RESEARCH + INNOVATION

NEWSLETTER

FedEx

FRED SMITH, FOUNDER
1944 - 2025

Fred Smith's Enduring Legacy of Driving Innovation at the University of Memphis

A true giant of innovation, Smith's visionary leadership and commitment helped position Memphis as a national leader in technology.

Read Full Story

New NSF Requirement: Annual Certification on Foreign Talent Programs

All PIs and Co-PIs must certify they are not affiliated with Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs (MFTRPs) beginning June 7.

Read Full Story

A Color-Changing Sensor to Detect Infections Early — Right from the Wound Site

UofM researchers create a simple, smart solution to monitor infections faster and more safely.
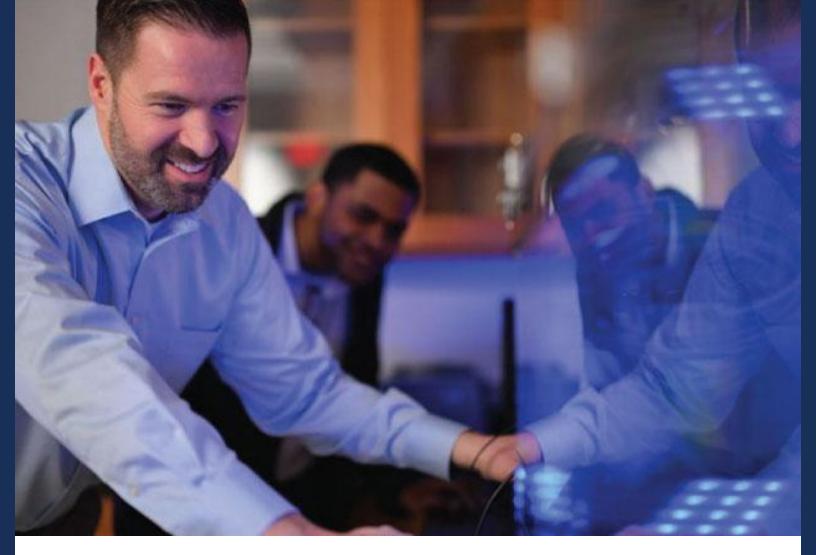
Read Full Story

UofM's School of Public Health Awarded NIH Grant for AI in Public Health

SPH awarded funding for first-of-its-kind AI-powered public health initiative.

Read Full Story

Leading the Charge: UofM Explores the Future of AI in Research Development

Research Development led Atom Grants' most popular webinar on AI's role in shaping tomorrow's research strategies.

Read Full Story

Research in a Minute: Broadening the Impact of Ultrasound Technology

Dr. Carl Herickhoff leads research to expand ultrasound benefits to include improving access and reducing costs.

Read Full Story

Purpose in Action Highlighted in INTEGRIT-E Delta Regional Conference

Conference brings initiative, working ideas to unite rural and urban leaders in Memphis and the greater region.

Read Full Story

Turning Ideas Into Impact: UofM Faculty Awarded TTAC Grants

TTTAC grants FY 26 expansion announced — faculty encouraged to submit proposals to advance innovation and commercialization.

Read Full Story

NEA, NEH, NIH and Russell Sage Foundation

Learn more about recent funding opportunities from the National Science Foundation.

See Full List

Calendar of Events:
July 2025

Learn more about research, UMRF Research Park and FedEx Institute of Technology events.

See Full List

Research Awards June 2025

Dr. Matthew Smeltzer awarded $800,226 from the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer.

Dr. Jeremy Whittaker awarded $648,000 from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Dr. Marian Levy awarded $300,000 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Dr. Ali Fatemi awarded $177,893 from the U.S. Department of Defense.

Dr. Christos Papadopoulos awarded $128,925 from National Science Foundation.

Dr. Sabya Mishra awarded $110,321 from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Dr. Mark Gillenson awarded $66,250 from Department of Homeland Security.

Dr. Samuel Mensah awarded $60,000 from American Physical Society.

Dr. Thomas Goebel awarded $50,000 from U.S. Army Research Office.

Dr. Maryam Karimi awarded $48,846 from the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. D Kimbrough Oller awarded $38,960 from the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Alex Headley awarded $34,437 from the U.S. Department of Energy.

Dr. Daniel Collier awarded $30,000 from the Shared Ascent.

Dr. Jennifer Mandel awarded $18,333 from the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Meghan McDevitt-Murphy awarded $15,218 from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Mary Schallert awarded $15,000 from the American Athletics Conference.

* Data reported on the 18 of each month. Awards finalized after the 18 will be reported the following month.

Full project and award details available here.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

FedEx Institute of Technology Partners with CodeCrew
to Bring XI Annual Hackathon

This unique three-day event provides an opportunity for youth to show off their mobile app development skills and work on a real-world project to benefit our community.

Schedule:

- **Day 1**: Kick-Off Thursday, July 17 | 9 AM-5 PM
- **Day 2**: Friday, July 18 | 9 AM-5 PM
- **Day 3**: Saturday, July 19 | 9 AM-4 PM

CodeCrew, in partnership with the FedEx Institute of Technology, opens this event to all current and former CodeCrew participants and any other interested students in grades 5th-12th (2024-25 school year). Students will be placed into teams and challenged to use computer science skills to solve a local community issue. Hackathon participants will work all day Friday and will return on Saturday to complete their apps. They will be supported by staff and volunteers from the Memphis tech community.

On Saturday, participants will make presentations to a distinguished panel of judges and guests. Teams will compete for third, second and first-place prizes! In addition, winners will have an opportunity to gain guidance and support to submit their creations to the Congressional App Challenge.

Thursday-Saturday, July 17-19 | 9AM-5 PM
FedEx Institute of Technology | The Zone, Lobby, MPT, Fishbowl (203/205), Innovation Classroom (225), VCC (313), DLR (315)

REGISTER XI ANNUAL HACKATHON

FedEx Institute of Technology Hosts
AI Conference
AI + Cybersecurity 2025:
Where Intelligence Meets Infrastructure

The future is now — and it's accelerating. Join us for AI + Cybersecurity 2025, a high-impact, one-day event where the region's brightest minds and national thought leaders converge to explore how artificial intelligence is

transforming the frontlines of cyber defense.

This isn't just a conference — it's a movement. Designed for enterprise innovators, government experts, AI architects, cybersecurity pioneers and academic leaders, AI + Cybersecurity 2025 dives deep into the real-world impact of AI. From national defense to corporate infrastructure, we're tackling the most pressing questions: What's working? What's next? And who's leading the charge?

Featured Keynotes:

- **Dr. David Bray, CEO/Principal at LeadDoAdapt Ventures, Inc**.
  "AI, Leadership and National Transformations"

- **Dr. Seth Dobrin, CEO of QANTM AI**
  "AI, Cybersecurity and Trust"

Get ready for bold ideas, unfiltered insights and practical strategies for scaling and securing AI-powered systems — at speed and at scale.

Why You Should Attend:

- Discover how AI is reshaping cybersecurity from the inside out
- Learn from global experts driving the AI conversation forward
- Build your network with a high-signal community of innovators
- Leave with actionable ideas you can implement now

AI isn't coming. It's here. And it's rewriting the rules. This is your opportunity to lead — not lag — in an AI-driven world.

Register early — space is limited. Interested in becoming a sponsor, review the sponsor packet and contact us today.

Thursday, August 14 | All Day
FedEx Institute of Technology | The Zone, MPT (103), Lobby, Fishbowl (203/205), Innovation Classroom (225), VCC (313), DLR (315)

REGISTER

Research Study
Participation Opportunities

Research study participation opportunities should be posted to the main college/departmental website versus individual/PI links to appear in This Week.

- Center for Information Assurance >
- Cognition, Language and Speech Lab (CLaSLab) >
- College of Health Sciences >
- Department of Psychology >
- Hearing Aid Research Laboratory >
- Pediatric Auditory Research Laboratory >

If your department or college would like to have its research study participation opportunities listed, email thisweek@memphis.edu.

CONTACT THIS WEEK

Quick Links

Research & Innovation News

Research Compliance | Emerging Tech Training

FedEx Institute of Technology

Subscribe Now

Previous Newsletters