

OFFICE OF RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW



Jane Jacobi, Team Lead
March 3, 2025



Division of
RESEARCH
Research Development

ORD Team

Shelia Cotten, PhD
Associate Vice
President for Research
Development





Jane Jacobi
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Research Development
Specialist



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What is the Office of Research Development?

ORD is the central research development unit at Clemson—distinct from Sponsored Programs, Grants and Contracts Administration, or Foundation Relations.

We offer services and programs that transcend disciplinary barriers and spur discovery and collaboration.





What does the Office of Research Development do?

ORD engages faculty in strategic, proactive, catalytic, and capacity-building activities that

- **advance research priorities**
- **foster a “research culture”**
- **increase institutional competitiveness for funding**
- **position researchers for success**



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Faculty Support

- Offer early career training (CAREER Academy, NIH Accelerator)
- Provide proposal development support
- Run workshops/info sessions
- Manage R-Initiative funding opportunities
- Provide networking opportunities such as TigerSphere
- Manage proposal repository

Institutional Advancement

- Support CU mission and *Clemson Elevate* goals for research
- Build highly effective interdisciplinary teams for large grant proposals
- Position Clemson to leverage its strengths to enhance its research portfolio
- Coordinate with research development staff across campus to achieve synergies

Funding Landscape

- Monitor changes in agency priorities and programs
- Administer limited submissions process
- Strategically position faculty to be more competitive in a constantly shifting grants environment
- Foster nimbleness in faculty responses to funding opportunities





FACULTY SUPPORT





ORD CAREER Academy



CAREER ACADEMY

- The Academy is designed to help faculty win NSF CAREER awards---NSF's most prestigious awards in support of early-career faculty.
- Academy participants have a higher rate of success than do non-participants.
- Academy participants learn strategies relevant not only for the CAREER proposal but for all proposals.
- Runs from January through July. Comprises presentations, group activities, peer reviews, individual consultations, heavy-duty editing.
- Application process begins with info session in October, with the application portal open Nov 1—Dec 1.
- Proposals due: **July 25, 2025**



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CAREER ACADEMY

Special benefits for Academy participants:

- Privileged access to ORD editors after the Academy for other types of proposals, regardless of dollar value. We invest in participants' potential over the long term.
- Opportunity to receive feedback on CAREER proposal from outside reviewers with subject-matter expertise (limited number of slots available, depending on VPR budget).
- Debriefing to go over panel reviews and plan follow-up strategy.
- Structured networking with other early-career faculty.
- Contact: Jane Jacobi



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NIH Accelerator



NIH ACCELERATOR

- Extensive, 9-month NIH academy for early-career investigators
- Presented in collaboration with Health Sciences Center and partner institutions (Clemson, Prisma Health, Furman, and USC Medical School)
- Twice-monthly meetings with mentors
- Work through NIH proposal development, with feedback



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NIH ACCELERATOR

Focus for 2024-25:

- R proposals (R01, R03, R21)
- Aims align with Clemson Elevate or CU-PRISMA focus areas
- Application process usually starts late summer
- Cohorts number 10-15
- Contact: Alain Litwin



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Proposal Development Support



Fill out the Request for Service Form on our webpage to be assigned to an ORD editor.

Services offered:

- **Ideation**
- **Matching content to agency needs**
- **Proofreading**
- **Heavy-duty editing**
- **Polishing for voice, tone, stylistic concerns**
- **Graphics support**



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Threshold required for ORD services is budget of \$1.5 million (set by VPR)

Most colleges have dedicated staff (typically reporting to the associate dean for research) who can handle smaller proposals

Exceptions:

- **Former CAREER Academy participants**
- **Prestigious awards or fellowships**

- **Contact: VPRORD@clemson.edu**



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Workshops and Info Sessions



ORD organizes approximately 10 presentations each year on topics of interest to prospective PIs. Our website has the full schedule and an archive of past events.

- **Various funding entities**
- **Various funding mechanisms**
- **Hot topics in the grants world (e.g., workshop coming up on stakeholder engagement/community partners on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, 1:00 PM-2:30 PM)**
- **Writing tips**
- **Handy tools (Faculty Insight)**

- **Contact: Morgan Simpson**



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R-Initiatives



R-Initiatives provide opportunities to jump-start your research.

- **Core Incentivized Access:** Gain access to CU core research facilities and equipment at no cost
- **CU Research Fellows:** Hire/train research faculty and associates or postdocs to pursue a large grant
- **External Review:** Secure services of outside reviewers to strengthen proposals
- **Sponsor Travel:** Funding to visit program directors



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R-Initiatives provide opportunities to jump-start your research.

- **Major Research Instrumentation:** Purchase, replace, upgrade or design major equipment (unit having a useful life of at least five years and an acquisition cost of more than \$50,000).
- **CURF-PRISMA Maturation Fund:** Collaborate with PRISMA clinicians on healthcare innovations and tech transfer (Windsor Sherrill, Chris Gesswein)
- **CU SUCCEEDS:** Initiation, Collaboration, Completion, Fast-Track





Networking Opportunities



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ORD sponsors two TigerSphere events per year to facilitate networking toward successful proposals.

- Faculty from different disciplines share thoughts, build relationships, and form research collaborations around a central theme.
- Sample themes: AI for Good, Resilience, Environmental Justice
- Each TigerSphere session includes 4 to 5 speed talks, followed by breakout sessions to discuss ideas and a social hour to continue the conversation.
- Next TigerSphere: Exploring, Building, and Connecting Research with Rural Community Practice (at capacity; registration is closed)



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TigerSphere is faculty-driven.

- **Submit a TigerSphere idea at bit.ly/TigerSphere**
- **Each TigerSphere should have faculty participants from at least two colleges**
- **Each TigerSphere needs a small organizing committee to coordinate presentations and invite attendees.**

- **Contact: Shelia Cotten**



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QUESTIONS?

Contact me:
jacobij@clemson.edu

Browse the ORD website:
<https://www.clemson.edu/research/division-of-research/offices/departments-ord/index.html>

