

Research Newsletter

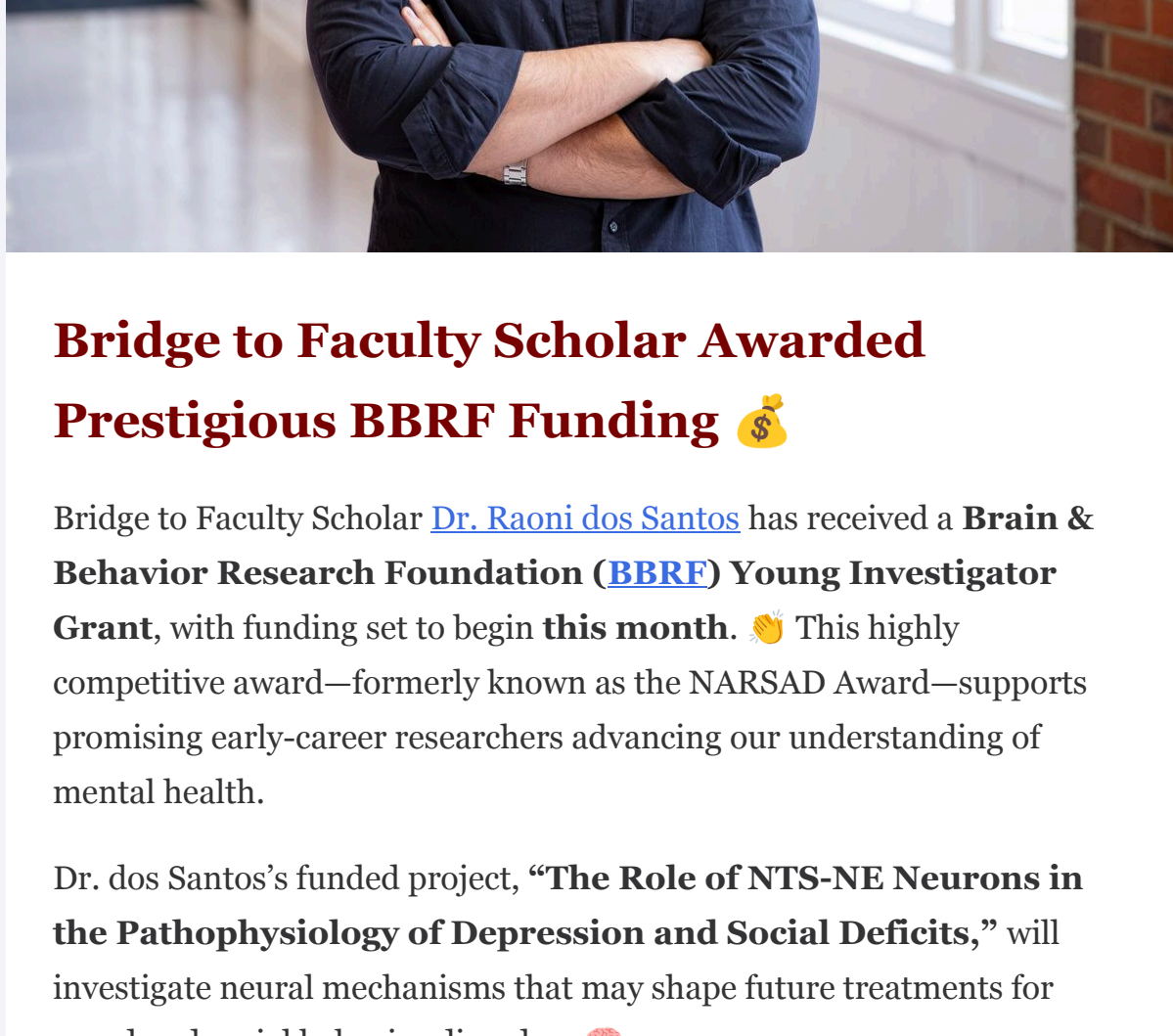
By SOMC Office of Research • Jan 07, 2026

Smart Brevity® count: 3 mins...861 words

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

Start the year off strong and strengthen your skills in AI, complete research security training (now required by NIH & NSF), and look for funding opportunities to advance the important work you are doing!

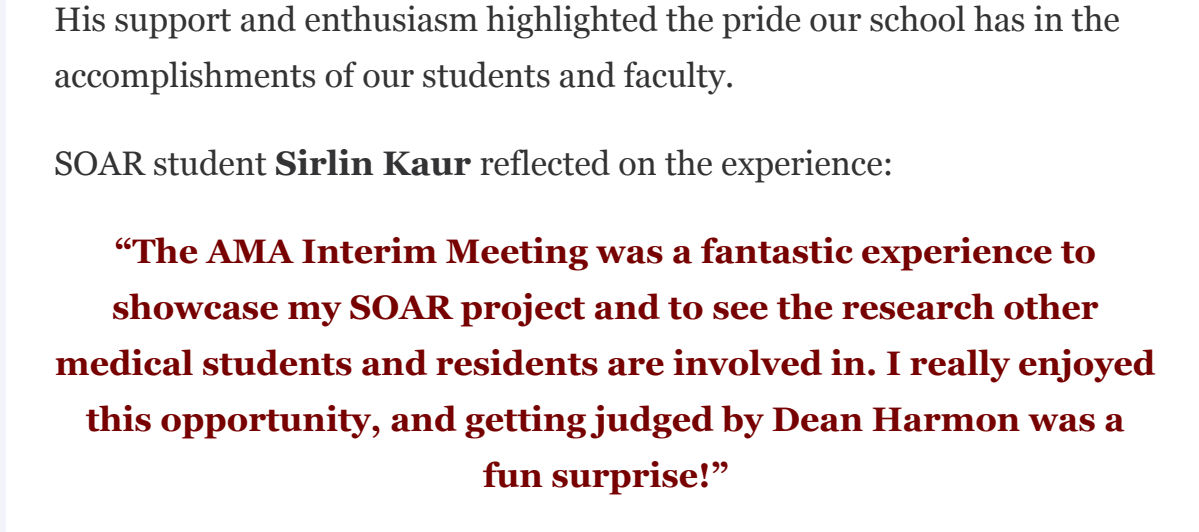
Research Spotlight



Bridge to Faculty Scholar Awarded Prestigious BBRF Funding 💰

Bridge to Faculty Scholar [Dr. Raoni dos Santos](#) has received a **Brain & Behavior Research Foundation (BBRF) Young Investigator Grant**, with funding set to begin **this month**. 🌟 This highly competitive award—formerly known as the NARSAD Award—supports promising early-career researchers advancing our understanding of mental health.

Dr. dos Santos's funded project, **“The Role of NTS-NE Neurons in the Pathophysiology of Depression and Social Deficits,”** will investigate neural mechanisms that may shape future treatments for mood and social behavior disorders. 🧠



Dean Harmon with M2 students Anusha Ghosh and Alex Fossum, and M3 student Sirlin Kaur at the 2025 Interim Meeting of the AMA House of Delegates.

SOMC Students Shine at AMA Interim Meeting

On **November 14th, 2025**, USC SOMC students presented their research at the AMA Interim Meeting of the House of Delegates, where **Dean Harmon** served as a guest judge for the national poster session. His support and enthusiasm highlighted the pride our school has in the accomplishments of our students and faculty.

SOAR student **Sirlin Kaur** reflected on the experience:

“The AMA Interim Meeting was a fantastic experience to showcase my SOAR project and to see the research other medical students and residents are involved in. I really enjoyed this opportunity, and getting judged by Dean Harmon was a fun surprise!”

Their participation showcases the strength and momentum of our research community. 🙌

CLINTRUSC Announces Newly Funded 2025 Projects 🌟

The [Center for Clinical and Translational Research \(ClinTrUSC\)](#) is pleased to announce its **Cycle I Pilot and Developmental Project Awards**, supporting innovative interdisciplinary work across the midlands. ClinTrUSC is supported by **NIH/NIGMS Award #P20GM155896**.

Pilot Awards

- **Targeted Therapeutics in Pediatric Oncology** 🧬👶

PI: [Michael Wyatt](#)

Co-Is: Campbell McInnes, Phillip Buckhaults

Clinical Collaborator: Stuart Cramer

- **Cysteine Adducts and Diabetes Complications** 💧

PI: [Norma Frizzell](#)

Co-I: Gerardo Piroli

Clinical Collaborator: Ambika Rao

- **Train Your Brain** 🧠🏋️ **Fitness SC**

PI: [Elizabeth Regan](#)

Co-I: Christine Pellegrini

Clinical Collaborator: Rob McMahon

- **Nano-ERASERs for TNBC Therapy** 🧬🔬

PI: [Peisheng Xu](#)

Co-I: Hexin Chen

Clinical Collaborator: Julian Kim

Developmental Award

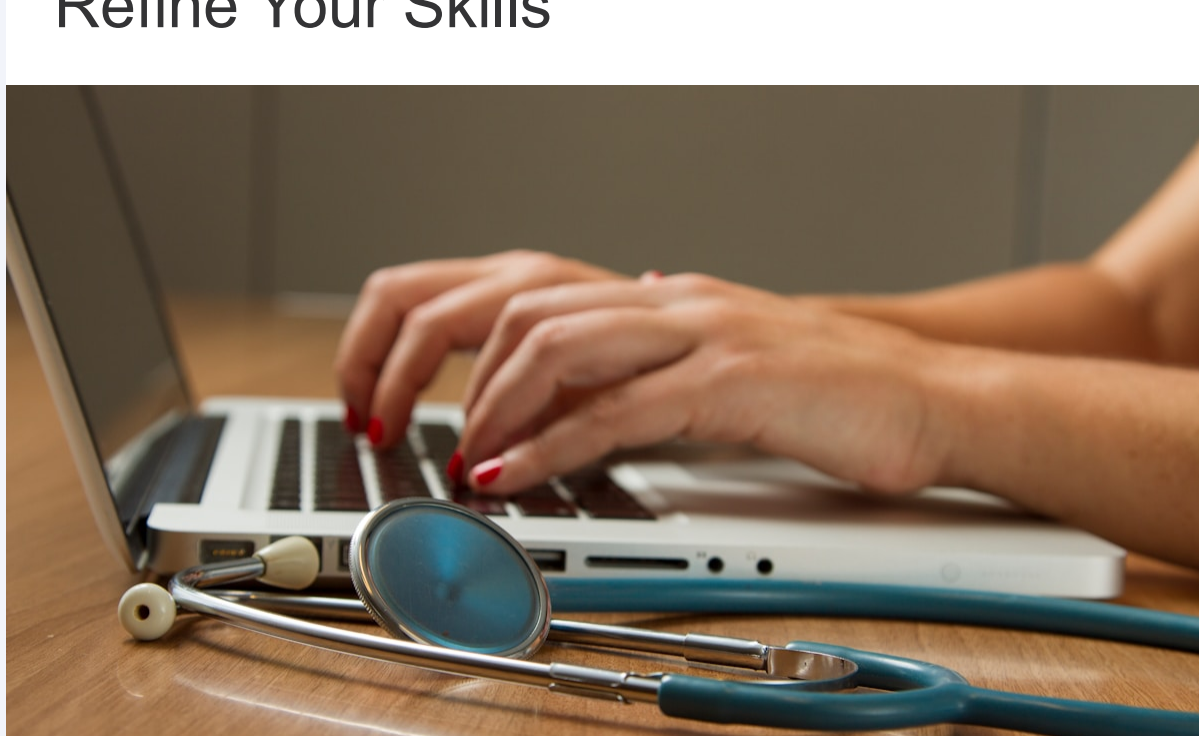
- **Mindful Walking** 🧠🚶 and **Executive Function in Older Adults**

PI: [Chih-Hsiang Yang](#)

Co-I: Xiaoxue Fu

Clinical Collaborator: Rachelle Gajadhar

Programs & Initiatives



🌟 SOAR Mentor Applications Are NOW OPEN!

The **SOAR (Student Opportunities for Academic Achievement Through Research)** program is preparing for its **2026 cohort**—and we're inviting faculty and researchers to serve as mentors! If you're interested in guiding a medical student through a **meaningful research experience**, now is the time to apply!

👉 [Apply here.](#)

📅 Closes February 28, 2026

Visit the [SOAR website](#) or email us to learn more.

✉ SOAR@uscmed.sc.edu

Funding Opportunities

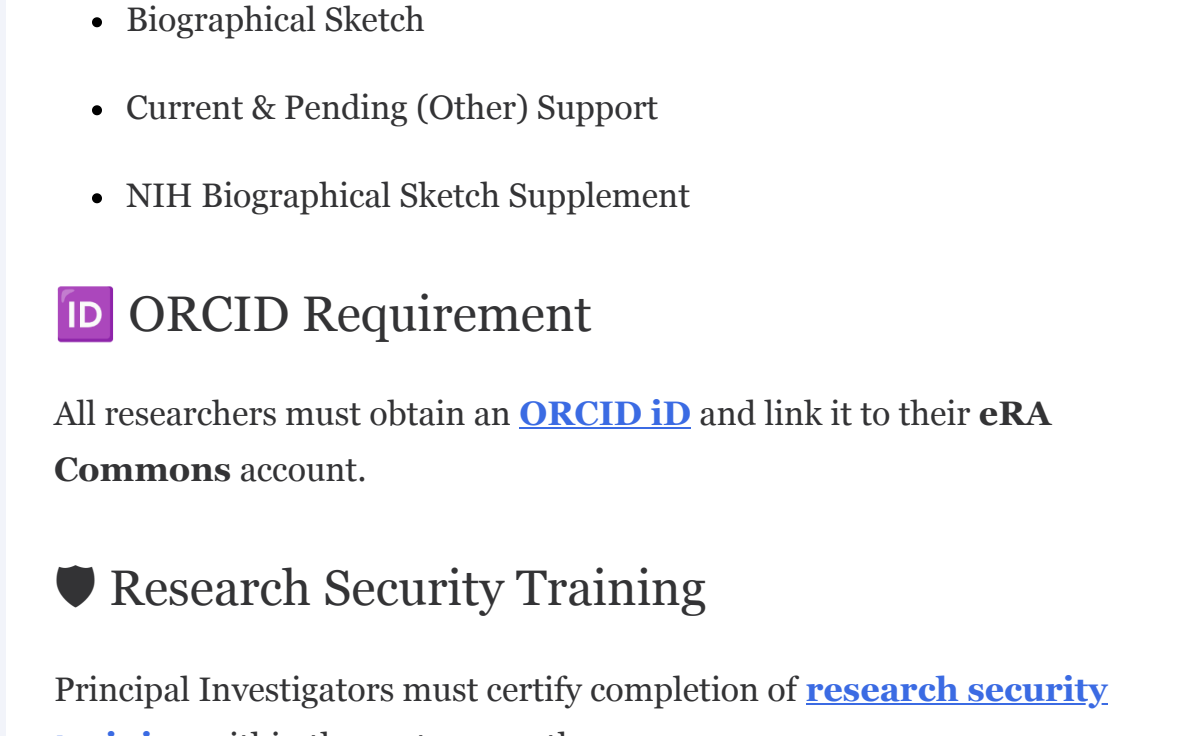


💎 New Year, New Funding Opportunities!

Kick off the year by exploring what's ahead for your research in 2026. Even when major announcements are quiet, new opportunities are always emerging.

🌟 Be sure to check the [Limited Submissions page](#) regularly for the latest funding opportunities that may be a perfect fit for your work. ✨🔍

Refine Your Skills



AI in Research Seminar Series

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

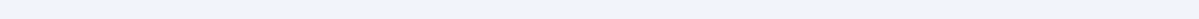
Join us for the first lecture in our AI in Research Seminar Series, exploring how artificial intelligence is shaping research through evolving policies, practical applications, and ethical considerations. 🤖

📅 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.

Action Items



🛡️ 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 the 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](#).

🌟 New NIH Proposal Requirements Effective January 25, 2026

The [National Institutes of Health](#) (NIH) has issued new documentation requirements ([NOT-OD-26-018](#)) for all proposals submitted **on or after January 25, 2026**. Researchers should be aware of the following updates:

📄 Required SciENcv Forms

Researchers must use **common forms in SciENcv**, including:

- Biographical Sketch
- Current & Pending (Other) Support
- NIH Biographical Sketch Supplement

🆔 ORCID Requirement

All researchers must obtain an [ORCID id](#) and link it to their **eRA Commons** account.

🛡️ Research Security Training

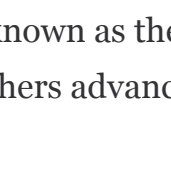
Principal Investigators must certify completion of [research security training](#) within the past 12 months.

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!

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