Spotlight on Faculty

In the Mathematical Sciences Department, Professors Umberto Mosco and Bogdan Vernescu were awarded a National Science Foundation grant in the amount of $283,000 for a 3 year research project entitled, "Fractal Fibers and Singular Homogenization".

Professor Sarah Olson in the Department of Mathematical Sciences received a National Science Foundation grant in the amount of $99,707 for an award entitled, "Mechanisms of Marine Invertebrate Sperm Chemotaxis: From Cellular Signaling to Flagellar Swimming".

Professors John Blandino and Nikolaos Gatsonis in the Department of Mechanical Engineering have received a new award of $190,410 from the Busek Company, Inc. for a research project entitled, "Characterization and Modeling of a High-Current Negative Hydrogen Ion Source".

In the Mechanical Engineering Department, Professor Greg Fischer received new funding in the amount of $173,761 for a Brigham & Women’s Hospital grant entitled, "Enabling Technologies for MRI-Guided Prostate Interventions". This grant is expected to total $947,058 over five years.

NIH Update

Submitted by Ted Russo and Edita Mirkovic

OSP would like to highlight the following “NIH specific” updates that were discussed at the 53rd National Council for University Research Administrators (NCURA) meeting which was recently held in Washington D.C. For a full overview of the NIH updates, please visit: http://www.wpi.edu/offices/osp/142721.htm

• NIH FY 2012 Budget: The President’s 2012 Budget Request of $31.987 billion represents an increase of 2.4% from FY 2010. The key Areas of emphasis are: (1) Establishing the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS); (2) Technologies to accelerate discovery; (3) Enhancing the evidence for health care decisions and (4) New Innovator Award and Early Independence Award.

Proposal Updates: -Please note that the current form-set for submission to most new NIH opportunities is “ADOBE-FORMS-B2.” (Fortunately, WPI uses CAYUSE to submit proposals to the NIH via Grants.Gov. CAYUSE automatically selects the correct form sets in applications submitted to the NIH.)

- NIH has eliminated the 5-day grace period for receipt of letters for reference for F Series Applications (Graduate Training Fellowships) as of 4/08/2011. For these applications, letters of reference will be due on the application due date. Applicants are encouraged to request letters only from individuals able to

(Continued on page 3)
Federal Update

Submitted by Franc Lemire and Christina DeVries

With an election year just ahead, Washington, DC once again has been a very active place. The following is a summary of initiatives discussed at the recent National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) conference.

• Accelerating American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) awards spending so that all awards are closed out by 09/30/2013

• The A-21 Task Force established by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is charged with identifying ways of reducing red tape associated with federal awards. This task force includes representatives from seven executive agencies, OMB, and the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). A-21, of course, is OMB Circular A-21, Cost Principles for Educational Institutions. Some of the issues under consideration include:
  - Doing away with or reducing the burden associated with effort reporting,
  - Direct versus indirect charging of certain costs (e.g., administrative expenses, computing/communications devices), and
  - Making more consistent the federal rules for grants and contracts, including progress and financial reporting.

• Creating and promoting Research.gov as a resource for National Science Foundation (NSF)-related activities, including Project Outcome Reporting, checking on the status of pending applications, identifying research collaborators, and searching information on ARRA spending.

• The NSF is considering whether to adopt conflict of interest rules that mirror—or are at least similar to—the NIH conflict of interest rules that were issued in August 2011 and that will become effective on August 24, 2012. Until this is done, institutions will have to comply with both the NSF and NIH standards.

• The NSF will offer a new project reporting service on Research.gov which implements the Research Performance Progress Report format replacing the NSF’s annual, interim, and final reporting capabilities in the FastLane System. This project reporting service will provide a common portal for the research community to manage and submit reports for many federal agencies.

• Effective October 21, 2011, all NSF awards will receive the total duration of the award (Effective Date to Expiration Date) at the time of the initial award. Existing grants will be converted to have their expiration dates changed to the final expiration dates. Funds will still be awarded in incremental amounts.

NIH Launches Online Research Catalogue

Submitted by Franc Lemire

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has created a website that will give researchers and others greater access to unpatented materials developed by government-funded investigators and provide “faster turn-around time...for companies to find research materials available from NIH labs.” The site, http://www.ott.nih.gov/erm, holds NIH’s electronic research materials catalogue, NIH said in a Nov. 29 announcement. "For non-profit research organizations interested in obtaining NIH materials through a material transfer agreement, the NIH will launch the Transfer Agreement Dashboard in December," NIH said. “This web-based system will have a broad array of beneficiaries including NIH scientists and technology transfer staff as well as researchers and technology transfer offices at universities and non-profit research institutions.” For more information, please visit: http://www.nih.gov/news/health/nov2011/ott-28.htm
NIH Update
(Continued from page 1)

submit them on time.

NIH Appeals Policy: Effective January 25th, 2011, an appeal letter will only be accepted if the letter (1) explains the reason for the appeal, (2) describes flaws in the peer review process for the application in question, (3) provides evidence of bias, conflict of interest, factual error, or lack of appropriate expertise by one or more peer reviewer. Appeals based *solely* on differences of scientific opinion will not be accepted.

NIH Grants Policy Statement (GPS): The latest revision of the NIH GPS will be effective October, 2011. This revision supersedes the October 1, 2010 version.

No-Cost Extension Requests: Effective October 1, 2011, NIH is requiring grantees to use the No-Cost Extension feature in the eRA Commons to notify NIH when they exercise their one-time authority to extend, without additional funds, the final budget period of a grant. Once the eRA Commons link is closed, such an action becomes a prior approval request and must be submitted for consideration to the Grants Management office of the NIH awarding component.

Should you have any questions on these and other updates, please contact OSP at X5586, or resadm@wpi.edu.

Comparative Summary of Proposal and Award Activity
FY2012 and FY2011 as of October 31, 2011 (unaudited)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposal Submissions</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>$65,433,357</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>$42,279,567</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>$23,153,790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Earmark Proposals</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$933,603</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>$(933,603)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Proposals¹</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>$65,433,357</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>$41,345,964</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>$24,087,393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards Received</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>$11,423,453</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>$10,689,037</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$734,416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Earmark Awards</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>1,398,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>1,398,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Awards¹</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>$10,025,453</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>$10,689,037</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>$(663,584)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹Earmark programs are excluded to enable reporting of net results achieved via competitive programs.
The mission of the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) is to support and facilitate the efforts of faculty and other Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) staff to obtain external funding for scholarly, research, training, and other related educational programs. It is OSP’s responsibility to work toward achieving WPI’s goal of increasing the amount of external support while protecting the University’s interests and remaining compliant with relevant Federal regulations, sponsor guidelines, and individual award terms and conditions.

We would like to welcome a new employee to our staff.

**Edita Mirkovic** joined OSP in October of 2011, as Assistant Director of Subawards and Subcontracts. She graduated from Clark University in 2006 with a Bachelor of Liberal Arts, majoring in International Relations and Development with a minor in German. Before joining WPI, Edita worked for Partners Healthcare for three years acting as a Grants Administrator to over 12 departments at Massachusetts General Hospital. Edita is currently a member of the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA). In her role as Assistant Director, Subawards and Subcontracts, Edita is primarily responsible for Subcontract Preparation, Development and Management.

OSP would like to invite you to share in some Holiday Cheer at our Open House on Monday, December 19th from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

**Holiday Open House**

Funding Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Program No.</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>R01</td>
<td>NIH Research Project Grant Program (R01)</td>
<td>PA-10-067</td>
<td>February 5, 2012 (New) March 5, 2012 (Renewal, Resubmission, and Revision)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_list.jsp?org=CMMI">http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_list.jsp?org=CMMI</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSF</td>
<td>EAGER</td>
<td>Early Concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Accepting applications anytime.</td>
<td>Please contact OSP and your Program Officer/Directorate for details.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>