

EEH NEWS

Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health

School of Public Health and Health Professions (SPHHP)

University at Buffalo, State University of New York (SUNY)

<http://sphhp.buffalo.edu/epidemiology-and-environmental-health>



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Karen DeGarmo, editor

The Chair's Corner



Dear EEH Colleagues, Students, Alumni and Friends:

As June draws to a close, we all often take a deep breath and look back on the year's accomplishments. This year has been a very successful one. A terrific group of students completed their degrees this year, with outstanding PhD dissertations, MS theses and MPH integrative projects. It is always exciting to see the significant work that is being done by EEH students. Those graduating students are now launched on a variety of endeavors. We are always excited to see where the EEH students go after they graduate. If you are a former student or post doc please keep in touch!

The SPHHP celebrated Public Health Week in April. Here in Buffalo, we celebrate Public Health "week" all month long—all year long, in fact. This year's celebration was filled with a large number of talks and activities. The SPHHP's step challenge was especially successful, far exceeding the original goals!

We always try and schedule the EEH Saxon Graham lecture to fall during the Public Health Week events. This year's presentation by Linda Van Horn, PhD, RD, was of great interest to those in PH, providing insight as to the state of the science on dietary recommendations. Van Horn has been a key player in the development of dietary recommendations in the US. Her talk is available on the EEH website.

I hope that you all have a good summer—both relaxing and productive. As always, please be sure to let me or the other faculty and the staff know if there is any way that we can help you.

Jo Freudenheim, PhD

UB Distinguished Professor and Interim Chair

Hello to All

Another semester has passed and we had a big graduating class this June! Congratulations to the students and faculty for their hard work. Time to finish all those projects this summer and be ready for fall. Enjoy!

Karen DeGarmo



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Note

People listed below with a two-digit year after the degree received this degree from EEH. For example, PhD '15, degree awarded in 2015.

Alumni News

Tammy Austin-Ketch, PhD '08, received the *Distinguished Mentor Award* from the UB School of Nursing.

Mark Glasgow, MS '15, MPH '11, was named one of Buffalo Business First's 30 under 30. He is the second of the MPH alumni who has recently received this recognition.

Allison Soucise, MS '15, presented a poster entitled "Sleep Duration, Quality, and Breast Cancer Tumor Aggressiveness" at the American Society for Preventive Oncology annual meeting in Columbus, OH in March 2016. She also presented the poster at the SPHHP J. Warren Perry Poster Day on April 22, 2016.

Faculty, Staff, Student Presentations

Catherine Callahan, MA, PhD candidate, presented a poster entitled "Polychlorinated Biphenyls and Relative Telomere Length in the Anniston Community Health Survey" at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) annual meeting in New Orleans, LA on April 19, 2016.

Milind Chaudhari, MBBS, PhD, resident in the Combined Internal Medicine/Preventive Medicine Program and MPH student in the EPI concentration, presented a poster entitled "The Effect of Experimental Sleep Apnea on Cardiac and Respiratory Functions in 6 and 18 Month Old Dystrophic (MDX) Mice" at the 19th Scholarly Exchange at Spring Clinical Day in Buffalo, NY on April 30, 2016.

Xushen Chen, MS, presented a poster entitled "Dietary and Genetic Influence on the Metabolism and Biological Effects of Arsenic Exposure: A Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Folic Acid-Supplementation Trial" at the Society of Toxicology annual meeting in New Orleans, LA from March 13-17, 2016.

Jo Freudenheim, PhD, gave an invited talk entitled "Breast Cancer: Exposures Over the Life Course" at the Department of Epidemiology, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health on May 26, 2016.

Katarzyna Kordas, PhD, gave an oral presentation entitled "Observational Studies in Nutrition: Limitations & Need for Alternatives" at the Experimental Biology 2016 annual meeting held in San Diego, CA in April 2016. She also presented a poster entitled "Dietary Predictors of Exposure to Multiple Toxic Metals in School Age Children" at the meeting.

Michael LaMonte, PhD, MPH, presented a poster entitled "Associations between Accelerometer Measured Sedentary Behavior and Physical Activity with Biomarkers of Insulin-Glucose Homeostasis in Older Women: the Objective Physical Activity and Cardiovascular Health (OPACH) Study" at the Epidemiology Congress of the Americas annual meeting in Miami, FL, from June 21-24, 2016.

Miao Li, PhD, gave two oral presentations entitled "Energy Balance-related School Environment/Policy Factors and Childhood Obesity in China: A National Study of 19,487 Students from 112 Middle Schools" and "Parental Expectations and Sedentary Behaviors among Chinese Children: A National Study of 15,736 Students from 112 Middle Schools" at the Experimental Biology 2016 annual meeting in San Diego, CA in April 2016.

Xiaodan Mai, PhD '15, presented a poster entitled "Periodontal Pathogens and Risk of Incident Cancer in Postmenopausal Women: the Buffalo OsteoPerio Study" at the Women's Health Initiative Investigator annual meeting held in Columbus, OH in May 2016.

Amy Millen, PhD, presented a poster entitled "25-Hydroxyvitamin D Concentrations and Incidence or Progression of Age-Related Macular Degeneration: the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study (ARIC)" at the Experimental Biology 2016 annual meeting in San Diego, CA in April 2016.

Albina Minlikeeva, MPH, PhD candidate, gave an oral presentation entitled "Cardiovascular Comorbidity and Ovarian Cancer Patient Survival: History of Hypertension, Heart Disease and Diabetes, Evidence from the Ovarian Cancer Association Consortium" at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) annual meeting in a mini-symposium session, held in New Orleans, LA in April 2016. She also presented "History of Comorbidities and Ovarian Cancer Survival" at the Ovarian Cancer Association Consortium (OCAC) 2016 annual meeting in London, UK in April 2016.

Heather Ochs-Balcom, PhD '04, was invited to give a talk entitled "Genes and Nutrition in the Post-GWAS Era" at the Experimental Biology 2016 annual meeting in San Diego, CA in April 2016.

Xuefeng Ren, MD, PhD, presented a poster entitled "FRY Inhibits Progression and Metastasis of Breast Cancer through Activating Hippo Signaling Pathway" at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) annual meeting in New Orleans, LA in April 2016.

Zhengqi Tan, MBBS, MPH '16 (June), gave an oral presentation entitled "Parenting Behaviors and Weight Status of Junior High School Students in China" at the Experimental Biology 2016 annual meeting in San Diego, CA in April 2016.

Raquel Velazquez-Kronen, MS, PhD student presented a poster entitled “*Hispanic Ethnicity, Foreign Birthplace, and Stage at Diagnosis for Invasive Breast and Colorectal Cancer*” at the Epidemiology Congress of the Americas annual meeting in Miami, FL, from June 21-24, 2016.


John Violanti, PhD, presented a poster entitled “*Long-Term Exposure to Stress and Depressive Symptoms among Police Officers*” at the Epidemiology Congress of the Americas annual meeting in Miami, FL, from June 21-24, 2016.

Youfa Wang, MD, PhD, gave an oral presentation entitled “*Systematic Examination of the Association between Parental and Child Obesity: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis*” at the Experimental Biology 2016 annual meeting in San Diego, CA in April 2016.

Hong Xue, PhD, had a poster entitled “*A China-USA Comparative Study of Peer Influence on Childhood Obesity and Eating Behavior: Social Network Analysis and Agent Based Modeling (ABM)*” at the Experimental Biology 2016 annual meeting in San Diego, CA in April 2016.

Jinqiu Zhu, PhD, presented a poster entitled “*Characterization of Histone Modification and Transcriptional Complexity During MMASIII-Induced UROtsa Cell Malignant Transformation*” at the Society of Toxicology annual meeting in New Orleans, LA from March 13-17, 2016.


Honors and Awards

 The following students/faculty/alumni were inducted into the Delta Omega Honor Society.


- **Christina Crabtree-Ide**, MPH '11, PhD student
- **Ju Joh**, MD, MPH epidemiology student
- **Gabriel Hutton**, MPH '16 (June)


- **Andrew Hyland**, PhD '98, faculty
- **Carl Li**, MD, MPH, faculty
- **Kristina Young**, MS '85, faculty


- **Michael Amato**, MPH '10, alumni
- **Katharine Dobson-Amato**, PhD '15, alumni
- **Joel Merriman**, MPH '12, alumni
- **Alexandra Sullivan**, MPH '15, alumni
- **Caila Vaughn**, PhD '16 (June), alumni


 **Joshua Gordon**, BA, MD/PhD student, received a fellowship from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)/National Institutes of Health (NIH) for the project entitled “*Epidemiologic Evaluation of Risk Factors for Hypertension in Postmenopausal Women: Periodontal Disease, the Oral Microbiome, and Systemic Inflammation.*” Funding from the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Predoctoral MD/PhD or Other Dual-Doctoral Degree


Fellowship (Parent F30). The purpose of this fellowship is to enhance the integrated research and clinical training of promising predoctoral students, who are matriculated in a combined MD/PhD or other dual-doctoral degree training program, and who intend careers as physician-scientists or other clinician-scientists. Jean Wactawski-Wende, PhD '89, is the mentor for this fellowship.

 **Xiaodan Mai**, PhD '15, received the EEH 2015 *Saxon Graham Award* for overall excellence in epidemiology throughout her graduate studies at the annual 2016 Saxon Graham Lecture on April 29, 2016.


 **Xuefeng Ren**, MD, PhD, received the 2016 SPHHP *Outstanding Junior Researcher of the Year Award*. The award was presented at the School's annual meeting on May 18, 2016. This award is presented to a faculty member whose recent research initiatives demonstrate outstanding importance and relevance to the overall mission of the School of Public Health and Health Professions.


 **Youjin Wang**, PhD '16 (June), received the EEH SPHHP *J. Warren Perry Poster Award* for her work entitled “*Gene-Hormone Therapy Interaction and Fracture Risk in Postmenopausal Women*” at the 2016 SPHHP J. Warren Perry Poster Day held April 22.

 The **Women's Health Initiative (WHI)** was recognized by the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) and received the AACR's 10th annual *Team Science Award*, presented in April 2016 at the annual meeting in New Orleans, LA. Jean Wactawski-Wende, PhD '89, is the WHI principal investigator (PI).

 **Jinqiu Zhu**, PHD, won the first place in the *Charles River Best Abstracts Award* by the American Association of Chinese in Toxicology (AACT), a Special Interest Group (SIG) of the Society of Toxicology, at the 2016 annual meeting of the Society of Toxicology.

Robert O'Shea Student Travel Award

 **Gauri Desai**, BS, PhD student, received a Robert O'Shea Travel Award for her abstract submission and presented a poster entitled “*Sanitation for People with Disabilities: A Framework for Research and Practice*” at the International Conference on Urban Health: Place and Health annual meeting in San Francisco, CA on April 3, 2016.

 **Henry Lin**, MD, MS '16 (June), received a Robert O'Shea Travel Award for his abstract submission and presented a poster, “*Lutein and Zeaxanthin (L+Z) Intake and Prevalent Early Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) in the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Study*” at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) annual meeting in Seattle, WA in May 2016.



Christina Kan Hong Zheng, MS student, received a Robert O'Shea Travel Award for her abstract submission and presented a poster entitled "Maternal Diabetes and Offspring Autism Spectrum Disorder: Association and Prenatal Mediators" at the Epidemiology Congress of the Americas annual meeting in Miami, FL, from June 21-24, 2016.

Joshua Gordon, BA, MD/PhD student, "Assessment of the Relationship between Periodontal Disease, Systolic Blood Pressure, and Hypertension in a Cross-Sectional Study of Postmenopausal Women."

Zuwena Plata, MPH '16 (June), "Latrine Use: Prevalence, Motivators and Interventions."

Kerris Sease, MPH '16 (June), "Continued Feeding and Nutritional Outcomes in the Kenya GEMS Site: Secondary Data Analysis of the Global Enteric Multisite Study (GEMS) of Diarrheal Disease in Infants and Young Children in Developing Countries."

Youjin Wang, PhD '16 (June), "Gene-Hormone Therapy Interaction and Fracture Risk in Postmenopausal Women."

Wit Wichaidit, MS, PhD student, "Effect of Combined-Hardware-Behavior-Change Intervention on Handwashing Behaviors in Primary School Children: The Povu Poa Handwashing Stations School Pilot Study."

Yilmaz Yoruk, BS, MPH student in the health services administration (HSA) concentration, "Planning and Design for Health and Equity Maradu, Kerala, India."

Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges



The following students were elected to *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges* for the 2015-2016 academic year.

- **Allison Altman**, BS, MPH health services administration (HSA) student
- **Rachael Burganowski**, BS, MS student
- **Robert Coleman**, BA, MPH epidemiology (EPI) student
- **Sarah Dascanio**, BS, MPH HSA student
- **Gauri Desai**, MPH, PhD student
- **Roseann DeVito**, BS, MPH environmental health student
- **John Lewis Etter**, MPH '16 (June)
- **Zeinab Farhat**, MPH, PhD student
- **Andrea Gentzke**, PhD '16 (June)
- **Joshua Gordon**, BA, MD/PhD student
- **Neriy Izkhakov**, MD, MPH '16 (June)
- **David Jacobs**, PharmD, PhD student
- **Stephanie Kellner**, BA, MPH EPI student
- **Albina Minlikeeva**, MPH, PhD candidate
- **Gregory Oswald**, pre-pharmacy, MPH HSA student
- **Angela Pierprzak**, pre-pharmacy, MPH HSA student
- **Zuwena Plata**, MPH '16 (June)
- **Ben Robinson**, pre-pharmacy, MPH EPI student
- **Amy Shaver**, BA, MPH EPI student
- **Krysten Stoll**, BS, MPH EPI student
- **J. Brian Szender**, MD, MPH '16 (June)
- **Youjin Wang**, PhD '16 (June)
- **Wit Wichaidit**, MS, PhD student
- **Sultan Zain**, BA, MPH HSA student

News and Notes

Catherine Callahan, MA, PhD candidate, had a paper accepted to Epigenetics entitled "DNA Methylation and Breast Tumor Clinicopathological Features: the Western New York Exposures and Breast Cancer (WEB) Study."

Robert Coleman, BA, MPH student in the epidemiology (EPI) concentration, was nominated and selected to serve as one of the SPHHP student ambassadors for the academic year 2016-2017. RJ will assist with student recruitment, and participate at the annual APHA meeting and community events.

Jo Freudenheim, PhD, chaired a mini-symposium, Endogenous and Exogenous Factors in Cancer Epidemiology Throughout the Life at the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) in New Orleans, LA in April 2016. She served on the program committee for the AACR annual meeting.

Katarzyna Kordas, PhD, and **Amy Millen**, PhD, organized and chaired a symposium, Heritable Factors and Complex Disease: Using Genetic Epidemiology to Draw Inferences About Nutrition-Disease Relationships at the American Society of Nutrition, Scientific Session at the Experimental Biology 2016 annual meeting held in San Diego, CA in April 2016.

Kordas also co-chaired a mini-symposium, Advancing Nutritional Epidemiology with Public Use and Commercial Data Sets at the meeting.

J. Warren Perry Poster Day

The 2016 SPHHP J. Warren Perry Poster Day was held April 22.

The following EEH students presented their research:

Gauri Desai, BS, PhD student, "Sanitation for People with Disabilities: A Framework for Research and Practice."

Arthur Michalek, PhD '80, was a Fulbright Specialist teaching at Wroclaw Medical School, Poland in May 2016. He gave lectures and individual tutorials in the principles and methods of cancer prevention and education research. He also gave grand rounds at the Lower Silesian Regional Cancer Center. This opportunity was sponsored by the US and Polish Departments of State.

Albina Minlikeeva, MPH, PhD candidate, had a paper accepted to PloS One entitled "*Single-Nucleotide Polymorphisms and Markers of Oxidative Stress in Healthy Women.*"

Zhengqi Tan, MBBS, MPH '16 (June), was nominated and served as one of the SPHHP Public Health Ambassadors for the academic year 2015-2016.

Youfa Wang, MD, PhD, was invited by the World Obesity Federation to give a talk entitled "*The Costs of Obesity: Labour, Productivity and Healthcare*" at the International Congress on Obesity (ICO) in Vancouver, Canada, on May 3, 2016. He also chaired a scientific session, Home Environment and Influences of the Wider Environment at the conference.

Preventive Medicine Residency Program

Kenyani Davis, MD, MPH '16 (June), completed the Combined Internal Medicine/Preventive Medicine Residency Program on June 30.

Research News

Lina Mu, MD, PhD, is PI on a new, two year, \$35,000 award from UB's Community for Global Health Equity (GHE) Community of Excellence entitled "Health Impact of Air Pollution Exposure During Pregnancy, A Pilot Project." Co-investigators from EEH include Matthew Bonner, PhD '03, MPH, and Jo Freudenheim, PhD. This study will explore the relationship between exposure levels to air pollution and pregnancy outcomes.

Saxon Graham Lecture

Linda Van Horn, PhD, RD, gave the 2016 Saxon Graham lecture on April 29, 2016.

Van Horn is a professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Associate Dean for Faculty Development in the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University.

Van Horn is a world-renowned leader in research regarding nutrition and cardiovascular diseases, particularly among women and children. She is the principal investigator of the Chicago site of the Women's Health Initiative, of the Diet Intervention Study in Children, and of an NIH-funded consortium study, the Maternal Offspring Metabolics Family Intervention Trial (MOMFIT), aimed at prevention of excessive gestational weight gain in overweight and obese pregnant women. Her work also involves medical nutrition education and public health policy development.

Van Horn chaired the 2010 US Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee and has served on the NHLBI Advisory council. She recently completed a ten-year term as Editor of the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She is a member and former chair of the Nutrition Committee of the American Heart Association.

Her talk was entitled "*Diet Data and Disease: Truth or Consequences?*" and can be accessed on the [EEH website](#).

The annual lecture honors Dr. Saxon Graham, who chaired the department from 1981-1991.

Congratulations to Our Graduates

The following students successfully completed all requirements for degree conferrals in June 2016.

PhD Epidemiology

Andrea Gentzke, MS '11, "*A Community trial to Speed the Diffusion of Smoke-free Multiunit Housing Policies.*" Committee: Andrew Hyland, PhD '98 (major professor), Mark Travers, PhD '08, and Marc Kiviniemi, PhD. Andrea is a postdoctoral research affiliate at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Caila Vaughn, MPH '12, "*Genetics of Sleep and Association with Breast Cancer Risk and Aggressiveness.*" Committee: Heather Ochs-Balcom, PhD '04 (major professor), Jean Wactawski-Wende, PhD '89, Lara Sucheston-Campbell, PhD, and Jo Freudenheim, PhD. Caila is the Research Director at the New York State Multiple Sclerosis Consortium, University Neurology, Inc. in Buffalo.

Youjin Wang, BPharm, RPh, "*The Interaction of Genetic Risk, Hormones and Calcium/Vitamin D on Fracture and Bone Loss among Postmenopausal Women.*" Committee: Jean Wactawski-Wende, PhD '89 (major professor), Heather Ochs-Balcom, PhD '04, and Lara Sucheston-Campbell, PhD. Youjin is a postdoctoral fellow at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Rockville, MD.

MPH Epidemiology

Alexandra Baker, BS, “*Human Post Exposure Prophylaxis to Bat Rabies in Erie County 2012-2015.*” Committee: Carl Li, MD, MPH (major professor) and Heather Lindstrom, PhD. Alexandra is working as a Research Surveillance Officer at the NYS DOH Emerging Infections Program.

John Lewis Etter, BS, “*Associations of Arginase 1 Gene Polymorphisms with Ovarian Cancer, BMI, and Endometriosis.*” Committee: Kirsten Moysich, PhD ‘97 (major professor) and Lara Sucheston-Campbell, PhD.

Rebecca Hall, BS, “*Classifying 25-Hydroxyvitamin D Status: Analytic Measurement, Consensus and Recommendation.*” Committee: Amy Millen, PhD (major professor) and Heather Ochs-Balcom, PhD ‘04.

Zuwena Plata, BS, “*Examining Smoking, Leukocyte Telomere Length and Mortality in NHANES 1999-2002.*” Committee: Matthew Bonner, PhD ‘03, MPH (major professor) and Michael LaMonte, PhD, MPH.

Kerris Sease, BA, “*Continued Feeding and Nutritional Outcomes in the Global Enteric Multicenter Study (GEMS) of Diarrheal Disease in Infants and Young Children in Developing Countries.*” Committee: Pavani Ram, MD (major professor) and Amy Millen, PhD.

J. Brian Szender, MD, “*Impact of Physical Inactivity on Risk of Developing Cancer off the Uterine Cervix: a Case-Control Study.*” Committee: Michael LaMonte, PhD, MPH (major professor) and Kirsten Moysich, PhD ‘97. Brian is a fellow in Gynecologic Oncology at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Zhengqi Tan, MBBS, “*Parenting Practices and Weight Status in Junior High School Students in China.*” Committee: Youfa Wang, MD, PhD (major professor) and Michael LaMonte, PhD, MPH.

MPH Health Services Administration

Bridget Aliaga, BS, “*Addressing the Cervical Cancer Disparity among Hispanic Women in the United States: The Need for Increased Cervical Cancer Awareness and Education among Hispanic Women in Erie County.*” Committee: Carl Li, MD, MPH (major professor) and Deidre Wheat, MD, MPH ‘10.

Courtney Bauer, BA, “*Setting of Death: It’s Determinants and Implications.*” Committee: Arthur Michalek, PhD ‘80 (major professor) and Carl Li, MD, MPH. Courtney continues to work as a social worker.

Michael Burns, PharmD, “*Assessing the Impact of Ambulatory Care Pharmacists on Medicare Star Ratings in a Level 3 Patient-Centered Medical Home.*” Committee: Carl Li, MD, MPH (major professor) and Erin Slazak, PharmD, BCPS. Michael is a Community Pharmacy Resident at the Middleport Family Health Center.

Kenyani Davis, MD, “*The H.E.A.R.T Program – A New Hypertension Pilot Project.*” Committee: Carl Li, MD, MPH (major professor) and Michael Noe, MD, MPH. Kiki is an internal medicine physician at UBMD Internal Medicine.

Sarah Dolan, BS, “*HIV and Diabetes: Interactions and the Effects of Shifting Therapies and Environments.*” Committee: Carl Li, MD, MPH (major professor) and Arthur Michalek, PhD ‘80.

JoAnn Greenzweig, MLS, “*Safety-Net Hospitals: Challenges and Interventions – Costs, Financial Stress, and Quality.*” Committee: Arthur Michalek, PhD ‘80 (major professor) and Carl Li, MD, MPH.

Gabriel Hutton, BA, “*Medicare Accountable Care Organizations: The Failed Inception and Lessons from Private Healthcare.*” Committee: Arthur Michalek, PhD ‘80 (major professor) and Carl Li, MD, MPH. Gabriel is a Competitive Intelligence Specialist at HealthNow.

Neriy Izkhakov, MD, “*Prevalence of Diabetes Mellitus in Adults Based on Different Diagnostic Criteria: NHANES Data, 2005-2010.*” Committee: Carl Li, MD, MPH (major professor) and Michael LaMonte, PhD, MPH.

Steffanie Ryzdik, MBA, “*Reducing Gun Violence in Youth Under 25 in the United States.*” Committee: Arthur Michalek, PhD ‘80 (major professor) and Carl Li, MD, MPH.

Supporting the Educational and Research Mission of EEH

We are very appreciative of the support that we have received from many of you. Donations to the department are used for scholarships, for special seminars such as the Saxon Graham Lecture and to assist students in their research and education. Credit card donations can be made online at www.giving.buffalo.edu. Select the “Give to Your School” tab, select “Public Health and Health Professions”, and for the section “Search for a Fund”, search on “epidemiology” for EEH fund options if you want your donation to be used for EEH. If you would like, you can tell us how you want your fund used, e.g., to support student fellowship, awards, research seed grants, or the teaching and research programs.