

Good Morning and Happy Holidays! Welcome to the first edition of OUR newsletters for faculty/staff in 2022. To kick things off, here are six programs that might interest you in the upcoming year:

In today's edition:

1. Interactive Workshop on Mentoring Undergraduates in Research | **Registration Deadline Jan. 5, 2022**
2. QuestionPro's Academic Research Spotlight Award | **Deadline Jan. 10, 2022**
3. VT University Innovation Fellows - Call for Nominations | **Deadline Jan. 28, 2022**
4. Call for Applications - ICAT SEAD Major Grant | **Deadline Feb. 11, 2022**
5. 2022 Dennis Dean Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship Conference | **Deadline Apr. 10, 2022**
6. Mentors Sought for Translational Obesity Undergraduate Research (TOUR) Scholars Program

We've changed a few things for this edition to optimize the reading experience. Let us know what you think by taking this [quick survey!](#)

### **1. Interactive Workshop on Mentoring Undergraduates in Research | Registration Deadline Jan. 5, 2022**

You are invited to participate in the interactive workshop on Mentoring Undergraduates in Research on Thursday, January 13, 2022, from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm in the Newman Library Multipurpose Room. We are planning this to be in-person but will modify it if necessary based on campus health status at the time.

This workshop is open to faculty, post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students. Participants are eligible to receive PDN credit. Program capacity is 50, accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Participation in this workshop is free but registration will be required. Complete the [online registration form](#)

by **January 5 at 5 pm**. Contact Keri Swaby at [kswaby@vt.edu](mailto:kswaby@vt.edu) with any questions.

## **2. QuestionPro's Academic Research Spotlight Award | Deadline Jan. 10, 2022**

The winning researcher(s) for QuestionPro's Inaugural Academic Research Competition for 2022 will be given an opportunity to present a summary of their work during a live webinar as well as have their experience and findings included in QuestionPro's monthly newsletter and a blog post on QuestionPro's website. The deadline for expressing interest is January 10, 2022. Please click [here](#) to learn more about the program.

## **3. VT University Innovation Fellows - Call for Nominations | Deadline Jan. 28, 2022**

The application for the Virginia Tech chapter of the University Innovation Fellows is now open, and we are asking Virginia Tech faculty and staff to nominate potential new Fellows. The University Innovation Fellows (UIF) is a program out of Stanford that empowers students to become peer educators and agents of change. Following an intensive, 6-week training program, UIF students take what they have learned to address needs at their schools.

If you would like to nominate someone for this program, simply forward this email so that they might apply at this link below. If you do so, please let Sara K. S. Bear at [sweensk@vt.edu](mailto:sweensk@vt.edu) know so she can keep an eye out for their applications. Should the nominee decide to apply, you will be asked to provide a reference as part of their application. Additionally, please forward this email to any colleagues who may have a student to nominate. Nominees will need to [complete their applications](#) by **January 28th, 2022**. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sara K. S. Bear at [sweensk@vt.edu](mailto:sweensk@vt.edu).

## **4. Call for Applications - ICAT SEAD Major Grant | Deadline Feb. 11, 2022**

The Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology (ICAT) seeks proposals that bring together scientists, engineers, artists, and designers to tackle some of the world's most complex challenges. Powered by advanced technology and networks of talented and creative people, ICAT supports teams of faculty and students from across the university to address particular needs, ranging from large societal problems to industry-specific challenges. ICAT studies process, including education; arts and design integration; and the translation of research into practice. ICAT invites collaborative proposals that include creative projects, pilot and/or feasibility studies, or preliminary research. Funded projects will advance our goal of addressing complex challenges through networks of people and advanced technology. Please click [here](#) to learn more about the program and the deadline is **Feb. 11, 2022**.

## **5. 2022 Dennis Dean Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship Conference | Deadline Apr. 10, 2022**

The annual Dennis Dean Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship Conference will take place in person (fingers crossed!) throughout the day on Friday, April 29 in the Commonwealth Ballroom in Squires Student Center. Designed to be an accessible and open opportunity for students to present and share their work with peers and the VT Community at large, we are hoping that you can help us by encouraging your students to apply and/or attend this amazing event. More information about the conference, including a student registration link, can be found [here](#).

We wanted to share this information with you now as you start to plan your spring classes, in the event that you are interested in having your students present artifacts from your course (as a group or individually) or if attendance to the event could be built into your schedule. We are happy to discuss the possibilities.

Feel free to contact Keri Swaby, Director for the Office of Undergraduate Research, via email at [kswaby@vt.edu](mailto:kswaby@vt.edu) or phone at 540-231-7737.

## **6. Mentors Sought for Translational Obesity Undergraduate Research (TOUR) Scholars Program**

The following message is provided by Deborah Good and Samantha Harden.

Deborah Good and Samantha Harden, affiliated with Carilion Clinic OB/GYN and Family and Community Medicine, are the directors of the [Translational Obesity Undergraduate Research \(TOUR\)](#) Scholars program.

TOUR is a translational obesity undergraduate research training program, funded by the [NIDDK](#), that provides professional development, research methods modules, site visits (NIH, industry, clinics), and experiential learning to bridge undergraduate students to NIDDK-related career trajectories.

As we develop our website and 2022 application process, we would like to update our potential mentor list. In case it informs your decision, we will be flexible, as we were in 2020 and 2021, whether students are physically present or online (and adhere to university policies).

If your research relates to obesity research in any way (across the translational spectrum of Basic/Molecular & Cellular to Clinical/Physiology & Metabolism to Behavioral & Community Science), we would love to have you listed on our ‘potential mentors’ section of the website. This does not guarantee a match but will make it easier for students to identify potential mentors through their application process.

### **MENTOR REQUIREMENTS + RESOURCES**

Each student will receive a \$5250 stipend. Mentors have access to \$500 in additional support for the student's research over the summer. Mentors are expected to guide students in their research including, but not limited to, the establishment of a clear, hypothesis or goal-based project that has some deliverables during the 10-week period. Mentors will meet with their scholars

at least once in the spring, and preferably weekly during the summer. It is often the practice of mentors to engage graduate students, technicians, or program managers to oversee the day-to-day operations of the TOUR scholar. Overall, mentors like you mean it. Whatever your style is, just include the TOUR scholar. Weekly lab meetings? Daily check-ins? Specific requirements? Please share your expectations with the scholar. We also hope you can join the opening picnic and the summer undergraduate research symposium. Dates TBA.

#### **WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU**

Please feel free to sign up via this Google doc [here](#)

Alternatively, let us know any questions you may have.

#### **MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM**

We have strategically matched 10 years of Debby's undergraduate training success with undergraduate research skills and a look at implementation science (how to structure, replicate, and evaluate this work).

Working with the TOUR scholars for the last three years has taught me one primary thing: Education and connection remain at the heart of higher education. It is an honor to be NIDDK funded so that we can take the TOUR scholars to the NIH campus, pay competitive stipends, and support life-changing research and research processes.

#### **MORE ABOUT WHAT WE DO**

Funded by an NIH R25 Research Education Grant, and under the umbrella of the Center for Transformative Research on Health Behaviors, the Translational Obesity Undergraduate Research Scholars (TOUR-Scholars) Program is a research-intensive summer experience that prepares students for graduate and medical education in translational obesity research.

- Spring research course modules in partnership with VT University Libraries and the Office of Undergraduate Research.
- Weekly TOUR meetings
- Site visits
- Specific Aims and Budget
- Professional and Research Development (from elevator pitches to implicit bias workshops)

#### **FEEDBACK FROM OUR COUNCIL ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH REVIEW**

"I was ready to jump right into the research once the program started thanks to the pre-program activities."

- TOUR Scholar

"I would not have been able to conduct the research in my laboratory this summer without having a TOUR Scholar."

- Research Mentor

"I was going to apply to Physicians' Assistant school, but now I'm going to graduate school."

- TOUR Scholar

"I still plan to attend Medical School, but now I understand the importance of research and how it contributes to Medicine."

- TOUR Scholar

"The TOUR program has led to an incredible change in the maturity and independence of our son."

- TOUR Scholar parent

"The program provided new experiences that required Scholars to grow-up over the course of the program. Many students had never used public transportation or had their own hotel room before. Being involved in this program will give confidence to these students as they apply and interview for jobs, graduate or professional school."

- TOUR Director

"As a junior faculty member, being a Research Mentor for the TOUR program made it possible to complete a project that will help me secure research funding."

- TOUR Research Mentor

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