

ARD Updates

ASSOCIATION OF 1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS

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Message from the Chair

Dr. Govind Kannan

I want to wish each of you a safe and joyous Thanksgiving celebration. Thanksgiving is a holiday shared by all Americans, regardless of religious faith or background, and allows us to focus on our blessings and the freedoms we enjoy.

We all have much to be thankful for. We live in a country where freedom, both personal and academic, is guaranteed by our Constitution and reinforced in our daily lives. We also are part of a land-grant system where diversity is celebrated, not feared.

It is in this spirit of Thanksgiving that I am grateful to have had the opportunity and pleasure to serve as ARD Chair for the past two years. I have truly enjoyed serving as your Chair. Thank you for entrusting me with the awesome responsibility of leading the 1890 land-grant university research enterprise. Of course, I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to all of you for working so cooperatively, diligently and altruistically to advance the vision, mission, goals and values of ARD.

I am also most thankful for the collective spirit of excellence and innovation that we enjoy on our campuses and for the hard work and dedication that you give day-in and day-out. I know your work is not always easy or circumstances necessarily convenient. But I do know that “convenience” and “ease” are not words that describe high performance, and we must continue to push our performance for the welfare of our students, our communities, our nation and our world. Together, let us recommit ourselves to these high ideals because together we are only limited by our imagination!

I want to personally thank the Executive Committee, Dr. Carolyn Brooks, and most recently, Dr. Alton Thompson for their tireless efforts of supporting me in my role as ARD Chair and for representing the interests and agenda of the 1890 community and land-grant system as well.

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NIFA seeks data-driven initiatives

Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy recently announced a new NIFA initiative, “Food and Agriculture Cyberinformatics and Tools (FACT), that is designed to develop data-driven solutions for addressing complex problems facing agriculture today.

“Data, technology, and approaches that integrate individual and societal considerations are essential to meeting this challenge,” said Dr. Ramaswamy in his welcome address. “To achieve this, NIFA envisions a future for agriculture that is connected, data-driven, personalized, and sustainable.”

The FACT Initiative recognizes that analyses of agricultural systems to identify novel solutions require multi-scale data, machine learning, data visualization, and predictive modeling. These analyses also require transdisciplinary teams to work across scientific, economic, environmental, industrial, and political spheres. To enable this iterative process, clear strategic investments need to integrate information technology, computer science, engineering, statistics, business, economics, and social sciences communities with traditional agricultural research, education, extension, and agricultural producers and allied food supply chain participants.

NIFA encourages communities to develop workshop proposals that address six topics in further detail to identify needs and develop strategic plans:

- NIFA data-driven advances in agriculture and the food production systems,
- Cross sector advances in data applications,
- Data-driven advances to address societal well-being and consumer demands,
- Data management and application,
- Developing a data literate workforce and end-user, and
- Big domain communication, property rights and communities

These workshops can focus on needs for generating, managing, and integrating big data in a specific domain of the food and agricultural system. NIFA routinely considers workshop proposals in the Foundational Program of the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative.



Visit us online at www.umes.edu/ard

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ARD Updates is published monthly by the Association of Research Directors. To suggest articles, contact Dr. Alton Thompson at

2017 ARD Symposium Details

April 1-4, 2017, Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, Ga

REGISTRATION

Early Registration—\$500 per participant, ends Friday, Nov. 11, 2016

Regular Registration—\$525, Nov. 12, 2016 – Feb. 24, 2017

Late Registration—\$575, Feb. 25 – March 24, 2017

On-site Registration—\$600

Registration can be paid by purchase order or check. **No refunds.**

To register:

<https://www.umes.edu/ARD/1890symposium/RegistrationForm.pdf>

For hotel information and registration:

<https://aws.passkey.com/event/14466006/owner/323/home>

EXHIBITORS

Each 1890 campus is invited to display a university exhibit at no cost. Additional exhibits and non-1890 exhibitors must pay the fee of \$2,000 by Feb. 17, 2017. All exhibitors, including the 1890s, must submit the Exhibit Registration form by the deadline.

To become an Exhibitor: <https://www.umes.edu/ARD/1890symposium/Exhibitor.aspx>.

To become a Sponsor: <https://www.umes.edu/ARD/1890symposium/SponsorshipsARDSymposium2017web.pdf>

ABSTRACTS

The deadline for abstracts for oral presentations is Friday, Nov. 18. Click here for instructions for formatting and electronic submission

<https://www.umes.edu/ARD/1890symposium/SubmitAbstract.aspx>.

The application deadline for the Morrison-Evans Outstanding Scientist Award and the B.D. Mayberry Young Scientist Award is Jan. 20, 2017. To submit a nominee, click here <https://www.umes.edu/ARD/1890symposium/AwardNominations.aspx>

Message from the Chair ... (Cont. from Page 1.)

At the upcoming ARD meeting in Austin, TX, I will pass the gavel to our new Chair, Dr. Moses Kairo, a very capable leader. It is essential that ARD has a top scholar and seasoned administrator who can provide the desired direction and mature and contemporary leadership. Given Moses' leadership efforts associated with the 1890 Centers of Excellence and the 1890-USDA Task Force, he is the ideal person for this role given the current state of the 1890 land-grant system. ARD must move into new areas and collaborative partnerships and do so in a manner that portrays visionary leadership for the year 2020 and beyond. Moses is the right person for this task.

The edition of *ARD Updates* contains a lot of important information about the 2017 ARD Research Symposium. Please visit the website for additional information about registration, deadlines, etc. An exciting symposium is being planned and I want to encourage all of you to participate in this biannual event.

ARD CALENDAR

74TH ANNUAL PAWC

Dec. 4 - 6, 2016

Theme: "Cultivating a Culture of Success Through Innovation in Agriculture, Forestry, Natural Resources "

<http://pawc.info/>

