About the RDO

The Research Development Office (RDO) serves at the nexus of research and research administration to promote, support, strengthen, and grow the research enterprise at UCSF. Working with faculty, administration staff, and leadership partners, the RDO seeks to attract extramural research funding, increase institutional competitiveness, create research relationships, and foster innovation.

What is "Research Development"?

"Research Development as a Strategic Imperative" Christina Paxson, President, Brown University (4/29/19) [1]

Universities, colleges, research centers, and institutes are central players in the networks of coordinated activity that result in the creation and mobilization of knowledge. As these activities have reached ever higher levels of complexity, research development has taken on an increasingly important role in the strategic deployment and coordination of university and other networked resources in the service of knowledge creation and mobilization. The Research Development (RD) professional works to ensure that when institutional resources are deployed to seek external funding or partnerships for knowledge creation or mobilization, that these activities are as strategic and efficient as possible so as to maximize the likelihood that the best ideas with the best chances for ultimate success are recognized and supported with the finite support available.

(Adapted from content on the website for the National Organization of Research Development Professionals (NORDP [2]))

The RDO is home to the Resource Allocation Program (RAP) [3], which manages the dissemination, submission, review and award of various intramural funding opportunities, and the Limited Submission Program (LSP) [4], which manages the dissemination, solicitation and selection of proposals for limited submission funding opportunities. Additionally, the RDO fosters and facilitates scientific collaborations between internal and external research teams through its Team Science Program (TSP) [5] and supports proposal development for large, multi-investigator project grants in its Large Grant Development Program (LGDP) [6]. The T32 Trainee Tracking System (3TS) [7] supports faculty and staff in preparation of T32 grant renewals. As a service- and solutions-oriented team, the RDO operates with integrity, professionalism, and respect for those with whom we work within and outside of UCSF.
Tri-Institutional Partnership on Microbiome Research


UC San Francisco (UCSF), UC Davis (UCD) and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), have formed a Tri-Institutional Partnership on Microbiome Research to catalyze and fund bold, synergistic, and potentially transformative collaborative research. The partners are convening an all-day workshop on Feb. 5, 2020 at the Integrative Genomics Building at LBNL to will foster cross-institutional interaction and will follow with a substantive seed grant opportunity supported by all three institutions. The focus of this collaborative effort will be to tackle the major gaps in microbiome knowledge and technology that have been identified by the OSTI Microbiome Interagency Working Group’s FY2018-2022 Strategic Plan for Microbiome Research [9], with the goal of positioning the institutions favorably for follow-on extramural funding. If you are interested in participating, contact Gretchen Kiser at gretchen.kiser@ucsf.edu [10] or rdoinfo@ucsf.edu [11].

Highlights

Marcus Program in Precision Medicine Innovation

We are excited to have completed the 2019 Marcus Program in Precision Medicine Innovation (MPPMI) Award competition. Funded generously by George and Judy Marcus, the MPPMI seeks to fuel innovation in precision medicine by fostering creative, high risk, high impact team science projects. Two of the initiatives - a 1-year $75,000 Seeding Bold Ideas (SBI) award and a 1-year $300,000 Transformative Integrated Research (TIR) award ? are anchored in basic science, often incorporating novel computer science integration, and extending into the precision medicine continuum toward improved patient outcomes. This year, in response to the new and unprecedented ethical, legal, social implication (ELSI), implementation, and policy matters that will be required to realize the vision of Precision Medicine, we are offering a new grant mechanism supporting innovative research addressing such social science ? a 1-year $150,000 ELSI in Precision Medicine (ELSI) award.

We received 42 applications in total, 20 for the SBI awards, 17 for the TIR awards, and 5 for the new ELSI awards! Check out the RDO website [12] for a list of the PI teams and titles of the funded projects.

Dimensions ? A New Research Analytic Tool

Would you like to know how your research program productivity stacks up against other investigators? outside of UCSF? Everyone at UCSF now has access to a powerful research analytics tool - Digital Science Dimensions. Dimensions is a dynamic, easy to use platform where users can explore the connections between different researchers and institutions and the grants, publications, clinical trials, patents and policy documents that they may have contributed to the academic sphere. This tool enables researchers, staff, and leadership to measure and assess their research impact, identify collaborators and competitors, and inform strategic initiatives. I hope you will take a moment to try the tool, which is available at https://app.dimensions.ai/ [13]. Our UCSF Research Development Office has also prepared a
Keep on the lookout!
Moving forward funding opportunities will be coming into your inbox on Fridays! In an effort to improve the communication of funding opportunities, UCSF campus offices will be disseminating funding opportunities via email on a single day of the week when not constrained by short deadlines.

Calling all RAP applicants!
Is your project led (PI1 or PI2) by an under-represented minority (URM) investigator? Or are you including URM populations or biospecimens in your study? If so, then you might be eligible for the new RDO RAP Diversity Supplement. In support UCSF’s mission to increase diversity and inclusion broadly, this Supplement will provide modest additional funds for up to five applications per cycle that score well and are funded through RAP.