



RIIC VISION

A research focused department, building capacity in excellent innovative research and development.

RIIC MISSION

To serve as a catalyst for cutting edge ethical research, through interdisciplinary collaboration and joint ventures that impact national and global needs.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Director's Remark

Inaugural lectures

Funding Opportunities

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

'Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose'

—Zora Neale Hurston

CHIEF EDITOR

Prof. Grace O. Tayo

EDITORS

**Samuel O. Dada
Kolawole Ayodele**

CONTACTS;

riic@babcock.edu.ng
+234-80-33794709
+234-80-60253428
+234-70-64202918

DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS

On behalf of the Research, Innovation and International Cooperation Office, I welcome all Faculty, Staff and Students to the New Year 2022 and the new semester. Our appreciation goes to you all for your daunting feat in the area of research and innovation last year. Babcock University scholars won the following grant award last year to carry out different research projects;

- a. *“Does a low-carb, high-fat conophor nut-based keto diet lead to weight loss and improve cardio metabolic health?” awarded by Loma Linda University for a sum of \$74,743.*
- b. *“The Modulatory role of curcumin and quercetin on Drosophila GSK-3: a potential therapeutic intervention in Parkinson's disease” awarded by University of Cambridge for a sum of £5520.*
- c. *“The pattern and risk factors for Suicide Ideation among in-school adolescents in Nigeria” awarded by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention for a sum of \$15,000.*
- d. *“Acceptability of HIV self-testing among Nigerian key populations and how the at-risk groups value various attributes of hypothetical HIV self-testing service delivery models” awarded by Loma Linda University for a sum of \$75,000*



We also appreciate your cooperation at the programme on ‘improving BU visibility and ranking during the 2022 BU annual colloquium. It is our wish that the knowledge garnered at the programme will elicit our interest in cutting edge research and propel individual scholars and Babcock University to impact our society for progress and national development.

The RIIC Office is committed to supporting your research endeavours. We wish you a productive and fulfilling New Year.

HOW TO WIN A RESEARCH GRANT

Culled from testimonies from Times Higher Education (THE)

A research grant is an amount of money that a government or funding institution gives to an individual or to an organization for the singular purpose of carrying out research activities. Research grant is necessary for carrying out high-impact multi-disciplinary research. Even in disciplines in which research is inherently inexpensive, 'grant capture' is increasingly being adopted as a metric to judge academics and universities. In some cases, applications submitted for grants are rejected. The reasons for such rejection are not far-fetched. With success rates typically low, rejection is the fate of some applications. Highlighted below are some of the tips on how to improve your application.

1. Know your funding agency and believe in yourself

All academics are aware of the publish or perish syndrome. But there is another less famous but no less important guide to scholarly survival: win funding or perish.

Even in a world of single-digit success rates in grant application, there are actions you can take to improve your chances of being awarded that research grant. Clearly, writing a good proposal is critical. Take time to let your idea develop; for a very competitive programme, it can take time. Visual presentation is also more important than you might imagine. However strong your scientific idea, sloppy presentation will give the impression that you are not a serious researcher and, at minimum, make reviewers more negatively inclined towards you. Put in the extra effort to make your proposal look good. Figures should be high resolution and attractively presented, and text should be checked and rechecked for typographical and grammatical errors.

There is a need to put in extra effort to know your funding agency. Ask numerous colleagues to read your proposal as critically as possible. It gives invaluable insight into what is likely to irk the reviewer. With some funding agencies, perversely, you often need to have already done most of the work for it to be funded. With others, large volumes of preliminary data can be fatal to the proposal, conveying the impression that it is not novel and innovative enough. Discussing with successful colleagues helps you get to know which of these approaches is preferred by the particular funding agency you are targeting. Finally, believe in yourself. Like recruitment and promotion panels, grant review panels are biased – explicitly or implicitly – towards candidates who have had significant success in attracting prior funding. So success is always likely to be elusive in the beginning, when you have no funding track record. But be reminded that the only sure-fire way *not* to get a grant is to not apply for it at. Keep applying....

2. Excite the reviewer – and quickly

In an era in which the average success rates for most grant programmes rarely exceed 20 per cent, the aim must be to lift your

own personal strike rate well above that dispiriting figure.

To do that, it is crucial to know the system. A grant will typically be reviewed by three or four "experts" in the field. Their reports – possibly along with the applicants' rebuttal – will then go before a panel, where two members are typically tasked with leading the discussion apart from the reviewers, there are the introducing members who will rarely have expertise in the exact area of the bid. They are chosen for their potential ability to take a high-level view and rank the applications assigned in each funding round.

Typically, when two separate panels are asked to rank a set of grants, they will agree about the top 10 per cent and bottom 5 per cent. Beyond that, the choice of who gets funded is, by definition, a stochastic process; very few applications nowadays are complete turkeys. The aim is to be in that top 10 per cent.

Another good piece of advice is to start early. Typically, 80 to 90 per cent of proposals arrive within 48 hours of deadlines. But the earlier you start, the more you can incubate, get feedback, and polish, polish, polish, your proposal, use figures. A figure really is worth many words. Flow diagrams can help enormously. Get into the mind of a reviewer. Ask yourself: "Do I find this a good and persuasive read, with a clear message of the exciting knowledge that will be uncovered? Will the reviewer mirror my excitement? And will they be convinced that I will be able to deliver?"

3. Clarify your logic and enlarge your figures

a. Get someone else to read your application through before submission. You may think everything is crystal clear, yet assumptions may have crept in which are completely obscure to the reader. Logic may also not be totally solid: underlying hypotheses, for instance, may lurk without ever being spelt out. Such gaps will be obvious to someone who hasn't spent months constructing the text.

b. Resist telling the story of how you reached your hypothesis. Research is rarely linear and if you follow your personal historical path to set the scene it may come across as very odd to someone reading the application with fresh eyes.

Take care that your references are up to date and comprehensive. There is nothing that puts a reviewer off more than suspecting you don't really know the field well. An absence of references from within the past five years or a complete swathe of material missing does not confer confidence.

c. Make sure any figures you include are not so small as to be impossible to read for the over-fifties without a magnifying glass. Make it easy for them to appreciate the points you are trying to make.

d. Don't be over-ambitious, promising everything. The panel will be doubtful if the proposal looks impossible to do with the resources requested.

7TH INTERNATIONAL BIOETHICS FORUM



Selected members of Babcock University Health Research Ethics Committee (BUHREC), Professors K. Ogunwenmo, G. Tayo, D. Akinboye, G. Anyasor and Dr C. Elikwu represented Babcock University at the 7th International Bioethics Forum held at the Nigerian Institute of Medical Research, Yaba Lagos Nigeria between 8th and 10th December, 2021. The theme of the conference was “Ethical Considerations among Special Populations”. The Babcock contingent also made presentation on “Bioethics and Covid-19 screening protocol for returning Babcock University students during Covid-19 Pandemic”. The session on ‘Bioethics and Covid-19: Critical reflections on health sector corruption in Nigeria’ was chaired by Prof Grace Tayo (Director, RIIC). The Chairperson of BUHREC, Prof K. Ogunwenmo was also appointed a member of the LOC for the 2022 conference. The selected members have since shared the knowledge gained from the forum with other BUHREC member.

GRANTS FOR RESEARCH AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS (GRASP) INTERNATIONAL AWARD



Dr Oleksandr Dubov



Dr Olumide Abiodun

Babcock University (Nigeria) and Loma Linda University (USA) team of researchers jointly applied and won the Loma Linda University GRASP International Award for 2022. The grant award which is 75 thousand of Dollar will be used to carry out a study on “Optimizing access to HIV self-testing based on preferences of key populations in Nigeria: a discrete choice experiment”. The study will investigate the acceptability of HIV self-testing among Nigerian key populations and will assess how these at-risk groups value various attributes of hypothetical HIV self-testing service delivery models. The Principal Investigator for the project at BU is Dr. Olumide Abiodun, MBChB, MPH, FWACP, faculty member in the Department of Community Medicine, Babcock University and the Co-Principal Investigator at LLUH is Oleksandr Dubov, PhD, Associate Professor at Loma Linda School of Behavioral Health

SCHEDULE OF INAUGURAL LECTURES FOR 2022

Inaugural Lectures are coordinated by the Office of Research, Innovation and International Cooperation (RIIC) through the BU Inaugural Lecture Committee. An Inaugural Lecture is a significant milestone in an academic's career, celebrating promotion to the rank of Professor, or an appointment to a Professorial Chair at the University. For new Professors at Babcock University, the lecture shall provide an opportunity to present the details of their academic career so far, update colleagues on current and future research plans, and introduce their field of expertise to wider audiences.

For the University, Inaugural Lectures shall be an essential component of the public events program, an opportunity to engage with audiences on a broader interest in its research, including funders and decision makers from government, non-governmental organization, academia and the industry. The inaugural lecture shall also help create a wider awareness of the benefits of the University's teaching, research and community service.

Below is the inaugural lecture schedule for the year 2022. All Dean of Schools are expected to send the name of their inaugural lecturer before the scheduled time. This is to aid adequate and effective planning. Names of presenters from each School should be forwarded to the RIIC Office latest by Monday 31st of January, 2022.

DATE	SCHOOLS
January 6	NIL
February 3	Computing and Engineering Sciences
March 3	School of Science and Technology
April 7	School of Law and Security Studies
May 5	Veronica Adeleke School of Social Sciences
June 2	School of Basic and Medical Sciences
July 7	NIL
August 4	NIL
September 1	School of Management Sciences
October 6	School of Public and Allied Health
November 3	School of Basic Clinical Sciences
December 1	School of Nursing

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY CALLS

1. TRIALECT NYSCF – ROBERTSON STEM CELL INVESTIGATOR AWARDS

The New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF) is soliciting applications from early career investigators for awards to be used for exploring the basic biology and translational potential of stem cells. The aim of this initiative is to support highly innovative, emerging scientists whose pioneering approaches have the potential to transform the field of stem cell research, and advance understanding and use of stem cells in the development of treatments for human disease. This grant award is eager to support scientists who have just started their independent laboratories, and strongly encourage applicants looking to secure their first major grant funding as an independent investigator. That being said, applicants will be evaluated first and foremost on scientific merit and the transformative potential of their research for the stem cell field.

This career development award provides up to **\$1.5 million** in flexible funding over 5 years. No institutional overhead is provided. This call is open for applications from researchers based at domestic and international accredited non-profit research and academic institutions.

Award Benefits: Successful applicants will join the NYSCF Innovators Community, a global group of over 200 outstanding early career scientists and postdoctoral fellows based at institutions around the world including NYSCF Research Institute scientists and engineers. Additionally, they will attend the annual NYSCF Conference as well as an annual scientific retreat, exclusive to the NYSCF – Robertson Investigators, NYSCF – Druckenmiller Fellows, and NYSCF Research Institute Scientists. The Award is for PhD holders.

Check for details: <https://nyscf.org/programs/extramural-grants/applicants/stem-cell-investigator-awards/>

Deadline for final submission: February 16, 2022

2. WELLCOME EARLY-CAREER AWARDS

This scheme provides funding for early-career researchers from any discipline who are ready to develop their research identity. Through innovative projects, they will deliver shifts in understanding that could improve human life, health and wellbeing. By the end of the award, they will be ready to lead their own independent research programme.

The research award is up to a total sum of £400,000 for research expenses for a period of five years. Check this link for details and eligibility criteria: <https://wellcome.org/grant-funding/schemes/early-career-awards>

Deadline for submission: 15 February 2022, 17:00 GMT

3. 2022 BABCOCK UNIVERSITY RESEARCH GRANT

Watch this space for details on the application coming Soon!!!

4. GRANTS FOR RESEARCH AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS (GRASP) INTERNATIONAL 2023

The call for application for the Loma Linda University (LLUH) GRASP award for 2023 is now open. The purpose of the grant is to; promote collaborative research and capacity building between LLUH faculty and professionals who have post-baccalaureate degrees and are employed by international SDA hospitals, medical centers, medical schools or universities and to encourage faculty to collaborate with international SDA researchers in the design of innovative, interdisciplinary research in pioneering research projects..

Grant Description:

- Maximum award per proposal: \$75,000
- Term of award: 24 months
- **Pre-application from external investigator February 28, 2022**
- Letter of Intent must be submitted no later than Monday, May 2, 2022
- Deadline for submission: Monday, September 19, 2022
- Earliest project start date: Tuesday, January 3, 2023

Research Theme for 2023: All applications must be a study related to Cancer.

Intent to Apply and Application Process: The investigator from an international SDA institution is responsible for initiating the process by sending a pre-application (i.e. one-page abstract, biosketch, and authorization from their institution) by February 28, 2022. The Office of Research Affairs (ORA) will determine the eligibility of the interested investigator. **If approved, an investigator from LLUH will be identified; and the two investigators, hereafter co-PIs, will be responsible for completing the whole process. Intent to submit an application must be done by completing the Letter of Intent form, including the signatures of the PI from LLUH and an e-consent from the collaborating PI, and submitting it to Research Alliances via email by May 2, 2022. An electronic record will be created by ORA into which the application will be loaded. All components of the application must be submitted electronically to the ORA by September 19, 2022. An e-copy of a fully executed institutional transmittal form, signed by the PI, department head, and deans of respective co-PIs, is required by the application deadline.

All submissions and enquiries must be sent to Wesley James, Research Alliance Specialist, wjames@llu.edu / researchalliances@llu.edu.

PLEASE Contact RIIC for more details about this call.

5. ANATOMY/NEUROSCIENCE INVESTIGATOR AWARDS

This call is for early career investigators for awards in neuroscience. The goal of this initiative is to foster innovative, emerging scientists whose pioneering approaches have the potential to transform the field of neuroscience. For the 2022 application cycle, applicants are invited to apply from all fields in neuroscience. NYSCF is committed to supporting a broad range of neuroscience research areas representative of the field, taking into account the immense progress and changes in the field in the last decade. To that end, NYSCF especially encourages applications from neuroscientists whose research areas may be under-supported by traditional funding mechanisms and/or underrepresented in the field as a whole. This career development award provides up to **\$1.5 million** in flexible funding over 5 years. Application will be accepted from researchers based at domestic and international accredited non-profit research and academic institutions.

Check for details: <https://nyscf.org/programs/extramural-grants/applicants/neuroscience-investigator-awards/>

Deadline for final submission: February 16, 2022

