News, Opportunities and Deadlines for August 2019

LBRN Summer Research Experiences for Undergraduate

The 26th Annual LSU Summer Research Undergraduate Forum took place on July 26, 2019. For our undergraduate participants, this means these undergraduate college/university students were accepted into and provided with LBRN support to work 10 weeks in research labs who mentored them and provided them with a research topic. These research labs are part of our research mentoring network in the north and south part of Louisiana: LSU, LSU Pennington, LSU Health Sciences Centers in New Orleans and Shreveport, and the Tulane Medical Center. This work culminated at the end of the program into a research poster presentation representing the research they did to present along side other REU students in other REU fields at a three hour forum amongst their peers, mentors, faculty, administrators and the community.

LBRN completed this year's summer research program by both coordinating and participating at the LSU Summer Undergraduate Research Form 2019. The following REU programs participated:
Army Education Outreach Program (USAEOP)
Chemical Engineering (CHE REU)
Consortium of Innovation in Manufacturing and Materials (CIMM REU)
Interdisciplinary Research Experience in Computational Sciences (CCT REU)
Louisiana Biomedical Research Network (LBRN)
LSU Discover (Discover)
McNair Research Scholar Program (McNair)
Physics & Astronomy Research Experiences for Undergraduate (P&A REU)
Smart Polymer Composite Materials and Structures REU (SMART)

80 undergraduate students participated in the program from 38 different departments. This year, LBRN had 20 funded undergraduate participants in the program from 11 different Louisiana institutions:

- Centenary College of Louisiana (Centenary)
- Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University (FranU)
- Grambling State University (Grambling)*
- Louisiana Tech University (LATECH)*
- Louisiana State University in Shreveport (LSU-S)*
- McNeese State University (McNeese)
- Northwestern State University (NSULA)
- Southern University and A&M College (SUBR)*
- Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO)
- University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM)*
- Xavier University of Louisiana (Xavier)*

*LBRN PUI Partner Campuses
Information about our LBRN Summer Research Program is available on our LBRN Website: [https://lbrn.lsu.edu/summer-research-program.html](https://lbrn.lsu.edu/summer-research-program.html). This program is open to all qualified participants within the state of Louisiana and applications are generally open for the next summer beginning in
November through February preceding the summer. We're proud to have had 21 institutions in the state throughout our program years participate. We do this as part of our goal to support biomedical research through an increase in graduate school admissions by getting undergraduates into the labs and interested in a career in biomedical research.

We look forward to continuing this tradition!

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**LA CATS Research Investigator Symposium**

You’re Invited!
In Person or by Webinar to Attend a Special LA CaTS Center Event

**LA CaTS Research Investigator Symposium**
**September 25, 2019**

**Time:** 11:00 am-2:00 pm  
**Location:** Tulane University, New Orleans **OR** by Webinar  
**Registration:** [https://redcap-training.sph.tulane.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=8WEE7RC8WM](https://redcap-training.sph.tulane.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=8WEE7RC8WM) (register if attending by webinar and in person),

This **free** event will feature nationally recognized experts:

- Paula Strickland, PhD., MPH. Director, Office of Research Training and Special Programs, Division of Extramural Activities, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, NIH  
  **“Grant Writing for Success: Preparing an NIH Grant Application”**

- Stanley Korenman, MD. Associate Director, CTSI Associate Dean for Ethics, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Distinguished Professor, Medicine Distinguished Professor, Endocrinology Diabetes and Hypertension  
  **“Bias in Research”**
Mukesh Kumar, PhD. RAC. Chief Executive Officer at Brij Strategic Consultations, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Clinical Research and Leadership, George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Washington DC

“FDA-compliant Clinical Protocols”

Lunch will be served for in person participants. For more information, please contact 504-988-0200 or research@tulane.edu.

Don’t miss this! Register NOW!!!

The 2019 Southeast Regional IDeA Conference is scheduled for November 6-8, 2019 in Louisville, Kentucky at the Galt House Hotel. We encourage you to attend. This will include various workshops, oral and poster presentation sessions from COBRE, INBRE and IDeA-CTR programs in the southeast region, as well as presentations from NIGMS Program Officials. The website link for more information is: https://seidea19.com/.

**DEADLINES:**
Conference Early Registration deadline: August 9, 2019
Conference Registration deadline: September 27, 2019
Hotel Registration deadline: September 27, 2019

**ABSTRACTS:** Abstract submission is not yet open. The deadline to submit an abstract is August 9, 2019.
Participating in the National Association of IDeA Principal Investigators (NAIPI)

A decorated and hard-working Louisiana Tech senior biology major, Conner Hartupee visited Washington, D.C., May 21-23 as one of only 10 students from throughout the country to participate in a highly competitive nationally funded program that helps new generations of young researchers communicate the importance of research.

Connor Hartupee, who will apply to medical school next year. He was nominated by his mentor, Biological Sciences Assistant Professor Dr. Jamie Newman, to participate when nominations were solicited from faculty involved with the Louisiana Biomedical Research Network (LBRN).

Named one of the school year’s two featured students from the School of Biological Sciences at Tech, Hartupee earned this experience through the IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE), funded through Congress and designed to help student researchers share the importance of research by having them travel to Washington to meet with key staffers from their state’s congressional offices and be trained by members of the Van Scyoc Associates (VSA), a Washington-based government affairs firm, about the IDeA program, its funding, and how to perfect an “elevator speech” to help them educate their state’s governmental servants on why research opportunities are so important.

Fall 2019 NIH Regional Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration
Nov. 6-8 in Phoenix, Arizona.

The NIH Regional Seminar serves the NIH mission of providing education and training for the next generation of biomedical and behavioral scientists. This seminar is intended to:

- Demystify the application and review process
- Clarify federal regulations and policies
- Highlight current areas of special interest or concern

Who Should Attend? The seminar and optional workshops are appropriate for those who are new to working with the NIH grants process – administrators, early stage investigators, researchers, graduate students, etc. For those with more experience, the seminar offers a few more advanced sessions, updates on policies and processes direct from NIH staff, as well as valuable presentation resources to share with your institution.

Who are the Presenters? The NIH Regional Seminar involves approximately 65 NIH and HHS staff who are brought to a central location in order to educate, share, and hear your questions over the course of two days, plus the pre-seminar workshops. (Faculty page with pictures and bios will be posted this spring, so keep watching this website!)

This seminar is your opportunity to make direct contact with NIH policy officials, grants management, program and review staff, and representatives from the HHS Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP), HHS Office of the Inspector General (OIG), and others. In addition, take advantage of discussions involving more than 600 fellow attendees from around the world.

In addition to learning more about the NIH grants processes and policies through the optional workshops and 2-day sessions, there are opportunities throughout the seminar to Meet the Experts 1:1. These 15 minutes chats are a great way to get more specific questions answered by NIH & HHS experts. You’ll have the opportunity to sign up in advance or on-site to speak with the expert(s) of your choice participating in the seminar.

What are some of the topics? Here’s a quick overview of some of the topics:

- Budget Basics for Administrators and Investigators
- Career Development Awards
- Clinical Trials
- Compliance (Case Studies)
- Current Issues at NIH
- Diversity in the Extramural Research Workplace
- electronic Research Administration (eRA)
- Financial Conflict of Interest
- Loan Repayment Program
- Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)
- Peer Review Process
- Preventing & Detecting Fraud
- Public Access
- SciENcv
- R&D Contracts
- Research Integrity
- Rigor & Reproducibility
Can I go ahead and make my hotel reservations now? Yes! See our Hotel/Travel page for all the details. The room block is for a limited time and rooms traditionally sell out before the date for this seminar.

For inquiries regarding the seminar, email NIHRegionalSeminars@mail.nih.gov.

Listserv information is available on the NIH Regional Seminar Webpage.

HPC Training

Please visit https://www.hpc.lsu.edu/training/tutorials.php for more details and register using the link provided.

Users who plan on joining remotely will be provided with a WebEx Link in their registration confirmation email. Please see the system requirements at https://grok.lsu.edu/Categories.aspx?parentCategoryId=3381.

Training Survey
We value your feedback, and will use your feedback to help improve our HPC training offerings. Please complete a short survey at the end of each training using this link.

Virtual Images
For benefit of Training participants who do not have ready access to a Linux machine, we have created a virtual image of CentOS 6.3. You can use this image in lieu of a LONI or LSU HPC account for some, but not all of our training courses. More details about this image and installation instructions are provided here.
Molecular Cell Biology Research Resources Core (MCBRC) and Bioinformatics, Biostatistics, and Computational Biology Core (BBCC) are calling for proposals to carry out short term projects in collaboration with the Cores. All LBRN researchers can submit a proposal for a defined project that can be carried out in collaboration with the Core facilities listed in the attached Call for Proposals (CFP) on a competitive basis. Each selected project will be allocated $1,500 to fully or partially offset Core expenses. More details can be found in the attached CFP.

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BBC Core Educational Resource

The BBC Core provides introductory educational lecture series on informatics topics that are recorded and streamed. Prior offerings that are available for on demand streaming include;
• An Introduction to Computers and Informatics in the Health Sciences
  
  [http://metagenomics.lsuhsc.edu/lectures/introinformatics/](http://metagenomics.lsuhsc.edu/lectures/introinformatics/)

• An Introduction to Microbial Community Sequencing and Analysis
  
  [http://metagenomics.lsuhsc.edu/lectures/intromicrobiota/](http://metagenomics.lsuhsc.edu/lectures/intromicrobiota/)

On demand streaming links are available by each lecture along with downloadable lecture slides.

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**LONI HPC Allocation for LBRN**
We are happy to announce that High Performance Computing allocation for supporting LBRN/BBC Core community from the LONI HPC system.

This can be utilized in lieu of individual investigators having to apply for and acquire their own allocations to access the HPC resources. If any of your campus members need access to high performance computing, please have them interface with Dr. Nayong Kim.

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**NIH Extramural Nexus (NIH/OD)**

- Linking ORCID Identifiers to eRA Profiles to Streamline Application Processes and to Enhance Tracking of Career Outcomes

*Enter once, reuse often.* That's the mantra of [ORCID](https://orcid.org) (Open Researcher and Contributor Identification), a non-profit organization that promotes the use of its unique digital identifier to connect researchers with their science contributions over time and across changes of name, location and institutional affiliation.

It’s a mantra that ties in well with NIH’s goal of finding ways to reduce the administrative burden on investigators of entering the same information in multiple places when applying to different funding agencies. It’s what propelled NIH and other agencies to develop a tool, [SciENcv](https://scien.cit.nih.gov), to enable researchers to enter their biosketch data in one place and propagate it to multiple places. A researcher can also start the biosketch in SciENcv with information from his or her ORCID profile (see [YouTube demo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQw4w9WgXcQ)), thanks to a neat integration between the two tools. But more on SciENcv later.

ORCID benefits researchers by providing a lifelong identifier that automatically links them to their past and recent papers, avoids the confusion caused by similar last names, enhances the discoverability of their papers and simplifies creating biosketches for grant applications (as evidenced in SciENcv).

The identifier also allows agencies like NIH to better monitor professional outcomes by tracking the progress of researchers along their career path, starting with trainees and early career scientists. By leveraging the information available via ORCID, we can be more confident about our training program evaluations and more easily obtain data to support data driven policy decisions aimed at
strengthening the biomedical research workforce.

With this in mind, in fiscal year 2020, NIH, joined by CDC and AHRQ, will begin requiring individuals supported by training, fellowship, career development, and other research education awards to have an ORCID iD linked to their personal electronic Research Administration (eRA) account (NOT-OD-19-109).

This iD will be required as part of the appointment process for those appointed to institutional awards and through the application process for those applying for individual awards. Note that xTrain appointments will not be accepted if potential appointees do not have an ORCID iD linked to their eRA personal profile starting October 1, 2019; the same will apply to individual fellowship and career development applications submitted for receipt dates on or after January 25, 2020.

Note that eRA began allowing researchers to link their ORCID iD with their eRA Commons profile back in 2017 (see blog). The number of researchers linking these two IDs has grown steadily since then to 35,000, a very encouraging sign. Of these, ~20,000 have applied for a grant and ~10,000 have been awarded a grant as PD/PI.

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- Continuing to Work with the Community on Registration and Results Reporting for Basic Experimental Studies involving Humans
The research that NIH funds doesn’t always fall neatly into a single category. Basic research involving humans that seeks to understand the fundamental aspects of phenomena also may meet the NIH-definition of a clinical trial. We refer to these studies as BESH – Basic Experimental Studies involving Humans (see our previous blog). Since this type of research meets the NIH definition of a clinical trial, these trials must register and report summary results information for transparency and other purposes outlined in the NIH Policy on the Dissemination of NIH-Funded Clinical Trial Information. However, some researchers have faced challenges in fitting these studies into the data fields for submission in ClinicalTrials.gov.

In response to concerns from the basic science communities, the NIH issued a Request for Information (RFI; NOT-OD-18-217) seeking additional input from stakeholders on how best to implement the NIH clinical trials policies. NIH asked for examples of BESH that pose challenges for registration and results reporting on ClinicalTrials.gov, asked for potential modifications to ClinicalTrials.gov that would better meet the needs of BESH, and asked about the strengths and weaknesses of potential alternative platforms.

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. Achieving Gender Equity at Conferences

In 2015, an international conference on quantum chemistry drew a fierce backlash from scientists when it featured only male speakers and chairs. About 1,700 scientists signed a petition on Change.org to change the makeup of the speakers. The result? Conference organizers added 6 female speakers to the agenda (read the coverage).

This was not an isolated case. The lack of gender equity at scientific conferences persists across the board. There have been several papers written about the imbalance; there is even a website, BiasWatchNeuro, that tracks the speaker composition at neuroscience conferences.

Inviting women to speak at conferences matters for many reasons – it’s a matter of fairness; it gives eminently qualified women a level playing field; it is just the right thing to do.

And it is important to have diversity across many dimensions, including representation of individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, from a variety of regions and institutions, career stages, and with disabilities.

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. Changes to NIH Requirements Regarding Proposed Human Fetal Tissue Research
NIH recently published a Guide Notice (NOT-OD-19-128) announcing requirements for research involving human fetal tissue (HFT). These changes will apply to competitive applications for grants and cooperative agreements submitted for due dates on or after September 25, 2019 and R&D contract proposals submitted to solicitations issued after September 25, 2019.

The requirements include:

- specific justification of HFT use within applications or proposals,
- additional details regarding procurement and costs, and
- information about how the applicant/contract offeror will use HFT in the research.

Applications and proposals involving HFT that fall within a fundable scoring range will be assessed for policy compliance by an ethics advisory board comprised of scientists and bio-ethicists.

Trainees and fellows may not independently propose research using HFT. However, trainees and fellows can still conduct HFT research if it is part of a mentor or sponsor’s award and meets all policy requirements.

For more information, including detailed application instructions, see the full Guide Notice.

**New “All About Grants” Podcast on NIH’s Anti-Sexual Harassment Policies for Awardees**

NIH recognizes that a lot can happen to interrupt the ten-year eligibility window of your Early Stage Investigator (ESI) status, such as family care responsibilities, military service, medical concerns, and more. While you may currently request an extension of that ten-year period by completing an Extension Request Form, the process for requesting an extension of ESI status will soon be moving to the eRA Commons.

Beginning on August 22, 2019, investigators will be able to request an extension of their ESI eligibility directly through eRA Commons via an ESI Extension request button in the Education section of their personal profile. For step-by-step instructions, review the video tutorial ESI Status Extension Request on the eRA Videos page.

For more information, check out the latest Guide Notice, the ESI Policies page, and the ESI FAQs page.

**Early Stage Investigator (ESI) Extension Request Process Moving to eRA Commons**
Sexual harassment is a serious and long-standing issue within the biomedical research enterprise, and NIH is striving to be part of the solution. On this episode of the “All About Grants” podcast, we sit down with Dr. Jodi Black, Deputy Director for the NIH’s Office of Extramural Research, to discuss what institutions, investigators, and others in the research community should know about NIH’s policies and expectations for assuring a safe and harassment-free work environment (MP3 / Transcript). She also outlines how to notify NIH with a potential issue and what NIH does to follow up on these notifications.

For more information on NIH’s anti-sexual harassment efforts, see our Anti-Sexual Harassment webpage.

**Where Are the Application Forms?**

You might be surprised to learn that we don’t have a generic set of forms posted on our website that you can use to submit to any NIH grant opportunity. Each funding opportunity announcement (FOA) includes the specific set of forms needed to apply to that program, so you need to find an FOA in order to access the application forms. Walk through the process of finding and accessing application forms with this grant application submission tips for success video.

Form-by-form, field-by-field instructions for completing your application may be found on the How to Apply – Application Guide page under the green header for Application Form Instructions. Use these instructions in conjunction with the guidance in the funding opportunity announcement (including the Related Notices section of the announcement) to develop your application. The annotated form sets are another handy tool to help you navigate the forms.

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**NIH LBRN Acknowledgement**

So that we can most effectively communicate the scope and results of our funding support, we would like to know when you are planning news announcements about IDeA awards or program activities and achievements…

When you produce such material, please be sure to identify the IDeA program, not just the INBRE, COBRE or sub-program, and to provide context about the program’s goals along the lines of:

The University of __________ has received $XXX from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to
In journal articles, news releases, or other materials about your program’s activities or achievements, please use funding acknowledgement language such as:

**Research reported in this publication was supported by an Institutional Development Award (IDeA) from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health under grant number P20GM12345.**

- In journal articles, oral or poster presentations, news releases, news and feature articles, interviews with reporters and other communications, acknowledge the IDeA program's full or partial support of the research. The citation in scientific publications should use the following format:

  *Research reported in this publication was supported by an Institutional Development Award (IDeA) from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health under grant number P20GM12345.*

- If you wish to acknowledge NIH/NIGMS funding on your Web site or other communication product, you may use wording such as:

  *Funded by an Institutional Development Award (IDeA) from the National Institutes of Health.*
  
  or
  
  *Funded by the LBRN (P20GM12345) an Institutional Development Award (IDeA) from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health.*

*Please do not use the NIH or NIGMS logo to acknowledge funding, as these logos are only to be used for material produced by NIH and its components.*
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