Pitt Attracts Significant Recovery Act Funding

As of April 2010, the University of Pittsburgh had been awarded more than $171 million in ARRA funds channeled through federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation (NSF)* to support research across a broad spectrum of disciplines through departments in medical school, biological sciences, engineering, medicine, public health, dentistry, computer science, physics, psychiatry, geology, chemistry, nursing, ob/gyn, vaccine research, mechanics, fluid dynamics, psychology, geology, chemistry, nursing, and many other fields.

In this report, some selected ARRA grants made to the University of Pittsburgh are highlighted. For more information on these grants and others, visit the Pitt Institutional Review Office at www.pitt.edu/irp/ or the University of Pittsburgh’s Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research at http://research.pitt.edu or the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, National Institute of Nursing Research, and many other agencies.

Major and Major Guests

Pitt’s School of Medicine received approximately $14 million in an ARRA grant through the National Institutes of Health’s (NIH) National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases' Roadmap: Stem Cells and Regenerative Biology program. The $14 million grant is the largest ARRA grant Pitt has ever received and will support the formation of the Pittsburgh Stem Cell Research Center (PSCRC) at Pitt joining with the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI) and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) to provide a collaborative and comprehensive framework for stem cell research and translation.

The research team of Professor Connie A. Stimpfl and2 Noriko Murase (seated) are leading a team of School of Medicine researchers working to better understand regulation of liver function and systems modeling. This includes graduate student Keith Callenberg (standing, left), postdoctoral fellow Brian R. Hertel (standing, right), and Linda L. Lei (seated) and April Scott (standing), uses high-field magnetic resonance imaging, affording it a unique perspective of the right side of the brain. The research team of Professor Connie A.

Research Award for Scientists and Engineers, the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on scientists and engineers to recognize their research.

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Institute of Medicine (IOM). Recipients were Lillian Chong, assistant professor of chemistry; Gurudev Dutt, assistant professor of physics and astronomy; David Needleman, emeritus professor of psychiatry.

In the Sleep Center, the latest addition to the Henry Ford’s collection of multidisciplinary sleep research centers, patients receive comprehensive sleep evaluations.

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Pitt has established the new Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation to promote multidisciplinary research and foster commercialization of clean energy technologies.

The Mascaro Center was recently given $2.8 million from NIH’s John E. Fogarty International Center for Advanced Study in the Health Sciences for the training of advanced health professionals.

In FY 2005, the University of Pittsburgh Office of Technology Management (OTM) received 256 invention disclosures, an increase from 246 in FY 2004. The number of licenses/option agreements executed increased from 103 in FY 2004 to 123 in FY 2005.

Federal Science and Engineering Research Expenditures (Grant Awards Data for Individual Organizations) (Source: National Science Foundation)  

Multidisciplinary Areas of Research

Understanding some of the real-world challenges in science and technology and other fields more often than not involves collaboration among experts from different disciplines. At the University of Pittsburgh, many researchers work together in the following 12 areas of multidisciplinary research to try to address the complex economic and societal problems we face.

The University of Pittsburgh is the 20th ranked university in the United States in terms of federal research expenditures from all sources, including the National Institutes of Health, Department of Energy, and other agencies.

**Research Initiatives Update**

- Pitt has established the new Center for Global Health to promote multidisciplinary research and to foster commercialization of new health technologies.
- The Swanson School of Engineering's new Venture Center for Sustainable Innovation, which includes the Center for Energy, aims to transform research into commercial products and processes to create a high value for the University. In addition, through an extensive outreach program, OTM and OED work to foster meaningful, long-term relationships with investors, entrepreneurs, and others in industry and the economic development community who support Pitt Innovators in their research and commercialization efforts.

**Research Expenditures**

- The University of Pittsburgh recently completed a $16.8 million capital campaign to support new facilities for the Swanson School of Engineering.
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