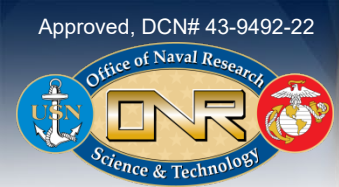# The Office of Naval Research – University-only Funding Opportunities

Dr. Joan S. Cleveland

Director, University Research Initiative
Office of Naval Research

URI: Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI)

- **MURI** supports teams of researchers investigating high priority topics and opportunities that intersect more than one traditional technical discipline. Must be Basic Research. One lead Investigator/performer and 4-5 co-investigators/performers.

- **Eligibility:** U.S. institutions of higher education (universities) with degree-granting programs in science and/or engineering, including DoD institutions of higher education.

- **Funding:** ONR typically supports a 3-year base award with a 2-year option; maximum budget request is $1.5M for each 12-month period over 5 years.

- Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) and Army Research Office (ARO) participate; Office of the Secretary of Defense oversees.

- **ADVICE: Contact Topic Chief directly to discuss your research ideas.**

- **Dates:** *Goal: publish Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) in Mar; white papers due May; proposals due Sep; announce awardees in Mar.; nominal grants start date 1 May of the following year.*
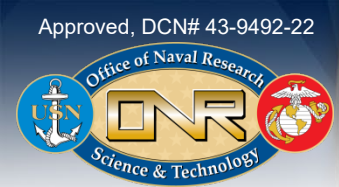
URI: Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative

- **Evaluation Criteria**
  - Scientific and technical merits of the proposed basic science and/or engineering research;
  - Potential for the research, if successful, to significantly advance fundamental understanding in the topic area;
  - Potential DoD relevance and contribution to the DoD mission;
  - Qualifications and availability of the Principal Investigator and other investigators;
  - Adequacy of current or planned facilities and equipment to accomplish the research objectives;
  - Impact of interactions with other organizations engaged in related research and development,
 - Realism and reasonableness of cost (cost sharing is not a factor in the evaluation)
- **Value to Navy**
  - Teamwork / communication
  - Topics thus results address difficult/innovative basic research questions.
  - Typically 100 plus peer reviewed publications over 5 years.
  - Typically 12 or more MS and PhD graduates including some now employed at Navy labs.

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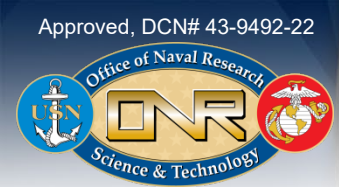
URI: Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP)

- **DURIP** supports university research instrumentation/equipment essential to high-quality navy-relevant research.

- **Eligibility:** Accredited U.S. institutions of higher education with degree granting programs in science, mathematics, and/or engineering except for-profit educational institutions.

- **Funding:** Between $50,000 and $1,500,000 for the purchase of major equipment or instrumentation; grants are for one year.

- Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) and Army Research Office (ARO) participate; Office of the Secretary of Defense oversees.

- **ADVICE: Review ONR Technical Areas; see list on ONR home page.**

- **Competitive:** ONR receives 350 proposals & has funds to support 50.

- **Dates:** *Goal: publish Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) in Feb; proposals due in May; announce awardees in Fall.*
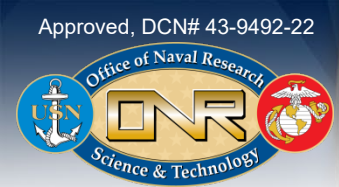
URI: Defense University Research Instrumentation Program

- **Evaluation Criteria**
  - The impact of the proposed equipment or instrumentation on research DoD funds, or plans to fund, and/or the likelihood that the proposed equipment or instrumentation will enhance current research capabilities or establish new research capabilities relevant to DoD areas of interest.
  - The importance and priority to DoD missions of the research to be supported by the proposed equipment or instrumentation.
  - The potential that the proposed equipment or instrumentation offers to enhance the institution's ability to educate future scientists and engineers through research conducted with the proposed equipment in disciplines important to DoD missions.

- **Value to Navy**
  - Instrumentation enhances capability to carry-out DoD-relevant research.
 - Instrumentation allows training of students and student research.
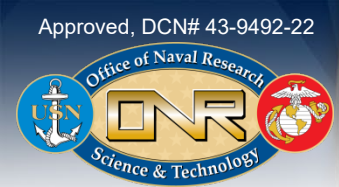
URI: Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE)

- **PECASE:** Recognizes scientists and engineers who, early in their research careers, show exceptional potential for leadership at the frontiers of scientific knowledge during the twenty-first century; foster innovative and far-reaching developments in science and technology, increase awareness of careers in science and engineering, give recognition to the scientific missions of participating agencies, enhance connections between fundamental research and national goals, and highlight the importance of science and technology for the nation's future.

- **Eligibility:** U.S. citizen, national or permanent resident. ONR selects PECASE nominees from recent YIP applicants. Must have received PhD with past 5 years.

- **Funding:** $200K per year for 5 years.

- **Dates:** *The schedule depends on the timing of White House request for nominees and scheduling of award ceremony.*
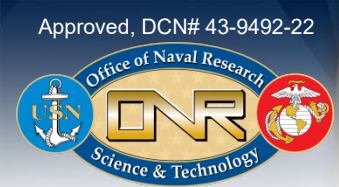
URI: Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers

- **PECASE awardees are nominated by ONR Program Officers; reviewed and down-selected by S&T Department Heads; reviewed and approved by OSD; reviewed and approved by the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).** There is no PECASE FOA. # of new nominees each year is determined by OSTP. 1 or 2 additional PECASE are awarded to Navy Labs or Warfare Centers.

- **Evaluation Criteria:**
  - PhD thesis title/year of completion
  - Description of past research
  - Significance/impact of past research
  - Significance/impact of proposed research for the DOD and the Nation
  - Accomplishments including honors, awards, publications, and papers presented
  - Describe the extent to which this researcher is influencing her/his field
  - Describe the role that this researcher participates in community service and outreach
  - Evidence of university commitment to the nominee and the proposed research (e.g., start-up funds, support for students, release from teaching responsibilities)
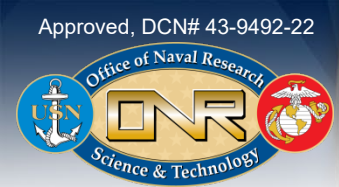
Defense Established Programs to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR)

- **Not URI but 6.1 to US Universities Only**

- **DEPSCoR:** OSD BRO program, managed by AFOSR, Congressional funds. AFOSR, ARO, ONR define topics and provide review; OSD reviews and approves.

- *The average annual amount of DoD S&E R&E in effect with IHE in the state for the previous three fiscal is less than the amount determined by multiplying 60 percent times the amount equal to 1/50 of the total average annual amount of all DoD obligations for S&E research and development that were in effect with IHE in the United States for such three preceding or last fiscal years, as the case may be.*

- With the goal of bringing new researchers into understanding of DoD research interests and opportunities and perhaps future proposals
  - Lead PI will be a researcher that has not received DoD funding before.
  - Mentor co-PI will have had previous DoD funding.
  - Both must be in DESPCoR states but not required to be same institution or same state.

- **Topic selection for FOA:** Each service provides 4-5 programs to feature each FY in the FOA. White papers are required.

Vannevar Bush Faculty Fellowship Program (VBFF)

- **VBFF:** Provides extensive, long-term financial support to university faculty, staff scientists, and engineers to conduct bold and ambitious "blue sky" basic research on topics of interest to DOD.

- Tenured faculty and full time research staff at Ph.D.-granting educational institutions are eligible.

- Single-investigator research grants, although collaboration is encouraged.

- Up to $3M in total costs over 5 year grants.

- Intended to foster long-term relationships between STEM faculty members, their students, and DOD organizations.

- Technical subject categories of interest to the DoD are specified in each year's announcement.

- Sponsored by the OSD BRO and managed by the Office of Naval Research; Dr. Reginald Williams is the current Program Officer.

- A new FOA is published each year on grants.gov. The timing is generally in early summer but may vary.

ONR Young Investigator Program (YIP)

- **Not URI but 6.1 to US Universities Only**
- **ONR YIP:** Support the best and brightest early-career academic researchers whose scientific pursuits show outstanding promise for supporting the DON, while also promoting professional development.
- **Eligibility**: PhD received after 1 Jan, 7 years ago (subject to change).
- **Dates**: *Goal is to publish FOA in Apr; proposals due in Jul.*

Successful Candidates

- Contact ONR Program Officer before submitting proposal.
  - PO comment in the review: "if only the researcher would have contacted me first – this could have been developed into a great proposal!!"
- Become familiar with Navy terminology & where your technology fits by reviewing the ONR website, attending national conferences, asking questions.
- Show a record of publishing in peer-reviewed journals.
- Include a strong letter of support from University and/or Department leadership (required for Young Investigator Program).
- Include a complete curriculum vitae with white paper and/or proposal package.
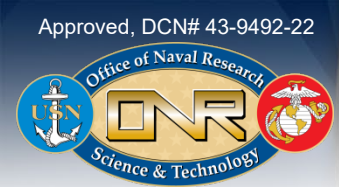
ONR Internships/Faculty Programs

Not URI but 6.1 to US Universities Only

Naval Research Enterprise Internship Program (NREIP)

- 10-week paid undergraduate & graduate research internship opportunity at a naval laboratory or warfare center.

- Interns gain real-world, hands-on experience & research skills while being introduced to Navy & Marine Corps science & technology environment.

Science and Engineering Apprenticeship Program (SEAP)

- 8-week paid high school apprenticeship opportunity at a naval laboratory or warfare center.

- **Summer Faculty Research Program**

- 10-week paid program providing faculty members from academic institutions an opportunity to participate in research of mutual interest to faculty member and peers at a naval laboratory or warfare center.

- Participants have an opportunity to establish continuing research relationships with the R&D personnel of the host laboratories.

http://www.onr.navy.mil

Thank you!

New email address as of 10 Feb 2022

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