



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS®

RESEARCH + **INNOVATION**

NEWSLETTER



UofM Leads Four Mid-South Universities in Launching AI Research Consortium

The University of Memphis joins the University of Arkansas, the University of Mississippi, and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in signing an MOU to establish a strategic collaboration on AI research and innovation.

[Read Full Story](#)



Advancing Public Health Collaboration: UofM and the University of Porto

The School of Public Health and the Institute of Public Health at the University of Porto have established a Memorandum of Understanding to advance public health initiatives through collaboration in academics, research and programming.

[Read Full Story](#)



The University of Memphis Poised to Advance AI Education in Tennessee

UofM President Dr. Bill Hardgrave presented at the inaugural AI Tennessee Summit in Nashville at the historic Country Music Hall of Fame. His presentation, "Tennessee's AI University: Advancing the Frontier of AI in Tennessee for Over 30 Years," delved into the University's history leading AI through education past, present and future.

[Read Full Story](#)



Timber Talks Symposium Broadens Understanding of Mass Timber

The UofM Institute for Agricultural and Conservation Research and Education (ACRE) and the Division of Research and Innovation, in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, hosted a two-day event focused on the current state of Tennessee's forestry and lumber industry — one of the state's key economic drivers.

[Read Full Story](#)



C-TIER Awarded Federal Grant to Enhance Tennessee Traffic Safety Data Systems

New project will improve crash data quality and leverage AI to strengthen statewide roadway safety efforts.

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UofM Faculty Nazari Earns ASCE Best Research Paper Award for Breakthrough in Flood Forecasting

Award-winning research advances long-term prediction capabilities to strengthen global flood preparedness.

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Building Research Skills and Workforce Readiness Through Vertically Integrated Projects Program

NSF-supported initiative demonstrates impact of multi-year, faculty-led research experiences on student development and success.

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The Pivot Project Offers Survey on Awareness of Data Stored in Vehicle Infotainment Systems

Help inform research on data privacy risks and protections in modern vehicles by participating in this survey.

[Read Full Story](#)



Anthropic, Army Material Command, ARPA-E, Cures Within Reach, NIST, DOJ, EPA, HRSA, NSF and USDA.

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

[See Full List](#)



Calendar of Events and Activities for Research and Innovation: May

Learn about upcoming events with Research and Innovation, the UMRF Research Park and the FedEx Institute of Technology.

[See Full List](#)

Research Awards April

Melvyn Harding received \$1,430,545 and \$1,352,820, both from the U.S. Department of Education.

Dr. Mitchell Withers awarded \$895,135 from the U.S. Geological Survey.

Dr. Sabyasachee Misha awarded \$599,978 from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security.

Dr. M. David Rudd awarded \$513,967 from the U.S. Department of Defense.

Dr. Yufeng Zhang received \$295,243 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Dr. Brian Waldron awarded \$197,911 from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

Dr. Latrice Pichon awarded \$140,577 from the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Kristoffer Berlin awarded \$135,013 from the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Vasile Rus awarded \$125,000 from the U.S. Department of Defense.

Dr. Carl Herickhoff awarded \$97,795 from the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Thomas Goebel awarded \$95,139 from the National Science Foundation.

Mary Tucker awarded \$74,600 and \$4,000 from the Tennessee Department of Education; and two additional awards of \$2,500 each from the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Dr. Mark Gillenson awarded \$61,250 from the Department of Homeland Security.

Dr. Jeffrey Marchetta awarded \$50,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy for his project “TN 3-Star Industrial Assessment Center.”

Dr. Jani Johnson awarded \$44,848 from Samsung Research America, Inc.

Dr. Selina Makana awarded \$35,000 by the New York Public Library Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Dr. Grace Phillips awarded \$29,635 by Arnold Ventures.

Dr. Kibaek Kim awarded \$15,000 by the American Athletics Conference.

Dr. Joah Williams awarded \$15,000 by the National Institute of Justice.

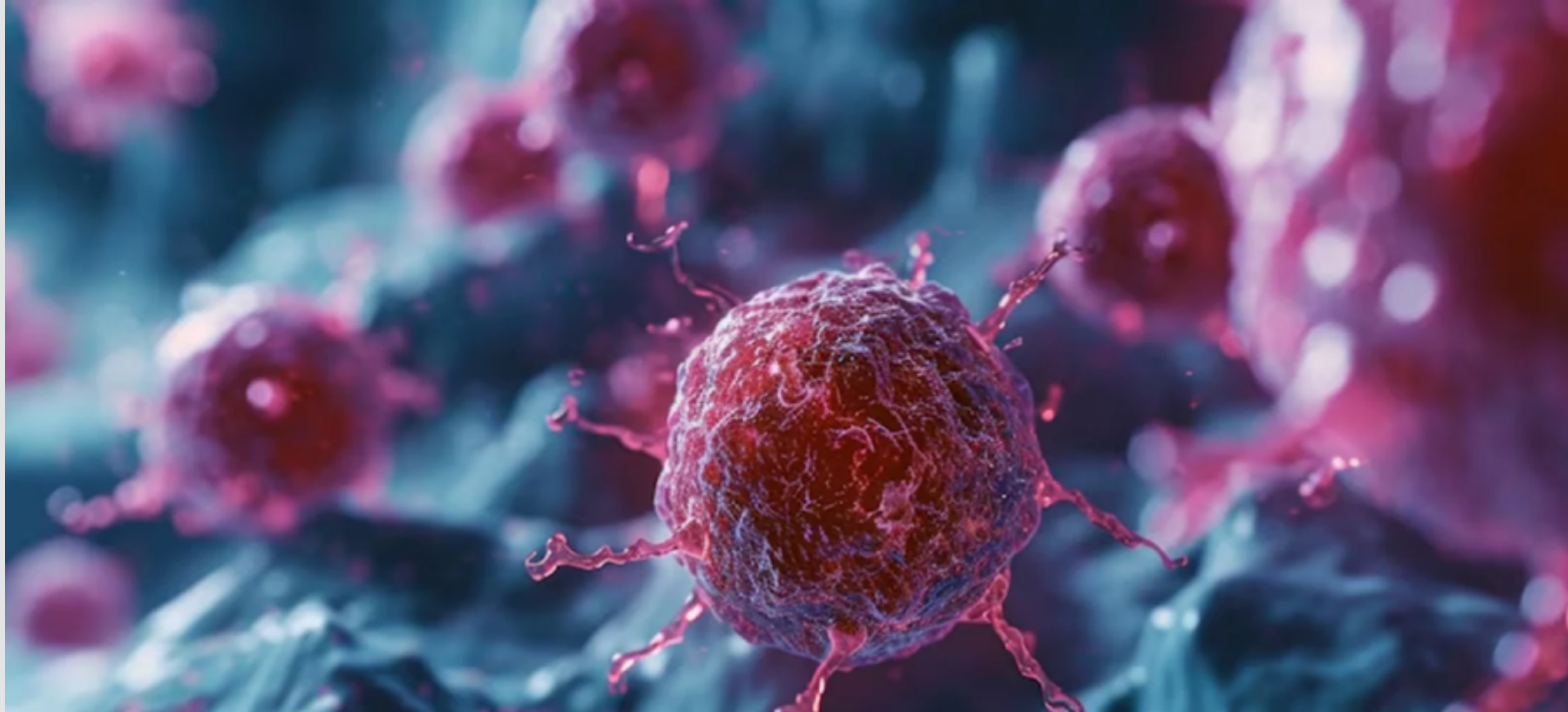
Dr. Matthew Haught awarded \$11,000 by the Board of the A-Mark Foundation.

Michael Hagge awarded \$8,800 by the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance.

**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 and Announcements



UMRF Research Park
**DevMemphis: A Meetup for
Memphis Software Developers**

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming oncology by improving cancer diagnosis, treatment planning and clinical decision support. Advances in machine learning, deep learning, and large language models enable the integration of diverse data sources such as genomic data, medical imaging and electronic health records. AI-powered chatbots and conversational agents further enhance patient support and clinical workflows. However, challenges including model interpretability, reliability and the need for clinical validation remain significant barriers.

Come learn, share, hang out and eat pizza with Memphis software developers. This is a free event open to anyone interested in attending.

Wednesday, May 6 | 6-8 PM
UMRF Research Park | 460 Highland Ave.

Register



FedEx Institute of Technology **Memphis Data Professionals**

Your Power BI report is only as strong as the model behind it — and most weak models don't show themselves at first. On the surface, everything looks polished: clean visuals, slicers, executive-ready charts. But underneath? Messy tables, weak relationships and DAX compensating for problems that should've been fixed at the foundation. That's where Power BI projects break down.

This session is for accountants, finance professionals and business leaders who want to move beyond surface-level reporting. We'll focus on what makes Power BI actually work: strong data models, clear relationships and scalable structure. You'll learn how to think about fact and dimension tables, why star schemas matter and where Power Query, DAX and the data warehouse fit.

If the model is wrong, the report is just a polished version of bad information. But when the foundation is right, Power BI becomes a system for consistency, auditability and better decision-making — connecting finance, operations and strategy.

This is the difference between building reports and building intelligence. Come ready to rethink Power BI from the ground up.

Tuesday, May 19 | 5:30-7 PM

FedEx Institute of Technology | Innovation Classroom (225)

Register



Office of Technology Transfer **Logistics Opportunity Challenge Problem Discovery Workshop**

The University of Memphis Tech Transfer Office invites faculty to participate in an upcoming Industry Problem Discovery Workshop as part of the Epicenter Reverse Pitch Logistics Industry Challenge, now entering its third year. The initiative brings together leading industry partners — including Dunavant, Armstrong, IMC Companies and the Memphis World Trade Club — to share real-world operational and strategic challenges facing the logistics and supply chain sectors. Rather than beginning with existing technologies, the workshop is designed to help faculty identify high-value industry problems that can inspire new research directions, interdisciplinary collaborations, and commercialization opportunities.

Faculty attendees will have the opportunity to engage directly with industry leaders, gain insight into emerging commercial needs, and explore pathways for sponsored research, pilot projects, SBIR/STTR funding, and future partnerships. The workshop is intended for faculty across disciplines whose expertise may contribute to solving complex industry challenges through innovation, analytics, AI, engineering, operations, cybersecurity, sustainability, workforce development, and related fields.

Faculty interested in connecting their research to real-world impact are encouraged to attend and participate in shaping collaborative solutions with industry partners.

Wednesday, May 20 | 3:30-5 PM
Rotolo's Craft & Crust | 681 S. White Station Rd., Memphis TN 38117

Register



FedEx Institute of Technology
Game Developer Workshop

Each month, Memphis Game Developers hosts a game development workshop at the University of Memphis FedEx Institute of Technology.

Join us this May for our Game Developer Workshop — an opportunity to connect, collaborate and engage with others in the local game development community.

Thursday, May 21 | 6-8 PM

FedEx Institute of Technology | Innovation Classroom (225)

Register



CITI Program Training Now Available in "myMemphis" Portal

The University of Memphis CITI Program training is now available in "myMemphis" portal. All researchers (including graduate and undergraduate students) will now have easy access to their CITI training. Once you click on the CITI training tile, it will take you straight to your current CITI training course.

If you have any questions, contact Research Compliance at researchcompliance@memphis.edu.



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 >](#)
- [Familiarity Study >](#)
- [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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