

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA**  
**SENATE RESEARCH COUNCIL ROSTER (2023 - 2024)**

Terms begin and end at the beginning of Fall (i.e., the beginning of Fall 2023 to the beginning of Fall 2026)

Meetings held via Microsoft Teams or at USF Research & Innovation, Multi-Purpose Room  
 3702 Spectrum Blvd., Suite 165, Front Office: 813-974-5570

Research Council Coordinator: Judi Dorn, VP Research Office, 813-974-5122, judidorn@usf.edu

**Alphabetical Order by College**

Member	College Represented	Term	Department	E-mail Address	Research/Specialization
<b>1</b> James W. Leahy, PhD Professor and Chair	College of Arts and Sciences (1)	2023-2026	Chemistry	<a href="mailto:jwleahy@usf.edu">jwleahy@usf.edu</a>	The ultimate goal of research in our labs is the discovery of new drug candidates with fully optimized pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamics parameters. The Leahy group is actively engaged in collaborative research efforts aimed at the synthesis and optimization of small molecule leads in a number of therapeutic areas as well as the pursuit of novel synthetic methodology.
<b>2</b> Kersuze Simeon-Jones, PhD	College of Arts and Sciences (2)	2023-2026	School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies	<a href="mailto:ksimeon@usf.edu">ksimeon@usf.edu</a>	Primary research and teaching interests include Intellectual History and Political Movements of the African Diaspora, Haiti's National History; Women History within the African/Black Diaspora.
<b>3</b> Xizhen (Jenny) Qin, PhD Associate Professor	College of Arts and Sciences (3)	2023-2026	World Languages	<a href="mailto:xizhengin@usf.edu">xizhengin@usf.edu</a>	Research focuses on Chinese Pedagogy, Intercultural Communication and Chinese Cultural Studies.

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<b>4</b>	Marilyn Stern, PhD, CRC Professor	College of Behavioral & Community Sciences	2019-2022 2022-2023	Child and Family Studies	<a href="mailto:mstern1@usf.edu">mstern1@usf.edu</a>	Primary research focus is in pediatric, adolescent and young adult (AYA) psychosocial oncology, communication, and transition to survivorship; developing interventions to reduce childhood and adolescent obesity, and the vulnerable child syndrome.
<b>5</b>	Elizabeth Hadley, PhD Assistant Professor	College of Education	2022-2025	Literary Studies	<a href="mailto:hadleye@usf.edu">hadleye@usf.edu</a>	Research focuses on understanding the relationship between preschool oral language skills and later reading comprehension, as well as working with preschool teachers to foster academic vocabulary growth in children from under-served communities.
<b>6</b>	David Simmons, PhD Associate Professor <b>Vice-Chair 2023-2024</b>	College of Engineering	2022-2025	Chemical, Biological and Materials Engineering	<a href="mailto:dssimmons@usf.edu">dssimmons@usf.edu</a>	The Simmons research group combines computer simulation, machine learning, theory, and high-throughput experiments to understand and design next-generation advanced materials. Major research areas include the following: Glass-Forming Liquids; Dynamics and Mechanics in Nanostructured Materials and Near Interfaces; Sequence-Specific Polymers; and Mechanics of Filled Elastomers

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7	Mark Luther, PhD Associate Professor and Director, Ocean Monitoring and Prediction Lab	College of Marine Science	2023-2026	Physical Oceanography	<a href="mailto:mluther@usf.edu">mluther@usf.edu</a>	Research Specialties are Numerical Modeling of Ocean Dynamics, Coastal and Estuarine Dynamics, Real-Time Oceanographic Observing Systems, Operational Oceanography, Maritime Transportation, Marine Ecosystems, and Ocean Environment.
8	Richard Heller, PhD Professor, <b>Chair 2023-2024</b>	Member-At-Large (1)	2021-2024	Medical Engineering, and Medical Microbiology and Immunology, Morsani College of Medicine	<a href="mailto:rheller@usf.edu">rheller@usf.edu</a>	Developing and testing novel procedures using pulse electric fields for the delivery of plasmid DNA and cancer chemotherapeutics, leading to the development of new protocols or devices that are being tested for potential therapies for cancer, wound healing and vascular diseases (peripheral and coronary ischemia) as well as vaccine and immunotherapy protocols.
9	Kristina Schmidt, PhD Professor	Member-At-Large (2)	2023-2026	Cell Biology, Microbiology, and Molecular Biology, CAS	<a href="mailto:kschmidt@usf.edu">kschmidt@usf.edu</a>	Research focuses on Genome Instability, Spontaneous and Induced DNA Damage, DNA Replication, Recombination, Repair, Cell Cycle Checkpoints, Cancer Genetics. The main goal of my laboratory is to obtain a better understanding of how eukaryotic cells preserve the integrity of their genome.

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<b>10</b>	Ganesh Halade, PhD Associate Professor	Morsani College of Medicine (1) USF Health	2022-2025	Internal Medicine and Cardiovascular Research	<a href="mailto:ghalade@usf.edu">ghalade@usf.edu</a>	Primary research focus is to understand how inflammation and immune responsive metabolic dysregulation contributes to ischemic and non-ischemic heart failure: 1) study of heart failure etiology with an integrative approach focusing on splenic leukocytes and heart; 2) measurement of inflammatory mediators that impair cardiac repair and resolving lipid mediators that facilitate cardiac repair after heart attack; 3) role of resolution receptor in inflammation-resolution processes in heart failure; and 4) translate our findings for use in human therapy, considering risk factors such as obesity, diabetes, aging, and cardiotoxic co-medications (oncological drugs).
<b>11</b>	Kristian Lynch, PhD, MSc Associate Professor	Morsani College of Medicine (2) USF Health	2021-2024	Health Informatics Institute	<a href="mailto:lynchk@usf.edu">lynchk@usf.edu</a>	Primary research focus is in identifying environmental triggers of autoimmunity leading to celiac disease and type 1 diabetes among genetically at-risk children. Expertise in biostatistics and epidemiology with interest in study design of observational studies, disease heterogeneity, gene-environment interactions, causal inference and data integration.

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<b>12</b>	Emily Shaffer-Hudkins, PhD NCSP Associate Professor	Morsani College of Medicine (3) USF Health	2021-2024	Pediatrics	<a href="mailto:eshaffer@usf.edu">eshaffer@usf.edu</a>	Dr. Shaffer-Hudkins' areas of research interest include parent-child interaction and attachment, supporting those with developmental disabilities and their families, particularly those with autism spectrum disorder, positive psychology and resilience, and training experiences for future professionals serving young children.
<b>13</b>	Ponrathi Athilingam, PhD Associate Professor	College of Nursing	2021-2024	College of Nursing	<a href="mailto:pathilin@usf.edu">pathilin@usf.edu</a>	Dr. Athilingam's research is focused on interventions for patients with heart failure and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) to improve self-care practices, quality of life, and reduce admission rates.
<b>14</b>	Kelli Barr, PhD Associate Professor	College of Public Health USF Health	2022-2025	Center for Global Health Infectious Disease Research	<a href="mailto:barrk@usf.edu">barrk@usf.edu</a>	Dr. Barr's research is focused on epidemiology and pathogenesis of vector-borne and zoonotic viruses and the flaviviruses and alphaviruses, specifically on defining the epidemiology of arboviruses in respect to movement of humans and animal.
<b>15</b>	Taryn Sabia, M.Ed. Associate Professor of Research	College of The Arts	2022 - 2025	School of Architecture & Community Design	<a href="mailto:tarynsabia@usf.edu">tarynsabia@usf.edu</a>	Her research is committed to the merging of design and civics, particularly related to transit modes and public space.

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<b>16</b>	Feng Cheng, PhD Associate Professor	Taneja College of Pharmacy USF Health	2022-2025	Pharmaceutical Science	<a href="mailto:fcheng1@usf.edu">fcheng1@usf.edu</a>	Research Focuses on the areas of drug discovery and development using computational methods (including molecular docking, pharmacophore mapping, and machine learning). More specifically, his lab uses genomic data and cheminformatics approaches to identify already approved drugs to treat a different disease (drug repurposing). Additionally, his lab uses genomic data and FDA Adverse Event Reporting System (FAERS) to investigate possible drug-drug interactions.
<b>17</b>	TBN	Judy Genshaft Honors College				
<b>18</b>	TBN	Muma College of Business	2023-2026			
<b>19</b>	TBN	Sarasota-Manatee Campus	2023-2026			
<b>20</b>	TBN	St. Petersburg Campus				
<b>21</b>	TBN	USF Libraries				
<b><u>EX-OFFICIO, NON-VOTING MEMBERS</u></b>						<b><i>Revised 11/28/23</i></b>
<b>1</b>	Sylvia Thomas, PhD, Interim Vice President Research & Innovation, 30338 USF Holly Drive, 974-5570					
<b>2</b>	Keith Anderson, MS, CRA, Associate Vice President Research & Innovation, 30338 USF Holly Drive, 974-5570					