

## FIU Hosts Mini NSF I-Corps Program

Congratulations to the Spring 2016 graduates and the dedicated faculty who got them here!!



### May 2016

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April was a very busy month for eight FIU I-Corps teams who participated in 4-hour workshops during each of the five Friday's in April. Each FIU I-Corps team included an Entrepreneurial Lead (EL), a business mentor (M) and a Principal Investigator (PI).

Instructors from the University of Central Florida included Dr. Thomas O'Neal, Associate Vice President for Research and Commercialization, and Mr. Oscar Rodríguez, Director of Startups. Peter Hernández, Director of Technology Management and Commercialization, and Ms. Elizabeth Garami, Licensing Manager, served as instructors from FIU. Each team was supported by individuals with business experience from the community or within FIU who served as the mentors.

The FIU mini I-Corps program covered topics such as conducting customer discovery interviews, using the business model canvas collection tool (which is part of the Lean Launchpad methodology), developing value propositions, and determining product-market fit. The teams learned that they need to "Get Out of the Building" in order to determine whether their technologies can be commercialized.

Each week, the teams were required to conduct a certain number of customer discovery interviews in order to understand better the "pains and gains" of customers, and determine whether their respective technologies could help alleviate any "pains" or create some "gains" for the potential customers. The team's EL presented what was uncovered during customer discovery interviews and whether a pivot was indicated relative to the team's original business hypothesis.

The five-week FIU mini I-Corps program concluded with a final day presentation by each team's EL and a two-minute video prepared by each team. At the conclusion of the training, each

team received a mini-grant of \$2,550 to conduct additional interviews or develop a Minimal Viable Product (MVP). These small grants also create alignment with the NSF, enabling the teams to apply to the national NSF I-Corps teams program.

Although it was a challenging program, talking to numerous potential customers provided each team with a keener understanding of how their respective technologies could fit in the marketplace.

Immediately following the completion of the FIU mini I-Corps training program, one team started the application process for the national NSF I-Corps teams program, which awards \$50,000 for use in conducting additional customer discovery or developing a MVP. At the national level, teams receive more comprehensive training on the entire business model canvas components.

The technologies explored in the mini-program were very diverse, including a cashless tipping mobile app, a preterm imaging optical system, a tissue engineering bioreactor, an alcohol sensor system, a biosensor for agricultural pathogens, an edema quantification system, a device for sample collection, and yeast strains that can be used to lower the alcohol level content of wines.

For more information on the NSF I-Corps program, please contact Peter Hernandez, Director of the Office of Technology Management and Commercialization at (305) 348-30151 or via email at [pphernan@fiu.edu](mailto:pphernan@fiu.edu).



FIU mini I-Corps Program Participants

## Upcoming Events

### May 2016

- **May 10, 8 am to 5 pm**, [South Florida Child Psychology Research Conference](#), deadline for submissions is April 8, 2016, [additional information](#)
- **May 13, 12:45 to 2:30 pm**, **AHC 4 #402**, *Eli Lilly Open Innovation Drug Discovery (OIDD) Program Webinar*, kindly [RSVP](#) as seating is limited
- **May 17, 1 to 3 pm**, **AHC 4 #402**, *IRB Part 2—Managing your Approved Protocol*, please contact [molinae@fiu.edu](mailto:molinae@fiu.edu) to register
- **May 18, 8 am to 12 noon**, **MARC Pavilion**, *Southern HIV and Alcohol Research Consortium (SHARC) Conference*, [registration is required](#)
- **May 19 and 20**, **MARC Pavilion**, *3<sup>rd</sup> Scientific Symposium of the Society for Personalized Nano-Medicine*, [registration is required](#)

## Awards Received—March 2016

FIU researchers were awarded \$6,714,388 in March 2016. Below is a listing of awards received.

**PI:** Christopher Jon Baraloto

**BIOLOGY**

**Award Action Type:** Initial

**AWARDING SPONSOR:** U.S. Department of Agriculture

**TITLE:** Research Support Agreement with USDA-ARS SHRS **AWARD:** \$ 66,172

**PI:** Shekhar Bhansali

**ELEC AND COMPUTER ENG**

**Award Action Type:** Continuation

**AWARDING SPONSOR:** PicoCal Inc

**TITLE:** Biosensors- Effect of design on efficacy of sensors **AWARD:** \$ 11,617

**PI:** Eric Bishop-Von Wettberg

**BIOLOGY**

**Award Action Type:** Initial

**AWARDING SPONSOR:** National Institute of Food & Agriculture

**TITLE:** Next-Generation Genebank Management of *Mangifera indica* **AWARD:** \$ 79,000

**PI:** Werner Boeglin

**PHYSICS**

**Award Action Type:** Increase

**AWARDING SPONSOR:** U.S. Department of Energy

**TITLE:** Hadronic Physics with Electromagnetic Probes **AWARD:** \$ 458,000

**PI:** Kevin Mershon Boswell

**BIOLOGY**

**Award Action Type:** Initial

**AWARDING SPONSOR:** University of Miami

**TITLE:** Ecology of Forage Fishes in the Arctic Nearshore **AWARD:** \$ 28,768

**PI:** Eric Thomas Brew

**TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**Award Action Type:** Pre-Award

**AWARDING SPONSOR:** National Science Foundation

**TITLE:** Graduate Research Fellowship Program **AWARD:** \$ 46,000

**PI:** Fabian Gonzalo Cevallos  
**CIVIL AND ENVIRON ENGINEERING**  
**Award Action Type:** Initial  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** Florida Department of Transportation  
**TITLE:** Safe and Accessible Pedestrian Facilities Inventory Model (SAPFIM) **AWARD:** \$ 100,000  
**PI:** Erika K Coles  
**PSYCHOLOGY**  
**Award Action Type:** Initial  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** Children's Trust  
**TITLE:** A summer program for children with or at risk for serious behavior problems **AWARD:** \$ 481,005

**PI:** Todd Crowl  
**SOUTHEAST ENV RESEARCH CTR**  
**Award Action Type:** Increase  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** University of New Hampshire  
**TITLE:** Luquillo CZO: the role of hot spots and hot moments in tropical landscape **AWARD:** \$ 55,949

**PI:** Matthew DeGennaro  
**BIOLOGY**  
**Award Action Type:** Continuation  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** National Institutes of Health  
**TITLE:** Identifying Mosquito Receptors that Detect Human Odor **AWARD:** \$ 108,000

**PI:** Hai Deng  
**ELEC AND COMPUTER ENG**  
**Award Action Type:** Initial  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** Ohio State University  
**TITLE:** VLSI Chip Design for Liquid Crystal Lens Driver **AWARD:** \$ 25,000

**PI:** Nazira El-Hage  
**COM IMMUNOLOGY**  
**Award Action Type:** Continuation  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** National Institutes of Health  
**TITLE:** Role of Autophagy in Microglia-induced NeuroAIDS in Substance Abuse **AWARD:** \$ 358,875

**PI:** Mark Alan Finlayson  
**COMPUTER INFO SCIENCES**  
**Award Action Type:** Continuation  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** University of California Los Angeles  
**TITLE:** Narratives in the Informational Patient Society **AWARD:** \$ 65,000

**PI:** Brian Fonseca  
**J GORDON INS PUB POL AND CITI**  
**Award Action Type:** Initial  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** Global Affairs Canada  
**TITLE:** Cybersecurity Panel at the 1st Annual Hemispheric Security Conference **AWARD:** \$ 3,745

**PI:** James Fourqurean  
**BIOLOGY**  
**Award Action Type:** Initial  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** Environmental Protection Agency  
**TITLE:** Seagrass monitoring in the Florida Keys National marine Sanctuary **AWARD:** \$ 200,000

**PI:** Stacy Lynn Frazier

**PSYCHOLOGY**

**Award Action Type:** Initial

**AWARDING SPONSOR:** University of Illinois Chicago

**TITLE:** Leaders@ Play for Chicago's Youth: Professional Development **AWARD:** \$ 11,761

**PI:** Kenneth G Furton

**PROVOST AND EXEC VP ACAD AFF**

**Award Action Type:** Increase

**AWARDING SPONSOR:** Association of Public & Land-Grant Univ

**TITLE:** University Transformation through Teaching (UT3) Phase II **AWARD:** \$ 50,000

**PI:** Raul Gonzalez Jr

**PSYCHOLOGY**

**Award Action Type:** Initial

**AWARDING SPONSOR:** National Institute on Drug Abuse

**TITLE:** Decision-Making and Episodic Memory in Trajectories to Cannabis Addiction **AWARD:** \$ 420,513

**PI:** Tomas R Guilarte

**ROBERT STEMPEL CPHSW DEANS OFF**

**Award Action Type:** Initial

**AWARDING SPONSOR:** Environmental Health Sciences

**TITLE:** Molecular and Behavioral Effects of Low Level Manganese Exposure **AWARD:** \$ 6,417

**PI:** Mary Helen Hayden

**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

**Award Action Type:** Increase

**AWARDING SPONSOR:** University of Central Florida

**TITLE:** FIU Child Welfare Education Program **AWARD:** \$ 6,000

**PI:** Zahra Sana Hazari

**TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**Award Action Type:** Initial

**AWARDING SPONSOR:** Harvard University

**TITLE:** Outcome Programs and Science Career Intentions (OPSCI) **AWARD:** \$ 10,001

**PI:** Michelle Hospital

**SISH**

**Award Action Type:** Initial

**AWARDING SPONSOR:** Ware Foundation

**TITLE:** Examining Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy (EFP) as a Complement **AWARD:** \$ 150,000

**PI:** Sundararaj Sitharama Iyengar

**COMPUTER INFO SCIENCES**

**Award Action Type:** Increase

**AWARDING SPONSOR:** Army Research Office

**TITLE:** A game theoretic approach to self-configuring, non-cooperative **AWARD:** \$ 12,000

**PI:** Pamela Ann Izvanariu

**SIPA**

**Award Action Type:** Initial

**AWARDING SPONSOR:** Service Employees International Union

**TITLE:** Healthcare and Living Wage in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties **AWARD:** \$ 20,215

**PI:** Ranu Jung  
**ENGINEERING DEANS OFFICE**  
**Award Action Type:** Initial  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** Emory University  
**TITLE:** Naturalistic Investigation of Brain Neuroplasticity in Children Born Pre-Term      **AWARD:** \$      12,500

**PI:** Sakhrat Khizroev  
**ELEC AND COMPUTER ENG**  
**Award Action Type:** Pre-Award  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** University of California Berkeley  
**TITLE:** Physics of Spin Switching in Sub-10-nm Spin-transfer-torque agnetic      **AWARD:** \$      45,629

**PI:** John Kominoski  
**BIOLOGY**  
**Award Action Type:** Initial  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** National Science Foundation  
**TITLE:** DISSERTATION RESEARCH: Sea level rise, vegetation regime shifts      **AWARD:** \$      16,380

**PI:** Grover L Larkins  
**ELEC AND COMPUTER ENG**  
**Award Action Type:** Continuation  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** Air Force Office of Scientific Research  
**TITLE:** Potentially Useful and Novel Properties of Doped 2-Dimensional Materials      **AWARD:** \$      150,000

**PI:** Kingsley Lau  
**CIVIL AND ENVIRON ENGINEERING**  
**Award Action Type:** Initial  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** Florida Department of Transportation  
**TITLE:** Susceptibility of Bridge Steel and Concrete Components to      **AWARD:** \$      200,000

**PI:** Mark A Marine  
**ARCHICT AND THE ARTS DEANS OFF**  
**Award Action Type:** Initial  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** City of Miami Beach  
**TITLE:** Miami Beach Convention Center      **AWARD:** \$      3,877

**PI:** Kalai Mathee-Narasimhan  
**COM HUMAN AND MOL GENETICS**  
**Award Action Type:** Initial  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** Sanofi Pasteur SA  
**TITLE:** Global Health Consortium, Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine      **AWARD:** \$      50,000

**PI:** Kalai Mathee-Narasimhan  
**COM HUMAN AND MOL GENETICS**  
**Award Action Type:** Initial  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** Sanofi Pasteur SA  
**TITLE:** Global Health Consortium, Herbert Wertheim College of      **AWARD:** \$      80,000

**PI:** Dwayne McDaniel  
**ARC APPLIED RESEARCH CENTER**  
**Award Action Type:** Increase  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** Office of Naval Research  
**TITLE:** Development of a Novel Health Monitoring System for Adhesively      **AWARD:** \$      174,832

**PI:** Laura Crego Miller Mcpherson

**PHYSICAL THERAPY**

**Award Action Type:** Initial

**AWARDING SPONSOR:** Northwestern University

**TITLE:** Effect of Neural Constraints on Movement in Stroke **AWARD:** \$ 27,366

**PI:** Maria Jose Miguez Perez

**SISH**

**Award Action Type:** Initial

**AWARDING SPONSOR:** Florida Department of Health

**TITLE:** Biobehavioral Intervention For Smokers Living With HIV **AWARD:** \$ 1,411,322

**PI:** Madhavan P Nair

**COM IMMUNOLOGY**

**Award Action Type:** Initial

**AWARDING SPONSOR:** National Institutes of Health

**TITLE:** 3rd Annual Personalized NanoMedicine Symposium **AWARD:** \$ 43,500

**PI:** Madhavan P Nair

**COM IMMUNOLOGY**

**Award Action Type:** Continuation

**AWARDING SPONSOR:** National Institutes of Health

**TITLE:** Multifunctional Nanocarrier to Eradicate HIV from latently **AWARD:** \$ 358,875

**PI:** Steven Oberbauer

**BIOLOGY**

**Award Action Type:** Initial

**AWARDING SPONSOR:** National Science Foundation

**TITLE:** Collaborative Research: Understanding the effects of increased **AWARD:** \$ 407,424

**PI:** Mesut Ozgen

**MUSIC**

**Award Action Type:** Initial

**AWARDING SPONSOR:** Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs

**TITLE:** 2016 Miami International GuitART Festival **AWARD:** \$ 5,000

**PI:** Yannis Peter Papastamatiou

**BIOLOGY**

**Award Action Type:** Initial

**AWARDING SPONSOR:** National Geographic Society

**TITLE:** Coexistence at an ocean oasis: what supports the abundance **AWARD:** \$ 20,000

**PI:** Niki J Pissinou

**COMPUTER INFO SCIENCES**

**Award Action Type:** Initial

**AWARDING SPONSOR:** National Science Foundation

**TITLE:** REU SITE: ASSET: Research Experiences for Undergraduates in **AWARD:** \$ 84,000

**PI:** Niki J Pissinou

**COMPUTER INFO SCIENCES**

**Award Action Type:** Initial

**AWARDING SPONSOR:** National Science Foundation

**TITLE:** REU SITE: ASSET: Research Experiences for Undergraduates in **AWARD:** \$ 276,000



**PI:** Jennifer Rehage  
**EARTH AND ENVIRONMENT**  
**Award Action Type:** Initial  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** South Florida Water Management District  
**TITLE:** Role of Florida Bay coastal embayments as fish habitat: nursery **AWARD:** \$ 85,000

**PI:** Jennifer Rehage  
**EARTH AND ENVIRONMENT**  
**Award Action Type:** Increase  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
**TITLE:** Role of Marsh-Mangrove Interface Habitats as Aquatic Refuges **AWARD:** \$ 81,000

**PI:** Leonard Scinto  
**EARTH AND ENVIRONMENT**  
**Award Action Type:** Initial  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** South Florida Water Management District  
**TITLE:** Settling and entrainment properties of STA particulates **AWARD:** \$ 122,423

**PI:** Leonard Scinto  
**EARTH AND ENVIRONMENT**  
**Award Action Type:** Initial  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** South Florida Water Management District  
**TITLE:** Subproject: Settling and entrainment properties of STA particulates **AWARD:** \$ 112,577

**PI:** Shimelis Setegn  
**ENVIR AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH**  
**Award Action Type:** Initial  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** Dream in Green Inc  
**TITLE:** Green Schools Challenge: Evidence-based Practice **AWARD:** \$ 6,500

**PI:** Casey Steadman  
**THE WOLFSONIAN**  
**Award Action Type:** Increase  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** FIU Foundation  
**TITLE:** Knight Museum of Ideas Fund **AWARD:** \$ 85,000

**PI:** Oren B Stier  
**RELIGIOUS STUDIES**  
**Award Action Type:** Increase  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** Robert Russell Memorial Foundation  
**TITLE:** Developing an Online Holocaust Studies Certificate **AWARD:** \$ 3,000

**PI:** Markus L Thiel  
**POLITICS AND INTL RELATIONS**  
**Award Action Type:** Decrease  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** European Commission  
**TITLE:** Outreach Projects with the Scientific and Business Miami Communities **AWARD:** \$ 11,144

**PI:** Sabri Tosunoglu  
**MECHANICAL AND MAT ENGINEERING**  
**Award Action Type:** Initial  
**AWARDING SPONSOR:** University of Central Florida  
**TITLE:** FIU NASA Student Launch Competition **AWARD:** \$ 2,000

**PI:** Diana Valle-Riestra**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT****Award Action Type:** Initial**AWARDING SPONSOR:** Able Trust**TITLE:** Project Panther LIFE: Preparing for Employment**AWARD:** \$ 65,000

## *Funding Opportunities*

The funding opportunities are in a separate excel file, which includes a filter for agency, date and opportunity number.

## *Contact ORED Senior Leadership*

Name	Title	Email Address
Andrés G. Gil	Vice President for Research & Economic Development	Andres.gil@fiu.edu
Tonja Moore	Associate Vice President, <a href="#">Strategic Planning &amp; Operations</a>	Tonja.moore@fiu.edu
Luis P. Salas	Associate Vice President, <a href="#">International Research, Space Optimization and Compliance</a>	Luis.salas@fiu.edu
Mirtha Alberto	Director, <a href="#">Budget &amp; Cost Analysis</a>	Mirtha.alberto@fiu.edu
Henry Artigues	Director, <a href="#">External Partnerships &amp; Economic Development</a>	Henry.artigues@fiu.edu
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Christopher Grayson	Director, <a href="#">Research Integrity</a>	Christopher.grayson@fiu.edu
Emily Gresham	Assistant Vice President, <a href="#">Innovation &amp; Economic Development</a>	Emily.gresham@fiu.edu
Robert Gutierrez	Assistant Vice President, <a href="#">Research Development &amp; Pre-Award</a>	Robert.gutierrez@fiu.edu
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Horatiu Vinerean	Director, <a href="#">Laboratory Animal Research</a> ; Attending Veterinarian	Horatiu.vinerean@fiu.edu
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