



AUBURN UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
FOR RESEARCH

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AUSPAN – OVPR UPDATES
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Search Update

- Interim VPR since June 1st
- Vice President position searches
 - Vice President for Research
 - Interview process is occurring
 - Vice President for Economic Development
 - Interview process has concluded



Key Activities During Interim Period

- Support our research capacity, particularly in areas where we can lead and have impact
- Facilitate interdisciplinary research
- Assess our research infrastructure and make recommendations
- Continue momentum of the Auburn University Health Sciences Research Initiative (AUHSRI).
- Maintain forward movement of electronic research administration (eRA)
- Build strong, collaborative relationships within the OVPR and between the OVPR and the other units with whom the OVPR connects.

2018 Research Symposia and Showcase Visibility and Engagement



SHOWCASE: The Work of Creative Scholarship biennial event; held September 28 through October 14 at the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

- celebrates creative work of Auburn faculty and students in the fields of fine art, applied art and design, performing arts, creative writing and other related disciplines
- judges selected 86 creative works for the exhibition
- remaining entries were included in digital gallery on the SHOWCASE 2018 website
- live performances also given in the JCSM Auditorium and the Grand Gallery and Telfair Peet Theatre

- **Faculty Research Symposium.** Annual event; held October 23, 2018.
- Featured a variety of research from across the university.
- Included in the symposium were nearly 100 poster presentations, a diverse set of roundtable discussions, and 12 Auburn Talks by distinguished faculty presenters covering topics from animal-assisted therapy to cybersecurity.

The Student research symposium was held in March 2018. The next one is April 9, 2019.



Facilitating Interdisciplinary Team Research



Meeting Global Challenges Through Interdisciplinarity



- ❖ Strategic Hiring Initiative – Research Clusters
- ❖ Presidential Awards for Interdisciplinary Research (PAIR)
- ❖ Intramural Grant Program
- ❖ Research Symposia
- ❖ Grantsmanship Supports
- ❖ Auburn University Health Sciences Research Initiative (AUHSRI)

Research Infrastructure

Assessment of:

- **Space** [spaces we have and need, configuration of spaces]
- **Equipment** [gaps/needs in major core equipment, organization of core equipment, location, management and maintenance of core equipment]
- **Computing** [current capacity, demands over next ~5 years]
- **Staff** [categories and descriptions of research admin positions in academic units; actual duties/activities of people holding these positions]

Auburn University Health Sciences Research Initiative (AUHSRI)

The AUHSRI is helping us harness and focus our capacity to grow our contributions to multiple areas of health that advance knowledge, benefit Alabama, and facilitate broader efforts in health sciences research and application.

General Goals of the AUHSRI

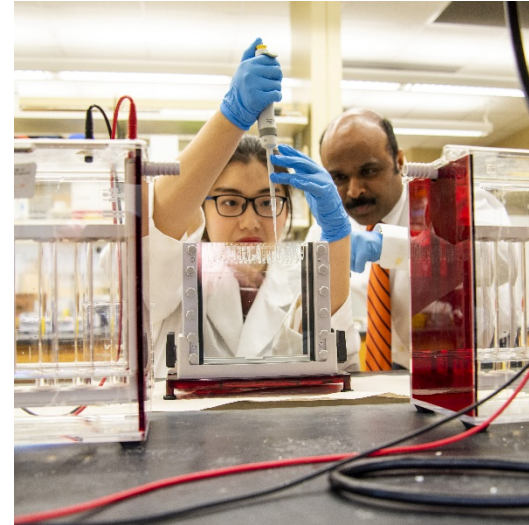
- Strengthen and expand health sciences research at Auburn
- Expand capacities in teaching, extension and outreach to benefit the professional development, health and well-being of diverse stakeholders
- Determine areas within the health sciences where Auburn can lead and have impact
- Develop and enhance internal and external partnerships that strengthen the AUHSRI
- Increase and diversify external sponsors of Auburn's health sciences research
- Grow national visibility of Auburn in the health sciences arena

- ❑ Consultant Dr. Marietta Harrison of Purdue University hired to gather input and make recommendations for establishing framework and focus for AUHSRI



AU Health Sciences Research Initiative

- ❑ Consultant met with several groups on
 - ❑ September 24th and 25:
 - AUHSRI steering committee
 - Provost
 - Deans
 - Associate Deans for Research
 - FRC members
 - Cluster leaders
 - PAIR team leaders
 - Open forum with faculty
 - Tours of relevant facilities
 - ❑ October 22nd & 23rd:
 - AUHSRI steering committee
 - Alabama Cooperative Extension System
 - Boshell Diabetes & Metabolic Diseases Program
 - AU Research Initiative in Cancer
 - Health Disparities Cluster
 - Outreach
 - Libraries
 - Pharmaceutical Engineering Cluster
 - Omics and Informatics Cluster
 - One Health Initiative
 - International Center for Climate and Global Change Research
 - Food for Health group
 - A U Food Systems Institute
- ❑ Engagement expected to continue through spring semester.
- ❑ AUHSRI webpage construction underway and will be launched soon.



Electronic Research Administration (eRA)

Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) in partnership with Auburn's Chief Information Officer, Jim O'Connor, engaged IBM Public Customer Engagement & Design process-improvement experts to assess Auburn University's research administration and compliance processes.

- 31 workshops and interviews with over 200 faculty and staff members,
- IBM provided a summary of concerns, “pain points,” identified, recommendations for improvements, and guidance for the capabilities we should pursue in our procurement of an enterprise-wide electronic system
- Areas to address:
 - process delays
 - process variation and inconsistencies
 - system functionality
 - insufficient reporting capabilities
 - Policies

Next steps:

- improvements to the e-Cover Form for proposals
- evaluation of process maps to identify non-value added steps
- rapid improvement events for implementation within 30-90 days after start
- meetings with college and department leaders/administrators related to identified "pain points"
- developing multiple communication strategies and outlets for assuring the campus community remains engaged in this improvement process
- vendor demonstrations
- will be working with IBM to develop a vision for the “end state” and a journey map

Communication and Collaboration

Asking “What is needed and how to help?”

- Productive in person meetings and conversations to understand and then address challenges and solve problems
- Identifying our collective expertise
- Clarifying our roles and processes
- Experiencing new ways of working together and getting better results
- Changing the story



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