



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

Owens Institute for
Behavioral Research

The Owens Observer

Newsletter of the
Owens Institute for
Behavioral Research

September 19, 2025

The fall semester is in full-swing, and we are gearing up for the **OIBR annual meeting**, which will be held on **October 15th** over lunch in the Rialto Room at the Hotel Indigo. You won't want to miss this event, where we provide an overview of OIBR activities, recognize grant development program participants, and announce faculty awards. You will also hear about new OIBR initiatives. Please **RSVP** through the link provided below. After you've RSVP'd to the annual meeting invitation, be sure to check out the rest of the newsletter, where you'll find information about new affiliates, recently awarded grants, and a feature article on recent GDP graduate and OIBR Distinguished Scholar **Rifat Haider**. Also included in the newsletter is an important announcement about **new open access contracts** that will allow you to publish at no cost in many major social science journals. Hope to see you at the annual meeting on October 15th.

Jody Clay-Warner
Director

Upcoming Events



Owens Institute for
Behavioral Research
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

— ANNUAL —
MEETING

OCTOBER 15
12:00 - 1:30PM

HOTEL INDIGO, RIALTO ROOM
500 COLLEGE AVE. ATHENS
LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

[RSVP HERE](#)

Funding News

Congratulations to our Distinguished Scholars, Affiliate and Grant Development Program graduates who have recently received research project funding



Katie Ehrlich

Title: Navigating the Transition to Middle Age in the Strong African American Healthy Adults Project (SHAPE)

Project Dates: 9/1/2025 - 4/30/2030

Award Amount: \$3,201,621

Other Personnel: **Lisa Renzi-Hammond**

Summary: The study will investigate the risk and protective processes that explain why some adult rural African Americans develop vulnerabilities to poor health and others do not.



Logan Fiorella

Title: Neurocognitive Mechanisms of Learning from Observing the Instructor Draw

Project Dates: 6/1/2025 - 5/30/2028

Award Amount: \$736,187

Other Personnel: **Deborah Barany**

Summary: This project will systematically disentangle two distinct yet overlapping explanations for why observing the instructor draw supports learning: attentional guidance and action observation.



Nick Young

Title: Examining the Use of Alternative Multiple-Choice Questions in the Learning and

Assessment of Introductory Physics Knowledge

Project Dates: 10/01/2025 - 09/30/2028

Award Amount: \$399,264

Other Personnel: **Nandana Weliveriya**

Summary: This project is exploring innovative multiple-choice formats—such as complex, confidence-weighted, and Immediate Feedback Assessment Technique (IF-AT) questions—to better capture how students think and learn in introductory physics. By testing these approaches in classes and pre-lecture videos, the study aims to improve assessments, enhance learning, and provide faculty with effective tools to support student success in STEM.

Title: Individual Investigator Development in Discipline-Based STEM Education Research

Project Dates: 10/01/2025 - 09/30/2028

Award Amount: \$349,980

Other Personnel: **Tessa Andrews**

Summary: This new grant will examine how students navigate the complex process of applying to physics and astronomy graduate programs, focusing on how applicants evaluate program “fit” and interpret signals from departments. By combining interviews with applicants and program directors, the project aims to build a discipline-based theory of graduate school application and selection that can improve access, equity, and recruitment practices in STEM graduate education.

Research Spotlight

Research with Impact: Dr. Mohammad Rifat Haider Tackles Harm Reduction for High-Risk Communities in the Deep South



[Learn More](#)

Faculty News

Welcome New Affiliates

Shana Adise, Assistant Professor, Nutrition Sciences

Sierra Carter, Associate Professor, Psychology

Max Herzberg, Assistant Professor, Psychology

Angie Im, Assistant Professor, Agricultural & Applied Economics

Ryan Ka Yau Lai, Assistant Professor, Linguistics

Camila Livio Beaudry, Research Associate, SPIA

Dylan Richards, Assistant Professor, Psychology

Anne Tucker, Professor, School of Law

Opportunities

Consortium for the Advancement of Research Methods and Analysis



CARMA

This is just a friendly reminder that the [Consortium for the Advancement of Research Methods and Analysis \(CARMA\)](#) is an incredibly valuable resource available to you via OIBR's sponsorship of UGA's institutional membership. As a UGA faculty member, you can set up a profile, sign up for programs and courses, and request to receive their newsletter. Please contact Kim Cherewick at ksilvis@uga.edu with any questions.

OIBR Pivot Funds 2026

The OIBR Pivot Fund 2026 allows researchers to continue to conduct important work, while responding to the current funding climate. Funds can be used to collect data, purchase data sets or equipment, or for other needs, as identified by the investigator. Funds cannot be used for conference travel or personnel funding (faculty or student). The budget cannot exceed \$5,000.

The application should contain: 1) one paragraph describing your current research; 2) one to two sentences explaining how you are pivoting your research; 3) one page describing the project for which you are seeking funding, your qualifications for conducting the proposed research, and intended external grant mechanism(s); 4) budget, budget justification, and timeline; and 5) a current CV.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis by the OIBR Leadership Team. Send applications (as a single PDF in the order listed above) to oibr@uga.edu, with the subject line "Pivot Funds."

New Quantitative Consulting Center Focused on Education Research

Education researchers encounter unique challenges in the pursuit of knowledge about teachers and learners in formal and informal educational contexts. Therefore, education researchers need specialized support from experts who have experience with and understand these constraints and challenges.

The purpose of the Quantitative Methods Consulting Center (QMC) is to provide statistical consulting for education researchers. Meetings are free of charge, and they can offer assistance on small- and large-scale projects. Check out their [website](#) for more information about the services they offer.

Announcements

UGA Open Access Publishing

The Open Access (OA) publishing model provides free and immediate access to publications. The UGA Libraries developed agreements with many publishers providing access for members of the UGA community to read journal content at no charge and for UGA authors to publish open access journal content at no charge, avoiding Article Processing Charges (APCs) for their accepted manuscripts. The corresponding author must be affiliated with UGA (e.g., as a student, staff member, or faculty) to publish the article as open access under these agreements.

Please make sure to use your UGA email in the submission, as it facilitates the approval process. More info. [here](#).

UGA Research Data Stewardship Policy & Guidance

This policy addresses stewardship of Research Data, focusing on issues of ownership, sharing, and retention of Research Data. This policy is supported by related guidance found in the “Research Data Stewardship Policy Guidance” document. This policy was prompted by the OSTP Nelson memo and subsequent federal public access and data management requirements, including the NIH Public Access policy, which took effect on July 1, 2025, and aligns UGA with peer and aspirational peer institutions’. [Policy Library](#)

The [Guidance document](#) supports the “Research Data Stewardship Policy.” This guide provides procedures to follow in practice consistent with the Policy. The procedures address Ownership, Stewardship, Data Sharing, and Retention of Research Data.

NIH Loan Repayment Programs (LRP) Application Cycle Opens on September 1

NIH will begin accepting applications for the Extramural Loan Repayment Program (LRP) on September 1. Awardees can receive up to **\$100,000** in qualified educational debt repayment with a two-year award.

To learn more about eligibility requirements, application dates, and the benefits of receiving an LRP award, visit the [LRP website](#), check out their [overview video](#), and attend one of their upcoming events:

- October 7 – LRP Technical Assistance Webinar
- November 6 – LRP Ask Me Anything Session

Deadline to apply is November 20, 2025.

OIBR News

Online Open Office Hours

Kim Cherewick, Assistant Director, and **Jenny Claire Carey**, Post Award Operations Manager, are hosting weekly office hours. Drop in via Zoom from **10–11am every Monday** to ask any grant-related questions. Contact Kim at ksilvis@uga.edu to receive the meeting link or with any questions.



Have news? Please send kudos, announcements or other items to Andrea Horsman at ahorsman@uga.edu. Distribution occurs monthly on the second Monday of the month. The deadline for submissions is the first Wednesday.



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