



A Tennessee Flagship Carnegie R1 Research Institution

RESEARCH + **INNOVATION**

NEWSLETTER



Exploring the World Through Science: Mira Umarova's Research Journey

From studying ants in the field to advancing neurobiology, UofM undergraduate researcher finds her path in discovery.

[Read Full Story](#)



[Powering Progress in Tennessee Through Research at the University of Memphis](#)

UofM economic impact study reveals its research returns more than \$2 for every \$1 invested, fueling statewide innovation and prosperity.

[Read Full Story](#)



ACRE Colloquium 2025: Research at the Intersection of Agriculture, Conservation and Technology

From AI models to invasive species and biodiversity, UofM faculty and students showcase innovative solutions in agriculture and conservation.

[Read Full Story](#)



Communities of Research Scholars Program Opens 2025-26 Call for Proposals

Expanded two-year format, new pilot study category and more networking opportunities strengthen UofM's flagship interdisciplinary research program.

[Read Full Story](#)



Research Computing Symposium Showcased UofM Innovation

First-ever event highlighted high-performance computing resources and cross-campus research collaborations.

[Read Full Story](#)



Best Practices for Engaging Foundations in Research Funding

Lunch and Learn with the Division of Research and Innovation for faculty to focus on additional, often underutilized sources.

[Read Full Story](#)



CDC, DoD, Gladys Brooks Foundation, Humana Foundation, NIH and NSF

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

[See Full List](#)



Calendar of Events: October 2025

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

[See Full List](#)

Research Awards September 2025

Dr. Debra Burns awarded \$473,385 from the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Cody Behles awarded \$98,941 from Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Philip Kohlmeier awarded \$43,750 from the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Fawaz Mzayek awarded \$29,115 from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Dr. Yu Jiang awarded \$25,772 from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Dr. Jamie Brunsdon awarded \$25,000 from the Spectrum Institute.

Dr. Wendy Torres awarded \$12,071 from Fors Marsh Group, LLC.

Dr. Mary Tucker awarded \$2,230 from the Tennessee Department of Education.

Dr. Robert Kelz awarded \$1,283 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



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

REGISTER



New Faculty Lunch: Deep Dive on the Division of Research & Innovation

Join us for the New Faculty Lunch where we will take a "deep dive" into the functions and resources provided by the Division of Research & Innovation. This session is designed to connect new faculty with key personnel and provide essential information to support your research endeavors at the University of Memphis.

Agenda:

- NOON - Lunch
- 12:15 PM - Welcome and Division Overview
- 12:40 PM - Research Development
- 1 PM - Research Enterprise Services
- 1:30 PM - Research Compliance
- 1:40 PM - Tech Transfer/FIT
- 1:50 PM - Questions and Discussion
- 2 PM - Conclude

No registration required; emails will be sent to new faculty.

If you have additional questions, contact Research Development at researchdev@memphis.edu.

Friday, Oct. 3 | Noon-2 PM
FedEx Institute of Technology | Fishbowl (203/205)



MEMSEC - DEFCON901 Memphis InfoSec Social #24

Let's Dive into Cryptography

Join us for the Memphis InfoSec Social for an exciting dive into cryptography! This session will trace the evolution of secrecy from ancient art to cutting-edge science, covering Caesar's ciphers, the Enigma machine and the looming quantum revolution. Whether you're here to learn, experiment, or simply socialize, bring your curiosity and a taste for challenge.

What to Expect:

- Cipher Breaking: We'll break Pigpen ciphers and craft our own codes.
- Forensics: Dissect the tools used by governments, hackers, and criminals worldwide.
- Networking: Connect with fellow security enthusiasts.
- Food: Enjoy Garibaldi's pizza!

As always, MEMSEC is very new-person friendly. This meetup is FREE and open to the public. Networking begins at 5:30 p.m. Sponsored by the FedEx Institute of Technology.

Friday, Oct. 3 | 5:30-7 PM
FedEx Institute of Technology | Innovation Classroom (225)

REGISTER



FedEx Institute of Technology's
901 AI Speaker Series

**AI-Based Research Tools in Academia:
Promise, Pitfalls and the Path Forward**

Tomer du Sautoy

Co-Founder & CEO
Atom Grants

This talk explores the evolving role of AI in research, with a focus on the rise of generative AI tools. du Sautoy will discuss how platforms like Atom are helping researchers find funding and accelerate discovery, while also addressing ethical concerns, risks of misinformation and the changing expectations around authorship and originality.

Attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of the benefits and limitations of integrating AI into the research process.

Thursday, Oct. 16 | 3-4:30 PM

FedEx Institute of Technology | Methodist Presentation Theatre (103)

[REGISTER](#)



Research Development “Speed Networking” Event

Building interdisciplinary teams requires connecting with researchers from other disciplines. Join us for a fun and informal conversation with faculty from across campus, discover potential collaborators and learn more about the exciting research happening at the university.

Friday, Oct. 17 | 12:30-2:30 PM

Maxine A. Smith University Center | Beale Room (363)

[REGISTER](#)



FedEx Institute of Technology's
Technology Serving Humanity Speaker Series

**Biocultural Diversity, Ritual Landscapes
and Citizen Science at Ireland's Holy Wells**

Dr. Celeste Ray
Professor and Chair, Anthropology and
Director of the Environment Arts & Humanities Program
The University of the South Sewanee

Around the globe, springs, ponds and lakes have attracted veneration from prehistory to the present. In Ireland, sacred watery sites known as holy wells are nodes of biocultural diversity where culture and biology are interrelated and even co-evolved; that is, where particular ecosystems influence spiritual beliefs and practices and these traditions help protect and maintain ecosystems, habitats and also particular flora and fauna employed for curative purposes. This talk examines the sacred topographies of holy wells, biomedical applications of "well cures," and the value of ethnography and citizen science in monitoring environmental change.

Thursday, Oct. 23 | 3-4:30 PM

FedEx Institute of Technology | Methodist Presentation Theatre (103)

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

[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

365 Innovation Drive, Suite 303 | Memphis, TN 38152 US

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

