

The Office of Research & Sponsored Programs

Research at The University of Scranton: **Fall 2019**



RESEARCH RECHARGED

Externally Submitted Grant Proposals

	18/19	17/18
CAS	18	22
Asian Studies	1	2
Biology	4	4
Chemistry	8	4
English & Theater	1	0
History	0	1
Hope Horn Gallery	1	1
Mathematics	0	1
Psychology	0	4
Sociology, Criminal Justice & Criminology	1	4
Theology/Religious Studies	0	1
World Lang. & Culture	2	0
KSOM	9	1
Accounting	8	0
Economics/Finance	1	1
PCPS	30	16
Counseling & Human Services	3	1
Dean's Office	11	5
Health Administration & Human Resources	1	0
Leahy Clinic	4	5
Occupational Therapy	1	0
Nursing	2	3
Physical Therapy	1	0
University of Success	7	2
STAFF	10	14

The above listing of externally submitted grant proposals represents all external proposals submitted through the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) for the Fiscal Years 2019-2018 and 2018-2017.

Of the grants above, 33 (from 2019-2018) and 27 (from 2018-2017) originated from the Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations. These grants flowed through the ORSP for compliance and budget review as required by University policy.



Student Opportunities in Academic Research

ORSP will hold a SOAR Information Session on **Tuesday, October 29, 2019** in the McIlhenny Ballroom (TDC 407) from **11:30 am—1:00 pm**. The event is an opportunity for undergraduate students to explore research possibilities on campus.

- 11:30-11:55 Registration/Light lunch
- 12:00-12:20 Information Session
- 12:30-1:00 Booths with detailed SOAR information

ORSP Fall Events:

- 09/06/19:** Dr. Sean Brennan, History (BRN 509)
- 09/27/19:** Dr. Bryan Crable, Biology (LSC 233)
- 10/04/19:** Ms. Amy Archer, C.T.L.E. (LSC 233)
- 10/04/19:** Faculty Development Intersession Grants due
- 10/23/19:** Grant Writing Intersession applications due
- 10/25/19:** Dr. Emily Hopkins, Psychology (LSC 233)
- 10/29/19:** SOAR Information Session (TDC 407)
- 11/01/19:** Dr. Billie Tadros, English & Theatre (LSC 233)
- 11/15/19:** Dr. Ana Ugarte, World Lang. & Cult (BRN 509)
- 11/19/19:** Internal Research applications due
- 11/20/19:** rHIP Applications due to ORSP
- 12/06/19:** Dr. Andrew Venezia, Ex. Science (BRN 509)

Andrew Venezia , Ph.D.

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Andrew Venezia, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Exercise Science, is a neuroscientist and exercise physiologist. He joined The University of Scranton faculty in 2016 after earning his Ph.D. in Neuroscience and Cognitive Science from the University of Maryland. Prior to his doctoral studies, he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in Exercise Science from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Venezia studies the influence of physical activity on cognitive function and is specifically focused on understanding the mechanisms that underlie beneficial changes to brain function in response to physical activity and exercise. Dr. Venezia began investigating the impact of long-term exercise on cognitive function in older adults. He later transitioned into investigating cellular and molecular adaptations in the rodent brain following chronic exercise, acute exercise, and *in utero* exercise exposures. Most of his research has focused on the hippocampus, a brain region that is uniquely sensitive to the effects of physical activity and is important for learning, memory, and emotion.

Currently, Dr. Venezia is primarily interested in the immediate and delayed effects of acute high-intensity exercise on hippocampal plasticity, memory, and mood. Research in humans suggests that acute exercise has small but positive effects on memory; however, the optimal intensity, mode, and timing of exercise relative to the learning experience remain undetermined. Dr. Venezia's research in rodents suggests that the mechanisms of hippocampal plasticity are initiated immediately after a single bout of exercise. Interestingly, the mice in these investigations displayed anxiety-like behavior immediately after acute exercise and were unwilling to complete tasks designed to test memory. Although he is hesitant to consider this behavior "anxiety", new research by Dr. Venezia and students at The University of Scranton suggests that college students display higher levels of anger, restlessness, and depression when they complete a cognitive task after exercise compared to the same task performed after rest. Preliminary data from two student-led projects suggest that this effect is observed following both resistance training and cycling exercise. These data will be presented by two University of Scranton undergraduate students at the annual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine.

Dr. Venezia has four ongoing projects at The University of Scranton as well as one active collaboration with researchers at the University of Maryland. Two of these projects are being led by students from the honors program and one project is funded by an Internal Research Grant. These studies will further our understanding of how acute high-intensity exercise affects cognitive function and mood. Since joining The University of Scranton in the fall of 2016, Dr. Venezia has published three peer-reviewed articles and has one manuscript currently under review. In addition, Dr. Venezia was the lead author of a chapter in the recently published *Routledge Handbook of Sport and Exercise Systems Genetics*. This chapter detailed the ethical considerations of using genetic testing for talent identification, another of Dr. Venezia's long-standing research interests.

Research as a High Impact Practice (rHIP)

ORSP is pleased to announce again the availability of funding to promote high-quality faculty-mentored experiences in research and scholarship for our undergraduate students. Proposals are expected to support faculty-student research projects that focus on the creation of an undergraduate research/scholarship experience for the student resulting in student learning outcomes, such as inquiry and analysis, critical and creative thinking, and foundations and skills for lifelong learning.

Proposals for rHip funding are **due** to ORSP by **November 20, 2019**. A detailed request for proposal (RFP) is forthcoming.

ORSP is now on **Instagram!**

Here you can find important information about our office and events. This page will be a great resource for faculty, staff and students.



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