

## OCAST provides funding for 74 projects, paving the way for further economic growth and diversification in Oklahoma's economy

**June 20, 2018**

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OCAST, the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology this week awarded \$4,058,316 for 61 research and development projects that include innovations in energy, aerospace, agriculture, health and other critical industries. "The quality of applications we received this year demonstrate that Oklahoma's research and development capacity continues to grow," stated Dan Luton, director of programs for OCAST.

In addition to awarding funding for research and development projects, OCAST also awarded 10 internship projects through the Intern Partnerships program. The Intern Partnerships program is designed to serve as a bridge between Oklahoma's universities and innovative firms across the state. Through participation in project-based experiential learning opportunities, these students will be better prepared to enter into the workforce upon the completion of their degrees.

Three projects have been funded in the new Health Research Postdoctoral Fellowship initiative which provides OCAST funding to support postdoctoral fellows who work on projects that form the basis of new high-technology health research and care industry for the state.

OCAST programs are designed to grow and diversify Oklahoma's economy, and these awards reflect Oklahoma's commitment to expanding its technology-based economy. "Oklahoma has shown a significant commitment to growing and diversifying our economy," according to C. Michael Carolina, executive director of OCAST. "Succeeding in the knowledge economy requires strong public-private partnerships as exhibited through the Oklahoma Innovation Model (the partnership between OCAST, i2E, the Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance and OSU's New Product Development Center). Through OCAST, Oklahoma continues to be a leader in investing in high-tech firms and supporting game changing research and development."

Successful applicants and their organizations follow:

### Health Research Program

Joe Cecil	Oklahoma State University
Antonius Oomens	Oklahoma State University
Victoria Christiansen	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Paul DeAngelis	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Jamie Rhudy	University of Tulsa
William Sonntag	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Hongwu Wang	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Shannon Conley	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Hamed Ekhtiari	Laureate Institute for Brain Research
Gouliang Fan	Oklahoma State University
Deepa Sathyaseelan	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Stephanie Sweatt	Oklahoma State University
Angus Lamar	University of Tulsa
Ralf Janknecht	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Ann West	University of Oklahoma
Yu Mao	Oklahoma State University
Chung-Hao Lee	University of Oklahoma
Karla Rodgers	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Maria Ruiz-Echevarria	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Mari Andiappan	Oklahoma State University
Ben Vassar	OSU Center for Health Sciences
Anna Csiszar	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Rajagopal Ramesh	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Kathleen Curtis	OSU Center for Health Sciences
Roger Kollock	University of Tulsa
Zhizhaung Joe Zhao	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
William Paiva	OSU Center for Health Sciences
Beverley Van Meerveld	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Syed Hussaini	University of Tulsa
Yihan Shao	University of Oklahoma
Shuodao Wang	Oklahoma State University

### **Oklahoma Applied Research Support Program**

Ross Faith	SpectrumFX
Eldon Jupe	Progentec Diagnostics Inc.
Hakki Refai	Optecks LLC
James Manimala	Oklahoma State University
Joshua Ramsey	Oklahoma State University
Michael Santos	University of Oklahoma
Eduardo Pereyra	University of Tulsa
Jiayi Shao	Amethyst Research Inc.
Ram Mohan	University of Tulsa
Bayrammurad Saparov	University of Oklahoma
Kurt Rouser	Oklahoma State University
Paul Moses	University of Oklahoma
S. Ali Shojaee	Amethyst Research Inc.

Ian Sellers	University of Oklahoma
Ranjith Ramanathan	Oklahoma State University
Mohamed Soliman	Oklahoma State University
Erwin Platvoet	XRG Technologies LLC
Yui Shaffer	GasTech Engineering LLC
David Lampert	Oklahoma State University
Khalid Hossain	Amethyst Research Inc
Machhad Fahs	University of Oklahoma
Dave King	Exaptive Inc.

### **Oklahoma Plant Science Program**

Babu Fathepure	Oklahoma State University
Abigail Moore	University of Oklahoma
Patrick Zhao	Noble Research Institute
Xuefeng Ma	Noble Research Institute
Mohamed Fokar	Oklahoma State University
Heather McCarthy	University of Oklahoma
Randy Allen	Oklahoma State University
Ramanjulu Sunkar	Oklahoma State University

### **Intern Partnership Program**

Surendra Singh	University of Tulsa
Kaveh Ashenayi	University of Tulsa
Surendra Singh	University of Tulsa
Musharraf Zaman	University of Oklahoma
Jeffrey Muehring	NextThought LLC
Kaveh Ashenayi	University of Tulsa
Surendra Singh	University of Tulsa
Peter J. Hawrylak	University of Tulsa
Peter Hawrylak	University of Tulsa
Jolly Salehy	True Digital Security

### **Postdoctoral Fellowship**

Timothy Griffin	Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation
Courtney Griffin	Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation
Michael Elliott	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center