Global Research Initiatives

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Texas A&M University and CONACYT (Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología – National Council of Science and Technology) Research Agreement

- Original agreement signed in 2001
- Funding – $200,000 per year from Texas A&M and CONACYT
- Awards – $24,000 per research team in one year awards
- History – 157 joint research teams funded for a total of $3.85 million in awards
- Exchange Program – 5 Texas A&M graduate students have been awarded grants up to $12,000
Assessment of Texas A&M – CONACYT Research Collaborative

• Survey of Texas A&M – CONACYT Awardees from years 2004-2009
• 91 teams of Texas A&M and Mexican principal investigators contacted (n=182)
  o 64% responded (n=117)
  o 81% of the 91 research projects represented in the sample
• Major Results
  o 66% of awards involved agriculture or engineering research (overall, 2002-2011)
  o 78% of respondents reported that the grant led to publications
  o 33% of respondents indicated that the grant led to external funding
  o 29% reported collaborative relationships involving student engagement
Assessment of Texas A&M – CONACYT Research Collaborative

• Suggestions from Respondents
  o Increase the funding levels
  o Increase the time allowed for the projects
  o Improve administrative efficiency

• Observations from Texas A&M and CONACYT
  o Very few focused areas of research inquiry
  o Minimal connections across projects
  o Virtually no large-scale extramurally funded research projects
  o Misperception that funding was research funding instead of seed funding
New Texas A&M – CONACYT Research Collaborative

- Currently in negotiations with CONACYT to sign a new agreement
- Possible changes to Research Collaborative Program:
  - PI Qualifications
    - Mexican PIs must have had a grant from CONACYT in the previous three years
    - Texas A&M PIs must have received a competitive award from a federal agency in the previous three years
  - Increased funding amounts for one-year project ($48,000)
  - Clear expectations for extramural funding awards
  - Clear expectations for sustained collaborative funding relationships
China

Texas A&M – National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)

- Conferences laid the foundation for sustained Texas A&M and Chinese research projects
- Established connections with numerous Chinese Universities and NSFC
- Transition to new collaborative arrangements with Chinese universities and agencies
Texas A&M – NSFC Research Collaborative

• MOA signed between TAMU and NSFC in Fall 2011
• Call for Proposals announced Spring 2012
• PI Qualifications
  o Collaborating PI in China must have a current NSFC grant
  o Texas A&M PI must be tenured or tenure-track faculty member
• Award paid from Texas A&M and NSFC
  o $25,000 for Texas A&M researcher
  o 50,000 RMB for the Chinese researcher
• 55 Letters of Intent received, 53 invitations to submit proposals issued
  o Proposals due May 31, 2012
• Program will award 4-5 grants
Texas A&M University – Weizmann Institute of Science Research Collaborative

- MOA signed between Texas A&M University System and Weizmann Institute of Science in 2009
  - Funding for research collaborations involve institutional and philanthropic sources
  - Target funding of $1.0 million for initial awards program
- Call for proposals issued Spring 2012
  - 22 proposals received from PIs in the Colleges of Science and Veterinary Medicine and the Texas A&M Health Science Center
  - 8 proposals selected for funding
Texas A&M University – Weizmann Institute of Science Research Collaborative

- Basic elements of each award
  - 2 years of funding totaling $200,000 – split between Texas A&M and the Weizmann Institute
  - High expectations for extramural funding after receipt of award
- Private fund raising to continue with support from the Weizmann Institute, the Texas A&M Foundation, Division of Research, and colleges committed to the program
Texas A&M University – CAPES
(Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior – Cooperation for Higher Education Human Capital Development)

- **CAPES**, the Federal Agency of Support and Evaluation of Postgraduate Education
- Currently in negotiations to sign an agreement with CAPES
  - $300,000 in CAPES funding
  - $300,000 from Texas A&M University (Division of Research and Colleges)
- Research Collaborative Program similar to programs involving NSFC and CONACYT
Key Elements of Research Collaboratives with National Universities and Research Funding Agencies

- Faculty-focused research collaborations on specific projects
- Joint investments
  - Texas A&M University and colleges
  - Collaborating University or Research Funding Agency
- Awards are preliminary funding for seeking extramural research awards
- PIs must have extramural funding experience
Funding Opportunities for International Research and Collaborations

- National Institutes of Health – Fogarty International Centre
- National Science Foundation – Office of International Science and Engineering
- United State Agency for International Development
- United States Department of Agriculture – National Institute of Food and Agriculture
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation – Grand Challenges in Global Health
Thank you!

Questions?