UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
RESEARCH+ INNOVATION

September 2020 | View newsletters in browser

COVID-19: Research Guidance and Updates

CONNECT WITH RESEARCH

Colleagues

As we embark on an unprecedented academic year, the Division of Research and Innovation is here to provide you with the tools and resources to help you succeed in growing your research capacity. Regardless of where you are in your academic career or what discipline you study, there are external funding opportunities for you to pursue, and our team is here to help. Outlined below are some of those resources, but we are welcome to email Dr. Jasbir Dhaliwal at jdhaliwl@memphis.edu, or our divisional team at research@memphis.edu with any questions you may have about how we can serve you. Thank you and we wish you a great start to this semester.

Research Training Resources

Our 2020 training calendar has been released with almost weekly opportunities for training throughout the academic year. All trainings will be offered virtually and recorded for future reference. Whether you are pursuing your first grant application or seeking to establish a major center, our team is ready to help. Division of Research & Innovation Training.

For Researchers

We have compiled all of the resources that faculty request in one location>. From there, you can setup your Cayuse account (our grants and contracts management platform), find information on compliance requirements, learn about preparing proposals, and understand the next steps to take once you have received a grant. Our Office of Sponsored Programs can be reached at osp@memphis.edu. For questions regarding exploring funding opportunities, initial questions on applications or for resources to aid in the review of proposal narratives, feel free to email Dr. Cody Behles at cbehles@memphis.edu in our Research Development Office. Our compliance team can be reached at researchcompliance@memphis.edu.

Innovation in the Division

The Division of Research & Innovation is home to the FedEx Institute of Technology (FIT), the applied innovation arm of the University. Home to our Office of Technology Transfer and applied research clusters, FIT is a great resource for faculty interested in interdisciplinary applied innovation, or to engage in deep science entrepreneurship. FIT also offers corporate training programs; information available here.

Other Resources:

Core Facilities: Including our Integrated Microscopy Center and Metal Additive Manufacturing Lab.

Instrumentation Database: A quick glance at the research equipment and instrumentation across campus.

Centers and Institutes: A quick overview of the centers and institutes on the University of Memphis campus.

Newsletter: The place where we celebrate faculty research awards, announce internal funding opportunities, and promote the research ecosystem of the UofM. To sign up or send items for inclusion, email Mary Ann Dawson at mdawson@memphis.edu.

RESEARCH

UofM Sets Record Year for Research
Road to R1 paved with progress

The past 18 months have been a defining period for the University of Memphis. Our faculty and research staff were presented with the challenge of achieving R1 within a five-year period. Progress in FY20 indicates that we are well positioned to meet that goal less than three years after being presented with the challenge. This is a common goal that will raise the profile of our University, the impact of our research and the prominence of our community as a destination for top-flight innovative talent nationally.

Evidence of Success

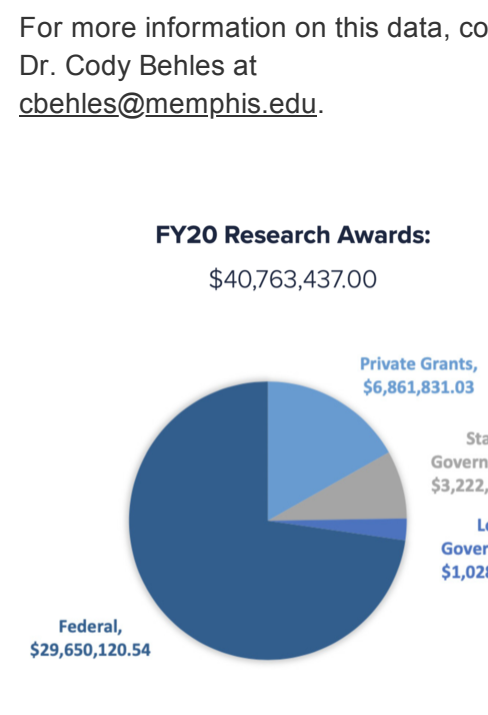
This progress has been displayed in the phenomenal improvement in key metrics over the last 18 months:

Improved Metrics: FY19 to FY20

- Total award dollars increased 25%
- Total federal award dollars increased 48%
- NSF awards increased 147%
- HERD research expenditures increased 20%
- Junior faculty proposal submissions increased 27% (55 proposals)
- PostDocs increased 236% (57 postdocs)
- PhD-qualified research staff increased 307% (57 staff)
- Faculty with $500k or more in awards increased 87% (27 faculty)
- Single awards of $250k or more increased 36% (49 awards)

For more information on this data, contact Dr. Cody Behles at cbehles@memphis.edu.

FY20 Research Awards:
$40,763,437.00



UTHSC and UofM Partner to Fight COVID-19
Nine projects funded with CORNET Awards

Nine research teams are awardees of the 2020 University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC)/University of Memphis (UofM) SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 Research CORNET grants. The grant competition was specifically geared to facilitate new collaborations between UTHSC and UofM faculty on projects designed to better understand the virus and find therapies to end the pandemic.

The projects and principal investigators (PI) are:

"Determination of Inflammatory and Fibrotic Markers in SARS-CoV2 Infected Macrophages and Fibroblasts": Theodore Cory, PharmD, PhD (UTHSC); **Brandt Pence**, PhD (UofM)

"Host Genes, Immune Response and Susceptibility/Resistance to SARS-CoV2": Kui Li, PhD (UTHSC); **Xiaohua Huang, PhD** (UofM)

"Creating the UTHSC-University of Memphis COVID-19 Geographic Insights Collaborative": David Schwartz, MD (UTHSC); **Esra Ozdenerol, PhD** (UofM)

"Models of Lung Microenvironment to Explore COVID-19 Pathogenesis and Drug Development": Marko Radic, PhD (UTHSC); **Gary Bowlin, PhD** (UofM)

"Aerosolization of Emitted Particles in Multiple Breathing, Speech and Singing Activities": Sandra Stinnett, MD (UTHSC); M. Boyd Gillespie, MD, MSc, FACS (UTHSC); **Ranganathan Gopalakrishnan, PhD** (UofM); **Miriam van Mersbergen, PhD, CCC-SLP** (UofM); **Daniel Foti, PhD** (UofM); **Jeffrey Marchetta, PhD** (UofM); **John Hochstein, PhD** (UofM)

"Identifying Areas of Geographical Inequalities in COVID-19 Morbidity and Mortality through Mapping of Spread of Confirmed Cases and Deaths across Disadvantaged Areas in Tennessee": James Rhudy, Jr., PhD, DNP, APRN, CCNS, CCRN-CMC-CSC (UTHSC); **Anzhelika Antipova, PhD** (UofM)

"Clinical, Immunological and Viral Determinants of COVID-19 Disease Severity in Adults and Children": Heather Smallwood, PhD (UTHSC); Nick Hysmith, MD (UTHSC); Colleen Jonsson, PhD (UTHSC); **Yu Jiang, PhD** (UofM)

"Nrf2 Small Molecule Modulation of COVID-19 Multi-organ Tissue Injury": Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, PhD (UTHSC); **Thomas Sutter, PhD** (UofM)

"The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Racial, Gender, and Socioeconomic Disparities in Access to Care and Health Outcomes Among Patients with Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions": Satya Surbhi, PhD, MS, BPharm (UTHSC); **Aram Dobalian, PhD, JD, MPH** (UofM)

Read full press release here>

UofM Team Funded by NSF to Address Gender Equity in STEM
Ozdenerol to PI $1M initiative

The NSF ADVANCE program is designed to foster gender equity through a focus on the identification and elimination of organizational barriers that impede the full participation and advancement of diverse faculty in academic institutions. Organizational barriers that inhibit equity may exist in policies, processes, practices and the organizational culture and climate.

Dr. Esra Ozdenerol, (PI), and **Drs. Firouzeh Sabri** (Co-PI), **Stephanie Ivey** (Co-PI), **Craig Stewart** (Co-PI), **Amanda Rockinson-Szapkiw** (Co-PI), **Jacob Allen** and **Dean Abby Parrill-Baker** will lead and implement the ASPIRED project.

ASPIRED at the University of Memphis will adapt evidence-based strategies from other ADVANCE institutions to change the institutional climate at the UofM and increase gender equity in recruitment, hiring, retention and advancement in STEM. UofM needs a strategic institutional investment in recruitment and retention activities, coordinated initiatives across the institution and improvement of institutional processes to foster a culturally and gender inclusive environment that promotes the advancement of STEM women faculty, especially underrepresented minorities.

For more information on this project, contact Ozdenerol at eozdenrl@memphis.edu.

$1.4 M Awarded to UofM's AutoTutor for Adult Reading Comprehension
To further development tools

AutoTutor for Adult Reading Comprehension (AutoTutor-ARC) has received funding for its continued development on a grant from the Institute of Education Sciences of the US Department of Education for $1.4 million. In the United States, one in six adults is a struggling reader with a low level of proficiency. Adult literacy programs face many obstacles such as being underfunded, having difficulty retaining students and catering to diverse populations. AutoTutor for Adult Reading Comprehension (AutoTutor-ARC) is a proposed web-based intelligent tutoring system to aid these programs.

The AdultEd Research Team entitled the project "Developing a Technology-based, Reading Comprehension Instruction System for Adult Literacy Students." Within the project, AutoTutor-ARC incorporates conversational agents, dozens of lessons with practice questions, and embedded tests to monitor student learning. The research team will develop tutorial lessons for adult students to encourage digital literacy skills and a toolkit dashboard for literacy providers and their students. This dashboard will leverage the newest technology into literacy programs by enabling efficient planning and tracking of students' progress throughout the lessons. These developments will come alongside both updates to AutoTutor-ARC's software and evaluations of its progress through the experiences of literacy programs and adult learners. In doing so, this research will evaluate the use of the web-based system as a teacher-led supplement to classroom instruction and as a distance learning platform for adult use outside of the classroom.

Principal investigators and sub-awardees are: **Dr. John Sabatini** and **Dr. Arthur Graesser**, University of Memphis; Dr. Daphne Greenberg, Georgia State University; and Dr. Tenaha O'Reilly, Educational Testing Service.

Read official press release here>

Official abstract and announcement here>

CERI Travels to North Carolina After Magnitude 5.1 Earthquake
Studies aftershocks of largest event in the area since 1916

Specialists from the University of Memphis' Center for Earthquake Research and Information (CERI) traveled to monitor aftershocks of the magnitude 5.1 earthquake that occurred two miles southeast of Sparta, N.C., at 8:07 a.m. EDT Sunday, August 9. As seen on the accompanying U.S. Geological Survey intensity map, the event was felt over an area larger than 50,000 square miles. Aftershocks were expected to continue for hours, days or weeks.

Read full press release here>

COVID-19 FAQs

Research Awards
August 2020

Dr. Wesley James, associate professor in the Department of Sociology, was awarded $1,381,320 from Delta Health Alliance with the U.S. Department of Education for his project "Evaluate Impact of Health and Education Programs in the Mississippi Delta."

Dr. Stephanie Ivey, associate dean for research in the Herff College of Engineering, was awarded $465,822 from Southwest Tennessee Community College with the U.S. Department of Labor for her project "Greater Memphis Apprenticeship Pathway," and $30,000 from the Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis for her project "Girls Experiencing Engineering 2020."

Dr. Jamein Cunningham, assistant professor in the Department of Economics, was awarded $74,000 from the Washington Center for Equitable Growth for his project "The Evolution of Civil Rights Enforcement and Economic Prosperity of Minorities."

Dr. Maryam Salehi Esfandarani, assistant professor in the Department of Civil Engineering, was awarded $44,395 from Shelby County Schools for her project "Identify the Sources of Lead (Pb) in Shelby County Schools Drinking Water to Develop Effective Remediation Practices."

Dr. James Murphy, professor in the Department of Psychology, was awarded $35,881 from Washington State University with the National Institutes of Health for his project "Integration of Motivational Interviewing and Behavioral Economics Theories to Enhance Measurement of Client Language as a Mechanism of Behavior Change."

Dr. Todd Zoblotsky, research associate professor in the Center for Research in Educational Policy, was awarded $20,000 from Shelby County Schools for his project "Shelby County Schools Equity Audit 2020."

Dr. Daniel Greenwood, research assistant professor and director of the Human Performance Center, was awarded $15,000 from the American Athletics Conference for his project "Using an Applied and Hands-on Education Process to Improve Athletes Nutritional Knowledge and Dietary Habits."

Dr. Kris-Stella Trump, assistant professor in the Department of Political Science, was awarded $2,500 from the American Political Science Association for her project "Lazy Natives and Hard Working Immigrants: Comparing the Impact of Deservingness Cues on Perceptions of Deservingness."

Teresa Franklin, executive director of the Institute for Interdisciplinary Memphis Partnerships to Advance Community Transformation, was awarded $2,500 from the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities for her project "University of Memphis Institute of Interdisciplinary Memphis Partnerships to Advance Community Transformation (iIMPACT)."

* Data reported the 18th of each month. Awards finalized after the 18th will be reported the following month.

RESEARCH COMPLIANCE

Institutional Review Board

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) has continued to focus on increasing efficiency without compromising the commitment to protect human subjects. In the last fiscal year, it realized a 17% reduction in turnaround time, which now averages 6.74 days, a rate that is far below what is typically found at similar-sized Institutions. To continue to make these gains, the 13-member UofM IRB (comprised of our faculty, a community member, and a non-scientist as required by federal regulations) has engaged a greater number of board members in reviewing protocols classified in the expedited category.

The number of protocol reviews remained consistent with just under 1800 protocol reviews in 2020 and 2019. The number of incidents decreased by half, closures increased 3-fold, initial submissions and modifications remained steady. Although the numbers in categories of review changed for FY2020, the IRB continues to work diligently and quickly to keep human subjects safe and our research compliant.

For more information or if you have questions, email researchcompliance@memphis.edu.

RESEARCH CLUSTERS

- ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING
- AGRICULTURE & FOOD TECHNOLOGIES
- BIOLOGISTICS
- CAST
- DATA SCIENCE
- DRONES
- SMART CITIES

QUICK GUIDE
TO RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS

Reviewing, Submitting and Accepting Funded Research
A resource for faculty and staff

Research Development and Sponsored Programs are the central research support teams responsible for the review and submission of proposals (grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, non-monetary) to external sponsors and for the review and acceptance of any sponsored project funds. The team includes Pre-Award Services, Contract and Award Services, Electronic Research Administration and Research Development. They are located in 315 Administration Building.

The Quick Guide is available here.

NEWS TO FEATURE IN THE RESEARCH + INNOVATION NEWSLETTER?

We welcome the opportunity to highlight the research infrastructure and innovation capabilities at the University of Memphis. Email us major award notifications, honors, research talks, publications, initiatives, conferences to be held at the UofM, etc., for inclusion in an upcoming issue of the newsletter. We look forward to sharing the world-class accomplishments taking place at the University of Memphis.

CONTACT US

UMRF Research Park

For the latest news and economic development initatives at the research park, visit the website here>

INNOVATION

UMRF Ventures Professorships Awarded
Three junior faculty research leaders selected

The University of Memphis Research Foundation (UMRF) awarded three UMRF Ventures Professorships in August. These professorships were awarded based on the progress of junior faculty in advancing the research capacity of the University of Memphis. The professorship is for a period of two years beginning Sept. 1 and includes a stipend that can be utilized for research and other related expenses. Early Career Awards from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and other federal funding agencies are among the most prestigious awards a junior faculty member can earn and are the best indicators of long-term research success. UMRF is committed to retaining and growing this top-level talent and offers these professorships to any recipients of Early Career Awards from major federal funding agencies. The 2020 professorships were awarded to:

Amber Jennings, Biomedical Engineering
NSF CAREER Award - "Tethered Biofilm Dispersal Signals for Long-term Protection of Engineering Materials"

Ranga Gopalakrishnan, Mechanical Engineering
DoE (Department of Energy) Career Award - "Thermodynamics and Transport Models of Strongly Coupled Dusty Plasmas"

Thomas Watson, Computer Science
NSF Career Award - "Structural Communication Complexity"

For more information on these awards, contact Research & Innovation at research@memphis.edu.

Exploring Lead Build-Up in Common Building Materials
UofM junior faculty team funded $330,000 by NSF

The Flint water crisis brought to the forefront a national concern around the contamination of our drinking water sources, but these concerns are not limited to Michigan. Lead was among the principle concerns in Flint, and this poisonous environmental pollutant can be found in high concentrations in drinking water in many communities across the country. Lead in tap water mainly originates from corrosion of lead pipes or fittings, but emerging evidence suggests that plastic polyethylene pipes in building plumbing (75% of new construction) could accumulate lead on their surface. Plastic pipes are increasingly used to replace older metallic plumbing and construct new drinking water systems due to their lower cost, easy installation, corrosion resistance and longer service life. We do not fully understand how lead deposition on plastic pipes occurs and learning more about this is critical to sustaining our public health.

The research team of **Dr. Maryam Salehi** (Civil Engineering) and **Dr. Shawn Brown** (Biology) will investigate lead deposition onto and release from the commonly used plastic potable water plumbing with an aim to better understand and control these processes and develop recommendations for healthier drinking water. This research will develop new methods to identify previous lead exposure incidents throughout plumbing systems. Successful completion of this project will lead to better understanding of lead fate within potable water plumbing to minimize public exposure and assist regulators and the public in making informed decisions.

For more information on this grant, contact Salehi at maryam.s@memphis.edu.

Read full press release here>

Venugopal Funded in Cutting-Edge Markov Logic Research
Advances growing AI research community at UofM

When most people imagine artificial intelligence, they picture the end-user product — driverless cars, Amazon's Alexa or other simple implementations of AI that make us feel like the future has arrived. For researchers at the UofM, the challenge of AI is not about what is already available, but what the future of AI will be. **Dr. Deepak Venugopal** and co-PI, **Dr. Vasile Rus**, were funded by the NSF to develop foundations for next-generation machine learning algorithms by combining Markov Logic Networks (a symbolic AI model) with Deep Neural Networks (DNNs).

Though DNNs have revolutionized AI and machine learning in the last couple of decades, they rely purely on the data and do not utilize background knowledge explicitly in their learning algorithms, which can sometimes result in models that generalize poorly in real-world applications (e.g. driving a car requires significant commonsense knowledge). Markov Logic Networks (MLNs) on the other hand is a probabilistic logic that is based on symbolic AI and can therefore encode complex background knowledge explicitly. However, they lack inference and learning capabilities that are as scalable and accurate as DNN-based methods. Venugopal and Rus's project will develop novel foundational techniques to combine these two significant advances in AI, in which MLNs provide the DNN with task-specific, interpretable background knowledge which helps the DNN to learn richer models. Further, they will also demonstrate the real-world applicability of these techniques by utilizing them to significantly improve personalized learning in adaptive instructional systems.

This project will be a critical addition to the AI landscape, allowing us to incorporate richer background knowledge, intuitive psychology and common sense into machine learning models to tackle real world challenges.

Venugopal's work joins recent successes in AI research at the UofM - DataWhys and the Learner Data Institute.

Read more on this award here, or contact Venugopal at dvngopal@memphis.edu.

ATHENA{techne}

All Women Hackathon Goes Virtual
September 11-12 Virtual | Tickets are Free

The FedEx Institute of Technology is once again uniting with tech organizations to bring the first women's hackathon to Memphis. ATHENA{techne} All Women's Hackathon will be virtual this year and will feature various sessions across the two-day event. This year's theme - **TECH LIKE A GIRL** - encourages women (ages 13 and above) who are interested in technology to come together, collaborate on projects and grow opportunities for women in tech.

Get your tickets now to learn about the latest tech, tools and trades that will help you blaze a path forward on your journey to becoming the fierce and capable leader you are meant to be. See all panelists & sessions on the ATHENA{techne} schedule, and get your FREE tickets now!

UofM Faculty Influence National Policy on Algorithmic Trading in U.S. Capital Markets

The U.S. SEC 2020 report on risks and benefits of algorithmic trading in the U.S. capital markets, mandated by and submitted to the U.S. Congress, cites five different articles authored by FIR faculty **Drs. Allen Carrion, PK Jain, Tom McInish, Konstantin Sokolov** and PhD alum **Jianning Huang**. These faculty members have influenced national policy on trading and market structure directly (Carrion and Jain had worked at the SEC with Intergovernmental Personnel Act grants) and indirectly through their continuing pre-eminent research publications.

Read the full report, Algorithmic Trading in U.S. Capital Markets, here>

HELEN HARDIN HONORS COLLEGE

Undergraduate Research Fellows Program

The Helen Hardin Honors College will again coordinate with the Office of Student Financial Aid to allow honors students to use their federal work-study funds to work as undergraduate research assistants for UofM faculty. The goal of this program is to expand opportunities for students to learn the research or scholarly methods in their field while providing research support to faculty. Please note: The work-study positions are not secretarial or other administrative support positions.

The Undergraduate Research Fellows Program is open to any honors student who is eligible for work-study funds. The pay rate will be $15 per hour with the expectation that most students will work 10-20 hours per week. There will be no cost to the faculty member or department, as the Helen Hardin Honors College and the Office of Student Financial Aid are sharing the expense.

To participate in the program, students will apply directly to the Helen Hardin Honors College office. The Honors College will screen students for their work-study eligibility and forward the applications of eligible candidates to the faculty mentors. Faculty mentors will have complete autonomy to review applications, interview candidates and choose their assistants. Faculty members will be responsible for carefully monitoring the hours that the students work.

The first step in launching this program is to create a broad selection of research assistantships. Faculty interested in participating in this program should provide the Helen Hardin Honors College the following information:

The Helen Hardin Honors College will post available research assistant positions on this website.

Please submit your research project descriptions here.

Please contact Dr. Melinda Jones, director of the Helen Hardin Honors College, for further information at mljones6@memphis.edu.

FEDEX INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CALENDAR

TECH Meetup: DevMemphis
September 1 | 6-7:30 PM | Teleconference

TECH Meetup: Machine Learning/Data Sciences/R
September 1 | 7-8 PM | Teleconference

TECH Meetup: Secure DevOps with Adam Misesko & MemDevOps
September 2 | 2-4 PM | Teleconference

TECH Meetup: WordPress Memphis
September 3 | 6-9 PM | Teleconference

TECH Meetup: Code Together | A free community coding session
September 5 | 1-3 PM | Teleconference

TECH Meetup: Code Connector Virtual Networking
September 7 | NOON-1 PM | Teleconference

TECH Meetup: Memphis Web Workers
September 8 | 6-8 PM | Teleconference

TECH Meetup: Memphis Game Developers
September 9 | 6-8 PM | Teleconference

TECH Meetup: Memphis .Net
September 10 | NOON-1 PM | Teleconference

TECH Meetup: MemPASS/Power BI
September 10 | 5:30-7:30 PM | Teleconference

ATHENA{techne} Woman's Virtual Hackathon
September 11-12 | Teleconference

TECH Meetup: Code Together
September 12 | 1-3 PM | Teleconference

TECH Meetup: Code Connector Virtual Networking
September 14 | NOON-1 PM | Teleconference

Professional Development Training: DevSecOps
September 14-18 | 8:30 AM-NOON | Teleconference

Professional Development Training: Agile Finance
September 15-17 | 8 AM-2 PM | Teleconference

TECH Meetup: Memphis M365
September 17 | 3-5 PM | Teleconference

TECH Meetup: Code Connector Networking September 21 | NOON-1 PM | Teleconference

TECH Meetup: Memphis Python
September 21 | 6:30-8:30 PM | Teleconference

TECH Meetup: Intro to Syncfusion Essential Studio Memphis Xamarin
September 22 | 6-8 PM | Teleconference

TECH Meetup: Code Co-op | Free Coding Hack Night
September 22 | 6:30-8 PM | Teleconference

TECH Meetup: MemphisPHP
September 22 | 6:30-8 PM | Teleconference

TECH Meetup: Memphis Agile
September 24 | 6-7:30 PM | Teleconference

TECH Meetup: What's New in C#: 8 Interfaces with Jeremy Clark and Memphis .NET
September 24 | 6-8 PM | Teleconference

TECH Meetup: Code Connector Virtual Networking
September 28 | NOON-1 PM | Teleconference

Professional Development Training: Agile Coaching September 28-October 1 | 8 AM-2 PM | Teleconference

Crusonia 2020
September 30 | NOON-6 PM | FedEx Institute of Technology

FEDEX INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
TRAINING

DevSecOps
SEPT 14-18 | 8:30 AM-NOON
The training will be held virtually

DevSecOps
September 14-18 | 8:30 AM-NOON (CDT)

The DevSecOps movement seeks to resolve competing objectives by creating truly cross-functional teams that are empowered to do everything involved with creating and operating software without involving other teams. This is achieved through extensive automation of most manual tasks: building, testing, and deploying code; provisioning production and pre-production environments; and even security reviews and scans.

However, implementing DevSecOps goes far beyond tools and processes. It is a cultural change involving most aspects of software development. Its scope is wide, and its impact correspondingly large.

For more information or to register, contact Rami Lotay at rslotay@memphis.edu.

Agile Finance
SEPT 15-17 | 8 AM-2 PM
The training will be held virtually

Agile Finance
September 15-17 | 8:30 AM-2 PM (CDT)

Agility in finance requires a shift of mindset, new tools, and different ways of relating to the rest of your organization. From occasional execution of critical functions to the continuous execution of these functions, finance teams hold keys to enterprise agility. Funding models, analytics and fast cycle times are critical – but leveraging them requires access to near real-time insights and automation across the entire finance lifecycle.

For more information or to register, contact Rami Lotay at rslotay@memphis.edu.

Agile Coaching
SEPT 28 - OCT 1 | 8 AM-2 PM
The training will be held virtually

Agile Coaching
September 28-October 1 | 8:30 AM-2 PM (CDT)

A coach's primary goal is to enhance their client's awareness of practice and behavior — enabling and empowering the client to realize objectives that may be just outside of their reach. Through thoughtful and deliberate engagement, the coach strives to enhance, in a measurable and sustainable fashion, team practices to provide focus on the business goals and objectives of the team and organization. Whether the coach is internal or external to the organization, coaching covers a broad spectrum of teaching, mentoring, problem solving, planning, leadership, team building and mastery of skills and knowledge

For more information or to register, contact Rami Lotay at rslotay@memphis.edu.

OMB MEMO 20-26

Extension of Administrative Relief for Recipients and Applicants of Federal Financial Assistance Directly Impacted by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) due to Loss of Operations
(Whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/M-20-26.pdf)

As part of the response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued three memorandums to provide exceptions allowing federal awarding agencies to grant various administrative, financial and audit requirements flexibilities to their recipients.

Due to the uncertainty of the re-opening phase and the speed of the ramp-up effort, this memorandum provides the extension of item 1, allowability of salaries and other project activities through Sept. 30, 2020, to recipients affected by the loss of operational capacity due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Awarding agencies may allow recipients to continue to charge salaries and benefits to active federal awards consistent with the recipients' policy of paying salaries (under unexpected or extraordinary circumstances) from all funding sources, federal and non-federal. The costs necessary to resume activities supported by the award need to be consistent with applicable federal cost principles and the benefit to the project. Also, payroll costs paid with Paycheck Protection Program loans would result in the federal government paying for the same expenditure twice. Recipients are required to maintain appropriate records and cost documentation to substantiate the charging of any salaries and other project activities related to the interruption of operations or services. Recipients should exhaust other available funding sources to sustain its workforce and implement necessary steps to save overall operational cost during this pandemic ramp-up effort. Recipients should retain documentation of their efforts to exhaust other funding sources to reduce overall operational costs related to the interruption of operations or services.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
Research & Innovation

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