

UConn, UConn Health secured record \$286M in research dollars in past fiscal year

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With a record-breaking nearly \$286 million secured in grants and contract funding during the past fiscal year, UConn and UConn Health are continuing toward university President Thomas Katsouleas' ambitious goal of doubling research spending over the next decade.

“I’m very proud of our entire research community for what they have accomplished in the last year,” Katsouleas [said](#) in a news release Monday.

“We still have work ahead of us, but this increase is an indication of UConn’s commitment to create new knowledge and offer valuable experiential learning opportunities for our students.”

Appointed in August 2019 as the university’s 16th president, Katsouleas said when he took the job that he planned to increase UConn’s [research spending to \\$500 million](#) while keeping tuition affordable.

The growth in research funding, an increase of 7% or about \$19 million over the prior year, is even more encouraging given the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the disruption it caused to the school’s research enterprise, UConn Vice President for Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Radenka Maric said, in a news release. The past fiscal year began July 1, 2019, and ended on June 30.

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“Despite the significant challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, our faculty, staff, and graduate students remained committed to both their work and our collective health,” she added.

Among the top research grants awarded to UConn in 2020 was a \$10 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to fund a project related to decreasing the use of antibiotics [in the poultry industry](#), as well as community health and environmental sustainability. The project is led by Kumar Venkitanarayanan, a professor of animal science and associate dean of research and graduate education in UConn’s College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources.

UConn Health’s largest single grant, worth \$6.9 million, came from the National Institutes of Health to support the Center for Biomolecular NMR Data Processing and Analysis. The grant extends funding for software support for hundreds of biomedical research programs, including those focused on drug discovery and structural biology. UConn Health’s project is led by Jeff Hoch, a professor of molecular biology and biophysics at the UConn School of Medicine.

UConn’s Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy, a multidisciplinary research organization, gained about \$21.8 million in new funds. Institute researchers also helped to develop the university’s reopening plans.

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