

RESEARCH ROUNDUP

School of Medicine Columbia

University of South Carolina

Research Newsletter

By SOMC Office of Research • Dec 03, 2025

Smart Brevity® count: 3.5 mins...951 words

👋 Welcome to the fourth edition of the Research Roundup where we share important updates and research news to keep you in the know.

In this edition, learn about the accomplishments of our amazing medical students, conferences & seminars on today's hot topic (AI), and more!

Research Spotlight



Second year medical students Catherine Chopade (left) and Jordyn Lombardo (right).

SOAR Students Stand Out for Their Research on Food Insecurity 🥕

At the [Prisma Health Education & Research Institute Showcase](#) on November 7, SOAR students **Catherine Chopade** and **Jordyn Lombardo** received the **Outstanding Medical Student Research Award** for their poster, *“Physicians Fighting Food Insecurity,”* mentored by SOMC faculty [Dr. Mark Humphrey](#) and resident Dr. Will Capell.

Their project explored how “prescribing” fresh produce to patients with chronic health conditions can improve health outcomes and strengthen community wellness.

💬 Lombardo, who presented the team’s work, reflected, ***“It was eye-opening to see how something as simple as access to healthy food could impact people’s health and well-being. I learned so much about the bidirectional relationship between food insecurity and poor health outcomes, and what it takes to create programs that meet people where they are.”***

💬 Projects like this one highlight how valuable strong mentorship can be to a student’s research experience. ***“The Physicians Fighting Food Insecurity project has been one of the most meaningful experiences in my medical education so far,”*** said Chopade. ***“I came in with very little background in public health or preventive medicine but was immediately welcomed into a project led by clinicians who truly cared about their patients and the health disparities they face.”***

The team’s efforts underline the impact of evidence-based practice and community-engaged medicine in addressing one of the most pressing social determinants of health — access to nutritious food. 🥕🥬

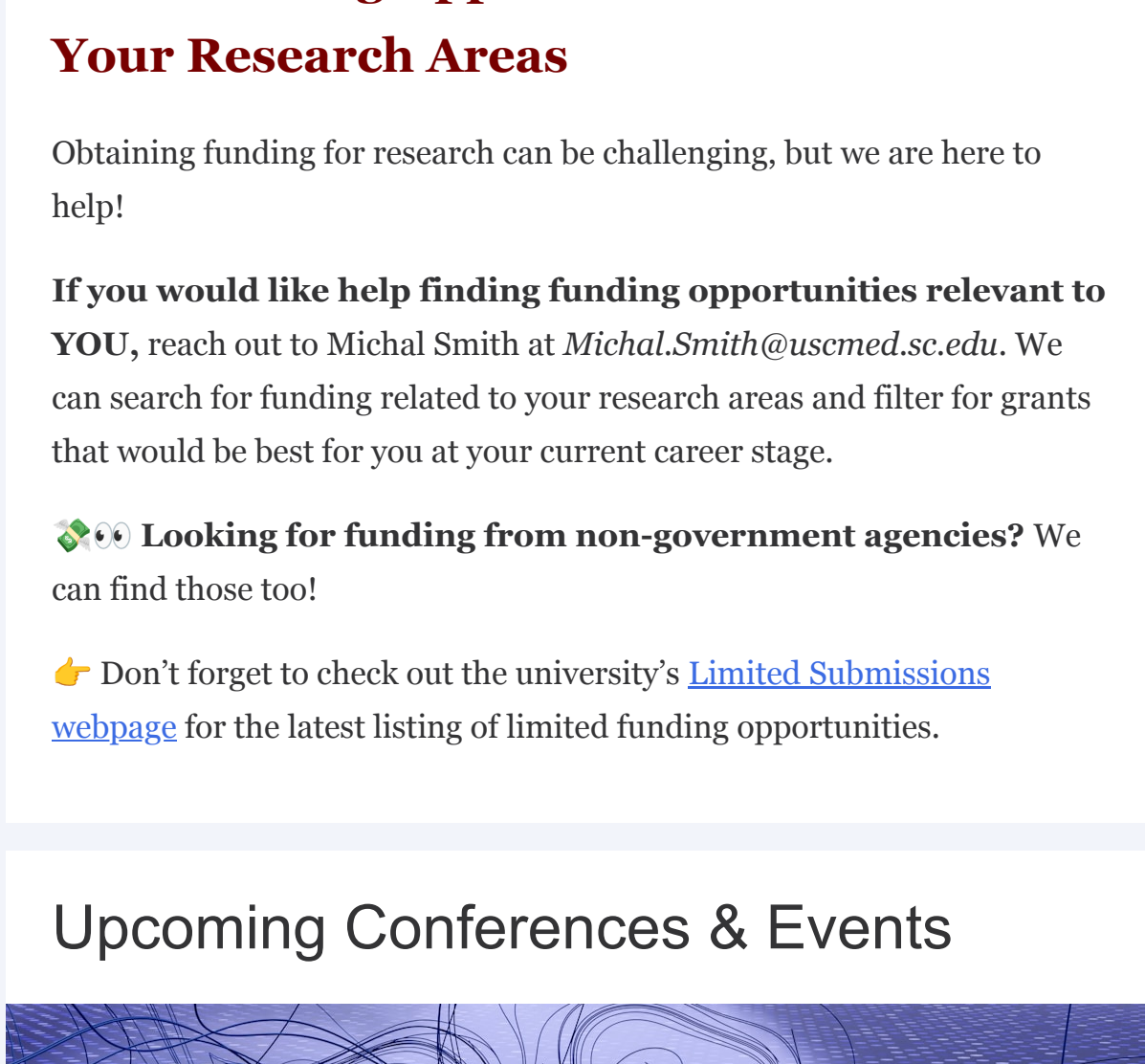


Third year medical student, Conner Acsell, presents his research to conference attendee Stephany Smith.

SOMC Students Show up and Show out at the PHERI Showcase ✨

More than **30 medical students** from the **University of South Carolina School of Medicine Columbia** and **residents** from Prisma Health proudly presented their research at the [PHERI Showcase](#) on **November 7**.

💡 Their strong showing highlights the depth of scholarship and innovation within our medical community. By engaging in meaningful research early in their careers, our students are not only strengthening their skills as future physicians but are also contributing to the advancement of health care in South Carolina and beyond! 🍌



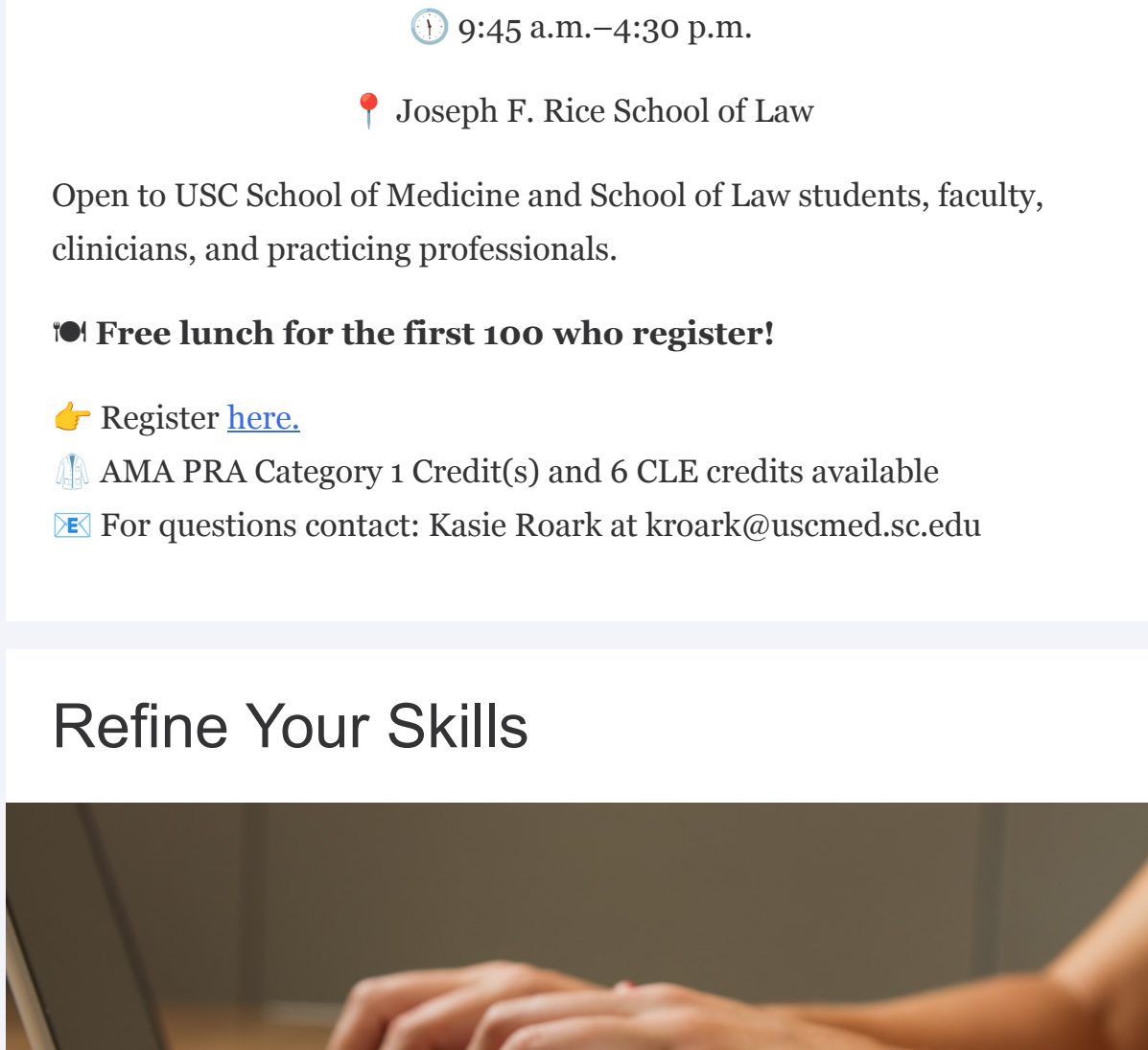
Third year BARSC-MD student, Michael Pitre.

Future Physician-Scientist Selected as Marshall Scholarship Finalist 🎓💰

Michael Pitre, third year [BARSC-MD](#) student and McNair Scholar, has been named a finalist for the 2026 Marshall Scholarship. 🍌

MEET MICHAEL PITRE

Funding Opportunities



Find Funding Opportunities Relevant to Your Research Areas

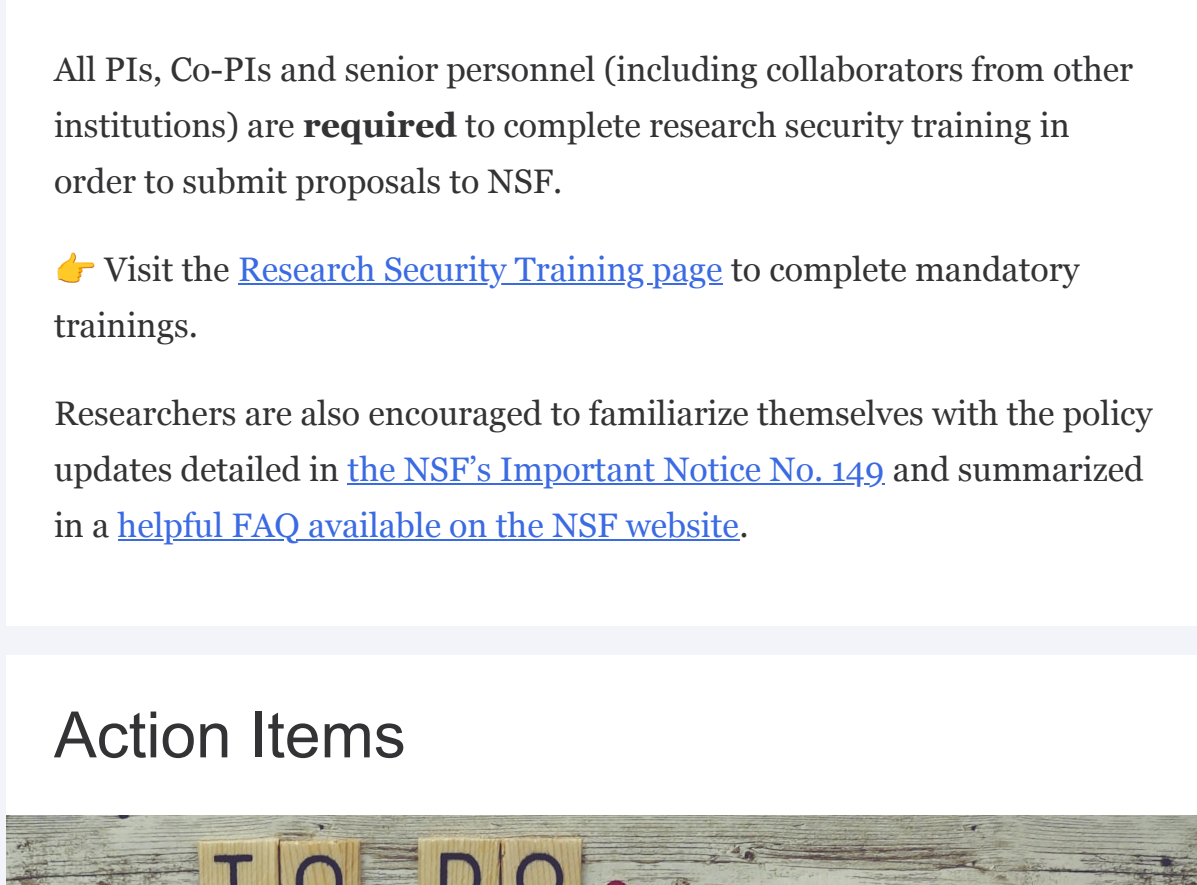
Obtaining funding for research can be challenging, but we are here to help!

If you would like help finding funding opportunities relevant to YOU, reach out to Michal Smith at Michal.Smith@uscmed.sc.edu. We can search for funding related to your research areas and filter for grants that would be best for you at your current career stage.

💎🎯 **Looking for funding from non-government agencies?** We can find those too!

🍌 Don't forget to check out the university's [Limited Submissions webpage](#) for the latest listing of limited funding opportunities.

Upcoming Conferences & Events



Register Now for the AI Ethics in Medicine and Law Symposium!

Discover how artificial intelligence is transforming the way we practice medicine and law! This full-day symposium will dive into the ethical, legal, and professional challenges—and opportunities—of AI in today’s world.

📅 **Friday, January 9**

🕒 9:45 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

📍 Joseph F. Rice School of Law

Open to USC School of Medicine and School of Law students, faculty, clinicians, and practicing professionals.

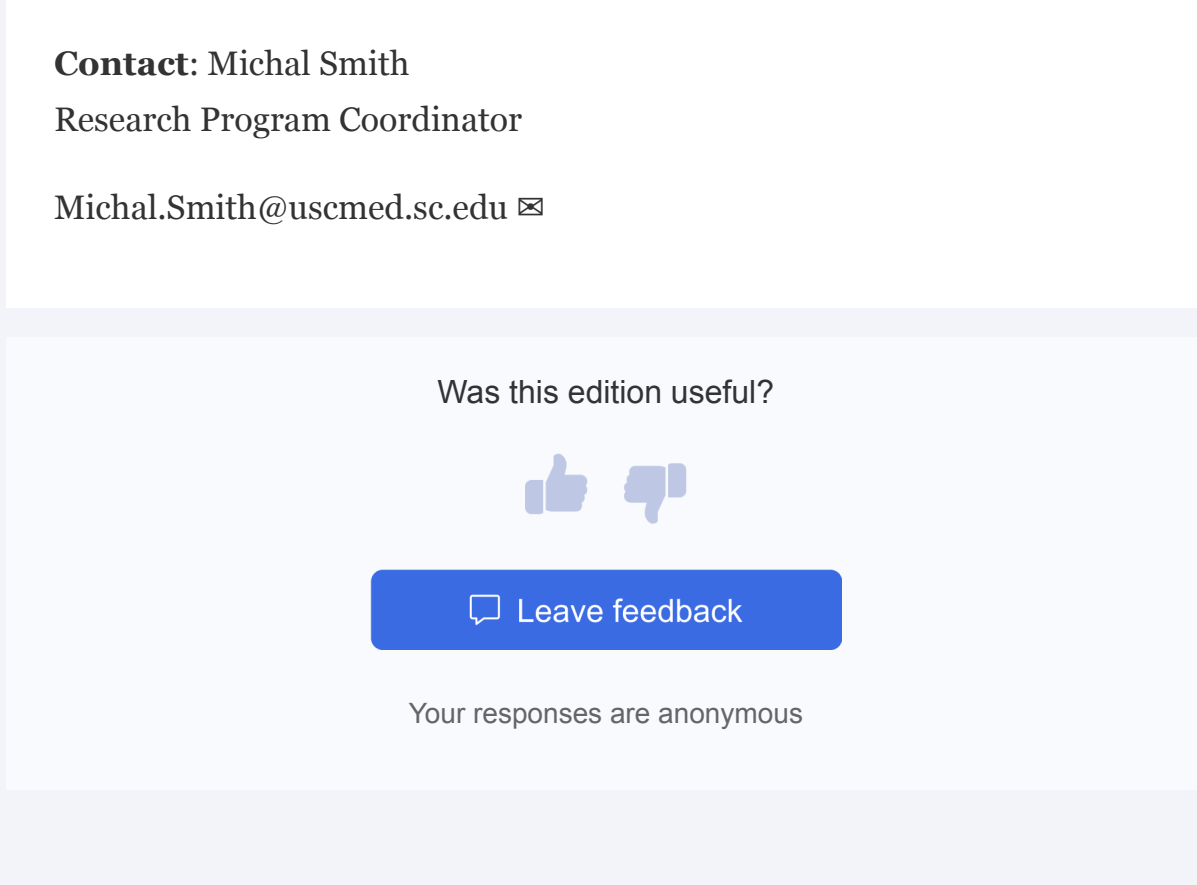
🍽️ **Free lunch for the first 100 who register!**

🍌 Register [here](#).

📄 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s) and 6 CLE credits available

📧 For questions contact: Kasie Roark at kroark@uscmed.sc.edu

Refine Your Skills



AI in Research Seminar Series

Lecture 1: AI in Research – Policy, Practice, and Ethics

Join us for the first lecture in our AI in Research Seminar Series, exploring how artificial intelligence is shaping research through evolving policies, practical applications, and ethical considerations. 😊

📅 **Wednesday, January 14, 2026**

🕒 12:00–1:00 PM, 📍 Room B67

This lecture is held as part of the Biomedical Sciences Seminar Course, but open to anyone who wants to attend.

🔥 Research Security Training Required for NSF Proposals 🔥

The National Science Foundation (NSF) recently announced several new policies to help ensure NSF-funded projects are free of malign foreign interference and misappropriation, effective **Tuesday, December 2, 2025**.

All PIs, Co-PIs and senior personnel (including collaborators from other institutions) are **required** to complete research security training in order to submit proposals to NSF.

🍌 Visit the [Research Security Training page](#) to complete mandatory trainings.

Researchers are also encouraged to familiarize themselves with the policy updates detailed in [the NSF's Important Notice No. 149](#) and summarized in a [helpful FAQ available on the NSF website](#).

Action Items

Brain Health Investigators - We Need Your Input!

🧠 If you are an **Investigator currently engaged in on-going research related to brain health, Alzheimer's disease, dementia, aging, or caregiving**, please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire below. This includes human subject as well as laboratory and benchmark sciences.

The goal of this questionnaire is to **create a snapshot of USC Research in this field** and eventually a web-based Dashboard and Menuboard (to feature in clinics) to help recruit and feature this important research.

🍌 Please complete the questionnaire [here](#).

Thank you for reading this month’s issue of the *Research Roundup*! We hope you found it helpful. If you have any suggestions for future issues or would like to share research news or opportunities, please let us know!

Were you forwarded this email and want to subscribe to future editions? Contact us, and we’d be happy to add you to our mailing list!

Contact: Michal Smith
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Michal.Smith@uscmed.sc.edu ✉

Was this edition useful?

🗨️ [Leave feedback](#)

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