The Office of the Vice Provost for Research is pleased to announce its first Ignite Award Recipients!

Five faculty from three different schools, Arts & Sciences, The Lynch School, and The Graduate School of Social Work were awarded the first Ignites this July. The Ignite Award program is one of two new internal grant programs established by the VPR's Office to help kick-start a faculty member’s research ideas with the expectation that the research will lead to an external grant. The five faculty members were:

- Michael Barnett, Professor, Lynch School of Education
- Jessica Black, Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Social Work
- Brian Gareau, Assistant Professor, Sociology, Arts & Sciences
- Charles Hoffman, Professor, Biology, Arts & Sciences
- Marc Snapper, Professor, Chemistry, Arts & Sciences

Each Ignite Award is $30,000 with three deadlines each year, 10 awards will be granted each year. The next deadline is September 1st. For more details on the first awards and the Ignite Program, as well as other internal funding opportunities please visit: www.bc.edu/research.

Also, we are excited to announce we hired a new Assistant Director for Research Compliance Education. Jiin-Yu Chen recently joined the VPR's office in July 2014 as the Assistant Director for Research Compliance Education. Her main focus is developing and organizing the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) program, which aims to cultivate awareness of and reflection upon the multi-faceted ethical issues related to research. The RCR program is intended to span across the many schools and disciplines at the university, engaging a wide spectrum of researchers—from those who are at the beginning of their research training to those who have many years of research experience. Jiin-Yu received her Ph.D. in Medical Humanities from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, TX, where her graduate work examined research ethics in relation to the practice of science and the researcher's identity. She has also served as the Research Program Coordinator for the Program on Ethics in Clinical Practice at the Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics and was most recently a seminar instructor in the annual Sherwin B. Nuland Bioethics Center Summer Institute at Yale University.
Office for Research Protections

The Office for Research Protections (ORP) provides administrative support to the Boston College Institutional Review Board (IRB). The mission of the IRB is to protect the rights and welfare of human subjects who volunteer to participate in research at Boston College.

ORP recently welcomed Rashika Evans to the ORP team. Rashika is our new IRB/IACUC Analyst. She has worked at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Massachusetts Public Health Association where she gained valuable administrative skills that she has already successfully employed in her new position in ORP. In addition, ORP looks forward to hiring a new IRB Research Analyst in the coming months.

ORP plans to roll out the new, online submission system, CyberIRB, in September. The transition to an online protocol submission system will greatly enhance PI’s experience with the IRB process. The roll out process will involve several steps. The first step will be to have a live beta test for amendments and continuing reviews. The tentative timeline for this step will be the first or second week of August. Stay tuned to the IRB newsletter and twitter (@BC_IRB) for more detailed information on CyberIRB.

As a reminder, PIs may contact ORP with any questions about their applications via email at irb@bc.edu or telephone at 617-552-4778.

Office for Research Integrity & Compliance

The National Science Foundation requires that all students and post-docs take a course in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). We created an online program to satisfy that requirement and we have had great success in making sure that all those needing to take the course have done so. Earlier this year, BC changed its e-learning system from Blackboard to Canvas—and this meant that we have needed to reconfigure the learning modules that were transferred across the systems on July 17. The reconfiguration will be completed by late August and the program will be up and running again by September 1.

ORIC is also beginning to engage in other educational programs in collaboration with Jiin-Yu Chen, the new Assistant Director for Compliance Education. Our goal is to completely re-institute the complete RCR program we had in place prior to our having to suspend the program several years ago. We will also be adding other new and innovative programs over time designed to educate members of the BC community on issues related to the responsible and ethical conduct of research.

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Updated from Our Offices
Office for Sponsored Programs

The federal Office of Management and Budgets (OMB) has recently issued a new circular which consolidates and streamlines the regulations that govern the management of federal assistance awards (grants and cooperative agreements). This new circular is called Uniform Guidance or Circular A-81. These new regulations go into effect December 26, 2014 and will affect some of the ways we do business.

The Office for Sponsored Programs (OSP) is currently working with University offices to review the new requirements to determine our level of compliance and what, if any, changes we need to make to ensure we are ready for when the regulations go into effect. OSP will communicate all changes and will work with departments to ensure their understanding and compliance.

Office of Technology Transfer & Licensing

Dr. Jill Edgar joined the Office of Technology Transfer & Licensing (OTTL) in June 2014. Her interest in the commercialization of technology, stemmed from her prior experience as an inventor, when part of her Ph.D. research at Brown University in the area of the treatment of renal disease was patented and optioned. Jill is a Registered U.S. Patent Agent and worked for over 3 years at a national law firm. Jill will play an important role in helping BC’s inventors and licensing BC’s technologies.

A new BC Start-Up company (EnerLeap, Inc.) has been created based on Chemistry Professor Dunwei Wang’s battery and energy storage technologies.

Two new invention disclosures received from Assistant Professor Chia-Kuang (Frank) Tsung at Chemistry Department in the field of drug delivery. One disclosure relates to developing a synthetic strategy to encapsulate molecules to metal-organic frameworks that can effectively transport a drug through the body and deliver it to target cells. The second disclosure introduces a new concept for incorporating larger and more diverse guest molecules into metal-organic frameworks.

Please find OTTL’s new Invention Disclosure Guidelines at http://www.bc.edu/research/ottl.

Overview of the Technology Transfer Process:

Invention Disclosure to OTTL ➔ Evaluation ➔ Patent Protection ➔ Technology Marketing ➔

Negotiation

Licensing to existing companies

Creating new companies (Start-Up)

Royalty distribution to inventors