

OCAST provides funding for 54 projects, paving the way for further economic growth and diversification in Oklahoma's economy

June 21, 2016

OCAST, the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology, this week awarded \$7,464,058 million for 48 research and development projects ranging from the development of novel methods to treat MRSA infections to new ways to treat breast cancer to the development of a new manufacturing process for the aerospace industry. "These projects demonstrate that the future of innovation in Oklahoma is strong," stated Dan Luton, director of programs for OCAST.

In addition to awarding funding for research and development projects, OCAST also awarded six internships through the Intern Partnerships program. The Intern Partnerships program is designed to connect industry to academia while building tomorrow's workforce. The program has proven successful through the many accomplishments students made while interning at their respective companies. According to Cornell Cross, associate programs director at OCAST, "The Intern Partnerships program has allowed students to make meaningful contributions to research and development projects while gaining valuable hands-on work experience."

OCAST programs are designed to grow and diversify Oklahoma's economy, and the awards made today reflect Oklahoma's commitment to expanding its technology-based economy. "Today a state must compete globally as well as locally," according to C. Michael Carolina, executive director of OCAST. "Today we compete with Boulder and Austin, just as we compete with Japan and Germany. Making investments such as those made today will help Oklahoma remain viable in the global economy and position us for future economic growth and diversification."

Successful applicants and their organizations follow:

Health Research

A Darise Farris	Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation
Roberto Pezza	Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation
Scott M Plafker	Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation
Bruce H Noden	Oklahoma State University
DeMond Grant	Oklahoma State University
Heather Fahlenkamp	Oklahoma State University
Jongmin Cho	Oklahoma State University
Randolph D Hubach	Oklahoma State University
Teluguakula Narasaraju	Oklahoma State University
Winyoo Chowanadisai	Oklahoma State University
Kenneth Miller	Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences
Wei R Chen	University of Central Oklahoma
Charles Rice	University of Oklahoma

Christian Lemon	University of Oklahoma
Han Yuan	University of Oklahoma
Indrajeet Sharma	University of Oklahoma
Naci Dilekli	University of Oklahoma
Si Wu	University of Oklahoma
Allan F Wiechmann	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Augen A Pioszak	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Carole Johnson	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Eric Howard	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Fernando Luis Esteban Florez	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Jialing Lin	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Jian-xing Ma	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Lurdes Queimado	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Matlock A Jeffries	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Mohiuddin Ahmad	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Qing Guo	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Michael Keller	University of Tulsa

Applied Research Support

Richard Kopke	Hough Ear Institute
Saravan Shanmugavelayudam	MaxQ Research LLC
Lijun Xia	Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation
Ranji Vaidyanathan	Oklahoma State University
Xiaoliang Jin	Oklahoma State University
Yanqi Wu	Oklahoma State University
Yingmei Liu	Oklahoma State University
Hakki Refai	Optecks LLC
Hakki Refai	Optecks LLC
Kedar Pai	Plasma Bionics
Jerald Dawkins	True Digital Security
Michael B Santos	University of Oklahoma
Evgueni Kadossov	XploSafe

Plant Science

Andrew J Mort	EnzymaticX Corp
Ming Yang	Oklahoma State University
Rujin Chen	Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation
Yun Kang	Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation
Ben Holt	University of Oklahoma

Intern Partnerships

Fabiola Janiak-Spens	Oklahoma City Community College
Bahaeddin Jassemnejad	University of Central Oklahoma
Kaveh Ashenayi	University of Tulsa
Peter J Hawrylak	University of Tulsa
Surendra Singh	University of Tulsa
Surendra Singh	University of Tulsa

ABOUT OCAST:

The Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology is a state agency charged with leading Oklahoma's technology-based economic development efforts, supporting the efforts of start-ups and entrepreneurs to transform promising innovations from concepts into commercial products. OCAST also is an active supporter of STEM education across Oklahoma's common education system and provides funding to support internships between local industries and two- and four-year colleges and universities. www.oast.ok.gov