



**The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Board of Trustees
April 11, 2024**

Information Item

BOT – 8 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

Through the end of February, we are still trending below last year in terms of awards (down 6.7%) and submissions. As noted, this is not uncommon following last year’s record breaking performance. However, in comparison to FY22 at the same time, we are up 28% in awards so we anticipate finishing the fiscal year with a strong showing.

	7-1-23 to 2-29-24		7-1-22 to 2-28-23	
SUBMISSIONS	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	249	\$103,185,312	300	\$ 122,947,322
AWARDS	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	200	\$ 48,360,962	209	\$ 51,597,153

Selected Highlights

Each year, the campus recognizes outstanding excellence among our faculty including excellence in mentoring undergraduates in research, scholarship, and creative activity as well as overall Research Excellence.

Assistant Professor of Psychology *Michaeline Jensen* has received the **2024 UNCG Thomas Undergraduate Research Mentor Award in the pre-tenure category**. The psychologist and social scientist, who examines how mobile communication technologies impact young adults,

has mentored 70 undergraduates on independent studies since she arrived at UNCG in 2018. Two students have co-authored peer-reviewed manuscripts, three have won Undergraduate Research and Creativity Awards, and one is a UNCG-McNair Scholar. Jensen has also mentored 2 students through the UNCG Psychology Department's Early Scientist Program. She has also impacted over 775 undergraduates in the classroom.

Professor ***Sat Gupta***, a statistician whose research interests include survey sampling and biostatistics, has received the **2024 UNCG Thomas Undergraduate Research Mentor Award in the tenured category**. Dr. Gupta has mentored nine UNCG undergraduate students on individual projects and has served as the principal investigator on multiple NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) grants. He also launched the Research Experience in Statistics for UNCG Undergraduates program and serves as a co-principal investigator on a multi-year, multi-million NSF LSAMP grant, which aims to increase the number of STEM and graduate degrees awarded to historically underrepresented groups and which includes undergraduate research mentorship as one of its core activities.

In 1988, UNCG's Research Excellence Awards were established in recognition of the following principle: "Given that creating and diffusing knowledge is a formal obligation of the University, the Research Excellence Award will be given to a full-time member of the faculty whose work contributes in an exemplary fashion to this end."

UNCG's 2024 winners reflect the excellence of UNCG's faculty scholarship, their commitment to generating new knowledge, translating that research into practice, and student transformation through their mentoring.

This year's ***Senior Research Excellence Awardee is Dr. Nicholas Oberlies***, who holds the Patricia A. Sullivan Distinguished Professorship of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Dr. Oberlies and his team focus on the isolation and structure elucidation of bioactive compounds from natural sources, including those from both fungal cultures and plants. Such studies have ramifications both in the realm of drug discovery and in the area of herbal drugs. Their longest running project is funded by the National Cancer Institute to examine filamentous fungi potential for anticancer drugs. He has more than 200 peer-reviewed publications, in high impact journals, with others in the field citing his work more than 8,700 times since 2018 alone. A review of the authorship of these articles highlights another strength and that is his role as a mentor. His graduate students as well as long term staff collaborators in the lab are co-authors, not only contributing to the science, but also propelling their own careers. Much of UNCG's success in garnering external funding has been due to Dr. Oberlies' own success in this arena. He has garnered over \$12 million in external funding as lead or part of a team since FY2015. He has also played significant leadership roles not only at UNCG but in the field in professional organizations such as the American Society of Pharmacognosy.

Equally impressive is the *Early Career Research Excellence Award winner, Dr. Jacklyn Maher*, Associate Professor in Kinesiology. Dr. Maher's research aims to understand (1) how motivational processes within and outside of our awareness regulate our physical activity and sedentary behavior, (2) how physical activity and sedentary behavior impact psychological health and well-being, and (3) how best to use technology to capture the dynamics of motivation, behavior, evaluations, and feelings as well as to intervene on behavior. The ultimate goal of her research is to develop low burden, just-in-time adaptive interventions that help people to create meaningful behavior change in the context of their everyday lives. Dr. Maher has conducted research in populations across the lifespan ranging from children to older adults. She has published 63 peer-reviewed articles, in top-tier journals, with her work cited almost 3,000 times. She has been successful in obtaining significant research funding from multiple funders including NIH. Last year she received the Early Career Distinguished Scholar Award from the North American Society for the Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity. Since joining 2017, she has also distinguished herself as a highly sought after mentor, receiving UNCG's Undergraduate Research Mentor Award in 2022 in addition to mentoring graduate students.



Debbie Storrs
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor