



# RESEARCH

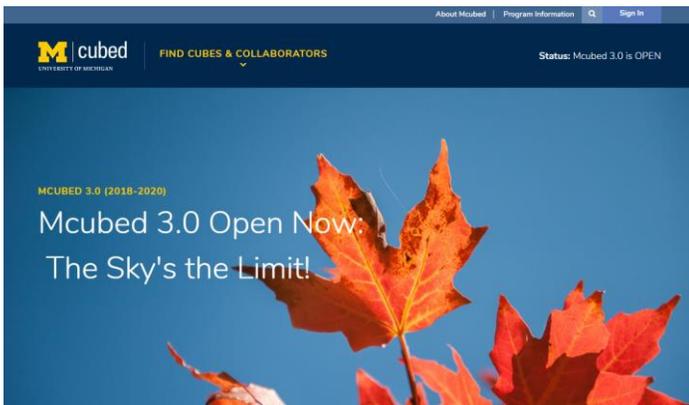
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

## RESEARCH UPDATES

### October 15, 2018

#### MCubed 3.0 is now open.

MCubed launched on Wednesday, October 10, across all three University of Michigan campuses. The first of three cubing events is scheduled for Mid-November. Faculty have until **November 14** to propose projects for the first cubing event in mid-November.



MCubed is an innovative research program designed to distribute seed funding to self-organized multi-unit faculty and student teams. Virtual funding tokens are made available in an online system to initiate peer discovery and project formation. Tokens of \$20,000 are available to form classic cubes of \$60,000, and mini-tokens of \$5,000 are available to form mini-cubes of \$15,000. Project teams of three faculty must have at least one member from a different discipline, outside their home college, school or unit.

Collaborations are possible across the Flint, Dearborn and Ann Arbor campuses. The first cubing event will use a semi-random matching process to assign funding to proposed projects. A second cubing event is anticipated in the early winter of 2019 and will repeat the semi-random matching process. A final cubing event later in 2019 will be a first-come first-serve.

A second **MCubed Open Forum** will be held at UM-Flint on **Friday, October 19:**

MCubed staff members will join us again to explain the novel seed funding program in person. If you did not have a chance to join us on October 3, MCubed Managing Director Valerie Johnson and Assistant Director Amanda Winters will join us again to answer your questions about the web-based discovery and the project team formation process. The presentation is scheduled for **Thompson Center for Learning and Teaching** seminar room, 134 Thompson Library:

- **11:30 am to 1:00 pm, Friday, October 19.**

The UM-Flint funding model for MCubed 3.0 is different from Ann Arbor and does not require a faculty contribution. A central pool of \$250,000 is divided among the participating units based on numbers of eligible faculty (principally, tenure track or tenured faculty in each unit), and the deans have contributed additional funding for each unit at UM-Flint. The result is that UM-Flint's total commitment to the MCubed program is **\$495,000.**

## INTERNAL RESEARCH FUNDING FALL DEADLINES



UM-Flint Office of Research **will not conduct** its usual internal funding competitions for the RCA and Bryer Awards in the fall of 2018. RCA funding from the fall has been diverted to MCubed 3.0 and the Bryer Awards are based on the availability of endowment funding. These internal funding competitions will return in the winter 2019.

The **International Travel Funding** program was available in the fall cycle. Applications closed **Friday, October 12, 2018.** Submissions were received electronically via the new InfoReady Review system, located at <https://umflint.infoready4.com/>. International Travel Awards will be announced by early November.

## RESEARCH FUNDAMENTALS SEMINAR



The first **Research Fundamentals** Seminar was held on **Thursday, September 20**, from 11:30am-1:00pm in **Thompson Center for Learning and Teaching** seminar room, 134 Thompson Library.

If you are you searching for **external funding** or developing a new research project, **Ken Sylvester**, Director, UM-Flint Office of Research, would be happy to meet with you one-on-one to learn more about your work or to repeat the talk **'Writing a Competitive Research Grant Proposal'** for smaller groups of faculty in their departments or units. While the focus of the talk is on federal funding, it also includes information on private sector funding and grant writing approaches.

### Research Fundamentals: Community-Engaged Research



*Clockwise from top left: Julie Ma, Shon Hart, Megan Heyza, Rebecca Tonietto.*

A second Research Fundamentals Seminar is scheduled for **Thursday, October 18**, from 11:30am-1:30pm in **Thompson Center for Learning and Teaching** seminar room, 134 Thompson Library. The seminar turns to community-engaged research and the focus will be on how to create authentic community-university partnerships and write successful community-engaged research grants. Presenters will share ideas on how to find the right partner and build relationships, how to bridge differences between the academy and the community.

Joining us next week on **October 18** will be four presenters. Two faculty members and two community partners have been working on two different and quite successful community engaged projects. As mentioned last month, **Julie Ma**, Assistant Professor, **Social Work**, was able to secure pilot funding from the **Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research** (MICHR) for a project entitled "Strong Fatherhood and Positive Parenting in Flint."

<https://www.michr.umich.edu/news/2018/5/30/michr-funds-eight-flint-research-projects>

Dr. Ma's project will evaluate the effects of InvolvedDad's efforts to promote father engagement and reduce harsh parenting practices among InvolvedDad participants. Shon Hart will discuss how connecting with Dr. Ma's expertise has shaped the kind of outreach his organization is pursuing.



Julie Ma, UMF, Social Work



Website: [www.shonhart.com](http://www.shonhart.com)  
Shon Hart, InvolvedDad

Her community partner is **Shon Hart**, Executive Director of **InvolvedDad**. As Dr. Ma explains the work:

Strong parent-child relationships between non-custodial fathers and their children are particularly important in Flint because of successive economic, social, and environmental crises. However, parenting support for non-custodial fathers in the Flint community is lacking and very little is know about the child disciplinary practices of non-

custodial fathers. To promote responsible fatherhood in Flint and the surrounding communities, InvolvedDad offers a fatherhood program for non-custodial fathers and their children in Genesee County.

UM-Flint biology professor **Rebecca Tonietto** has been working with community partner **Megan Heyza** on a project entitled the **Porch Project**. Tonietto is an expert on ecosystems services in urban settings and the connection to Megan Heyza's organization, the Eastside Improvement Association, grew from an ambition to provide structural enhancements to porches in-need and planting gardens in front yards to a wider study of the possibilities of designing plant communities that would enhance biodiversity.



Left to right: Samantha Garcia, homeowner; Megan Heyza of the Eastside Improvement Association; Rebecca Tonietto, UM-Flint assistant professor of biology; Megan Cate, UM-Flint student

As Dr. Tonietto explains:

In partnership with Megan Heyza and the Eastside Improvement Association, we designed a community-led pollinator conservation experiment in residential properties on the Eastside of Flint. The overarching goal of *The Porch Project* was to strengthen community ties and neighbor relationships by providing structural enhancements to porches in-need and planting gardens in front yards. Our lab was able to provide and install 21 gardens at homes on the Eastside in our first year, while simultaneously investigating the effects of native vs. non-native floral enhancements in residential yards for native pollinator support. With a focus on wild bee conservation, my students and I performed over 1,000 minutes of pollinator observations and recorded hundreds of visits to flowers by native bees in our first season. My lab provides paid research assistantships to two University of Michigan-Flint undergraduate

students through RCA funding to The Porch Project, with more to come in future field seasons.

In November, we will turn to return to community-engaged research as a theme for the **Research Fundamentals** workshop. Our guests will be Dr. Barbara Israel, Professor of Health Behavior and Health Education, in the School of Public Health, UM-Ann Arbor, and Director of the Urban Research Center, in Detroit, and her community partner, Suzanne Cleage, Director of Neighborhood Growth, at Eastside Community Network, in Detroit. In a break from our normal practice of Thursday seminars, Dr. Israel and Ms. Cleage will be joining us on **Friday, November 16, 2018**, from 11:30-1:00 in the TCLT Seminar Room.

## NEW MICHR FUNDING

MICHR has launched a new funding mechanism to support early career investigators only their path to independence. The **Pathway Awards** support investigator-led studies, collaborative research and community-based participatory research. Faculty at **UM-Flint and UM-Dearborn are eligible for up to \$30,000** in funding, with no cost sharing requirements. Applications are due **November 14, 2018**, via the University of Michigan Medical School (UMMS) competition space. <https://umms.infoready4.com/>

See the following link for further details.

<https://www.michr.umich.edu/rdc/2016/4/15/translation-science-award>

There are two basic mechanisms, the **Pathway to First Grant**, and **Pathway to Independence**. MICHR [Pathway to First Grant Award](#) is to support highly promising early career faculty in obtaining the preliminary data they need to be competitive for their first extramural grant (federal or non-federal). This award is intended for faculty in the beginning stages of their careers who want to define their own research paths. Applicants should propose a research plan that will help them to generate the data needed to strengthen hypotheses for subsequent extramural applications, thereby gaining a foothold in their field of study. Eligibility is limited to faculty to have not served on an external grant.

The goal of the [MICHR Pathway to Independence Award](#) is to support faculty in solidifying their independent translational research careers by securing a large extramural grant (e.g., NIH R01 or similar federal/non-federal funding). Applicants to this mechanism will have been successful in attaining at least one 'smaller' extramural award (e.g., career development, R21, etc.) but

still have crucial data they need to obtain before submitting a competitive 'independent' grant and establishing long-term research efforts. Applicants should show great potential to impact their field of research and should use the funding to test hypotheses and generate preliminary data that will strengthen future extramural applications. Recognizing that retention of grant funding can be challenging after receiving the first R01-type grant, investigators seeking their second R01-type grant are also eligible to apply. We welcome applications in any area of translational research.



Founded in 2006, MICHHR received a Clinical and Translational Science Award in 2007 from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Renewed in 2012 and 2017, MICHHR is part of a national consortium of about 50 academic research institutions funded by the CTSA program, accelerating discoveries toward better health.

## POVERTY SOLUTIONS RESEARCH FUNDING



Poverty Solutions is pleased to announce grant funding to support action-based research focused on preventing and alleviating poverty. More than \$200,000 is available through two funding mechanisms: **community-academic**

**partnerships** and **faculty grants** (see detailed description and links to the requests for proposals below). Successful action-based research projects will cut across disciplines, have the potential for innovative approaches in the field, and hold promise for advancing solutions to poverty challenges in Michigan.

Grants are open to faculty at **U-M's Ann Arbor, Flint and Dearborn** campuses. Partnerships with faculty across multiple campuses are strongly encouraged.

**The deadline to apply to both RFPs is November 12th, 2018.**

### Community-Academic Partnership RFP

The "Research Strategies to Prevent and Alleviate Poverty" grant, offered to teams of community-academic partners as part of a joint funding program between U-M Poverty Solutions and the Detroit Urban Research Center, will support research focused on evaluating and strengthening interventions, programs and policies in the State of Michigan that seek to prevent and alleviate poverty.

- More than \$100,000 is available for grants up to \$25,000.
- Projects are to be completed within one year (January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019).
- Must equitably involve community and academic partners in all aspects of the research process. Funded projects could include activities designed to prevent and alleviate poverty such as:
  - Evaluation of an existing intervention, program or policy;
  - Analysis of new or existing data to better understand the effectiveness of strategies (e.g., interventions, programs and policies);
  - Development, implementation and preliminary evaluation of a new pilot program; and
  - Assessment of community needs, strengths and resources that lead to the identification of new strategies.
- Poverty Solutions and the Detroit URC are co-administering all aspects of this funding opportunity.

[Go to RFP \(PDF\)](#)

[Learn more about the Detroit Urban Research Center](#)

### Faculty Grant Competition RFP

Poverty Solutions invites faculty at the University of Michigan, **Ann Arbor, Flint and Dearborn** campuses to pursue research projects focused on informing strategies that seek to prevent and alleviate poverty.

- Up to 5 awards of up to \$20,000 each will be given for self-contained research projects or as seed funding that may be leveraged to pursue larger external awards.
- Projects are to be completed within one year (January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019)

This request for proposals seeks to support faculty research that can inform existing policies, practices, or interventions meant to reduce poverty, or research that lays out proposals for future policy directions. Junior faculty encouraged to apply. Projects using either qualitative or quantitative data sources are eligible for funding. Examples of possible projects for funding include (but are not limited to):

- Secondary quantitative data analysis that informs or examines poverty policy
- Simulations of the effects of proposed policy alternatives
- A small-scale evaluation of a pilot or existing intervention that seeks to prevent or alleviate poverty
- A project that explores how recipients experience anti-poverty programs at the local, state or federal level
- Projects that examine how contextual factors can shape the utilization of existing or proposed interventions, programs, or policies that seek to prevent and alleviate poverty.

[Go to RFP \(PDF\)](#)

[View previous grant awards.](#)