RESEARCH +
INNOVATION
NEWSLETTER
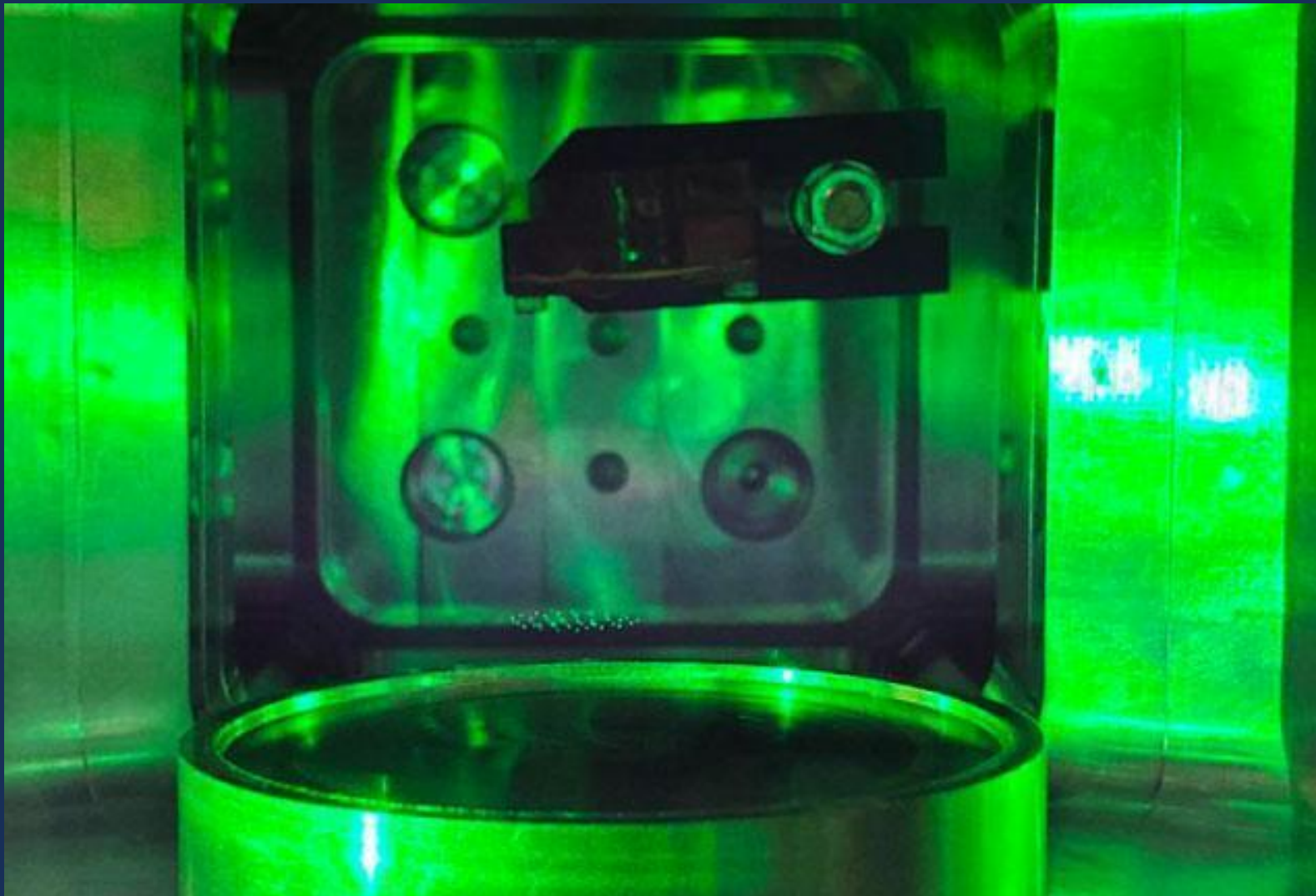
UofM Launches P3ARL Technologies to Advance Ultrasonic Powder Dispersion Technology

P3ARL is advancing a patented ultrasonic aerosol system for drug delivery and industrial innovation; bringing it to market with applications in healthcare and beyond.
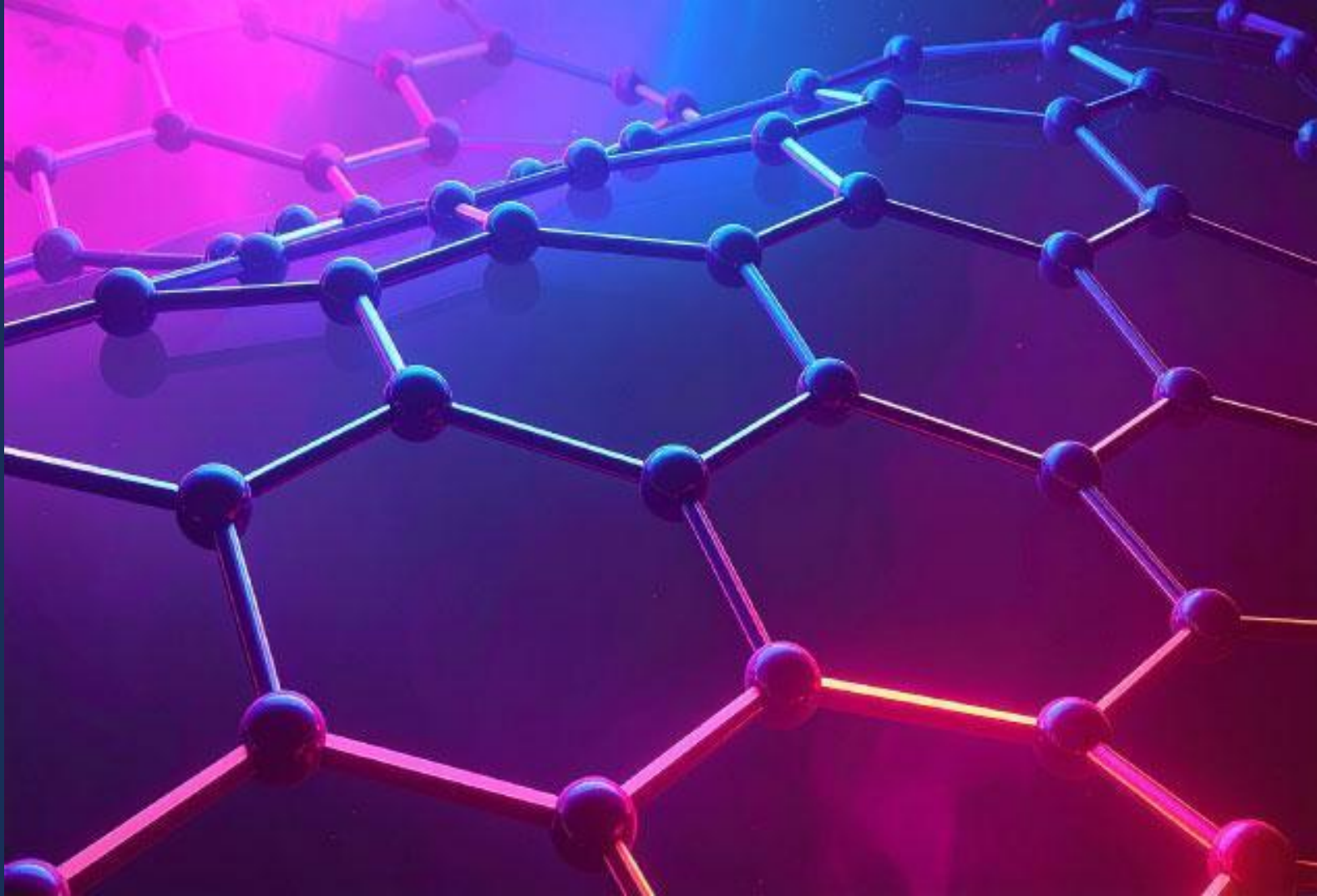
Read Full Story

Dr. Xiaolei Huang Receives Prestigious NSF CAREER Award and Awarded a UMRF Professorship

Huang's research is advancing trustworthy AI in healthcare while shaping the next generation of researchers.

Read Full Story

UofM Researchers Awarded NSF Grant for Energy Storage Innovation

Drs. Pollard and Mishra's project aims to advance supercapacitor technology and train the next generation of energy scientists.

Read Full Story

UofM Announces New AI Research Center at AI + Cybersecurity Conference

FedEx Institute of Technology launches CERTAIN, an AI research center, to drive AI discovery and impact.

Read Full Story

Psychology Faculty Honored for Career Contributions and Research Excellence

Faculty members are celebrated for advancing education in addiction and leading global research in behavioral economics.

Read Full Story

University Launches Gerontology and Positive Aging Research Initiative

The Division of Research & Innovation announces new research that will focus on aging research in the region.

Read Full Story

Agencies Release New Guidance to Safeguard U.S. Research from Foreign Threats

A new federal bulletin outlines steps for protecting research while preserving international collaboration.

Read Full Story

Fueling Innovation: OTT Development Grants for Commercialization Opens Applications

The Office of Technology Transfer now taking applications for 2025-26 development grants. Deadline to apply: Sept. 30.

Read Full Story

Developing a Ground Motion Model for the Coastal Plain Region

Developing the first Coastal Plain ground motion model to enhance hazard maps, building codes and earthquake readiness.

Read Full Story

DRIVE Advances as a Finalist for UEDA Awards of Excellence

National recognition highlights DRIVE's role in community-driven economic growth and fostering resilience.

Read Full Story

ARPA-E, FDA, NIH, NSF, USDA and Foundation Opportunities

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

See Full List

Calendar of Events: September 2025

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

See Full List

Research Awards August 2025

Dr. Susan Neely-Barnes awarded $600,000 from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Dr. Meghan McDevitt-Murphy awarded $439,383 from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Dr. Duane McKenna awarded $268,783 from the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Thomas Sutter awarded $244,983 from the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Naomi Eichorn awarded $180,738 from the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Susan Elswick awarded $150,000 from The Urban Child Institute.

Dr. Richard Bloomer awarded $110,000 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Elena Delavega awarded $108,042 from the Church Health Center of Memphis.

Keith Humphrey awarded $81,000 from U.S. Department of Justice.

Amaia Iratzoqui-Greenfield awarded $76,089 from ALCO Management Inc.

Thouraya Al-Nasser awarded $75,000 from The Urban Child Institute.

Dr. Vasile Rus awarded $72,457 from U.S. Department of Defense.

Dr. M. David Rudd awarded $58,716 from the U.S. Department of Defense.

Dr. Philip Pavlik awarded $57,725 from National Science Foundation.

Dr. Gregory Washington awarded $50,000 from the Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis.

Dr. Leah Windsor awarded $49,964 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Jamie Brunsdon awarded $49,814 from Lilly Endowment.

Dr. Stephanie Ivey awarded $43,000 from the Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis and $35,000 from Battelle.

Dr. Mathhew Smeltzer awarded $35,000 from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Dr. Stephen Diko awarded $31,683 from Memphis Medical District Collaborative.

Dr. John Jeffries awarded $18,753 from the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Xiao Shen awarded $10,770 from Vanderbilt University.

* 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

Research Computing Symposium 2025
to Showcase UofM Resources

Attendees will be introduced to state-of-the-art resources, including powerful computational tools designed to accelerate research

Research Computing is hosting a full-day event to highlight the expanding availability and use of computational resources on campus. Research Computing enhances research at the University of Memphis by increasing scaling and throughput for computing research and education goals. They provide infrastructure, support, storage, and education to increase ongoing research. Additionally, they help anticipate future needs and enable stability and security for their resources. Research Computing's largest area of support is for the campus wide high-performance computing (HPC) cluster, but we also support other advanced computing resources used for research. The unit is designed to work with researchers to collaborate and develop solutions and ideas to improve research efficiency, allowing researchers to focus on the Science instead of underlying computational resources.

The Symposium is an opportunity for faculty to show some of their work to engage students, and it is a chance for students to speak in front of an audience and hone their presentation skills. There are currently over 450 accounts utilizing the HPC resource. These accounts represent researchers from Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Geology, Seismology, Finance, Psychology and Engineering. The symposium will highlight projects across campus giving insights into what people are researching. The following faculty members and departments will be presenting on their work at the symposium:

- Reza Nouri (Foti Lab), mechanical engineering
- Jonathan Epih (Cheng Lab), chemistry
- Jordan Darling (Laradji Lab), physics
- McKenna Lab, biology
- Pankaj Jain, finance
- Ranganathan Gopalakrishnan, mechanical engineering
- Amirmehdi Mirshahvalad, finance
- Muhammed Dada, chemistry
- Christos Kyriakopoulos, Center for Earthquake Research and Information (CERI)
- Kuruvitage Chameera Chathuranga Silva, Center for Earthquake Research and Information (CERI)

- Benjamin Keller, physics and materials science

This event allows Research Computing a chance to mature as an organizational resource. The Symposium is the first time such an event has been organized by Research Computing, with plans to grow the symposium to engage community outside the university including other academic institutions as well as other research institutions and businesses.

Full agenda for the event »

If you are interested in research computing resources or want to learn more, contact research computing at hpcadmins@memphis.edu.

Thursday, Sep. 4 | 8:30 AM-4:30 PM
UC River Room

REGISTER

FedEx Institute of Technology's
Technology Serving Humanity Speaker Series

**Applied AI: From Industry Practice
to Business School Partnerships**

Dr. Rohit Aggarwal
David Eccles Emerging Scholar in Operations and Information Systems, David Eccles School of Business
University of Utah

This talk, "Applied AI: From Industry Practice to Business School Partnerships," explores the latest developments in artificial intelligence while addressing the growing skills gap in the field. Dr. Aggarwal will examine the challenges of integrating AI into existing workflows and highlight how businesses can adapt to these changes. Additionally, the session will showcase new opportunities for collaboration between academia and industry, with a focus on the role business schools can play in preparing future leaders for an AI-driven economy.

His research explores how AI and human expertise can complement each other to enhance decision-making, skill development and organizational productivity. He also studies how human insights can make AI systems more transparent and adaptable, with applications ranging from recruitment to generative AI. His work has been published in leading journals, and he actively mentors doctoral students while contributing to initiatives that connect AI research with real-world practice.

Friday, September 12 | 10:30 AM-Noon
FedEx Institute of Technology | Innovation Classroom (225)

REGISTER

Research Development Community Networking Event

Join us for a coffee meet-up with the Research Development community. Connect with fellow researchers, faculty and staff to exchange ideas and hear about upcoming initiatives and resources to support research at the University of Memphis.

Thursday, September 18 | 10 AM-Noon
FedEx Institute of Technology | Fishbowl (203/205)

FedEx Institute of Technology's
Technology Serving Humanity Speaker Series

The Praxis of Environmental Justice: Working Ethically with University Students and Community Partners

Dr. McKay Jenkins
Tilghman Professor of English & Director of Journalism
University of Delaware

In this talk, Dr. Jenkins will discuss his Environmental Justice Internship Program and its role it plays within the Environmental Humanities at his home institution and in support of his community reforestation and food projects in the city of Baltimore.

Thursday, September 25 | 3-4:30 PM
FedEx Institute of Technology | Methodist Presentation Theatre (103)

REGISTER

Research Development Town Hall Meeting

The Research Development Town Hall is a periodic meeting with faculty to discuss research development priorities, create a forum for sharing ideas and promote interdisciplinary engagement among faculty. The agenda will be announced one week prior to the meeting.

Thursday, September 25 | 3:30-4:30 PM
FedEx Institute of Technology | Fishbowl (203/205)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

FedEx Institute of Technology's
901 AI Speaker Series

AI Tennessee: From Vision to Impact

Dr. Vasileios Maroulas
Associate Vice Chancellor, Director of AI Tennessee
University of Tennessee Knoxville

AI Tennessee is a statewide initiative to position Tennessee as a leader in the global data economy through research, education and workforce development. By connecting universities, industry and communities, the initiative fosters innovation across several sectors, including manufacturing, health, agriculture and transportation. This talk will highlight how Tennessee's assets, partnerships and talent pipelines can accelerate AI adoption, address societal challenges and ensure shared economic growth in an AI-powered future.

An expert in AI, computational statistics and topological data analysis, he leads interdisciplinary research, workforce development and innovation, with work spanning medicine, defense and quantum-ready machine learning.

Thursday, October 2 | 3-4:30 PM
FedEx Institute of Technology | Fishbowl (203/205)

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