Let’s face it – grants are intimidating! There are so many rules, regulations, and hoops to jump through in the submission process that it may seem like an impossible thing to ever obtain.

But don’t let a little bit of work at the start scare you off from a big reward in the end! You have immense ideas and incredible potential, and there are the means out there for you to make them all a reality. This issue of The Researcher will give you some resources to make your mission possible, as well as highlight someone who is making his research a reality.

**Interesting Opportunities**

- **Xerox Foundation Grant**
  The Xerox Foundation contributed more than $13.5 million in 2012 to research efforts in educational, national, environmental, and cultural arenas. Their call for proposals is open-ended and loose, seeking programs and projects that encourage youth involvement in the arts and sciences, give back to local communities, and contribute to a brighter future for the many, not just the few. Submit all proposals to Mark J. Conlin, the President of the Xerox Foundation.
  **Deadline: Rolling**

- **North Carolina Humanities Council Large Grant**
  This is an ideal grant for a beginner or humanities researcher with a community project, lecture series, or film series in mind. The North Carolina Humanities Council sponsors programs and proposals that provide venues and contexts for the public to address fundamental questions about who we are as a society and how we live together. The Council emphasizes cross-cultural understanding and exploration of North Carolina’s diversity.
  **Deadline: March 15, 2014**

**Dr. Kevin Ford, Research Spotlight**

Dr. Kevin Ford discusses his NIH grant on knee injury risk factors and his extensive experience with grant research.

**Workshop Opportunities & Resources**

**Federal Grant Compliance**
Dr. Kevin Ford is in the business of making the impossible, possible. Awarded the final three years of a $200,000 National Institutes of Health grant earlier this year, Dr. Ford has been working with the Cincinnati Children's Hospital to identify knee injury risk factors in young female athletes. The collaborative study looks at athletes as they go through their rapid growth spurt and seeks to pinpoint, and ultimately prevent, abnormal movements as they develop. With females four to six times more likely to tear their ACL than males in non-contact injuries, which are common in sports like soccer and basketball, there’s a great deal of interest in the research on both the local and national levels.

“The rapid growth spurt gives us a point in time to target. It helps identify the abnormal movements, how to control them, and how to intervene,” says Dr. Ford, citing that as the ultimate goal of the research. “We’re collaborating with High Point’s women’s soccer team and Dr. Yum Nguyen of Athletic Training right now to develop an intervention that could be used in soccer.”

Collaboration is, Dr. Ford assures us, one of the most rewarding and challenging things about research. “Build a strong team around you, whether it’s your own team of students and research assistants or external collaborators,” he advises those thinking about venturing into the world of grant research. In addition to Dr. Nguyen on campus and the team at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, Dr. Ford also works on the NIH grant with six High Point University students as research assistants, who bring fresh eyes and enthusiasm to the project.

Don’t be afraid to take a chance either. Shortly after arriving at High Point University, Dr. Ford approached the Office of Research Administration and Sponsored Programs about submitting proposals for multiple different grants. Taking all those chances paid off — literally. He’s currently juggling two other grant-funded projects in addition to his NIH knee injury research!

“If you don’t have external funding, it really limits what you can do,” Ford says, impressing the need to seek grant opportunities for research you’re passionate about. “Don’t lose sight of how your research is going to translate. Seeing it translated and helping people—even if you’re just helping one person—is the ultimate goal. If you have to have a grant to do that, get a grant.”

It’s a safe bet to say that Dr. Ford is well on his way to helping far more than one person with his grant work and research. Hundreds of thousands of young female athletes stand to benefit from his and his collaborator’s efforts at identifying knee injury risk factors, and we’re excited to see what his spectacular research makes possible.

RASP Workshop Opportunities & Resources, Your Grant Toolbox

If you’d like to take a chance on some of your own research ideas like Dr. Ford, there are plenty of opportunities for you to get started, and RASP is here to help! On Wednesday, October 2nd, Tim Linker, the Director of RASP, hosted a workshop on using the Pivot database to find grants. Attendees learned how to find funding opportunities, set up a profile, register for weekly e-mails that deliver personalized matched opportunities straight to their inbox, and more. If you missed this workshop but don’t want to miss out on the more than $33 billion in research and related funding opportunities that Pivot provides, please don’t hesitate to contact the RASP office for some personal pointers.

RASP will also be hosting a grant-writing workshop on Thursday, November 14 from 12:00 – 1:30 PM in the Roberts Hall Executive Board Room for any interested faculty. Whether you’re an experienced grant proposal writer or you’re a first-timer who is entertaining the idea of applying for a grant, the workshop will have plenty to offer — in addition to delicious food. Attendees will learn the basics of writing and submitting a grant proposal, budget preparation, and the HPU approval process. If you’re interested, please RSVP to the RASP office immediately.

Workshops aren’t the only resources open to faculty interested in writing and submitting a grant, however. RASP now has copies of Finding and Applying for Sponsored Research Opportunities available, which covers Pivot database pointers, a breakdown of the HPU approval process, and Academic Research Funding Strategies’ faculty guide on grant writing, and much more. If you would like a copy, please get in touch with the RASP office today.

As always, never hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, or if there’s anything we can help you with!
Mission Possible: Compliance

Few things are more intimidating than the knotted network of red tape that surrounds the goldmine of federal grants and funding – but don’t let that deter you from seeking one! We’re here to help you navigate this laser-beam maze known as compliance with the prowess of Tom Cruise and turn your federal grant project into Mission Possible.

There are fourteen basic compliance requirements for educational institutions receiving federal grants or funding. These include exciting areas like composition of allocable costs, applicable credits, conflicts of interest, and more. Typically, these are covered with the acceptance of your Federal grant, but the government also has an extensive review of them all, and their many directives, in detail on their website for greater clarity. Failure to comply with these guidelines can result in an audit, corrective action, or even the termination of your grant, and you’re encouraged to seek the assistance of the RASP office if you have questions or concerns regarding a specific matter.

The most common grant compliance offenses are false statements, improper documentation, and conflicts of interest. Frequently rejected due to real or perceived compliance issues, all grant proposals here at High Point are thoroughly reviewed before being officially submitted. This protects you as the primary investigator and gives your project the best chance at getting accepted and funded. A Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form and subsequent conflict of interest training are required steps in this approval process. Each proposal is also vetted through its applicable compliance committees on campus, such as the Institutional Review Board or the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, before it’s approved for submission. A complete breakdown of the proposal routing process can be found in Figure 1.

By the end of the review process, your grant should be airtight and as compliant as you no doubt wish your students were.

In addition to the grant approval process, RASP also has numerous compliance related resources and guidelines available on our website, should you ever have any questions or concerns. We also welcome you to contact us by e-mail (rasp@highpoint.edu) or phone (336-841-9313) should you need further direction in accomplishing Mission Possible: Compliance.

Proposal Approval Chain

1. Principal Investigator/co-PI(s)
2. Department Chair(s)
3. Dean(s)
4. Applicable Compliance Committees (IRB, IACUC, IBC)
5. RASP
6. Proposal Submission

Figure 1

RASP Reminders & Events

Thursday, October 17, 2013 – RASP Habitat for Humanity Build Day

Join us for a day in High Point’s Washington Terrace neighborhood, where we’ll be helping Habitat for Humanity! The build will start at 8:00 AM and finish up by 2:30 – 3:00 PM. Transportation from campus will be provided, in addition to snacks and lunch.

If you’re interested in volunteering, please RSVP to rasp@highpoint.edu as soon as possible. Once you sign up, you’ll be provided with a Habitat waiver to sign. Spaces are limited, so let us know soon. We hope to see you there!

Thursday, November 14, 2013 – Effective Grant Writing Workshop from 12:30 to 1:30 PM in Roberts Hall Executive Board Room

This workshop will cover how to write and prepare a grant. The session will focus on techniques and tips to write effective proposals, preparing budgets, and familiarizing yourself with the HPU approval process.

Heavy hors d’oeuvres and drinks will be provided. Please RSVP to rasp@highpoint.edu if you would like to attend. If you’re unable to attend but would be interested in a similar session in the future, please let us know!