Dr. Varela's work was recently recognized by the National Science Foundation (NSF). This NSF award will fund the research activities of the principal investigator, Dr. Oscar Varela at USU. His research team of postdocs and students will develop new Supergravity Tools for Holography – the principle that maps two sets of physical equations perfectly onto each other.

In his research, Professor Varela will develop aspects of this idea, which is commonly known as the so-called "AdS/CFT correspondence". This research advances the national interest by promoting the development of science in a fundamental direction, by developing relations among the laws of physics at deeper and deeper levels. It will also have broader impacts by providing training for junior physicists and by disseminating its results to the general public, especially to members of under-represented groups.