RESEARCH STAFF AWARDS

OCTOBER • 28 • 2021

APRIL PEPPERDINE  BECKY O’BRIEN  DAVID PARIS  CALEB SMITH
**VISION**
Research to serve the world

**MISSION**
To catalyze, support, and safeguard U-M research

**VALUES**

**Altruistic:** We derive joyful satisfaction from helping others succeed throughout the research lifecycle, from conceiving paths for exploration to translating discoveries into practice.

**Collaborative:** We promote a culture of collaboration across the U-M research enterprise, building relationships among partners, both internal and external, and recognizing that the sum of what we do is greater than the parts.

**Diverse:** We foster a research community comprised of faculty, staff, and students from diverse backgrounds, varied perspectives, and a wide range of academic disciplines and subject-matter expertise. These differences strengthen both the institution and the research itself.

**Equitable:** We establish fair processes and systems to ensure a culture of access and participation.

**Ethical:** We uphold the highest standards of professional conduct and research integrity.

**Inclusive:** We afford each other dignity and respect, valuing our diverse roles and identities. We amplify voices that are less likely to be heard.

**Innovative:** We support developing research, scholarship, and breakthrough discoveries that solve the grand challenges of today and tomorrow. We seek continuous improvement in our daily operations.

**Transparent:** We embrace the imperative to document and share information in an accessible and timely manner, while respecting our responsibility as stewards of sensitive and confidential information.
In 2001, the University of Michigan Office of the Vice President for Research created staff awards to recognize exceptional and distinguished contributions or performance in the support of the university's research mission.

The **Research Administrator Recognition Award** recognizes research administrators in any unit across campus, and honors exemplary service to the research community over a number of years.

The **Exceptional Service Award** recognizes staff members from units based in the Office of the Vice President for Research for important contributions to the university’s research mission through exceptional performance and by going beyond the ordinary fulfillment of position duties.

The **Research Technical Staff Recognition Award** recognizes staff members who have, independently or along with faculty, advanced the research mission of her or his unit in a way that extends beyond the ordinary fulfillment of a position's duties. Each winner receives an honorarium and an award plaque.

The awards were selected by Vice President for Research Dr. Rebecca Cunningham, based on recommendations from an award selection committee consisting of past award winners: Judy Carrillo, Lori Deromedi, Jessica Durkin, Teresa Herrick, Melissa Karby, David Mulder, Jane Sierra and Tom Bray.
PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

U-M RESEARCH ADMINISTRATOR RECOGNITION AWARD

2020 Teresa Herrick, School for Environment and Sustainability
   Jane Sierra, Medical School

2019 Melissa Karby, School of Dentistry

2018 Judy Carrillo, Department of Internal Medicine

2017 Carrie Disney, School of Social Work
   Nicholas Prieur, Institute for Social Research

2016 Kerri-Anne Cross, Institute for Social Research
   Pat Turnbull, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Dearborn

2015 Cathy Handyside, Information and Technology Services

2014 Teri Grieb, Michigan Institute for Clinical Health and Research
   Susan Johnson, College of Pharmacy

2013 Linda Chadwick, Space Physics Research Lab, Engineering
   Catherine Seay-Ostrowski, Transportation Research Institute

2012 Cathy Thibault, Institute for Social Research
   Sharon Vaassen, Orthopaedic Surgery

2011 Scott Stanfill, School of Social Work

2010 Drew Buchanan, Research and Sponsored Programs-Dearborn
   Catherine Liebowitz, Institute for Social Research
   Patricia Preston, College of Literature, Science & Arts

2009 Laura Bowden, Biostatistics, SPH
   Linda Forsyth, Resource Planning and Management, CoE
   Barbara Rice, SSEL/LNF/WIMS, CoE

2008 Kate Blakeman, Life Sciences Institute
   Denise DuPrie, Advanced Computer Architecture Laboratory

2007 Patricia Fink, Institute for Social Research
   Peggy Westrick, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

2006 Violet Elder, Center for Computational Medicine and Biology
   Ruth Freedman, Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience Institute
   Jane Holland, Microbiology and Immunology

2005 Kelly Cormier, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
   Dennis Martin, Biomedical Research Core Facilities
   James Thomson, Transportation Research Institute

2004 Betty Cummings, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
   Francine Hume, Cell and Developmental Biology
   Heather Offhaus, Medical School Administration

2003 Deborah Eadie, Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences
   Beth Lawson, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
   Patricia Schultz, School of Dentistry

2002 Linda Peasley, Human Genetics
   Laurie Staples, Institute for Social Research
   Virginia Wait, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

2001 Owen Jansson, Center for Human Growth and Development
   Dorene Markel, General Clinical Research Center
   Patrice Somerville, Environmental Health Sciences
PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

U-M OFFICE OF RESEARCH
EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AWARD

2020 David Mulder, Office of Research and Sponsored Projects
2019 Terri Maxwell, Office of Research and Sponsored Projects
2018 Lori Deromedi, Research Ethics and Compliance Rick Brandon, Office of the General Counsel
2017 Kathryn A. DeWitt, Office of Research and Sponsored Projects
2016 Amanda Coulter, Office of Research and Sponsored Projects
Ben Secunda, U-M Office of Research
2015 Sharyn Sivyer, Office of Research and Sponsored Projects
2014 No recipients
2013 Donna Mulkey, Center for Human Growth and Development
2012 Jacqueline Kay Hoats Shields, U-M Office of Research
2011 Lynn Cook, U-M Office of Research
2010 No recipients
2009 David Plawchan, Office of Research and Sponsored Projects
2008 Eve Gochis, Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging Laboratory
Patricia Smith, Institute for Research on Women and Gender
2007 Kathleen Welch, Center for Statistical Consultation and Research
2006 No recipients
2005 Cynthia Avery, U-M Office of Research
Julie Feldkamp, Office of Research and Sponsored Projects
2004 Jane Ritter, U-M Office of Research
2003 Keith Newnham, Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging Laboratory
Kathleen Restrick, Center for Human Growth and Development
2002 Karis Crawford, Arts of Citizenship Program
Lee Katterman, U-M Office of Research
2001 Jane Ginopolis, Institute of Gerontology/Geological Sciences
Thomas Zdeba, Office of Research and Sponsored Projects

PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

U-M RESEARCH TECHNICAL STAFF RECOGNITION AWARD

2020 Michael Hess, School of Information
2019 Chuck Woolley, Department of Industrial and Operations Engineering
2018 Tom Bray, Duderstadt Center
2017 Bennet Fauber, Advanced Research Computing-Technology Services
Jessica Getman, School of Music, Theatre & Dance
Missy Tuck, Internal Medicine, Hematology/Oncology
Becky O’Brien, who joined the university in 2001, is director of research administration at the School of Information. O’Brien leads the strategic planning efforts for the school’s research activities and partners with leadership to assess and manage its broad research portfolio.

“She continuously demonstrates her commitment to faculty, students and her peers, helping others achieve professional growth through her involvement on campus and especially through her continuous and long-term service with a number of universitywide committees,” wrote a colleague who nominated O’Brien for the award.

April Pepperdine joined the university in 2002 and now serves as director of OVPR’s Conflict of Interest Program. Pepperdine supervises a team that provides oversight of, and the procedural structure for, outside activity disclosure, the review of potential conflicts of interest, and the management of identified conflicts in research, sponsored projects and technology transfer for all three campuses, except Michigan Medicine.

As noted by a colleague who nominated Pepperdine for the award, “Her efforts have strengthened our research and compliance programs in ways that reduce regulatory burden for researchers and research administrators, while maintaining high standards for compliance oversight.”
David Paris joined the university in 2010 and now serves as a senior research laboratory technician in the Department of Molecular & Integrative Physiology. Paris handles a variety of important roles in the Pletcher Laboratory, which include mentoring students and creating devices that aim to improve research productivity.

As noted by a colleague who nominated Paris for the award, “He’s the key personnel that keeps our lab clean and organized, and he has his own workshop that continually generates innovations that greatly facilitate the experiments in the lab.”

Caleb Smith, who joined the university in 2006, serves as a lead strategic planner in the Medical School. Smith co-founded Research Intelligence & Analytics, a unit of the Medical School Office of Research that provides strategic decision support through the execution of complex data-driven investigations.

“Caleb’s insights and innovative contributions provide us a critical advantage in understanding how we can contribute to the leading edge of innovation,” wrote a colleague who nominated Smith for the award.