Feb. 19 meeting.

#### **Research Council Grants**

**Jan. 20:** Applications due by 5 p.m. [Email internal funding staff](#) with questions.

#### **Institutional Review Board (IRB)**

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

#### **Mizzou Libraries undergrad 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

#### **Extra Credit film series**

**Jan. 20** (6 p.m.) – “Chicago” and researcher panel discussion

#### **NextGen Precision Health Discovery Series**

**Jan. 27** (noon) – “[Targeting Age-Related Metabolic Dysfunction to Extend Healthspan](#)”

#### **Grant Connections meeting**

**Jan. 28** (10 a.m.) – Research Performance Progress Report content ([Zoom link](#))

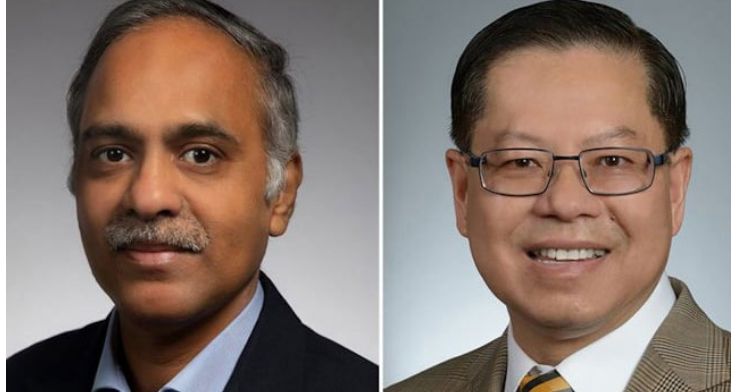
#### **HRPP/IRB research compliance seminar**

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

## In case you missed it



Three alumni are advancing the possibilities of recycled-plastic 3D printing with their St. Louis-based company, launched with prize money from Mizzou's Entrepreneur Quest competition. [Learn how they've transformed their student startup](#), Printerior, into a multimillion-dollar enterprise.



Curators' Distinguished Professor Raghuraman Kannan and Professor Henry Nguyen [have been elected](#) National Academy of Inventors (NAI) Fellows. The cancer researcher and plant geneticist join other accomplished inventors in [Mizzou's NAI chapter](#).



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