



জ্ঞান

(Knowledge)



Office of Research-NSU

Newsletter, Issue No. 1, March 2019



*"...knowledge belongs to humanity, and is the torch which illuminates the world."
- Louis Pasteur*

*"To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle, requires creative imagination and marks real advance in science."
- Albert Einstein*

*"No amount of experimentation can ever prove me right; a single experiment can prove me wrong."
- Albert Einstein*

The Director and OR-NSU Staff

Vice Chancellor Atiqul Islam established the Office of Research-NSU (OR-NSU) in November 2018, appointing Professor Dr. Norman K. Swazo as Director.

Dr. Swazo joined NSU in September 2014 as Professor of Philosophy and has also served as Director, Office of Undergraduate Studies. He holds his Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Georgia (Athens GA, USA), a Graduate Certificate in Global Policy Studies from the University of Georgia Center for Global Policy Studies, a Master of Health Services Administration (MHSA) from the University of Michigan School of Public Health (Ann Arbor MI, USA), and a Bachelor of Arts *magna cum laude* in Science in Human Affairs from Princeton University (Princeton NJ, USA).

Dr. Swazo has held faculty appointment as Professor of Biomedical Ethics and Philosophy and administrative appointment as Interim/Acting Dean, College of Science and General Studies at Alfaisal University in Riyadh Saudi Arabia, as Professor of Philosophy and Chair of the

Department of Philosophy and Humanities at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, as well as professional experience as a Consultant with the Pan American Health Organization, Regional Office of the World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), in the Regional Program on Appropriate Technology for Health and country-level in Honduras, Grenada, and Dominica. Professor Swazo specializes in ethics in international affairs, biomedical ethics, and philosophy of religion.

Mr. Wilson S. Biswas serves as Secretary to the Director. He holds an MBA degree from American International University of Bangladesh majoring in Human Resource Management, with prior experience at Southeast University and Grameenphone Ltd. Mr. Mostafizur Rahman serves as Guest Worker in the OR-NSU on a temporary basis. He is an NSU alumnus, having a BBA and MBA from the School of Business and Economics majoring in Marketing and Human Resource Management. Mr. Olior Rahman serves as Office Support Staff. OR-NSU is located in ADM 625.

OR-NSU Website

The Office of Research-NSU is developing a web presence on the NSU website. All are encouraged to search the website for information on School and Department research mission statements and research targets, policies governing research practices, procedures, templates, national and international standards of

research integrity, links to grant organizations and funding announcements. NSU's Conference and Travel Grants Committee (CTRG) awards cycle of request for applications will be administered by the OR-NSU henceforth, with application instructions posted on the website in due course.

NSU Research Highlights



Source: NSU Website

Dr. Md Rizwanul Islam

On 11 September 2018, Associate Professor Rizwanul Islam, Department of Law, was recognized for his outstanding research contribution in the category of "Arts, Humanities, Law, and Education," for which the President, People's Republic of Bangladesh, awarded him the University Grants Commission Gold Medal Award.

Dr. Sk. Tawfique M. Haque

The World Bank, Washington D.C., taking its decision in January 2019, approved a research proposal for a grant award of US\$100K, entitled "Explaining Differences in Citizen Attitudes Toward Climate Finance for Reducing Vulnerability in Bangladesh," as submitted jointly by the NSU South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) and American University, Washington D.C. Research activities begin this calendar year.



Source: SIPG



Source: NSU Facebook Page

Dr. Mohammad Hossain Shariare

Dr. Mohammad Hossain Shariare, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, NSU, was one of three recipients of the Samson H. Chowdhury Young Scientist Award for 2019, for developing a nano drug delivery system for poorly soluble and permeable drugs.

University, School, and Department Research Mission Statements and 5-Year Research Targets Formulated

NSU is an institution of higher education that aspires to excellence in research and scholarship. Accordingly, NSU is properly to be guided by an overarching Research Mission statement. Each School and all departments have formulated Research Mission

statements and 5-year research targets consistent with the diverse areas of specialization of their faculties. Research Mission statements & Research Targets can be found at the OR-NSU website.

NSU Research Policy Updates

The OR-NSU has formulated policies and procedures and established various university-wide and school-level committees. Human Subjects Research Protection Policy, Animal Care and Use Policy, and Policy Governing Investigation of Research Misconduct have been reviewed by the Vice Chancellor and have been moved forward through the Academic Council to the Syndicate and Board of Trustees (BOT) for approval. These policies will take effect concurrent with BOT approval.

As part of the university's effort to promote faculty research productivity and assure appropriate scientific merit review, each school has constituted a Scientific Review Committee (SRC) and appointed a Research Coordinator reporting dually to the Director, OR-NSU, and to the respective school dean.

The foregoing policies include formation of two university-wide committees: [1] the NSU Institutional Review Board/Ethics Review Committee (NSU IRB/ERC) and [2] the NSU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (NSU IACUC). All core NSU faculty involved in human subjects research (biomedical, behavioral, anthropological, sociological, political) or animal model (*in vivo*) research are expected to have their research protocols reviewed by the SRCs for scientific merit and then, if approved by the SRC, reviewed by the IRB/ERC or IACUC as appropriate to the type of research proposed. All faculty research proposals that involve application for either internal NSU or external research grant funding must be reviewed for scientific merit by the school SRC before being reviewed by the OR-NSU.

NSU Research Strategy Task Force

Now that mission statements have been formulated along with 5-year research targets, the university has established an NSU Research Strategy Task Force (RSTF).



The Director, OR-NSU, convenes the RSTF, its membership including the four school Deans, the Director of Graduate Studies, the Chairpersons of the school SRCs, and the four school Research Coordinators. The task force has its charge defined, thus:

- To identify *strategic priorities for NSU research and scholarship*, while facilitating School- and Department-level research missions and 5-year research targets
- To identify *priority inter-institutional/international research opportunities* that contribute to institutional capacity-building and international research networking, emanating from (a) currently active

collaborative research agreements and (b) local entrepreneurial activity

- To identify objectives for both *intramural and extramural grant funding*, with resource allocation and investment in relation to identified strategic priorities
- To identify best practices for *development of an NSU research endowment*, including through an alumni-giving campaign
- To identify *curricular priorities for PhD degree programs* that will enhance NSU research quality and faculty research productivity
- To identify *curricular opportunities for "honors" undergraduate research* that are linked (as preparatory technical training) to PhD degree program curricular priorities.

The task force will begin its deliberations and will submit its recommendations in due course to the Vice Chancellor and the BOT.

Forthcoming Research Ethics Training

OR-NSU will be arranging for both on site and online training in research ethics. All NSU researchers should be aware of the requirement that they have

regularised ethics training when engaged in human subjects research and animal (*in vivo*) studies.

Online Research Ethics Training Opportunity

All NSU researchers are urged to avail themselves of an online training opportunity in research ethics and to provide OR-NSU with copy of completion certificates when issued as part of your own certification of continuing education in responsible conduct of research.

This online training is available without charge from the Global Health Training Centre (<https://globalhealthtrainingcentre.tghn.org/elearning/research-ethics/>). Users must create an individual account with userid and password. From the website: "Research Ethics Online Training is adapted from an e-Learning course and resource package designed and produced by the World Health Organization (WHO) for use by internal

staff. Research is a vital ingredient for improved global health and scientifically sound and ethically appropriate research is especially important in resource-poor settings where the need for locally applicable research findings is so great. Therefore the WHO has very kindly granted permission for the adaption of this resource in a format and platform that is accessible to all."

"A certificate will be issued on successful completion of all fourteen quiz sections (minimum of 80% required)."

Congratulations to Dr. Rizwanul Islam, Associate Professor of Law, as the first NSU faculty member to complete this modular course.

Keeping on Track Ethically: Research Ethics Principles

Non-maleficence: Do no harm (to individual or public welfare, public safety, or public health).

Beneficence: Do good consistent with professional expertise and prevailing ethical standards of good practice.

Autonomy: Respect the rights and freedom of all persons to choose their own goals and means in their lives.

Prior explicit informed consent: Autonomy requires that any individual recruited to participate as a subject in any

research investigation has the right, prior to initiation of research, to consent to do so on the basis of the investigator's full disclosure of information as to risks and benefits, with the participants retaining the right to withdraw from participation at any time.

Animal Welfare: Minimise fear, pain, stress, and suffering and, as appropriate to balancing scientific progress and animal welfare, adhere to recommended practice of replacement, reduction, and refinement.

Remember to Connect Scientific Design to Ethics

Exposure of research participants to physical or social harm, discomfort or even inconvenience, can be justified only when there is good reason to anticipate some compensating benefit to society (i.e., to the body of scientific knowledge or the well-being of future patients or society at large) and perhaps to the participants as well. A

study with a design so flawed that nothing can be learned from it ought therefore not to be undertaken. In a phrase, bad science is bad ethics." -- R. Cash, et al., *Casebook on Ethical Issues in International Health Research* (Geneva: World Health Organisation, 2009), p.48.