

ORSP Newsletter



OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS

MAY 2009

Web-based application for effort certification goes live

On May 4, after a one-week delay, the web-based effort certification and reporting technology (ECRT) went live, automatically generating e-mail messages to all UMass Boston principal investigators informing them that their electronic effort cards for the period of July 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008, are available for them to review and certify.

Due to the rapid growth of externally funded research projects awarded to the University of Massachusetts System in the last five years, a new method for accurately recording and safely storing certification records was urgently needed to replace the former pen and paper system. In response, the UMass President's Office contracted with West Monroe Partners, LLC & Huron Consulting Group, LLC to assess the university's certification needs and then customize ECRT to suit those needs.

Development teams from all the UMass campuses met weekly for more than a year at the UMass Shared Services Facility located in Shrewsbury. They pooled information on current effort definitions and certification practices, developed a common set of definitions, and then set about the task of designing a university-wide certification process that accounts for the unique practices of each campus. Easier said than done, of course. But after hundreds of meetings, conferences calls, and commutes to Shrewsbury, ECRT is now live on the Boston, Lowell, and Dartmouth campuses, and is poised to go live on the Worcester and Amherst campuses.

How ECRT works

Every academic department (institute, center, office, etc.) has been assigned a Primary Effort Coordinator responsible for preparing the PI's effort card for review and certification by the PI. The Primary Effort Coordinator ensures that a PI's card accurately reflects the amount of effort the PI expended on each sponsored program during the period in question, in this case, July 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008.

Once the PI self-certifies his or her own effort, the PI is then required to certify the effort of those faculty, staff, and students

who received payment for working on one or more of the PI's sponsored programs. As before, the Primary Effort Coordinator will have already reviewed and updated as needed the effort cards of the PI's researchers prior to the PI reviewing and certifying those cards.

Certifying effort three times a year

Approximately two months following the conclusion of each fall, spring, and summer semester, PI's will have sixty days to review and self-certify their effort and that of their researchers for the most recently concluded semester. Because ECRT has been deployed mid-year the university must certify all effort expended during the first six months of Financial Year 2009, which began on July 1, 2008.

Moving forward, below is the schedule of certification periods for the next three semesters.

Spring Semester	Certification Period
Jan. 1 - May 31, 2009	July 20 - Sept. 30, 2009
Summer Semester	
June 1 - Aug. 31, 2009	October 19 - Dec. 18, 2009
Fall Semester	
Sept. 1 - Dec. 31, 2009	Feb. 15 - April 16, 2010

Technical support for completing certification

An ECRT Technical Support webpage is available on the ORSP web site at <http://www.umb.edu/research/orsp/ecrt/index.html>. PI's and effort coordinators can find on that page the University of Massachusetts document Guidance on Effort Reporting Policies, a How-To for PI's, An Introduction to ECRT for effort coordinators, and a list of effort coordinators.

In addition, the ORSP has hired Joel Eglund to serve as the ECRT Central Effort Administrator to answer your questions, provide assistance with navigating the ECRT medium, and conduct individual and group workshops upon request. Mr. Eglund may be contacted at 617.287.7914 or Ecrt@umb.edu.

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Contact your effort coordinator before you certify!

To ensure an efficient certification process, please first touch base with your department's primary effort coordinator to ensure that she or he has the necessary time to review and prepare your effort cards and those of your researchers.

Finally, ECRT maintains an effort card for every UMass employee. For those employees who received 100% of their salary in non sponsored funds, no action is required by PIs or effort coordinators because ECRT automatically processes such cards.

UMass Boston PI's submit 21 proposals for NIH Challenge Grants

On the weekend of March 25-26, the ORSP hummed busily with the sounds of 21 proposals being electronically submitted on behalf of PI's by ORSP staff to the National Institutes of Health in a effort to ensure that sponsor received those proposals prior to its Monday, April 27, 5:00 pm deadline.

Specifically, ORSP staff members Michelle Auerbach, Sheri Farnum, Jennifer Giglio, Maggie Mode, Paula Noonan, and Tim O'Brien gathered at 9:00 am that Saturday morning and began what proved to be a busy but rewarding weekend. The staff would like to thank all of the PI's for their successful efforts in submitting their proposals to the ORSP before the deadline and thus allowing the staff the opportunity to carefully review these proposals before submitting them to the NIH.

The NIH Challenge Grants in Health and Science support research that focuses on specific knowledge gaps, scientific opportunities, new technologies, data generation, or particular research methods.

Research plans that are submitted with such applications must articulate how the proposed studies will significantly extend our understanding of biomedical or behavioral science and/or health through its work in the particular Challenge Area. The NIH has designated at least \$200 million in financial years 2009 and 2010 to fund 200 or more grants, contingent upon the submission of a sufficient number of scientifically meritorious applications. The requested budget may not exceed \$500,000 total costs per year for a maximum of \$1,000,000 total costs over a two-year period.

What follows is a list of PI's and the titles of their proposed projects.

Lisa Cosgrove, *Protecting Patients when Investigators have Financial Conflicts of Interest*

Brian White, *mOrgo: Learning Chemistry Using Your Mobile Phone*

Abbey Eisenhower, *Improving Parent Training Outcomes for Young Children Living in Poverty*

Alice Carter, *Early Antecedents of Substance Abuse and Psychopathology in a Birth Cohort*

Stephanie Hartwell, *Evaluating Effectiveness of State-Wide Public Mental Health Re-entry Program*

Karen Suyemoto, *Enhancing Health Disparities Research: Improving Measurement of Race and Ethnicity*

Kyle McInnis, *Brains and Games: Interactive Exerlearning Technologies to Teach Science and Math*

Manickam Sugumaran, *Antibacterial Dehydrodopyl Peptides of Synthetic and Tunicate Origin*

Adan Colon-Carmona, *Predicting Critical Loci Governing Protein-Ligand Interactions through Massively-Parallel Sequencing and Computational Data Mining*

Kenneth Campbell, *Urine Sediment DNA Biomarkers to Assess Women's Health*

Maria Torres, *Evaluating the Effectiveness of a Spanish Media Campaign Focused on Latino-Parents*

Robyn Hannigan, *Development of Instrumentation to Enable Simultaneous Structural and Elemental Composition of Metalloproteins*

Ester Shapiro, *Ethical Issues in Health Disparities and Access to Participation in Research*

Hannah Sevian, *Efficacy Study of Curriculum Intervention and Characterization of Support Program*

Jane Adams, *Capacity Building for Inclusive Research in Developmental Neurotoxicology*

Francis Caro, *Disparities in CVD Risk Perception and Treatment in Diverse Older Women*

Kyle McInnis and Arthur Eisenkraft (subrecipients), *Physical Activity and Adolescent Brain Development: Impact of Exercise Intervention*

Alexey Veraska (subrecipient), *Development of Drosophila Tyrosine Phosphor-Proteome for RTK Mediated JNK Signaling Pathways for the Discovery of Cancer Biomarkers*

Abbey Eisenhower (subrecipient), *Autism and Early School Intervention*

Wei Zhang (subrecipient), *Development of Small Molecule Imaging Probes of Cell State*

Andrew Grosovsky (subrecipient), *Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center and UMass Boston Center for Personalized Cancer Therapy NIH Challenge Grant*

Faculty Profile



Vincent Cannato joined the faculty of the Department of History in the College of Liberal Arts in 2002. Thanks to a \$40,000 NEH Fellowship, Vincent spent the 2005-2006 academic year writing *American Passage: The History of Ellis Island*, published in 2009 by HarperCollins.

He is also author of *The Ungovernable City: John Lindsay and his Struggle to Save New York* (Basic Books, 2001), and he is co-editor of *Living in the Eighties* (Oxford University Press, 2009). Now an associate professor, Vincent has written for numerous publications including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *The Weekly Standard*, and *The New Republic*. He serves as an associate editor of the second edition of *The Encyclopedia of New York City*, and is a member of the Advisory Council of Historians and Scholars for the American Institute for History Education.

In addition to his academic career, Vincent was managing editor of *The Public Interest*, edited by Irving Kristol and Nathan Glazer; co-producer of the PBS documentary “The First Measured Century”; an aide to former Jersey City Mayor Bret Schundler; and a speechwriter at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Vincent received his B.A. with honors in political science from Williams College and his M.A. and Ph.D. in history from Columbia University. At UMass Boston he teaches courses on the histories of New York City, Boston, immigration, and twentieth-century America.

To learn more about Vincent’s teaching, research, and scholarship, visit <http://www.vincentcannato.com/html/home.html>.

Some recent new awards

Kenneth Kleene (Department of Biology, College of Science and Mathematics) has been awarded a \$150,000 grant by the National Science Foundation for his project “Control of mRNA Translation during Spermatogenesis.”

Jessica Whiteley (Department of Exercise and Health Sciences, College of Nursing and Health Sciences) has been awarded a \$19,000 grant by Duke University for her project “Community Based Obesity Prevention Among Black Women.”

Winston Langley (Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs) has been awarded a \$74,000 grant by the Massachusetts Office of Community Development in support of the UMass Boston Institute for New England Native American Studies.

Richard Kesseli (Department of Biology, College of Science and Mathematics) has been awarded a \$69,000 year grant by Indiana University for his project “Comparative Genomics of Phenotypic Variation in the Compositae.”

Francisco Peri (Department of Environmental, Earth, and Ocean Sciences, College of Science and Mathematics) has been awarded a \$30,000 grant by Rutgers University for his project “Programmable Autonomous Profiling Winch.”

Stephanie Hartwell (Department of Sociology, College of Liberal Arts) has been awarded a \$31,000 grant by the University of Massachusetts Medical School for her project “MISSION-Diversion and Recovery for Traumatized Veterans.”

Deyang Qu (Department of Chemistry, College of Science and Mathematics) has been awarded a \$83,000 grant by NASA for his project “Advanced Approaches to Greatly Reduced Hydrogen Gas Crossover Losses in PEM Electrolyzers Operating at High Pressure and Low.”

Maria Torres (Gaston Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy) has been awarded a \$73,000 grant by the National Institutes of Health to support her project “Para un Futuro: Feasibility of a Photovoice Approach to Increase Latino Parent Adolescent Communication about Sexuality.”



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Do you have items you would like to submit for possible inclusion in a future newsletter? Please contact Jim Mortenson at james.mortenson@umb.edu.

