

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce an important addition to the Research Development Office, a central resource that supports complex, high-impact grant activity across UT Southwestern. To advance and enrich this growing effort, we have recruited Chad Ellis, Ph.D., as Director of Research Development, effective immediately.

The Research Development Office, which Dr. Ellis will lead, is designed to assist UT Southwestern investigators identify funding opportunities and prepare competitive, high-quality research grant applications. Working in close partnership with principal investigators, grant managers, and research teams, the office supports comprehensive project management, content development, and critical review of both scientific and administrative sections. Its overarching aim is to help teams produce clear, compelling, consistent, concise, and complete proposals, with targeted editing services available when full support is not needed. The office's current emphasis is on supporting larger, more complex, cross-cutting research opportunities.



Dr. Ellis joined us from Huron Consulting Group where he served as Senior Director of Cancer and Clinical Research, developing and supporting the implementation of strategic plans for cancer centers, academic medical centers, and health systems. Dr. Ellis led the National Cancer Institute Designation renewal initiatives for four cancer centers and multi-component grant submissions, such as the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA).

After completing undergraduate studies at the University of Florida, Dr. Ellis earned a doctoral degree in pharmacology at the University of Illinois Chicago and a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). He has held administrative leadership roles at multiple preeminent institutions including the NCI, Yale Comprehensive Cancer Center, Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center-University of North Carolina, and UPMC Hillman Comprehensive Cancer Center-University of Pittsburgh.

We expect the Research Development Office under Dr. Ellis' leadership will play an increasingly strategic role in enabling UT Southwestern to compete for large, multidisciplinary awards and to advance research programs. Investigators seeking support for upcoming complex or collaborative proposals are encouraged to contact the [Research Development Office](#) early in the planning process to discuss project needs, timelines, and available services.

Sincerely,

Joan Conaway, Ph.D.
Vice Provost and Dean of Basic Research

Eric Peterson, M.D., M.P.H.
Vice Provost and Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Research

W. P. Andrew Lee, M.D.
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Dean, UT Southwestern Medical School