



A Tennessee Flagship Carnegie R1 Research Institution

RESEARCH + INNOVATION

NEWSLETTER



UofM – LifeDoc Health Partner to Advance Community Healthcare

Partnership will support healthcare services for all under a community-engaged model across Memphis and the Delta region.

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FedEx Institute of Technology to Host AI + Cybersecurity Conference

FIT's 901 AI will welcome both academic and industry experts to explore how AI is transforming the landscape of cybersecurity.

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Advancing Ethical Research: Dr. Arleen Hill Appointed Chair of the IRB

New leadership on the Institutional Review Board builds on a decade of ethical research excellence at the University of Memphis.

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Exploring the Past to Confront Today's Environmental Challenges

Special issue co-edited by UofM's Dr. Amanda Gaggioli highlights the role of archaeology in addressing global crises.

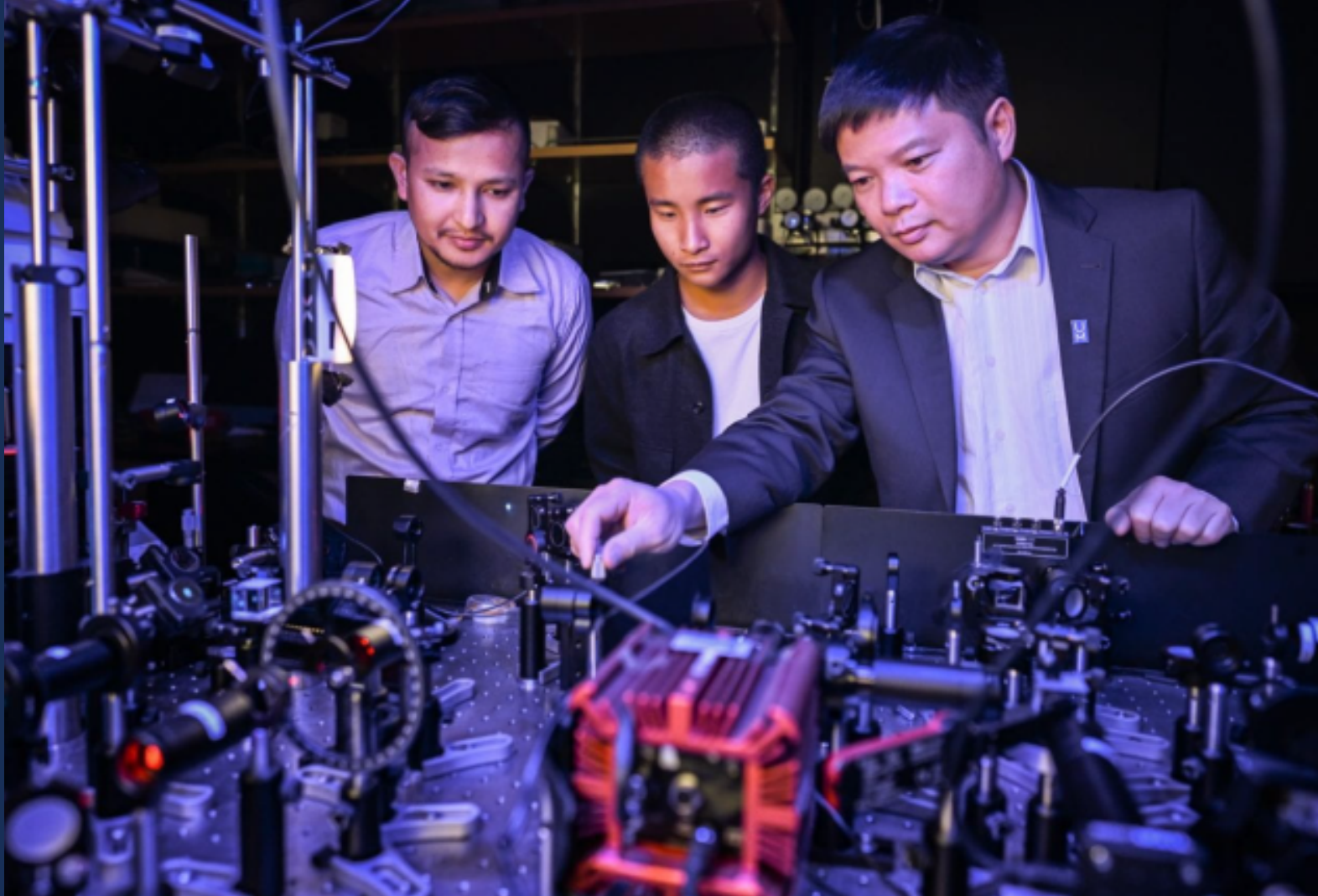
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LCON and Baptist Partner to Advance Nursing Education and Retention

UofM nursing faculty receive grant to strengthen preceptor training through innovative simulation partnership.

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Research in a Minute: The Impact of Developing and Exploring Nanomaterials

Dr. Thang Hoang leads research illuminating the invisible; using light to study new materials to detect disease in earlier stages.

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Drive the Future: Enroll in the MOVE Electric Vehicle Certification Program

The FedEx Institute of Technology partners with C-TIER and Upskill Mid-South on second cohort on EV and smart mobility training.

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Stepping Down: A Legacy of Responsible Stewardship in Research

After 11 years, Dr. James Whelan has officially stepped away as chair from the UofM Institutional Review Board.

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DHHS, NIH, NSF and HRSA Funding Opportunities

Learn more about recently published funding opportunities and notices from various organizations.

[See Full List](#)



Calendar of Events: August 2025

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

[See Full List](#)

Research Awards July 2025

Dr. Xiaolei Huang awarded \$500,000 from the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Shawn Pollard awarded \$326,110 from the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Jani Johnson awarded \$175,744 from the Samsung Research America, Inc.

Dr. Mitch Withers awarded \$168,720 from the U.S. Geological Survey.

Dr. Emily Puckett awarded \$87,000 from the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Shahram Pezeshk awarded \$85,189 from U.S. Geological Survey.

Dr. Richard Bloomer awarded \$6,981 from Holistic Health Holdings LLC.

Dr. Jessica Jennings awarded \$3,003 from Bionova Medical Inc.

** 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's 901 AI Hosting: 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. Lunch not guaranteed for those registered after Aug. 8. Interested in becoming a sponsor, [review the sponsor packet](#) and [contact us](#) today.

Thursday, Aug. 14 | 8 AM-5 PM

Reception and Open House to Follow

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

REGISTER



Gerontology/Positive Aging Research Initiative

To inform the community about current aging research initiatives in Memphis, gather feedback and discuss how research can better address the needs of older adults — while supporting the development of age-friendly communities in Memphis, Shelby County, the Delta Region and beyond.

Background: As populations around the world age, we are presented with a powerful opportunity to reshape how we experience and think about growing older — one that embraces the diversity, value and contributions of older adults in society.

In Memphis and across the greater Delta region, the number of residents aged 65 and older has steadily increased, even as the overall population declines. This demographic shift — driven by out-migration of younger populations, lower birth rates, and increased life expectancy — highlights an urgent need to invest in research, policies and services that support positive aging.

Key components of healthy aging initiatives span a broad range of focus areas: equitable access to healthcare, financial stability, affordable and accessible housing, reliable transportation, social inclusion and age-friendly environments. Together, these elements support not only improved quality of life for older adults, but also help combat ageism and promote dignity in aging.

Meeting these challenges requires interdisciplinary collaboration — both within academia and across sectors — grounded in a forward-thinking and inclusive vision of aging as a vital and dynamic stage of life.

Research Lead: Dr. Kallol Bhattacharyya, assistant professor in the Division of Health Systems Management and Policy and a Health Economist in the Center for Public Health Informatics, Data, Equity, Analytics and Systems at the University of Memphis School of Public Health.

Town Hall Topics for Discussion:

- Overview of key areas of research: understanding the biology of aging, investigating the impact of age-related diseases (e.g., Alzheimer's and dementia), promoting healthy lifestyle choices, developing interventions, addressing socioeconomic factors and social determinants of health, translating research into practice.
- Discussing interdisciplinary opportunities: public health, developmental psychology, clinical psychology, mental health, health sciences, neuropsychological rehabilitation, medicine, nursing, sociology, anthropology, social policy, social work and economics in advancing aging research and enhancing community partnerships.
- Current gerontology funding opportunities and initiatives spanning local, state, national and international domains.
- Stakeholder mapping, resources, partnerships and strategic planning that will support the University of Memphis in becoming a leader in age-friendly research.

Thursday, Aug. 21 | 1-2 PM
Hybrid (via Teams), or In-Person
FedEx Institute of Technology | MPT (103)

[JOIN ONLINE VIA TEAMS](#)



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.

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