

NEWS

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Announcements

Summer Faculty Fellowship Program Extended until Dec. 14

The deadline for the U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) Summer Faculty Fellowship Program (SFFP) has been extended until **11:59 p.m. ET on 14 December 2023**. The SFFP offers opportunities for faculty members and graduate students to perform high-quality and meaningful research at AFRL Directorates, Air Force Test Centers (AFTC), the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA), or the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) from May through September for an 8-to-12 week period. Please visit <http://afsffp.sysplus.com/> for more information or to apply.

Hanover Proposal Review

Slots available now!

SGCOE has partnered with Hanover Research for a number of grant development solutions including Pre-proposal Support, Proposal Development, and Capacity Building. If you are working on a proposal and need assistance with proposal development, proofreading or overall proposal structure, please [email Kelley Terry](#) and she can connect you with our Hanover Representative. Hanover needs 2-3 weeks to review a proposal and provide feedback.

Faculty Research Spotlight

Dr. Mark Schall



Dr. Schall of Industrial and Systems Engineering serves as Director for the Center for Occupational Safety, Ergonomics, and Injury Prevention. His research focuses on developing, evaluating, and applying innovative technologies that support and augment an individual's performance, safety, and overall well-being.

A publication that particularly defines Schall's work is "Barriers to the Adoption of Wearable Sensors in the Workplace: A Survey of Occupational Safety and Health Professionals." The study, which summarizes the results of a survey of occupational safety and health professionals on the perceived benefits and barriers to implementing wearable inertial sensors in their workplaces, is part of a larger agenda that focuses on facilitating the adoption of new technologies to prevent worker injuries and illnesses.

Schall writes that he and his collaborators "were inspired to give occupational safety and health professionals a voice" and target their research into areas these professionals are passionate about. The study uncovered prominent barriers such as worries over data confidentiality, employee compliance, sensor durability, and the return on investment of wearables. This research identified the next steps for Schall to continue this work. In a recent four-year study, his lab investigated the perspectives of workers in the manufacturing industry that wore inertial sensors for multiple weeks. The lab will continue this research with faculty in the Interdisciplinary Center for Advanced Manufacturing Systems (ICAMS), which engages small and medium-sized manufacturers.

Due to the non-limiting nature of work in occupational safety and health, Schall says he "welcome[s] the opportunity to work with anyone passionate about facilitating innovation to advance worker safety and health."

Schall Jr, M. C., Sesek, R. F., & Cavuoto, L. A. (2018). [Barriers to the Adoption of Wearable Sensors in the Workplace: A Survey of Occupational Safety and Health Professionals](#). *Human Factors*, 60(3), 351-362.

Pursuing Funding From Private Foundations

Adapted from the November 2023 issue of the Research Development and Grant Writing Newsletter

Although most funding for academic research comes from federal agencies, private foundations represent another valuable source to support your research. Private foundations can add substantial funding to your research endeavors or provide supplemental funding to that which you've already received. To successfully obtain funding from private foundations, one must understand how they differ from federal funding agencies, how to analyze their interest in your project, and how to effectively approach them.

Searching for Private Foundations

- Cast your net broadly by searching through databases like [Pivot](#) (or through a search engine)
- Ask colleagues doing similar work to see if they have had experience with any private funders
- Check the acknowledgements of publications and presentations featuring similar work
- At disciplinary conferences, talk to attending representatives about their foundation's interests and priorities
- Check with your [ERAD administrator](#):
 - for information about private foundations who may have previously supported other faculty,
 - if you plan to approach a foundation outside of a formal call for proposals, or
 - if the call has limited submissions.

Analyzing a Potential Private Funder: Questions to Ask

- **Does the foundation support academic research projects?**
 - As opposed to funding advocacy, intervention, or other areas of societal improvement.
- **What is the foundation's mission, and does it align with your research project?**
 - Private foundations often have long-ranging and complex priorities, so they would likely be unwilling to change their priorities if your project doesn't align with theirs.
- **Is the foundation open to funding applicants who are new to the foundation?**
 - Policy-focused foundations often have a group of go-to scholars they work with regularly.
 - However, other foundations prioritize bringing in new faces and ideas and may have special opportunities for PIs who haven't been funded by the foundation before.
- **What is the best way to approach the foundation?**
 - Formal processes (LOI, form)
 - Others have less structured processes, so it's good to try to talk to a program officer or foundation staff before applying
 - Avoid submitting blindly
- **Find more answers about the foundation through:**
 - the foundation's website (mission, priorities, roadmaps, funded projects, webinars about the foundation)
 - colleagues who have worked with the foundation
 - ERAD or SGOE's Office of Advancement
 - foundation program officers
 - the foundation's 990 form found on [Candid 990 finder](#) to see what grants were awarded in the last year.

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