



**Academic Affairs Committee**  
**October 10, 2023**  
**1:45pm**

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**Information Item**

AAC – 4      Update on Research and Engagement

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, community, and economic engagement leading to knowledge, student, and regional transformation.

**External Funding and Trends**

The campus is starting off FY24 on a strong note with **awards up by \$6,600,350 or 26.2%**. Submissions are down in terms of number of submissions and amount requested but this is not uncommon following a strong previous year.

	<b>7-1-23 to 8-31-23</b>		<b>7-1-22 to 8-31-22</b>	
<b>SUBMISSIONS</b>	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	61	\$ 25,399,660	92	\$ 37,258,867
<b>AWARDS</b>	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	69	\$ 25,158,871	70	\$ 18,558,521

**Selected Highlights**

One of the areas of scholarly excellence is our funded research examining factors contributing to health and/or illness as well as innovative approaches to intervention. Several of these impactful awards are summarized below.

*Dr. Kierra Sattler, along with Drs. Esther Leerkes, the Jefferson-Pilot Excellence Professor and Cheryl Buehler all from the Department of Human Development and Family Studies* received **\$1,579,604** from the National Institute of Health to examine **“The Impact of COVID-19 on Parent and Child Well-Being in Early Childhood.”**

An impressive interdisciplinary team that includes *Dr. Forgive Avorgbedor and Dr. Thomas McCoy from Nursing; Dr. Esther Leerkes from Human Development and Family Studies, and Dr. Laurie Gold, the Safrit-Ennis Distinguished Professor from Kinesiology* are partnering with UC Davis on a **\$500,000** grant from the Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation examining **“Structural racism and cardiometabolic risk in pregnant and postpartum women.”**

*Dr. Jared McGuirt in the Department of Nutrition* received **\$149,949** from the Department of Defense in collaboration with Fort Liberty Army Base (formerly Fort Bragg) for the **“Development and testing of a place-based behavioral “nudge” technology intervention to promote healthier food purchases among military service members at Fort Bragg.”**

*Dr. Maryanne Perrin, also in the Department of Nutrition,* received ongoing funding from her **\$1,383,566** award from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for her project **“Investigating Donor Human Milk Composition Globally to Develop Effective Strategies for the Nutritional Care of Preterm Infants.”**

UNCG has a nationally recognized medicinal chemistry collaborative. Recently, *Dr. Nicholas Oberlies, the Patricia A. Sullivan Distinguished Professor of Chemistry,* received ongoing funding as part of his **\$1,582,560** award from NIH National Cancer Institute to advance the **“Discovery of anticancer agents of diverse natural origin”** and *Dr. Nadja Cech, also a Patricia A. Sullivan Distinguished Professor of Chemistry,* received ongoing funding as part of her **\$1,054,875** award in collaboration with the University of California at Santa Cruz funding **“The Center for High Content Functional Annotation of Natural Products.”**

Rounding out this impressive array is research being conducted at UNCG’s Center for Translational Biomedical Research which is located at the NC Research Campus in Kannapolis. Co-Director, *Dr. Zhanxiang Zhou, Professor of Nutrition,* received continued funding on his **\$2,292,992** grant from the National Institutes of Health examining **“Lipotoxicity in Alcoholic Liver Disease.”** And Co-Director *Dr. Qibin Zhang, Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry,* is collaborating with researchers at Appalachian State University on their **\$144,000** grant examining the **“Influence of**

**2-Weeks Beet Pre-Workout Supplement Ingestion on Inflammation Resolution and Metabolic Recovery After Vigorous Exercise.”**

UNCG is also recognized as a leader in community engaged research and creative activity. There is no better example than the **community engaged work of the College of Visual and Performing Arts**. From community music lessons to nationally recognized summer camps, the NC Theatre for Young People and the NC Young Playwrights Festival to name just a few, in FY23 CVPA engaged with over 11,650 people in the community through 18 community-engaged initiatives, touching 133 NC schools (K-12 and higher education institutions), involving 55 CVPA faculty and staff, 63 CVPA Master’s and Doctoral students, and 207 CVPA undergraduate students. See report at [https://vpa.uncg.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/cvpacommunityengagement\\_22-23\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://vpa.uncg.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/cvpacommunityengagement_22-23_annual_report.pdf)).

*Debbie Storrs*

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