Northwestern’s Global Reach

Northwestern University’s 2012 ranking in the Nature Publishing Index-Global has risen from 29 to 22 since 2011, according to Nature magazine, the international scientific weekly. The publishing index is a strong indicator of the world’s top scientific institutions based on their primary research published in Nature-branded journals in the Nature publishing group (NPG).

American institutions dominate the list, with three out of the top five: Harvard University (1), Stanford University (2), and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (4). Germany’s Max Planck Society holds the number 3 ranking, and the French National Centre for Scientific Research is 5 in the rankings.

Country by country, the United States prevails as well, with 2,236 articles, a wide margin over the number-2-ranked United Kingdom with 677. After that, it’s Germany with 594 (3), Japan with 398 (4), and France with 383 articles (5).


Northwestern also makes a showing when the rankings are broken down by journal publications. The University comes in second in Nature Chemistry, following the University of Tokyo in first place. Others in the top five for Nature Chemistry are the Scripps Research Institute (3), Harvard University (4) and Stanford University (5).

For more information about the index and rankings, see: http://www.natureasia.com/en/publishing-index/global/.

NSF Update on Sequestration

On July 17, 2013, the National Science Foundation (NSF) issued Important Notice 133A, an update to its Notice 133 which explained the impact of sequestration on NSF operations for the remainder of the current fiscal year.

The key information from the update is:

- NSF will fully fund all existing continuing grant increments in FY 2013.
- NSF directorates have now received full-year funding allocations, which will allow funding decisions to be made prior to the end of the fiscal year on September 30th.
- NSF expects to make fewer new awards in FY 2013.
- NSF will fully fund all FY 2013 major research equipment and facilities construction projects.
- Competitions for some programs and solicitations may not be conducted in FY 2013.
- NSF staff will not be furloughed, allowing for no interruptions to the NSF proposal review and award decision-making processes.

You may recall that the original Notice 133 indicated that 1000 fewer new awards would be issued this year.

The entire Important Notice 133A can be found here: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2013/in133a/in133a.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_80.

New Center for Clinical Research

Last month marked the opening of the new Center for Clinical Research (CCR), a program of Northwestern University’s Clinical and Translational Sciences (NUCATS) Institute. The CCR is designed to help researchers address their study needs.

Led by Lewis J. Smith, MD, associate vice president for research and director of the CCR, an experienced and dedicated team of clinical and translational research faculty and staff provides and supports a wide range of services and resources. Those services and resources include:

- Clinical research space at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and Lurie Children's Hospital with nursing, nutrition, and specimen processing and analysis support.
- Study budget preparation, review, and reconciliation.
- Regulatory filings such as IRB submissions.
- Research participant recruitment.
- Clinical research coordinators for hire.
- ClinicalTrials.gov registration and results reporting support.
- Biostatistics services.
- Clinical research navigation.
- Advocacy for and assistance with clinical research issues.
- Good Clinical Practices (GCP) training and assistance.
- Business development.
- Catalogue of and links to additional clinical research resources, services and space at Northwestern and outside facilities.

As a University-wide core resource, CCR services are available to all clinical and translational research investigators, trainees, and staff at Northwestern and affiliate institutions. Click here for more information.