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# Division of Research Affairs

## Research Affairs

The Division of Research Affairs is responsible for the institutional approval of all grant proposals and contracts relating to sponsored research, instruction, and service agreements; administration of research regulatory and intellectual property services; administration of intramural faculty grants, fellowships and other institutional research support programs; administration of university cost-sharing; coordination of SDSU Research Foundation/University liaison.

The Division of Research Affairs is supervised by the director, who with the vice president for research, is responsible for the development, improvement, and administration of research activities at the university.

The importance of research in graduate instruction is recognized by the faculty, and all graduate programs provide for research on the part of the graduate student. Graduate students involved in thesis or other research at the university must comply with all applicable university research policies, including, but not limited to, those related to the use of human and animal subjects in research.

## University Research Facilities and Organizations

Among the facilities for research that students may utilize are those provided in organized bureaus, centers and institutes located on the campus; specialized off-campus research facilities and field stations; inter-institutional, consortia and other cooperative research facilities.

## Regulatory Compliance

### Conflict of Interest Committee

SDSU investigators submitting, renewing, or participating in a proposal requesting funds from any designated external sponsor or receiving a gift or monetary pledge must file the appropriate financial disclosure statement at the time of the submission of the federal proposal, or within 30 days or prior to receipt of a privately sponsored grant or contract or receipt of a gift or monetary pledge. Disclosures must be updated on an annual basis during the period of the award and as new reportable significant financial interests are obtained. Disclosure statements are reviewed and evaluated by the Conflict of Interest Committee. The committee reviews the information provided by the investigator to determine whether the financial interest could affect the conduct or reporting of the project, and determine if any conditions or restrictions should be imposed on the investigator or research protocol in order to manage, reduce, or eliminate conflicts that are identified. The committee may also evaluate whether the financial interest has the potential to influence financial expenditures, personnel decisions, or facilities usages, limit or influence the teaching and research environment of the university. For more information contact the Division of Research Affairs, 619-594-5938. The Web site is <http://gra.sdsu.edu/research/coi>.

### Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at SDSU functions in accordance with Federal and State regulations and institutional policy. The Division of Research Affairs provides administrative support to this committee for implementing university policy for research, testing, or education involving the use of animals. Call 619-594-0905 for more information. The Web site is <http://gra.sdsu.edu/research/iacuc>.

### Institutional Biosafety Committee

SDSU is responsible for ensuring that recombinant DNA research or experiments involving biological or potentially hazardous materials are conducted in compliance with the National Institute of Health Guidelines to promote safe and responsible practices. The Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) reviews research for this purpose. The IBC is a committee of the University Research Council appointed by the associate vice president for research. Graduate and Research

Affairs, Division of Research Affairs provides administrative support to the IBC. The IBC membership is determined based on federal guidance and includes a biosafety officer, a veterinarian, scientists, and community members.

For information regarding SDSU's Biosafety Program, visit the Environmental Health and Safety Web site at <http://bfa.sdsu.edu/ehs/> or contact the Institutional Biosafety officer at 619-594-2865. For information specific to the Institutional Biosafety Committee, contact the Division of Research Affairs, 619-594-0905 or e-mail [ibc@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:ibc@mail.sdsu.edu). The Web site is <http://gra.sdsu.edu/research/ibc>.

### Institutional Review Board (IRB)

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) reviews research when procedures are proposed to obtain information about a living individual through the use of a survey, interview, observation, experimentation, or the analysis of human tissues, records, samples, or other data previously collected from human subjects. All research involving human subjects, conducted within the jurisdiction of SDSU's Federalwide Assurance, must be reviewed and approved by the IRB in advance of study initiation. The IRB reviews research involving human subjects to determine and certify that all projects comply with the federal and institutional regulations and policies, and ethical standards.

The Division of Research Affairs provides administrative support to the IRB. For general information, application procedures, guidance on ethical practices, and submission deadlines visit the Web site at <http://gra.sdsu.edu/research/irb>, e-mail [irb@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:irb@mail.sdsu.edu), or call 619-594-6622.

## Research Promotion

### Albert W. Johnson University Research Lecture

Sponsored by the University Research Council and Graduate and Research Affairs, the Albert W. Johnson University Research Lecture-ship is awarded annually to an SDSU faculty member for outstanding achievement in research and scholarship. The purpose of the University Research Lectureship is to recognize such achievement, to foster its continuance, and to enable a distinguished resident faculty scholar to share knowledge more broadly with the academic community and the community-at-large.

Lecturers have included Dr. Joseph W. Ball, Professor of Anthropology; Dr. Alvin Coox, Professor of History; Drs. James Flood and Diane K. Lapp, Professors of Education; Dr. Maurice S. Friedman, Professor of Religious Studies; Dr. Arthur Getis, The Stephen and Mary Birch Foundation Chair in Geographical Study; Dr. Dipak K. Gupta, Professor of Political Science; Dr. Robert Kaplan, Professor of Psychology; Dr. E. Percil Stanford, Professor of Social Work; Dr. Donna J. Thal, Professor of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences; Dr. Helen Wallace, Professor of Public Health; Dr. David Ward-Steinman, Professor of Music; Dr. Catherine Yi-yu Cho Woo, Professor of Chinese; Dr. Edward P. Riley, Professor of Psychology; Dr. Melbourne F. Hovell, Professor of Public Health; Dr. William G. Tong, Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry; Dr. Eugene A. Olevsky, Professor of Mechanical Engineering; Dr. Walter C. Oechel, Professor of Biology; Dr. Mark A. Sussman, Professor of Biology; Dr. John P. Elder, Professor of Public Health; Dr. James F. Sallis, Professor of Psychology, and Dr. John R. Weeks, Professor of Geography. The Web site is <http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~gra/grad/research/researchlectures.html>.

### University Grants Program

The University Grants Program (UGP) was created to integrate independent funding mechanisms through which faculty derive internal support for creative and scholarly research. These internal funding sources now include: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (RSCA) awards, the Faculty Development Program (FDP), Faculty Grant-in-Aid for Research (GIA), the Adams Humanities Endowment and the Office of the Provost. The Division of Research Affairs administers the UGP. For more information, contact the Division of Research Affairs at 619-594-5938 or visit the Web site at <http://gra.sdsu.edu/research/ugp>.

### University Copyrights and Patents Committee

The University Copyrights and Patents Committee (UCPC), a standing committee of the University Research Council, is charged with implementing the provisions of the copyrights, trademarks, and trade secrets policy, reviewing disclosures and declarations to ascertain the extent of institutional support involved in the completion of intellectual properties and make recommendations to the vice president for research of assignment of ownership rights and division of royalties. For more information about the UCPC and the SDSU policy, see the intellectual properties section of the Web site at <http://gra.sdsu.edu/grad/research/intproptechdev.html>.

### Student Research Committee

The Student Research Committee (SRC) is responsible for planning the annual Student Research Symposium (SRS) to showcase student research, scholarship, and creative activities. In addition, members of this committee assist in the review of Graduate Student Travel Fund applications and make recommendations for the Inamori Fellowship program. For more information, visit the Web site at <http://gra.sdsu.edu/research/srs>.

### Faculty Recognition Committee

The Faculty Recognition Committee monitors criteria for significant national awards, and matches those criteria with the accomplishments of SDSU's most productive faculty, to promote them for such awards. This committee is primarily composed of associate deans because of their strong service commitment and overview of faculty from throughout their respective colleges.

### Technology Transfer Office

The Technology Transfer Office (TTO) provides a central location where faculty, students, and staff may receive advice and assistance in the commercialization of their inventions, copyrights, and other scholarly work. In addition, the TTO assists in setting up new spin-off companies and obtaining venture capital for future development. This office also reports to the SDSU Research Foundation. For more information, call 619-594-0516 or visit the TTO Web site at <http://tto.sdsu.edu>.

## Graduate Research Centers and Institutes

### California State University Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology (CSUPERB)

Susan Baxter, Executive Director

Created in 1987 as a CSU system-wide program, the California State University Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology (CSUPERB) provides vision, leadership, and support for biotechnology education and research throughout the CSU to promote economic development in California. The CSUPERB program office is hosted at San Diego State University. CSUPERB promotes biotechnology workforce development by supporting innovative coursework and programs, real-world research experiences, and core resources for faculty and students at all 23 CSU campuses. The program involves students and faculty from life sciences, physical sciences, engineering, agriculture, business and computer science departments and programs. CSUPERB organizes the annual CSU Biotechnology Symposium, sponsors industry-responsive curriculum including Professional Science Masters programs, and serves as the official biotechnology liaison for the CSU with government, educational, and industry partners. In addition, CSUPERB administers and manages a small business administration award to develop biotechnology industry responsive curricula.

CSUPERB administers awards and grants programs for CSU biotechnology students and faculty aimed at integrating discovery, learning, and professional workforce development to meet the evolving needs of the biotechnology industry and related life science endeavors. Programs include: Howell-CSUPERB Research Scholars Awards for undergraduate student researchers, the Crellin Pauling Student Teaching Awards, the Don Eden Graduate Student Research

Awards, Travel Grants programs for students and faculty, the Faculty-Student Collaborative Research Seed Grants, the Entrepreneurial Joint Venture Matching Grants, and Biotechnology Programmatic Development Grants. In combination these programs award over \$650,000 to CSU faculty and students yearly. Three CSUPERB core facilities offer services at reduced rates for CSU faculty and students: the Microchemical Core for DNA synthesis and sequencing at SDSU, the CMoS Core for x-ray crystallography at CSU Fullerton, and the Facility for Elemental Micro-Chemical Analysis (FEMCA) at CSU Long Beach offering elemental and molecular analysis technologies.

CSUPERB programs and activities are administered by an Executive Director, a strategic planning council composed of 10 faculty and deans from CSU campuses, and a faculty consensus group composed of four faculty representatives from each CSU campus. CSUPERB is overseen by a Presidents' Commission composed of CSU presidents from CSU East Bay, CSU Los Angeles, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Humboldt State University, San Diego State University, and an Executive Vice Chancellor. The program Web site is <http://www.cal-state.edu/csUPERB/>.

### Mount Laguna Observatory

Paul B. Etzel, Director

San Diego State University operates Mount Laguna Observatory under special permit from the US Forest Service some 45 road miles east of the campus at an elevation of 6100 feet in the Cleveland National Forest. The current research telescopes include two reflectors with apertures of 24- and 40-inches; a new 48-inch reflector is being built jointly with the University of Kansas. Each has a modern telescope control system that allows for remote and robotic observing over the Internet via high-speed (45 Mbps) wireless connectivity through the University of California, San Diego. Auxiliary equipment includes multiple CCD cameras, Near-IR camera, CCD spectrograph, and photoelectric photometers. Support facilities include a shop building, dormitory and apartments for observers. Associated with the observatory is the Awona Harrington Visitor Center, which supports educational programs and visiting astronomers. The 21-inch Buller telescope serves General Education classes on the main campus, and limited public outreach programs in the summer months with the US Forest Service. The Web site is <http://mintaka.sdsu.edu>.

### Southwest Consortium for Environmental Research and Policy (SCERP)

D. Rick Van Schoik, Director and  
Paul Ganster, Chair of Management Committee

SCERP is a consortium comprised of five U.S. universities (including San Diego State University, Arizona State University, New Mexico State University, University of Texas at El Paso, and University of Utah) and five member Mexican universities (El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, Instituto Tecnológico de Ciudad Juárez, Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez, and Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey). SCERP plays an important role in improving the quality of life and addressing the environmental problems faced by more than twelve million residents living in the border region.

The consortium is governed by a management committee consisting of one representative from each member university. Paul Ganster, Director of SDSU's Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias, is the SDSU representative and chair of the SCERP management committee. In addition, SCERP's Office of the Managing Director is located at SDSU and utilizes space provided by the SDSU Research Foundation. The director of that office reports to the chair of the SCERP management committee.

Since its inception in 1989, the Southwest Consortium for Environmental Research and Policy (SCERP) has conducted more than 400 Mexican and American research projects to address the acute air, water, and health problems plaguing the U.S.-Mexican border region. SCERP's contribution to this research has helped facilitate numerous solutions to critical environmental problems in this unique expanse. The 10-university consortium has also conducted briefings for policy-

makers, border communities, public officials, and business and trade associations. Through these and other efforts, the consortium is pioneering a model of binational cooperation that proves two very different countries can achieve success together when critical environmental resources are at stake.

Over the years, SCERP has supported approximately \$7.5 million in projects at SDSU in the colleges of Arts and Letters, Sciences, Health and Human Services, and Engineering and at the Imperial Valley Campus of SDSU. This funding has strengthened collaborative ties with Mexican and U.S. SCERP universities. The SCERP project has been of benefit to SDSU students through increased opportunity for international applied research and interaction with Mexican faculty and students, enrichment of curriculum, and greater access to research materials about the border region. In addition to undergraduate participation, SCERP projects regularly employ graduate students and have funded approximately one dozen Master's theses and one Ph.D. dissertation. It directly supports SDSU priorities including applied research and community outreach, the developing Environmental Science Program, and internationalization of the university. SCERP-supported research projects at SDSU regularly produce results of use to State of California agencies, including the Water Resources Control Board, Cal/EPA, Air Resources Board, Health and Human Services, and Resources Agency. Elected officials and their staffs, including joint legislative committees frequently use

results of SDSU-SCERP applied research projects. Regional and community agencies likewise utilize expertise on border environmental issues developed through SCERP-supported activities.

SCERP programs also address long-term concerns of U.S.-Mexican border communities. Through the Border Institute think tank series, organized primarily by SDSU, SCERP has brought together members of Congress; border subject experts; decision makers, leaders, and planners from border communities; border business representatives; and other stakeholders from border cities to discuss important issues concerning the future state of the environment in the U.S.-Mexican border region. Initiated in 1998, the series has dealt with such topics as border demographic projections, infrastructure needs, energy demands, binational water management, the state of the border and the health of its citizens, and binational ecosystem conservation.

Through its programs and projects, SDSU-SCERP addresses critical environmental issues in the California-Baja California Border Region and helps develop solutions to the region's problems. The projects enhance binational cooperation, build regional capacity by training students as the next generation of leaders, leverage funding, translate technical material, and disseminate information to the general public.

For more information about SCERP activities at SDSU, please contact Dr. Paul Ganster, e-mail: [pganster@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:pganster@mail.sdsu.edu) or Ms. Angélica Villegas, e-mail: [scerpca@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:scerpca@mail.sdsu.edu). The Web site is <http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~irsc/scerp.htm>.

