



# News Release

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## **Five University Researchers Earn State Research Grants**

PIERRE, S.D. – Competitive state research grants were awarded this week to five faculty members from South Dakota public universities. The immediate benefit is to help advance their individual research projects, but the long-term goal is to strengthen the state’s capacity for research and technology development.

“Although the total amount available for us to award was reduced by 10 percent due to budget cuts, the reviewers were very pleased with the quality and competitiveness of this year’s submissions,” said Gary E. Johnson, system vice president of research for the South Dakota Board of Regents.

Thirty-two grant proposals were received this year by the Competitive Research Grant Program, requesting nearly \$2.8 million against the \$450,000 that was available to award. This is the seventh consecutive year that the state has financially supported grant awards to build higher levels of competitive research in the public university system.

2010 was a record year for research in the South Dakota public university system, and Johnson said 2011 is shaping up to be another good year as well. “University-based research performance through the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2011 is up \$12.5 million year over year,” he said. “Research awards allow the universities to acquire cutting-edge equipment, hire staff, pay faculty, and support undergraduate and graduate students.”

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### **2011 Competitive Research Grant Program**

These are the five faculty members who received a Competitive Research Grant, their department, research topic, and grant amount awarded:

#### **The University of South Dakota**

- Gopinath Mani, Biomedical Engineering – *Polymer-Free Dual Drug-Eluting Coronary Stents*, \$87,450
- Vincente Guisepe, Physics – *Development of a Radon Progeny Surface Contamination Study for Deep Underground Experiments*, \$83,450
- Hongmin Wang, Biomedical Sciences – *Role of Ubiquilin in Ischemic Stroke*, \$93,450

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### **South Dakota State University**

- Quiquan Qiao, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science – *Novel Polymers for Highly Efficient Organic Solar Cells*, \$93,450
- Katie Bertrand, Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences – *Will climate change exacerbate habitat fragmentation for Topeka shiners in Great Plains streams? Establishing a modular experimental stream system to increase competitiveness and research capacity at SDSU*, \$92,200