

Office of the Provost (Research)

Newsletter, Issue #3

Dear colleagues and students,

We have launched yet a new initiative - to share not only research-related information from our office, but also to showcase research and scientific-related information from you, our faculty members and researchers.

This issue includes an interview of Zachary Cofran, Assistant Professor in School of Humanities and Social Sciences, who is part of the team that discovered a new species of the genus *Homo* from the Dinaledi Chamber, South Africa. Congratulations Dr. Cofran! This is a truly inspiring event. Our office would like to share the pride for our University and inspire our faculty members and researchers to highlight their results through this medium.

We have expanded the list of funding opportunities for Schools and Research Centers and organized it by discipline for your convenience. Moreover, there is additional information on the Horizon 2020 program, and much more.

Another new great feature of our newsletter is "Recruitment" column, where students can find open positions at NU to acquire practical skills of their future profession.

Our team also would like to thank Philippe Frossard, Vice-Provost for Research, who has been a truly inspiring leader to our team. Prof. Frossard, through university-wide consultation, defined the University's vision, Research Strategy for 2014-2020 and Implementation plan. He also launched numerous initiatives and research-related events over the past two years. It has been a remarkable time for University. We wish him all the best for his future!

Best wishes to all,
Office of the Provost (Research Team)

14/10/2015

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News

A large group of scientists from all over the world have discovered 15 partial skeletons in the Dinaledi Chamber, South Africa in November 2013. This is the largest single discovery of its type in Africa. The researchers claim that the discovery will change ideas about our human ancestors. Our faculty member Zachary Cofran was a part of this remarkable event. The NU community is fortunate to hear first-hand about this discovery.

Interview with Zachary Cofran

Research Team: Well, first of all, congratulations! It's a remarkable event for you as a scientist and for the whole of Nazarbayev University!

Zachary Cofran: Yes it is. It is very exciting to me that I had a chance to work with and analyze such a large number of skeletons at the early stage of my career.

RT: Can you tell us why this discovery is so important for mankind?

Z: First of all, it is very rare in the history when such a big number of skeletons were discovered in one excavation - 1500 pieces, in total - at least 15 individuals from infants to adults. It's a very big sample which permits us to understand and analyze how the population of that time looked like. This species in many aspects looks like modern human beings, but at the same time they have primitive structure of fingers and their shoulder looks like ape's one. Our analysis tells us that we have discovered new human-like species that share some ancestry with us.



Another remarkable thing about this discovery is that this is only a small part of this burial chamber and the excavation will continue. There are so much more to discover.

RT: How long did the project and excavation themselves last?

Z: Excavation itself began in November 2013. A large group of scientists from all over the world including me joined the project in May 2014 to analyze the excavated fossils. I'm grateful that the management of NU understood the importance of this project and let me go in the busiest period of the year - finals.



RT: What was the most challenging moment in the project?

Z: Since it was a large discovery, it was quite a challenge to sort out 1500 pieces and refer

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them to the right individuals. My area of interest has been teeth and it was not that easy to understand what tooth goes where and fit them together, but in the same time it is the most interesting part as well. Teeth in general serve as one of the most important source of information about human being. By their growth and development you can understand whether it is infant, teenager or adult, female or male, and reconstruct the eating habits of this human-like species.



RT: It must have been an amazing feeling, when you discovered something that not a single living person on a planet knew about. Tell us what does it feel like when you actually realize that you discovered a new human-like species?

Z: It is very exciting. The day I came and saw all of the excavated items I realized that it will be a big discovery. I felt privileged and grateful - to be among the first people, who will see and analyze this new discovery.

RT: What are your plans now? Will you pursue in this project or start a new one?

Z: Yes, I will continue my analysis of the excavated items, to understand how the teeth and body grew and developed. There are already some published articles about this discovery by my colleagues from the project, but I will be presenting the results of my discovery next April on the conference American Association of Physical Anthropologists.

I also would like to involve our students in the analysis. Soon enough we will have the necessary equipment and software in our laboratory. I hope it will encourage them to make discoveries of their own.

RT: What advice would you have for your fellow scientists and researchers at NU?

Z: The advice is simple - be curious and passionate about what you do. There so much there out in the world, so everyone should follow up on what truly interests him or her. Only this attitude will lead to big adventures and discovery afterwards.

RT: It was a pleasure to talk to you Dr. Cofran and we wish you all the best for continued success.

Useful links:

<http://elifesciences.org/content/4/e09560/article-data>

<http://elifesciences.org/content/4/e09561>

http://morphosource.org/index.php/Detail/ProjectDetail/Show/project_id/124

<http://www.nature.com/ncomms/2015/151006/ncomms9431/full/ncomms9431.html>

<http://www.nature.com/ncomms/2015/151006/ncomms9432/full/ncomms9432.html>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-34192447>

Useful Information

In this section, we would like to share the information on external funding opportunities that you may find useful.

Horizon 2020 Program: Brief Overview



Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation program ever with nearly **€80 billion** of funding available over **7 years** (2014-2020) - in addition to the private investment that this money will attract. It promises more breakthroughs, discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market.

Horizon 2020 offers a large variety of funding opportunities for research and innovation activities through calls for proposals that are set out in the Horizon 2020 work program. Most of the Horizon 2020 themes support collaborative research projects where at least three organizations from different countries form a consortium.

Legal Entities established in the following countries are eligible to receive funding in Horizon 2020:

- * Member States of the European Union, including their overseas departments and outermost regions.
- * Associated Countries
- * Third Countries (incl. **Kazakhstan**). In Horizon 2020 there are more opportunities for cooperation with and participation by researchers from non-EU countries.
- * International European interest organizations

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For more information, please visit the following websites:

- * [What you need to know about Horizon 2020 calls](#)
- * [Participant Portal H2020 Online Manual](#)
- * [Fact Sheet: International Participation in Horizon 2020](#)
- * [Country profiles and featured projects](#)

SciVal Funding: Search and Retrieve the Right Funding Opportunities for You

Nazarbayev University Faculty, Students, and Staff now have access to a powerful search database, SciVal Funding, which lists thousands of funding opportunities. Users can search by keyword and browse by topic and location. Users are encouraged to register with SciVal Funding and create profiles that include their areas of research interest as diverse as engineering, humanities or medical science. Once a profile is created, users can set up funding alerts via RSS feed or e-mail notification. SciVal Funding can be searched for funding opportunities sponsored by government institutions, corporations, professional societies and many other sources.

Source: <http://www.funding.scival.com/home#b>

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SciVal Funding also can be searched for awarded grants by awardee's name, awardee's institution, subject discipline, sponsor or grant number. The ability to search for both funding opportunities and awarded grants in a single resource is one of the best features of SciVal Funding.

SciVal Funding can be valuable to a number of types of users:

- * New researchers can search for funding sources and opportunities
- * Department administrators can track their department's funding through the awarded grants interface
- * Researchers can see who is already funded in their areas of interest for building areas of collaboration
- * Students can search for fellowship opportunities

With its large database of sponsored projects and customization features, SciVal Funding is worth trying out. This valuable resource is easy to search and provides researchers the opportunity to discover funding opportunities that they may never have found before.

Tutorial 1:

- * [How to find sponsors interested in funding my research?](#)

Tutorial 2:

- * [How can awarded grants help me find relevant opportunities?](#)

Tutorial 3:

- * [How do I create a search alert that I can receive regularly by email?](#)
- * [How do I create a search profile to personalize my recommendations?](#)

For access to training on the **SciVal Channel** on YouTube, [click here](#).

For answers to common questions, [click here](#).

For additional information or advanced training on SciVal Funding functions as well as guidance on funding opportunities, please contact:

Aiman Temirova, Manager for Research Monitoring and Assessment, Office of the Provost, aiman.temirova@nu.edu.kz, +7 7172 70 91 58

Funding Opportunities Awaiting You!

Our team identified [100 funding opportunities](#) available to you .

More on STEM funding opportunities

No	Title	Funding Type	Funding Classification	Funding Organization	Award ceiling	Deadline	View full announcement
Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine							
1.	Advanced clinical trials to test artificial pancreas device systems in Type 1 diabetes	Collaboration or Cooperative Agreement/Agreements/Contracts	Medicine, Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, Internal Medicine	National Institutes of Health	16,000,000 USD	08-FEB-2016	Link SciVal Funding Link
2.	Fulbright South and Central Asia Regional Research (SCARR)	Training, scholarship, or fellowship	Social Sciences, Social Sciences (miscellaneous), Arts and Humanities, History	United States - India Educational Foundation	Not specified	Ongoing	Link SciVal Funding Link
3.	Molecular Endocrinology/Stearyl Receptors	Fellowships	Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology, Medicine	National Institutes of Health	Not specified	Ongoing	Link SciVal Funding Link
4.	Planning for Regional Centers of Research Excellence in Non-communicable Diseases in Low and Middle Income Countries	Research	Medicine, Infectious Diseases, Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology, Cancer Research	National Institutes of Health	400,000 USD	23-JUL-2016	Link SciVal Funding Link
5.	Glucocorticoid Transporter Mechanism	Fellowships	Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology	National Institutes of Health	Not specified	Ongoing	Link SciVal Funding Link
6.	Gene Silencing	Fellowships	Biochemistry, Genetics and	National	Not specified	Ongoing	Link

More on SSH funding opportunities

No	Title	Funding Type	Funding Classification	Funding Organization	Award ceiling	Deadline	View full announcement
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES							
1.	Fulbright South and Central Asia Regional Research (SCARR)	Training, scholarship, or fellowship	Social Sciences, Social Sciences (miscellaneous), Arts and Humanities, History	United States - India Educational Foundation	Not specified	Ongoing	Link SciVal Funding Link
2.	Research Project Grants	Research	Agricultural and Biological Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology, Business, Management and Accounting, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Computer Science, Decision Sciences, Dentistry, Earth and Planetary Science, Economics, Econometrics and Finance, Energy, Engineering, Environmental Science, Health Professions, Immunology and Microbiology, Materials Science, Mathematics, Medicine, Multidisciplinary, Neuroscience, Nursing, Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutical Science, Physics and Astronomy, Psychology, Social Sciences, Veterinary Medical Science	Levenshulme Trust	100,000 GBP	01-DEC-2015	Link SciVal Funding Link
3.	ASTAR Research	Program or		Agency for	Not specified	Not	Link

More on funding opportunities for Students

No	Title	Funding Type	Funding Classification	Funding Organization	Deadline	View full announcement
1.	Chevening Scholarship (UK)	Scholarship	Defense and Security, Economic, Energy, and Green Energy Development, Human Rights, Media and Journalism, Social Development, Miscellaneous	UK Government	November 3, 2015	Link
2.	Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees/Doctorates (EU)	Scholarship	Agriculture and Veterinary, Engineering, Manufacture and Construction, Health and Welfare, Humanities and Arts, Social Sciences, Business and Law, Science, Mathematics and Computing	European Commission	Not specified	Link (KZ office) Link (official website)
3.	Edmund S. Muskie graduate fellowship program (USA)	Fellowship	Social Sciences, Social Sciences (miscellaneous)	International Research and Exchanges Board	Not specified	Link SciVal Funding Link
4.	Fulbright Foreign Student Program (USA)	Scholarship	Miscellaneous	US Department of State	June 1, 2015 (for academic year 2016-2017)	Link
5.	DAAD (Germany)	Scholarship	Medicine, Engineering, Art, Music, Sport, Mathematics/Natural Sciences, Law, Economics and Social Sciences, Language and Cultural Studies, Agriculture, Forestry and Nutritional Science	DAAD	Not specified	Link (KZ office) Link (official website)

If you want us to find more funding opportunities for you, please send us an email with your research field and key words of your research interests. We will find the right funding scheme for you!

Recruitment

Position #1

Project description: research project on the interactions of soil and buried pipeline for an industrial project/contract with a multinational oil service company. The research conducted at Nazarbayev University is a large (full-size) experiment of soil-pipe interaction and is a continuation of previous smaller scale experiments that have been conducted at the University of Oxford and University of Cambridge in the UK.

Position: Civil engineering undergraduate students

Number of positions: 6-8

Paid: yes

Department: Civil Engineering Department

Qualifications:

- * 3rd year and 4th year students
- * AutoCAD drawing
- * Structural design and soil testing
- * Quantity survey
- * Surveying

Contact person:

- * Dr. Minh Nguyen (Principal Investigator)
Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering
Email: minh.nguyen@nu.edu.kz
- * Ms. Ainar Ospanova (Project's Secretary)
Teaching Assistant, Civil Engineering
Email: ainar.ospanova@nu.edu.kz

Position #2

Project description: research project on the interactions of soil and buried pipeline for an industrial project/contract with a multinational oil service company. The research conducted at Nazarbayev University is a large (full-size) experiment of soil-pipe interaction and is a continuation of previous smaller scale experiments that have been conducted at the University of Oxford and University of Cambridge in the UK.

Position: Electrical engineering undergraduate students

Number of positions: 1-2

Paid: yes

Department: Civil Engineering Department

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Qualifications:

- * 3rd year and 4th year students
- * Signal processing
- * MATLAB programming and visualization
- * Sensor and actuator knowledge

Contact person:

- * Dr. Minh Nguyen (Principal Investigator)
Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering
Email: minh.nguyen@nu.edu.kz
- * Ms. Ainar Ospanova (Project's Secretary)
Teaching Assistant, Civil Engineering
Email: ainar.ospanova@nu.edu.kz

Position # 3

Project description: research project on the interactions of soil and buried pipeline for an industrial project/contract with a multinational oil service company. The research conducted at Nazarbayev University is a large (full-size) experiment of soil-pipe interaction and is a continuation of previous smaller scale experiments that have been conducted at the University of Oxford and University of Cambridge in the UK.

Position: Mechanical engineering undergraduate students

Number of positions: 1-2

Paid: yes

Department: Civil Engineering Department

Qualifications:

- * 3rd year and 4th year students
- * AutoCAD drawing
- * Machine design

Contact person:

- * Dr. Minh Nguyen (Principal Investigator)
Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering
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- * Ms. Ainar Ospanova (Project's Secretary)
Teaching Assistant, Civil Engineering
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Project#4

Project description: research project on the interactions of soil and buried pipeline for an industrial project/contract with a multinational oil service company. The research conducted at Nazarbayev University is a large (full-size) experiment of soil-pipe interaction and is a continuation of previous smaller scale experiments that have been conducted at the University of Oxford and University of Cambridge in the UK.

Position: Chemical engineering undergraduate students

Number of positions: 1-2

Paid: yes

Department: Civil Engineering Department

Qualifications:

- * 3rd year and 4th year students
- * Soil and underground water chemistry
- * Environmental testing

Contact person:

- * Dr. Minh Nguyen (Principal Investigator)
Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering
Email: minh.nguyen@nu.edu.kz
- * Ms. Ainar Ospanova (Project's Secretary)
Teaching Assistant, Civil Engineering
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Position # 5

Project description: project „Spatial Dynamics of Marshrutkas in Central Asia and the Caucasus“ directed by the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL) and funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. The project tackles the relevance of the marshrutkas mobility phenomenon for the post-Soviet production of urban spaces and the emergence of new spatially relevant orders in the fields of economy, morale, urban development and migration.

Position: PhD position based at the Nazarbayev University, Astana.

Number of positions: 1

School: SHSS

Qualifications: the PhD candidate is expected to design and implement an own research project leading to a PhD/Cand.Sc. degree.

Contact person:

- * Alima Bissenova
Assistant Professor, SHSS
Email: abissenova@nu.edu.kz

Take a Look Back Through Previous Issues of Our Newsletter

NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY
Office of the Provost - Research
September Newsletter
 Issue 1, 08.09.2015

Inside this issue: **Dear colleagues and students,**

NU Research Evaluation 2
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 British Council grants 7

Welcome to the September issue of the Office of the Provost - Research (OVPR) newsletter. We hope that you enjoyed your summer holidays and return refreshed and revitalized. In this issue, we present NU's research performance evaluation; the structure, organization and operations of the OVPR; the latest British Council's call for grant applications, as well as 53 other, current, potential funding opportunities.

If you are aware of any additional funding scheme that you would like to share with your colleagues, please [contact us](#).

Special Points of Interest:

- NU Research Evaluation
- Office of the Vice-Provost for Research: Structure, Organization and Operations
- New Funding Opportunities for NTU scholars
- British Council workshop and travel grants

NU Research Evaluation: A Brief Overview

Aiman Temirova, Manager for Research Monitoring and Assessment, presented an overview of Nazarbayev University research performance at the Research Council of August 4, 2015.

The presentation drew attention to the fact that, since its inception, Nazarbayev University has steadily increased both the quantity and quality of its research output. Overall, 250 NU faculty members and researchers have produced 313 internationally-refereed publications between 2011 and 2014, 9.6% of which are ranked among the world's top 10% most highly-cited papers. It was also worth noting that 68.4% of these have been co-authored with international collaborators.

Scholarly Output

Year	Number of Publications
2010	~10
2011	~20
2012	~40
2013	~80
2014	313

number of publications by authors at Nazarbayev University
 View list of publications

NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY
Office of the Provost - Research
September Newsletter
 Issue 2, 28.09.2015

Inside this issue: **Dear colleagues and students,**

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Welcome to the second issue of our new monthly e-newsletter from the Office of the Provost (Vice-Provost for Research). We hope you enjoy this conduit as a way to keep you informed of the exciting news from our office, receive useful information about research events, and find new funding opportunities for your projects.


Your comments and feedback are welcome and necessary in order to ensure that this newsletter serves you in the best possible way. We also encourage you to share this newsletter with your colleagues and contacts who may be interested in this information.

As always, if you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Special Points of Interest:

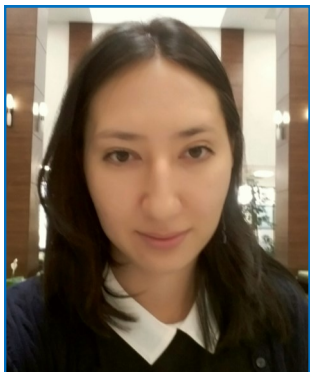
- NU's research performance evaluation by research fields in STEEM and the Social Sciences
- Taylor & Francis workshop on *How to Get Published*
- Information on new Funding Opportunities
- SOVA and SOVA Funding training held at NTU in September


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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us:



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