Research at UHS: An Overview

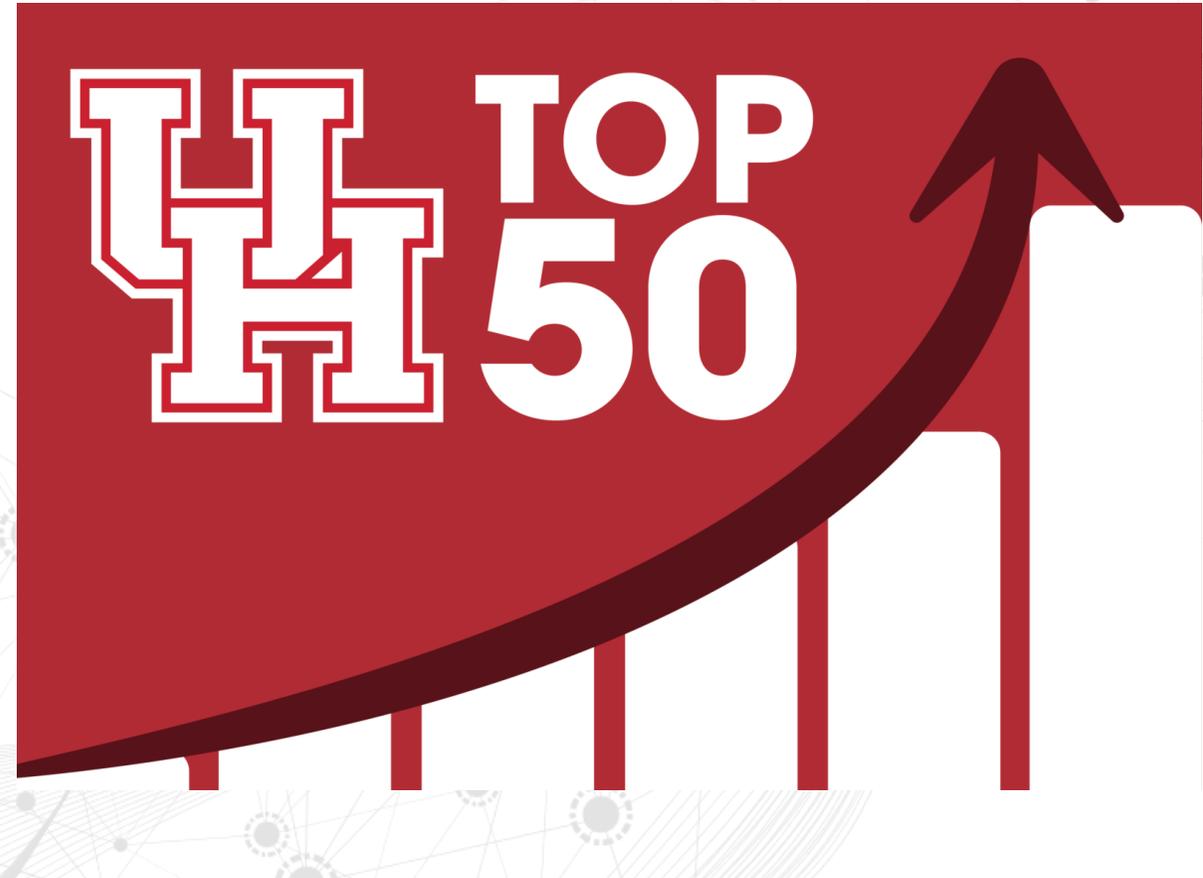Claudia Neuhauser, VC/VP for Research

Board of Regents Meeting

March 12, 2026

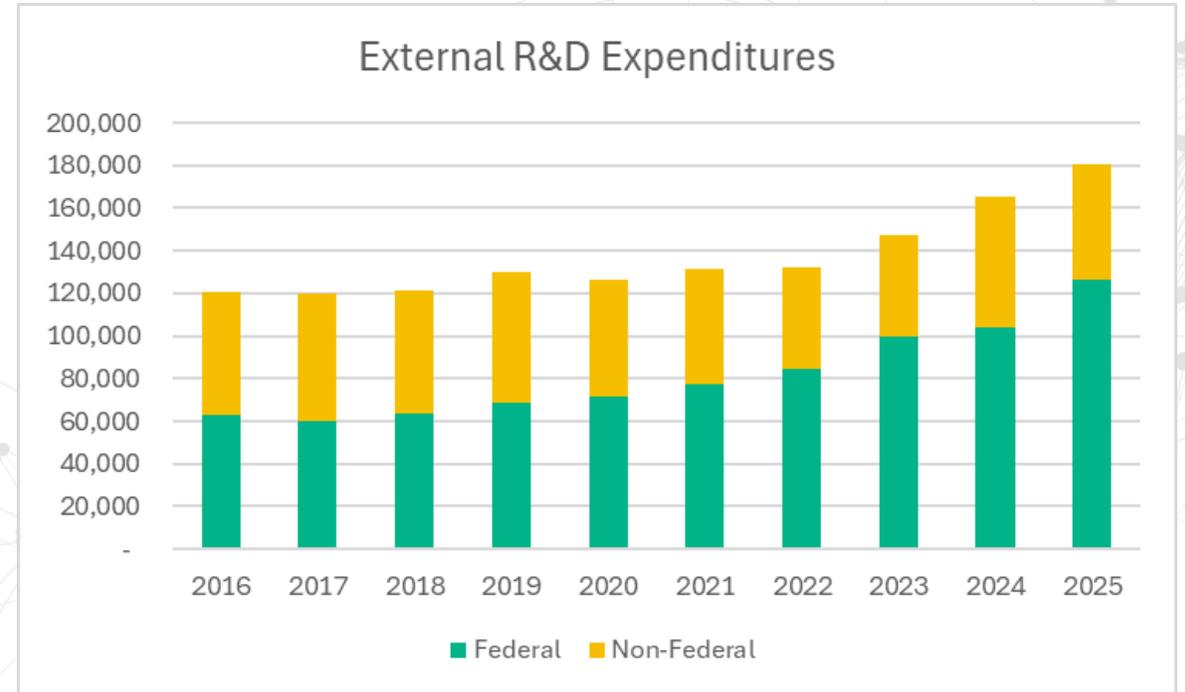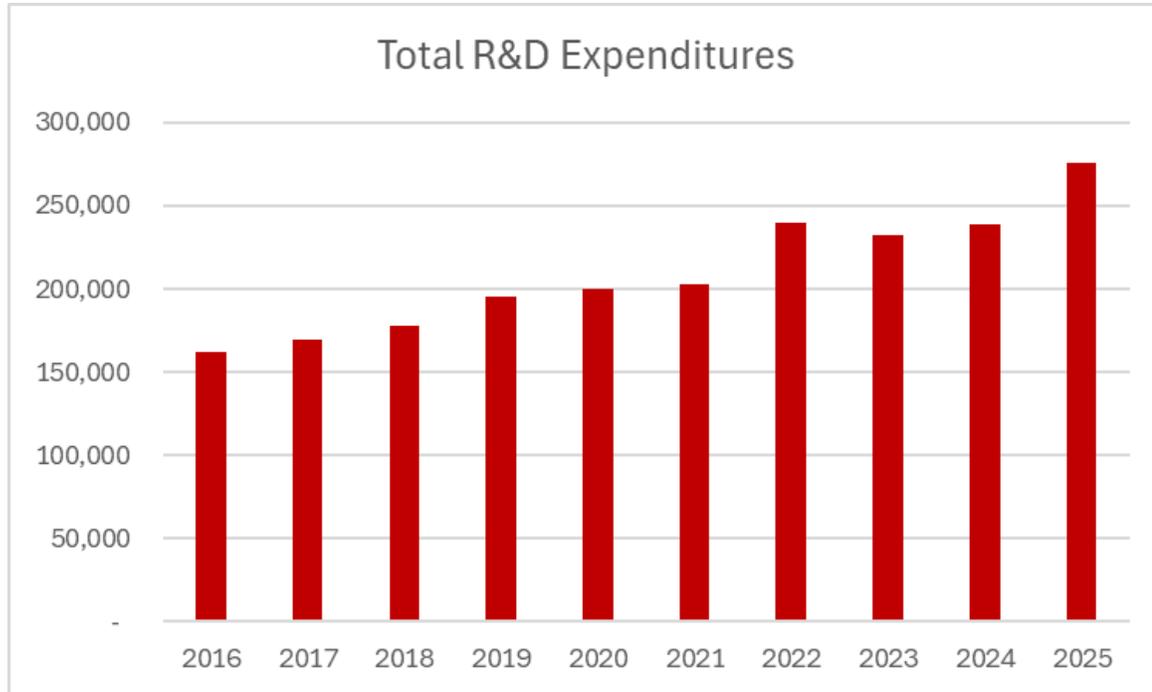Division of Research
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Goal

- Top 50 public research university
  - "Becoming a Top 50 public university is beyond a lofty goal. It's the fulfillment of our duty to transform lives and communities." (President Khator, 2022)
- For research
  - Goal is to reach $400 million in research expenditures
- What does this mean?

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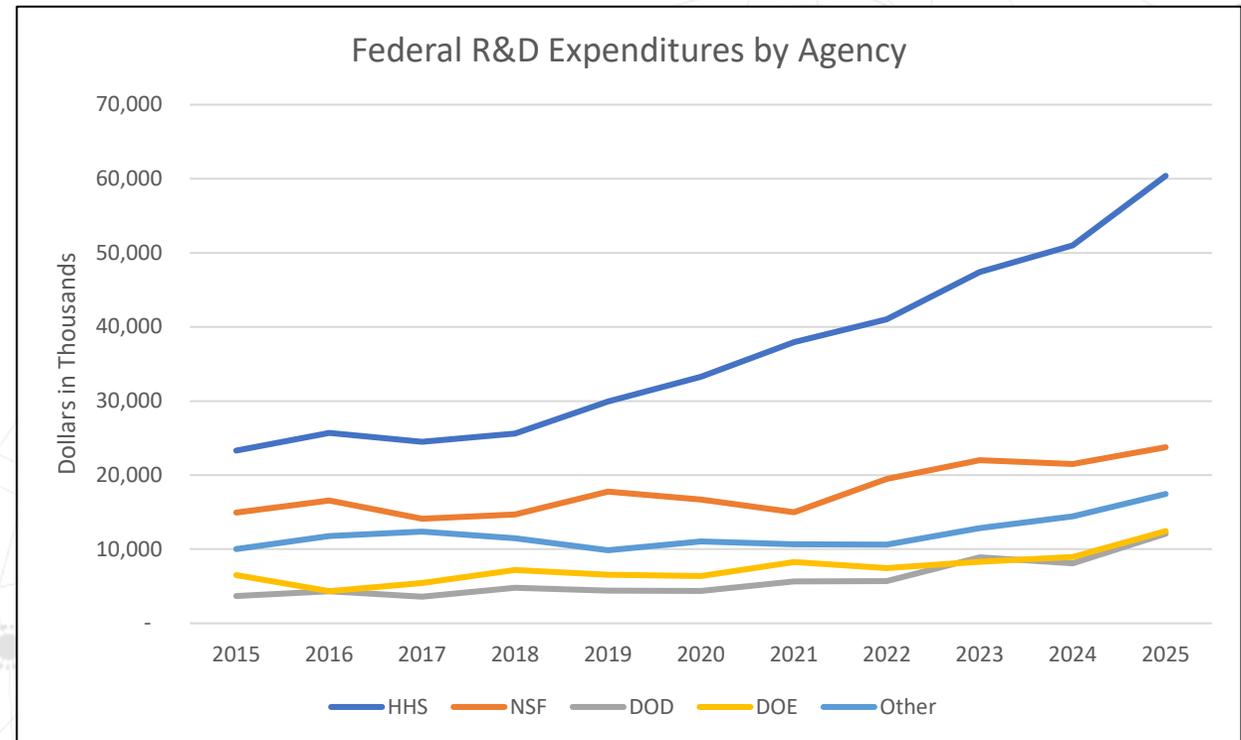
How do we measure research?

- Proposals
  - Federal agencies, state agencies, private sector, philanthropy
  - Typically, in response to a funding opportunity
- Awards
  - Typically, peer-reviewed, competitive
- **Expenditures**
  - External and institutional
  - Comparison with other research institutions
  - Nationally tracked: NSF HERD
- Citations
  - A lagging indicator
- Patents

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Expenditure Data

Expenditure Data by Federal Agency

- Federal Agencies
  - Health and Human Services (HHS)—mostly National Institutes of Health (NIH)
  - National Science Foundation (NSF)
  - Department of Defense (DOD)
  - Department of Energy (DOE)

Federal R&D Expenditures by Agency

Getting to the Top

Strategic Priorities

- Advance the frontiers of knowledge, foster impactful collaborations with leading institutions worldwide, and cultivate the next generation of leaders to address the pressing challenges of the 21st century.
  - Energy
  - Health
  - Materials
  - Digital Future
  - Aerospace
  - Education

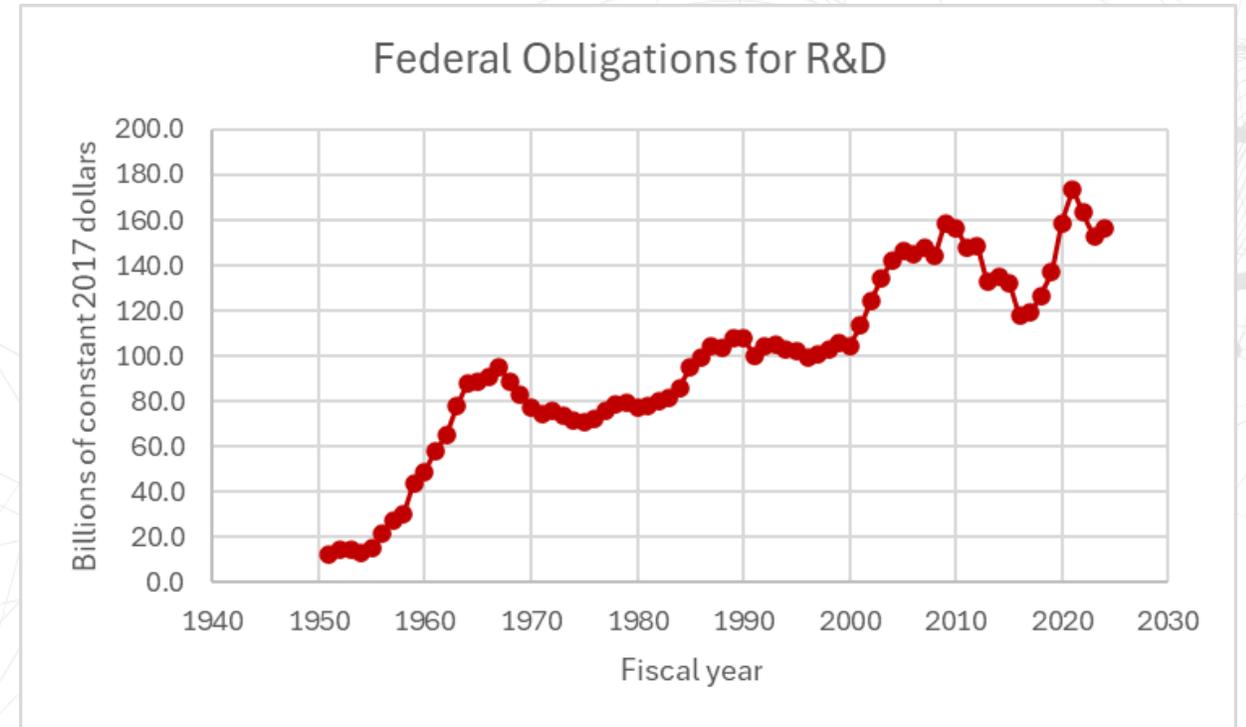Division of Research
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Major Investments

- Presidential Frontier Faculty
  - 100 new faculty positions
  - FY 22, 24, 25: 53 assistant/associate professors
  - Interdisciplinary and collaborative, aligned with federal priorities
- Core Facilities
  - $20 million for new equipment
  - Imaging
  - Advanced Manufacturing
  - Materials Research
  - Digital Humanities

Opportunities and Challenges

- Federal funding will continue to be major source of funding

- Federal priorities well aligned with UH strengths
  - Energy
  - Health
  - Materials
  - AI
  - Quantum

- Major challenge
  - Delays at federal agencies: awards and opportunities

Federal Obligations for R&D

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Research at UHCL

- Total research expenditures in FY 25: $4.08 million

- Examples
  - The College of Human Sciences and Humanities received a three-year, $300,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to expand and deepen its Transforming Lives by Degrees (TLD) program, a nationally recognized prison education initiative offered at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice's Ramsey Unit.
  - The PAM Health Neurorehabilitation and Motor Performance Laboratory received $615,000 gift
  - Tej Limbu (Physics) received a 2-year, $250K NSF award on Multimodal-Enhanced Raman Scattering (MERS) for Ultrasensitive Molecular Detection

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Research at UHD

- Total research expenditures in FY 25: $3.66 million
- Examples
  - NSF award to Yun Wan (Management Information Systems) in collaboration with Northeastern Illinois University: An AI-Driven Counseling System for Underrepresented Transfer Students ($23K)
  - NIH award to Benjamin Soibam (Computer Science and Engineering Technology): Develop a Technology for Whole-Genome Sequencing of RNA-DNA Triplexes ($46K)
  - NSF award to Kenneth Johnson (Natural Sciences) in collaboration with Texas Tech University: Collaborative Research: Reconstructing melt compositions across Cordilleran arc segments to evaluate petrologic proxies of crustal thickness and transcrustal differentiation ($150K)

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TO SERVE

We serve the research community by satisfying client requirements, ensuring research compliance, and protecting the University's intellectual and financial interests.

TO LEAD

We lead the university by managing institutional research priorities and supporting a broader view of individual and small-group research.

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