



Board of Trustees
Academic Affairs Committee
March 16, 2021
1:15pm
Live Stream

Information Item

AAC – 5 **Update on Research and Engagement**

Background Information

The Office of Research and Engagement provides support and strategic direction to faculty, staff, and students for research and creative endeavors resulting in scholarship, innovation, and community and economic engagement leading to knowledge, student, and regional transformation.

External Funding

UNCG faculty and staff continue to excel both in terms of external grant submissions as well as awards. As outlined in the numbers below, awards are up \$5,298,247 or 17.7%.

	7-1-20 to 1-31-21		7-1-19 to 1-31-21	
SUBMISSIONS	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	307	\$95,449,425	291	\$78,552,542
AWARDS	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	194	\$35,243,789	190	\$29,945,542

Awards and Accolades

Dr. John Z. Kiss, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, has been recognized by the International Astronomical Union with the **International Cooperation Medal from the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)** for his two decades of international research with

NASA, SpaceX and the European Space Agency. In addition to the medal, Dean Kiss now has an asteroid named in his honor – Asteroid Kiss 8267.

Dr. Jennifer Etnier, Julia Taylor Morton Distinguished Professor in Life and Health Science (Kinesiology) was awarded UNCG's **2020-2021 Senior Research Excellence Award** for her scholarship on the connections between physical activity and cognition. Most recently, her work has examined the relationships between physical activity and cognition in people with the APOE genotype that results in dementia and Alzheimer's Disease. She has received \$5.4 million in federal funding and \$639,000 in foundation and private funding for this work. She is a fellow of the National Academy of Kinesiology – which reserves only 250 positions for the most widely recognized professionals in the field – and of the American College of Sports Medicine. She is also a former President of the North American Society for the Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity, and has published more than 90 peer reviewed articles, 2 popular books, and numerous scientific book chapters. Etnier is also an exemplary teacher-scholar. In the last six years, 25 of her manuscript publications have incorporated students, with students serving as first author on 14.

Dr. Gabriela Livas Stein, Associate Professor in Psychology has been awarded the **2020-2021 Junior Research Excellence Award**. Her work focuses on how familial cultural values impact youth development, how cultural stressors affect mental health, and how to improve access to mental health care for marginalized populations. Much of her community-engaged, interdisciplinary work focuses on Latinx youth and families. In the last five years, she has received 4 internal awards and 3 external grants totaling \$5.5 million including a prestigious NIH R01 project that involves 13 different community partners. She regularly involves both undergraduate and graduate students in her research and publications. In a collaborative venture with UNCG's Drs. Stephanie Coard and Laura Gonzalez and Dr. Lisa Kiang of Wake Forest University, Stein developed an online resource that helps families of color talk to their children about racism and discrimination. The program offers specialized content for Latinx American, Asian American, and African American families.

Dr. Sandra Schulz, Professor of Kinesiology, Director of the Center for Women's Health and Wellness, has received two new grants for her research on knee laxity – the looseness of the ligaments that stabilize the knee joint. After participating in the NSF funded I-Corps program through LaunchUNCG, Shultz and her collaborators, Dr. Dennis LaJeunesse in nanoscience, Dr. Randy Schmitz in kinesiology, doctoral students and entrepreneurial leads Beth Bacon and Hunter Holder, and industry mentor Robert Koshniskie, were selected for the spring cohort of the NSF's national-level I-Corps program. This funding supports moving promising ideas and technologies from the laboratory to the marketplace. The team will use this funding to develop a knee sleeve that provides dynamic motion restraint to help prevent injury related to excessive knee laxity, or to stabilize the knee while an injury is healing. Along with co-PIs Dr. Randy Schmitz and Dr. Minjeong Kim, Shultz received a Translational Research Grant (TRG) from the

NC Center for Biotechnology for another project to develop and optimize a measurement system for knee laxity that is accurate, reliable, and easy to use.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Shelton', written over a horizontal line.

Terri L. Shelton

Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor
Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement