

## RCA UPDATE

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November 8, 2021



“Uff da. Glad to get home to Fargo.” I was in Washington, D.C. last week, meeting with staff in our Congressional delegation offices, and heard someone say this on my return flight as she got on the plane. I have learned so much the past five weeks as the new Vice President for Research and Creative Activity, and part of that is the local and institutional culture. My first full week here was Homecoming and I experienced the pep rally, the parade, and even my first donations to NDSU scholarships at the Bison Bidder’s Bowl. I came away with an overwhelming sense of how passionate our alumni and donors are about NDSU, about how their experiences here altered their lives for the better, and how committed they are to making sure future Bison thrive like they did. After visiting key Congressional staff in D.C., I can tell you I saw the same dedication and support to NDSU. Our institution is poised to blossom and flourish. Today, as I begin my first of the listening sessions with each of the Colleges, I look forward to gathering input to build the strategies that will be vital in how we take our efforts to new heights. Go Bison!

**Colleen Fitzgerald**

Vice President

Research and Creative Activity

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# Meet NDSU's New Faculty Members

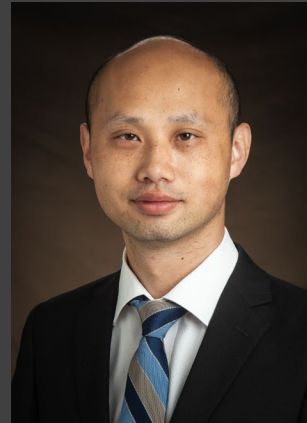
Throughout the year, RCA will be highlighting new faculty in the weekly newsletter.  
Full profiles are available on the [RCA website](#).

## Minwei Xu, PhD

### Plant Science

#### What are your primary research and scholarly interests?

My research program focuses on food processing. Currently, we have three directions: 1, Plant-based meat and milk; 2, Upcycling cereal processing byproducts; 3, computational simulation of food processing.



#### Where are you from and where did you pursue your education?

I was a Food Scientist at Northern Crops Institute. I got my Ph.D. degree major in Cereal Science from North Dakota State University. My M.S. and B.S. were major in Fermentation Engineering and Bioengineering from Jiangnan University and Tianjin University of Technology, respectively.

#### What excites you about NDSU?

NDSU is such a diverse campus and it has been remarkable to experience different cultures here.

#### What motivates you?

I get motivated when it comes to opportunities for discovering new things. When I know that I was able to make a difference, at the end of the day, I feel satisfied and motivated. This motivation is a huge reason why I wanted to become a researcher in the first place.

[Learn more about Minwei >>](#)

## Upcoming Seminars and Events

- **NDSU Science Café - November**  
November 9, 2021 / [Learn more >>](#)
- **NDSU Science, Religion, and Lunch Seminar**  
November 16, 2021 / [Learn more >>](#)
- **NSF Electronic Research Administration (ERA) Forum webinar**  
November 16, 2021 / [Learn more >>](#)
- **ND Compass: Zoom Information Session**  
November 16, 2021 / [Learn more >>](#)



### USDA-NIFA-AFRI New Investigator Webinars

Earlier this year, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) recorded a [webinar series](#) focused on providing information and tips for new investigators applying to AFRI funding programs. As an accompaniment to this webinar series, they also provide a 56-page [2021 AFRI New Investigator Webinar Series Handout](#). This document includes the information from the PowerPoint slides of all [8 webinars](#), as well as two additions that may be helpful to new investigators, "Anatomy of an AFRI Request for Applications" and "Useful Links."

## NSF Virtual Grants Conference - Videos on Demand

All conference sessions at the National Science Foundation (NSF) Fall 2021 Virtual Grants Conference were recorded, and are now available on NSF's Policy Office Outreach website: <https://nsfpolicyoutreach.com/>. Additionally, you may view the recordings on our [YouTube](#) page.

Session topics include:

- New programs and initiatives;

- NSF directorate sessions;
- Future directions and strategies for national science policy;
- Proposal preparation;
- NSF's merit review process; and
- Conflict of interest policies.

## National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity

NDSU has joined the National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity (NCFDD) as an Institutional Member. The NCFDD is a nationally-recognized, independent organization that provides online career development and mentoring resources for faculty, post-docs, and graduate students.

They provide a variety of virtual programs and resources including:

- Weekly **Monday Motivator**
- Monthly **Core Curriculum Webinars**
- Monthly **Guest Expert Webinars**
- Access to **Multi-Week Courses**
- Access to **Dissertation Success Curriculum** for graduate students
- Private **Discussion Forum** for peer-mentoring, problem-solving, & moderated writing challenges
- Monthly accountability buddy matches
- Access to **14-Day Writing Challenges**
- Access to the **Member Library** that includes past webinar materials, referrals, and readings

To claim your **free** Institutional Membership, complete the following steps:

1. Go to <http://www.facultydiversity.org/join>
2. Choose your institution from the drop-down menu.
3. Select "Activate my Membership"
4. Complete the registration form using your institutional email address (i.e. @InstitutionalEmail.edu)

5. Go to your institution email to find a confirmation/welcome email. Click “Activate Account” in the email.

If you have any questions about the membership, please contact [Julie Nash](#). If you have any technical questions, please email NCFDD at [Membership@FacultyDiversity.org](mailto:Membership@FacultyDiversity.org).

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- [HRSA: Leadership Education in Adolescent Health](#) – LIMITED
- [ND EPSCoR: STEM Equipment / Equipment Repair](#)
- [NIH: Interpersonal Strategies for Suicide Prevention](#)
- [NIH: Modulating Human Microbiome to Enhance Cancer Response](#)
- [NIH/NSF: Science of Science Policy – Biomedical Research Enterprise](#)
- [NSF: Advancing Informal STEM Learning](#)
- [NSF EPSCoR: RII Track-2 FEC](#) - LIMITED
- [NSF: Research Coordination Networks in Undergrad Bio Education](#)
- [USDA-NIFA: Specialty Crop Research Initiative](#)

### Upcoming Limited Submission Program Deadlines

[Limited submission grant programs](#) are those that indicate a limit on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution for a particular deadline. A selection process becomes necessary if more applicants express interest in applying than NDSU is allowed to submit to the grant program. Email notifications of interest to [ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu).

If you identify a limited submission opportunity that is not on the list below, please notify [ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu).

- [NSF: AI Research Institutes](#)  
*Notification Deadline: 11/09/2021*
- [NSF EPSCoR: RII Track-2 FEC](#)  
*Notification Deadline: 11/12/2021*
- [HRSA: Leadership Education in Adolescent Health](#)  
*Notification Deadline: 11/16/2021*
- [NIH: Outstanding New Environmental Scientist](#)  
*Notification Deadline: 11/17/2021*
- [NSF: Science and Technology Centers - Integrative Partnerships](#)  
*Notification Deadline: 11/18/2021*
- [NSF: Community Facility Support - Synchrotron-based analytical capabilities advancing Earth and Environmental Sciences Research and Training](#)  
*Notification Deadline: 12/8/2021*
- [NIH: Diabetes Research Centers](#)  
*Notification Deadline: 12/8/2021*
- [NSF: Materials Research Science and Engineering Centers](#)  
*Notification Deadline: 12/8/2021*

There are a number of limited submission grant programs with upcoming agency deadlines for which we did not receive any notifications of interest. A full list of those programs is available on the [Limited Submissions page](#). For these programs, marked "First to Notify," approval to move forward with a full proposal submission to the funder will be given on a first come, first served basis. Email notifications of interest to [ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu).

### Looking for more funding opportunities?



RCA subscribes to SPIN by InfoEd Global, a database of more than 40,000 funding opportunities. Through this subscription, SPIN is free for current NDSU faculty, staff, and students.

For more information and to access this database, visit the [SPIN page](#) on the RCA website. If you have questions, please contact [ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu).

## **HRSA: Leadership Education in Adolescent Health – Limited Submission Program**

[Limited submission grant programs](#) are those that indicate a limit on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution for a particular deadline. A selection process becomes necessary if more applicants express interest in applying than NDSU is allowed to submit to the grant program.

**HRSA LEAH : [Notify RCA](#) by 11/16/2021, 5:00 p.m. if you are interested in submitting to this program.**

The purpose of the Leadership Education in Adolescent Health (LEAH) Program [[HRSA-22-072](#)] is to improve the quality of care and equitable access to appropriate health services for adolescents and young adults (AYA) by preparing leaders in AYA health through interdisciplinary training at the graduate and post-graduate levels. This is accomplished through five (5) overarching objectives to:

1. Prepare diverse AYA health professionals, through didactic, experiential, and research-based interdisciplinary education and training in core health disciplines of medicine, nursing, nutrition, psychology, and social work.
2. Expand diversity, equity, and inclusion related to race, ethnicity, geography, and special populations within all training program components, including but not limited to trainee / faculty recruitment, staffing plan, curricula, clinical and experiential activities, and research foci to address health disparities and increase health equity for AYA.
3. Develop curricula, training activities, and investigative research to produce evidence-based products and practices in primary care, AYA specialty service, and public health.
4. Improve access to behavioral, emotional, mental, developmental, and psychosocial health services, well-being, and support for AYA.

5. Develop, expand, and disseminate population-based strategies and effective practices through collaboration and coordination of telehealth, tele-education / distance learning, technical assistance (TA), and continuing education (CE).

**LIMITED SUBMISSION:** Multiple applications from a single organization are not allowed.

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## **ND EPSCoR: STEM Equipment / Equipment Repair**

The ND EPSCoR State Office's mission is to support efforts of participating institutions of higher education across the state that result in increased STEM faculty capacity and competitiveness; a stronger STEM pathway that produces our next-generation workforce, educators, and researchers; and an informed citizenry that values the STEM ecosystem and economy. Thus, the ND EPSCoR State Office is now accepting proposals for equipment and equipment repair at EPSCoR participating institutions, including NDSU. For more information, please see the [Request for Proposals](#).

*Deadline: December 9, 2021; Noon*

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## **NIH: Enhanced Interpersonal Focused Strategies for Suicide Prevention Interventions (R34 Clinical Trial Required)**

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) seeks applications to evaluate the preliminary effectiveness of therapeutic and service delivery interventions that utilize interpersonal treatment strategies to reduce risk among suicidal individuals following acute care by enhancing perceived social supports and connections that contribute to life-affirming beliefs, intentions, and behaviors and / or by promoting adherence / sustained engagement in appropriate mental health services. Intervention strategies and targets are intended to enhance and / or compliment effectiveness of existing evidenced-based treatments by addressing interpersonal factors that have been empirically associated with suicide risk and / or problematic adherence / engagement and are not adequately



addressed by existing evidence-based approaches.

In this pilot phase of effectiveness research, the trial should be designed to evaluate the feasibility, tolerability, acceptability, safety, and potential effectiveness of the approach; to address whether the intervention engages the target(s) / mechanisms(s) that is / are presumed to underlie the intervention effects; and to obtain preliminary data needed as a pre-requisite to a larger-scale effectiveness trial (e.g., comparative effectiveness study, practical trial) designed to definitively test the effectiveness of the intervention.

*Deadline: February 18, 2022*

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## **NIH: Modulating Human Microbiome Function to Enhance Immune Responses Against Cancer**

The purpose of these funding opportunity announcements is to support basic research that elucidates mechanisms by which the human microbiome inhibits or enhances anti-tumor immune responses, and to identify potential novel molecular targets for cancer prevention strategies.

Applications should be focused on delineating how host interactions with specific microbes (or consortia) or their metabolites target immune responses that enhance or prevent inflammation-associated or sporadic tumor formation. Concentration, timing, and duration of administered beneficial microbes may alter their effectiveness and thus those parameters should be rigorously addressed in the application.

- R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed: [PAR-22-061](#)
- R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed: [PAR-22-062](#)

Standard deadlines apply. The first deadlines for these programs are in February 2022.

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## **NIH/NSF: Science of Science Policy Approach to Analyzing and Innovating the Biomedical Research Enterprise**

The National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) are interested in proposals that will propel our understanding of the biomedical research enterprise by drawing from the scientific expertise of the science of science policy research community. The NIH National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) and NSF Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE) Directorate are partnering to enable collaboration in research between the Science of Science and Innovation Policy program and NIGMS. This partnership will result in a portfolio of high-quality research to provide scientific analysis of important aspects of the biomedical research enterprise and efforts to foster a diverse, innovative, productive and efficient scientific workforce, from which future scientific leaders will emerge.

Prospective investigators for this program [[NSF 19-547](#)] are strongly encouraged to discuss their proposals with the cognizant Program Officers before submission to determine project relevance to the priorities of both SBE and NIGMS. Specific questions pertaining to this solicitation can also be directed to the cognizant Program Officers.

*Deadline: February 9, 2022; September 9, 2022*

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## **NSF: Advancing Informal STEM Learning**

The Advancing Informal STEM Learning (AISL) program [[NSF 21-599](#)] seeks to advance new approaches to and evidence-based understanding of the design and development of STEM learning opportunities for the public in informal environments; provide multiple pathways for broadening access to and engagement in STEM learning experiences; advance innovative research on and assessment of STEM learning in informal environments; and engage the public of all ages in learning STEM in informal environments.

The AISL program supports six types of projects:

1. Pilots and Feasibility Studies,
2. Research in Service to Practice,
3. Innovations in Development,
4. Broad Implementation,
5. Literature Reviews, Syntheses, or Meta-Analyses, and
6. Conferences.

Deadline: January 18, 2021



## **NSF EPSCoR: Track 2 Focused EPSCoR Collaborations (RII Track-2 FEC) – Limited Submission Program**

[Limited submission grant programs](#) are those that indicate a limit on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution for a particular deadline. A selection process becomes necessary if more applicants express interest in applying than NDSU is allowed to submit to the grant program.

**NSF EPSCoR Track 2 : [Notify RCA](#) by 11/12/2021, 5:00 p.m. if you are interested in submitting to this program. Pre-proposals will be due 11/29/2021, Noon. [See pre-proposal instructions >>](#)**

**NSF EPSCoR RII Track-2 FEC [[NSF 22-523](#)]** builds interjurisdictional collaborative teams of EPSCoR investigators in scientific focus areas consistent with NSF priorities. Projects are investigator-driven and must include researchers from at least two [RII-eligible jurisdictions](#) with complementary expertise and resources necessary to tackle those projects, which neither party could address as well or rapidly alone. The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) research and education activities should seek to broaden participation through the strategic inclusion and integration of different types of individuals, institutions, and sectors throughout the project. Proposals must describe a comprehensive and integrated vision to drive discovery and build sustainable STEM capacity that exemplifies diversity of all types (individual, institutional, geographic, and disciplinary). The development of diverse early-career faculty is a critical component of this sustainable STEM capacity. A single proposal is submitted for a project. Support for non-lead collaborating institutions should be requested as subawards. Separately submitted collaborative proposals are not allowed. Each participating EPSCoR jurisdiction must have at least one co-PI on the project.

**For FY 2022, RII Track-2 FEC proposals are invited on a single topic: "Advancing**

**research towards industries of tomorrow to ensure economic growth for EPSCoR jurisdictions.”**

**LIMITED SUBMISSION:** Only one RII Track-2 FEC proposal may be submitted in response to this solicitation by an organization in an RII-eligible jurisdiction. Investigators cannot be PI or co-PI on more than one RII Track-2 project, both currently awarded or in this competition, but may serve as senior personnel on any number of RII Track-2 proposals or awards.

**Note: RII Track-2 FEC projects are in the form of cooperative agreements with NSF. PIs should have experience managing large-scale projects.**

If you have questions about this program or would like to discuss the feasibility of your idea, please contact [ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu).

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## **NSF: Research Coordination Networks in Undergraduate Biology Education**

The goal of the Research Coordination Networks in Undergraduate Biology Education (RCN-UBE) program [[NSF 22-522](#)] is to link biological research discoveries with innovations in biology education to improve the learning environment in undergraduate biology classrooms. The program seeks to improve undergraduate education by leveraging the power of a collaborative network recognizing that new educational materials and pedagogies can simultaneously teach biological concepts while creating a supportive and engaging learning environment for all. The RCN-UBE program supports groups of investigators to communicate and coordinate their research, training, and education. The theme or focus of an RCN-UBE proposal can be on any topic likely to advance this goal, and activities across disciplinary, organizational, geographic, and international boundaries are encouraged. Acknowledging that students' educational pathways vary, networks that include under-resourced institutions as full, equitable partners are highly desired. Understanding that people from diverse backgrounds bring different experiences and viewpoints, the RCN-UBE program is interested in proposals that include individuals traditionally underrepresented in biological research and education as members of the

steering committee. Lastly, the RCN-UBE program is also interested in developing, testing, and sharing best practices that can transform the online learning environment.

*Deadline: January 25, 2022*



## **USDA-NIFA: Specialty Crop Research Initiative**

The purpose of the [Specialty Crop Research Initiative \(SCRI\)](#) program is to address the critical needs of the specialty crop industry by awarding grants to support research and extension that address key challenges of national, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of food and agriculture, including conventional and organic food production systems. Projects must address at least one of five focus areas:

1. Research in plant breeding, genetics, genomics, and other methods to improve crop characteristics.
2. Efforts to identify and address threats from pests and diseases, including threats to specialty crop pollinators.
3. Efforts to improve production efficiency, handling and processing, productivity, and profitability over the long term (including specialty crop policy and marketing).
4. New innovations and technology, including improved mechanization and technologies that delay or inhibit ripening.
5. Methods to prevent, detect, monitor, control, and respond to potential food safety hazards in the production efficiency, handling and processing of specialty crops.

*Deadline: January 21, 2022*



## **NDSU Science Café - November**

**November 9, 2021 | 6:30pm**

Monthly Science Café events are organized by the NDSU College of Science and Mathematics. The topic of the next Science Café is "Big HealthCare Data: When, How and What," presented by Bong-Jin Choi, Ph.D., assistant professor, NDSU department of statistics and NDSU department of public health. This session will take place at 6:30pm on

Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at Wild Terra Cider, located at 6 12th Street North in Fargo. [Learn more >>](#)

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## **NDSU Science, Religion, and Lunch Seminars**

**November 16, 2021 | 12:00pm**

The Northern Plains Ethics Institute presents Science, Religion, and Lunch Seminars (SLRS) from 12-1 p.m. every other Tuesday of the semester. Each presentation may take up to 40 minutes of the hour, with the remaining 20 minutes devoted to questions and comments from the audience. SLRS fosters thoughtful, accessible dialogues on religion or science, with a special focus on the intersection between the two. The topic of the next SLRS is "Like, Subscribe, Share: The effectiveness of science communication on social media." This session will take place at 12:00pm on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, in the Memorial Union Room of Nations and via Zoom. [Learn more >>](#)

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## **National Science Foundation (NSF) Electronic Research Administration Forum**

**November 16, 2021 | 12:30-2:00pm**

FastLane is going away at the end of 2022. Join this session to learn more about NSF's proposal preparation and submission modernization and other important NSF updates.

The NSF Electronic Research Administration (ERA) Forum webinar will take place on **November 16, 2021, from 12:30 - 2:00 PM**. To participate in this Forum, please [Register Now](#).

The topics for this Forum webinar will cover:

- NSF Public Access Repository (NSF-PAR) 2.0;
- Unique Entity Identifier (UEI);
- Development of the Research.gov Proposal Submission System;
- Where we are and what is planned for the future;
- Status of migration and adoption of Research.gov; and
- Demo – NSF-PAR and how to prepare a proposal.

You are encouraged to send questions ahead of the November 16, 2021 ERA Forum webinar to [nsferaforum@nsf.gov](mailto:nsferaforum@nsf.gov).

For more information about the NSF ERA Forum Webinar, please visit the DIAS / Policy Office website at [https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/era\\_forum.jsp](https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/era_forum.jsp).

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## ND Compass Information Session

**November 16, 2021 / 2:00pm**

A project of the [Center for Social Research](#) at NDSU, [North Dakota Compass](#) provides information needed by North Dakota's community, policy, organizational, non-profit, and business leaders who must plan for the future in an environment of continuous change. Available information includes demographic, economic and socio-economic data and trends, [Data analysis and dashboards](#) on the impact of the pandemic on North Dakota households, and COVID-19 vaccine acceptance and hesitancy. To learn more, join the information session on Zoom, scheduled for November 16, 2021 at 2:00pm. [Register >>](#)

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Have questions, ideas, or suggestions for the RCA Update?

[Contact Us](#)





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*The Office of Research and Creative Activity (RCA) sends weekly emails to NDSU faculty and staff to provide current information on various topics including funding opportunities, grant program changes, research resources, deadlines, notices, and training.*

*You are receiving this notification through the NDSU official employee listserv or sub-list. The official listserv refreshes after each pay period.*

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