

## OCAST provides funding for 51 projects, paving the way for further economic growth and diversification in Oklahoma's economy

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OCAST, the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology this week awarded \$5,417,965 for 41 research and development projects that include innovations in energy, aerospace, agriculture, weather, 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.

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. "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 Oklahoma's 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

Dean Dawson	Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation
Kenneth Humphries	Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation
Matt Alderson	Oklahoma State University
Jennifer Craven	Oklahoma State University
Shitao Li	Oklahoma State University
Daniel Lin	Oklahoma State University
Ashish Ranjan	Oklahoma State University
Ashlee Ford Versypt	Oklahoma State University
Joanne Davis	University of Tulsa
Christina Bourne	University of Oklahoma
Anthony Burgett	University of Oklahoma
Binrui Cao	University of Oklahoma
Shaorong Liu	University of Oklahoma
Rakhi Rajan	University of Oklahoma

Archana Unnikrishnan	University of Oklahoma
Kelly M Standifer	University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy
Vibhudutta Awasthi	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Bethany Hannafon	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Lynn Jeffries	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Hongliang Li	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Sangphil Oh	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Ann Louise Olson	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Weidong Wang	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Jian Xu	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Andriy Yabluchanskiy	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

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

Aaron Dossey	All Things Bugs LLC
Jay Martin	Martin Bionics
Christian Bach	Oklahoma State University
Timothy Bowser	Oklahoma State University
Raj Singh	Oklahoma State University
Liuling Yan	Oklahoma State University
Badia Koudsi	Optecks LLC
Kedar Pai	Plasma Bionics LLC
Siamack Shirazi	University of Tulsa
Mark Yeary	University of Oklahoma Advanced Radar Research Center

#### **Oklahoma Plant Science Program**

Henry Adams	Oklahoma State University
Omkar Joshi	Oklahoma State University
Ellie Phuong Nguyen	Oklahoma State University
Million Tadege	Oklahoma State University
Jiangqi Wen	Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation
Hani Girgis	University of Tulsa

#### **Intern Partnership Program**

Jason Wickham	Northwestern Oklahoma State University
Badia Koudsi	Optecks LLC
Jacob Henderson	Spiers New Technologies
Kaveh Ashenayi	University of Tulsa
Kaveh Ashenayi	University of Tulsa
Kaveh Ashenayi	University of Tulsa
Peter Hawrylak	University of Tulsa
Surendra Singh	University of Tulsa
Keith Symcox	University of Tulsa
Evgueni Kadossov	XploSafe LLC