

Vice President for Research and Associate Provost

The Office of the Vice President for Research and Associate Provost has overall responsibility for research conduct, administration, policy, and compliance. It oversees interschool units, and stewards research relationships with US government agencies, industry, foundations, and foreign sponsors.

Ms. Michelle D. Christy was appointed as director of the Office of Sponsored Programs effective August 2007. Ms. Christy came to MIT from a similar position at Princeton University, taking over from Ms. Julie Norris who had been serving as acting director. As director of OSP, Ms. Christy has responsibility for all aspects of pre- and post-award administration, compliance, indirect cost analysis, and sub-award administration, and heads the OSP staff. A nationally respected leader in the field, her appointment will ensure that MIT continues to play its long-standing role as a leader in research policy.

In the fall of 2007, Professor Martha Gray announced her intention to step down as director for MIT of the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology effective June 30, 2008. Professor Gray completed 13 years of service with many notable accomplishments in education and research, including a major initiative with India, launched in 2007. A search committee, under the leadership of Professor Emery Brown, took up the task of finding a successor.

The new Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology was formally launched with the signing of the agreement with the National Research Foundation of Singapore. A second interdisciplinary research group, in environmental sensing and water, and a third in microfluidics were established. SMART is temporarily housed on the campus of the National University of Singapore as design proceeds on a new, adjacent facility.

Professor Sally (Penny) Chisholm announced her desire to step down as the founding director of the Earth System Initiative. Professor Dara Entekhabi will become the new director on July 1, 2008.

An International Advisory Committee was formed, cochaired by the VPR/AP and associate provost Philip Khoury. It helped to assess and approve several international opportunities, both in research and education.

Readers should consult the individual reports on each of the laboratories, centers, programs and offices that report to the VPR/AP to learn about research highlights and accomplishments. A few notable changes/transitions include the following:

- The Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard continued its remarkable growth, achieving a research volume of \$141M. A new major gift from the Stanley Foundation established a new center for research in psychiatric disorders.
- The MIT Energy Initiative completed its second year of operation with significant success in recruiting industrial partners as founding and sustaining members. A distinguished external advisory committee, chaired by former secretary of state George Schultz, held its first annual meeting.

- The codirectors of the Clinical Research Center, Professors John Gabrieli and Ravi Thadhani coordinated discussions with Harvard Medical School and this office to insure that the MIT General Clinical Research Center was represented in Harvard's Clinical Translation Science Award (CTSA) proposal, which was submitted in 2007. The Harvard CTSA proposal was awarded in May 2008 and went into effect June 1, 2008.
- The Athinoula A. Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging, a joint center of the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology and the Massachusetts General Hospital Radiology Department, completed a 45,000 square foot expansion this year, more than doubling their space. An official ceremony was held in May 2008.
- The MIT/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) Joint Program in Oceanography/Applied Ocean Science and Engineering, which offers advanced degrees those fields, celebrated its 40th anniversary of the signing of the agreement between MIT and WHOI.

In FY2008, MIT's total research volume reached \$643M, an increase of \$45M or 7.5% over FY2007. In constant (consumer price index-corrected) dollars, it represents the first real increase since FY2005. This represents strong growth in a time of largely flat federal research and development spending. In fact, the primary growth occurred in non-federal funding, from foundations, industry, and foreign sources. Roughly one-third of MIT's research funding comes from the National Institutes of Health.

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