



**Kathleen Erwin, Ph.D.**  
**Executive Director, Research Grants Program Office**  
**Office of Research & Innovation**  
**University of California Office of the President**

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Kathleen Erwin as Executive Director, [Research Grants Program Office](#), in the Office of Research & Innovation, effective November 1, 2022.

Dr. Erwin was selected from a national search resulting in an impressive pool of highly qualified applicants. She brings to the position a wealth of knowledge about the University of California (UC) research enterprise and extensive experience managing systemwide and statewide research programs. Dr. Erwin currently serves as Director of [UC Research Initiatives](#) (UCRI) in the Research Grants Program Office (RGPO). In this role, she directs the UC Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPI), UC National Laboratory Fees Research Program (LFRP), and a UC cancer seed funding opportunity. She also serves as consultant to the UC systemwide Academic Senate, and she works with my office on broader coordination of multicampus research entities.

Dr. Erwin's commitment to our organizational goals is demonstrated through her prior volunteer positions as Treasurer and then Vice Chair of the President's Advisory Committee on the Status of Women ([PACSW](#)) as well as a member of the [UCOP Anti-Racism Taskforce](#). Dr. Erwin was a member of the 2020 cohort of the [UC-Coro Systemwide Leadership Collaborative](#). In addition, she has received commendations for her contributions to special initiatives, including the UC Valley Fever Research Initiative and the UC President's Research Catalyst Award.

As Executive Director of RGPO, Dr. Erwin will provide leadership and coordination of a vast portfolio of systemwide and statewide research programs, including the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP), the California HIV/AIDS Research Program (CHRP), and the California Breast Cancer Research Program (CBCRP), in addition to the UCRI programs. She also will oversee an integrated central operational unit that provides core pre- and post-award services for the grants programs. Dr. Erwin will join my cabinet and contribute to UC system-wide initiatives, particularly in relation to the new [UC Climate Action](#) initiative and other systemwide research efforts.

Dr. Erwin earned the M.P.H. degree in public health and the Ph.D. degree in anthropology from U.C. Berkeley and held a postdoctoral fellowship at UCSF. She conducted her doctoral and postdoctoral research in China. Prior to joining the UC Office of the President, Kathleen served as a research administrator at the Kaiser Foundation Research Institute; held academic appointments at the University of Washington, Pacific Lutheran University, and UC Berkeley; and served as program manager for two health and development programs in China funded by the US Agency for International Development.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Kathleen Erwin to her new role!

I want to thank the search committee, chaired by UC Irvine Vice Chancellor for Research Pramod Khargonekar, for their thoughtful evaluation of the strong pool of candidates. I also want to thank and acknowledge Dr. Tracy Richmond McKnight, director of the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program, who has graciously and effectively served as Interim Executive Director of RGPO since June 2022, upon the retirement of the previous Executive Director, Dr. Bart Aoki. Throughout this process I have had the opportunity to become much more familiar with the breadth and depth of talent in RGPO, and I look forward to leveraging their expertise as we work to advance the UC research mission.