News, Opportunities and Deadlines for March 2018

6th Annual LA Conference on Computational Biology & Bioinformatics

The 6th Annual Louisiana Conference on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics will be held on **April 6 - 7, 2018** at the LSU Digital Media Center. The conference is co-sponsored by the Louisiana Biomedical Research Network (LBRN), the LSU-Tulane Center for Experimental Infectious Disease Research (CEIDR), LSU Center for Computation and Technology (CCT) and the LSU Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED). The conference aims to expose Louisiana to the cutting edge of Computational Biology, Bioinformatics Research and Applications while also providing a platform for exchange of information and technical knowledge among Louisiana-based scientists involved in different aspects of computational biology & bioinformatics.

Conference thematic sessions are:

- Cancer Informatics
- Evolutionary Genomics and Phylogenetics
- Health Informatics, Big Data, and Computing
- Microbiome and Metagenomic
- Translational Bioinformatics and Data Visualization
- Virology and Infectious Diseases

The 6th Annual Louisiana Conference on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics is an ISCB Affiliated Conference.

Registration deadline for conference extended to **March 23rd** in order to provide additional time required for those who are still in the process of securing institutional funding, and pursuing sponsorships.

To register for The 6th Annual Louisiana Conference on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics**, please on the link below**

2018 LBRN Summer Research Program

The Louisiana Biomedical Research Network (LBRN) sponsors a summer research program in support of undergraduate students, graduate students and faculty from any Louisiana institute. We offer qualified participants the opportunity to work in established research laboratories at Louisiana State University, LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, Tulane Medical Center, or Tulane National Primate Research Center. The goal of our program and funding is to support biomedical research through an increase in graduate school admissions in these scientific fields and make Louisiana researchers more competitive in obtaining federal funding for research.

Thank you for your applications. The 2018 LBRN Summer Research Program applications are under review now.

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- **MENTORSHIP**

The LBRN program expects that our participants perform full time research for the period of funding. We do not allow for other jobs, teaching or classes or vacations to be scheduled during the funding period; fellowships (undergraduate students), stipends (graduate students), and summer salaries (faculty) are sufficient to enable the funded participant to focus 100% on the research project during the funding period. The student participant may become involved in a research project that is ongoing in the chosen laboratory, or design a project in collaboration with the intended mentor.

Mentor Application

NIH : Academic Research Enhancement Award for Undergraduate-Focused Institutions (R15 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

National Institutes of Health
Office of Extramural Research

Grants & Funding
NIH's Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

A new **NIGMS R15 AREA program FOA** (PAR-18-714) that has been published today. The purpose of this Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) for Undergraduate-Focused Institutions is to support small scale research grants at institutions that do not receive substantial funding from the NIH, with an emphasis on providing biomedical research experiences primarily for undergraduate students, and enhancing the research environment at these applicant institutions. Eligible institutions must award baccalaureate science degrees, and have received less than 6 million dollars per year of NIH support (total costs) in 4 of the last 7 fiscal years. **This AREA FOA emphasizes the engagement and inclusion of undergraduates in research.**

See the details of this FOA at: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-18-714.html

Please note the following changes in NIGMS Support of Academic Research Enhancement Award (R15) Grants as published in the Notice (PAR-18-714):

1. NIGMS will no longer accept New, Renewal, Resubmission or Revision applications for R15 grants under the NIH Parent R15 Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) (PA-18-504 and subsequent reissuances).
2. All R15 applications for NIGMS support must be submitted to PAR-18-714 "Academic Research Enhancement Award for Undergraduate-Focused Institutions".

The first AIDS Application due date for this FOA is September 7, 2018

More details...

Opportunities for undergraduate students within our INBRE network

Office of Intramural TRAINING & EDUCATION
build your career, shape the future
NIH

We are writing to let you know about an opportunity for your students to apply to attend our annual NIH Visit Week (June 11-15, 2018), a one-week summer enrichment program to expose Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian students to the NIH and to biomedical research and healthcare careers. Selected students will participate in science career workshops, interactions in selected NIH laboratories and clinical research settings, a science journal club, informational interviews and professional networking opportunities throughout the week. They will also meet with students in the NIH SACNAS Chapter, and learn about NIH internship opportunities.

To get the most of this program, students should have a strong interest in learning more about science careers. We welcome applications from students enrolled in Tribal colleges, and undergraduate college students at all levels. All students who apply must be affiliated with your INBRE program. Travel and accommodation costs will be the responsibility of the student or the associated INBRE grant.

We will begin activities at 9:00 am on June 11, 2018 and activities will end at 3 pm on Friday, June 15, 2018. We are unable to

accommodate students who need to arrive after the start of the program or leave before the end of the program.

The students should complete a brief online application at https://www.training.nih.gov/sas/_20/1309 to be eligible for selection to attend the NIH Visit Week. The application includes the student's contact and school information, and a cover letter explaining his/her motivation for applying. Please have the student select "INBRE" under "Your Affiliation" under "Education History" in addition to referencing INBRE in the cover letter. The student should also include the name and email address for a reference. An automated email will be sent to the reference listed by the student with instructions on how to submit the reference letter explaining why the student will benefit from the program. Student applications are due Tuesday, April 3rd, 2018, reference letters are due Tuesday, April 10th and accepted students will be notified by Tuesday, May 1st, 2018. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us of you have questions.

LSU HPC Training

HPC@LSU | Training

The schedule for the Spring 2018 HPC Training is available at http://www.hpc.lsu.edu/training/tutorials.php.

HPC@LSU invites you to attend our weekly training scheduled every Wednesdays, except university holidays. All training sessions are from 9:00AM to 11:00AM at 307 Frey Computing Services Center. The sessions will be available on WebEx for remote participants and will be recorded for later review.

The training sessions are subject to cancellation due to lack of registrations, so please register if you plan on attending. Registration closes in the afternoon on the day prior to the training.

Click on the tutorial topic to obtain more information and registration details. WebEx remote connect links to attend the training will be provided via email to all registered participants.

Note: The Slide and Support Materials links are placeholders until content is added after the tutorial.

Spring 2018 Training LSU HPC Schedule

1. March 21, 2018: Parallel Computing with Matlab

- **Time:** 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
- **Place:** 307 Frey
- **Description:** Matlab is a high-level language and interactive environment for numerical computation, visualization, and programming. In this training we will discuss how to efficiently prepare the Matlab code that focuses on good performance. A variety of optimization techniques will be analyzed, as well as the speedup of the performance of the Matlab applications. We will also cover Matlab Parallel Computing Toolbox.
- **Prerequisites:**

  Calculus
  Linear algebra
  Some experience in Matlab coding would be helpful

- Slides
- Downloads
- **Registration:** Click Here

2. April 04, 2018: Data Visualization in R

- **Time:** 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
- **Place:** 307 Frey
- **Description:** Graphs and charts are essential components of data analysis, for which R as a programming language has gained popularity rapidly in recent years. This tutorial will provide an overview on how to create and save graphs in R, then focus on the ggplot2 package.
- **Prerequisites:**

  Basic knowledge of R is not required, but will be helpful.

- Slides (R Presentation)
- Slides (HTML)
- **Registration:** Click Here

3. April 11, 2018: Introduction to Python

- **Time:** 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
- **Place:** 307 Frey
- **Description:** Python is a high-level programming language, easy to learn yet extremely powerful. This training will provide an introduction to programming in Python. The subjects include basic Python syntax, Python classes used in object-oriented programming. Basic Python modules for scientific computing and plotting will also be introduced. During the training, simple Python programs will be provided for demonstration.
- **Prerequisites:**

  Basic understanding of a programming language is assumed but not required.

- Slides
- Downloads
- **Registration:** Click Here

Please visit http://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 athttps://grok.lsu.edu/Categories.aspx?parentCategoryId=3381**.**

National Institutes of Health

IDeA Co-funding Initiative invites R01 & R15 submissions from NIH ICs

- The applications must be investigator-initiated and from institutions in IDeA-eligible states that were deemed meritorious in initial peer review, but are beyond the IC's payline.
- The NIH ICs that have the primary assignment for the applications determine which of the applications they will nominate and send to NIGMS for consideration.

Investigators that are interested in their applications being considered for IDeA Co-funding should talk with the application's Program Officer (PO) about their interest in this program. The deadline for nominations this year is COB April 6, 2018.

Rashada Alexander serves as the NIGMS/IDeA point of contact for this initiative is and can be reached by phone 301-451-6416 or email below with any questions about the program.

Email Questions to Rashada Alexander, NIGMS/IDeA Point of Contact

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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/

- An Introduction to Microbial Community Sequencing and Analysis

  http://metagenomics.lsuhsc.edu/lectures/intromicrobiota/

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

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.

CFA for Short Term Core Pojects

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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NIH Extramural Nexus (NIH/OD)

National Institutes of Health
Office of Extramural Research

- ## Principal Investigators, Delegate!

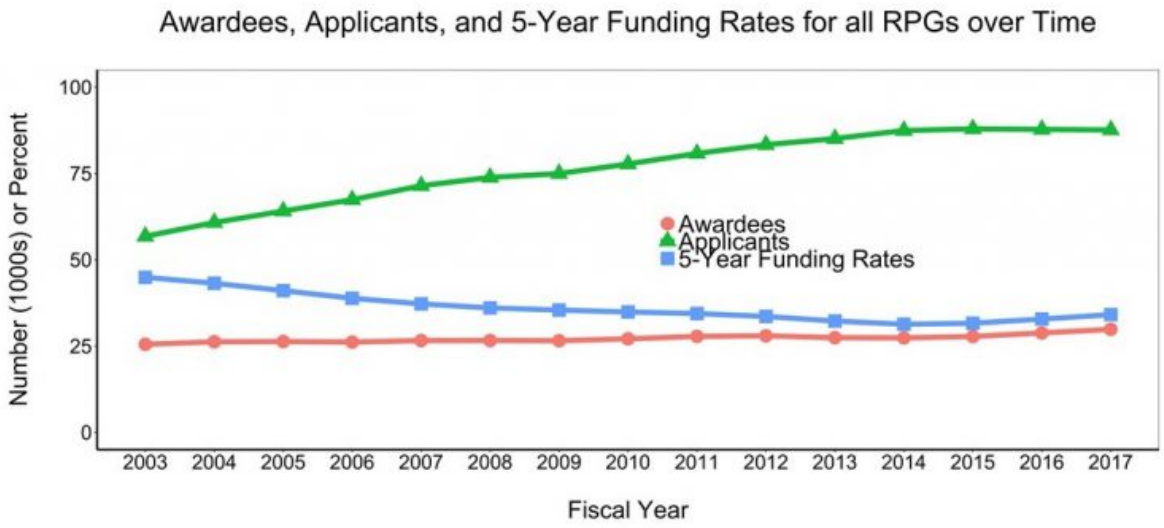
Did you know that the eRA Commons allows principal investigators the ability to grant permission to have others at their institution help with some grants administration tasks? You might want to consider whether delegating any or all of the following tasks is right for you:

- Maintaining your personal profile
- Tracking the status of your grant application and award
- Preparing interim and final progress reports
- Completing trainee appointments and terminations
- Creating research training tables for inclusion in progress reports and institutional training grant applications

All you need is another Commons user with the right role. Learn how!

- ## How Many Researchers, Revisited: A Look at Cumulative Investigator Funding Rates

In May 2016, we posted a blog on “How Many Researchers” NIH supports. We cited the findings of a University of Wisconsin workshop, which concluded that the biomedical research enterprise suffers from two core problems: too many scientists vying for too few dollars and too many post-docs seeking too few faculty positions. We also noted that NIH leadership and others were increasingly interested in describing the agency’s portfolio not only in terms of the numbers of awards and dollars (as we do each year in our “By the Numbers” reports), but also in terms of the numbers of researchers those awards support. Today we show updated figures on how many researchers are vying for NIH support and how many are successful.



...Continue reading

- ## FY 2017 By the Numbers

We recently released our annual web reports, success rates and NIH Data Book with updated numbers for fiscal year 2017. Looking at data across both competing and non-competing awards, NIH supports approximately 2,500 organizations. In 2017 about 640 of these organizations received funding for competing Research Project Grants (RPGs) which involved over 11,000 principal investigators. *...Continue reading*

- ## Requesting Your Input on the Draft NIH Strategic Plan for Data Science

To capitalize on the opportunities presented by advances in data science, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is developing a Strategic Plan for Data Science. This plan describes NIH's overarching goals, strategic objectives, and implementation tactics for promoting the modernization of the NIH-funded biomedical data science ecosystem. As part of the planning process, NIH has published a draft of the strategic plan, along with a Request for Information (RFI) to seek input from stakeholders, including members of the scientific community, academic institutions, the private sector, health professionals, professional societies, advocacy groups, patient communities, as well as other interested members of the public. *...Continue reading*

Top Stories

- ## xTRACT Anticipated to be Required in Fiscal Year 2020

In October 2015, eRA introduced xTRACT as an electronic system within eRA Commons for creating research training data tables and tracking trainee outcomes. xTRACT permits users to leverage data already in eRA Commons to pre-populate training tables with trainee names, institution information, award information, etc., which can be used both in new application submissions and for progress reports [the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR)]. While use of xTRACT is not required currently, it is anticipated to be required as of FY 2020 for certain types of training grant applications. …. Continue reading →

- ## Why Attend the Spring 2018 NIH Regional Seminar in Washington, DC

You've heard about it and may even know someone who attended, but is it right for you? With the next NIH Regional Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration coming to Washington DC May 2-4, let us help you decide. Or check out our YouTube video to get thoughts from previous attendees. If you are an investigator or research administrator new to working with the NIH grants process, don't let the 2018 NIH Regional Seminar in Washington, D.C. pass you by. Registration is underway now and seminars typically sell out! Learn about the NIH grants process and polices directly from ~ 70 NIH & HHS program, grants management, review and policy staff. …. Continue reading →

New Resources

- ## Having Challenges Tracking Down Students and Postdocs at the Time of the RPPR? Here is a Tip to Make It Easier…

Having challenges tracking down students and postdocs at the time of reporting? Establishing a process where you have students and postdocs establish an eRA Commons account at the time they start working on an NIH grant award can save you a lot of time and energy trying to track down people who may no longer be at your institution at the time of your Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) submission. You may even want to have them create an ORCID ID as well! (In case you missed it, read the November 2017 Open Mike blog post to learn more about eRA Commons and ORCID integration.)

- ## New to eRA Commons?

Sometimes when you are trying something for the first time, it can appear to be somewhat confusing, intimidating, and possibly overwhelming. eRA is continuously developing new resources for our applicants and grantees to eliminate that perception. Recently eRA has focused on ways to help people new to navigating eRA Commons for the NIH grant application, award, and reporting processes. Because these processes require attention to detail and patience, it can often be overwhelming for those who have never done it before.

With that in mind, a new link has been added to the eRA home page that asks, simply, are you New to eRA Commons? This link takes you to an infographic that highlights the major steps of navigating eRA Commons for the NIH grant process, from tracking an application to closeout. This high level overview will help new users understand the scope of eRA Commons and the NIH grant process without overloading them with details.

And while that infographic looks at the overall process, an additional resource that you will find at the bottom of that page, SO and PI Privileges in eRA Commons, helps outline who is responsible for completing the steps highlighted in the New to eRA Commons steps. While not all-inclusive, this will help many new Signing Officials (SOs) and Principal Investigators (PIs) understand their different responsibilities for managing NIH grant applications and awards via eRA Commons.

So take a look today and pass on these resources to any newbies. It might just help them along the way.

You Ask, We Answer

- ## After My Application is Submitted, Can I Include a Copy or Citation of a Preprint as Post-submission Materials?

No. Pre-prints are not included in the list of allowable post-submission materials, because they do not fall in the category of unanticipated events.

Post-submission materials are not intended to correct oversights or errors discovered after submission of the application, but rather allow applicants the opportunity to respond to unforeseen events.

See NOT-OD-17-066 and our post-submission policy FAQs for more information on NIH's post-submission material policy,

- **How do you define a "study" for the purposes of providing information on the PHS Human Subject and Clinical Trial form and registering in ClinicalTrials.gov?**

Our application instructions provide guidance to submit a study record for each protocol. When in doubt, NIH supports lumping several aims or hypotheses into a single study record, to the extent that makes sense for your research.
Have other questions related to the new PHS Human Subject and Clinical Trial form or NIH clinical trial policies? Find more FAQs and their answers at grants.nih.gov.

National Research Mentoring Network

MyNRMN is a powerful social networking platform for students and researchers across the biomedical, behavioral, social, and clinical sciences to connect with one another for anything from general questions about research and professional development as a scientist to scheduling more formal mentorship appointments one-on-one or as a group.

Accessible when you log in to your profile on NRMNet, **MyNRMN** allows you to:

- Browse profiles of registered NRMN mentors and mentees from around the country
- Build your network by connecting with mentees and mentors that share interests with you
- Send direct messages to your connections (SMS and posts)
- Share documents
- Build your CV using the CV Builder tool (for mentees)
- Set appointments with your mentee/mentor through your personalized calendar
- Invite new mentees/mentors to the NRMN network to connect with you

Haven't registered yet? Click here to create your NRMNet profile and start building your network with **MyNRMN** today!

NIH 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 support an Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Center of Biomedical Research Excellence. The IDeA program builds research capacities in states that historically have had low levels of NIH funding by supporting basic, clinical and translational research; faculty development; and infrastructure improvements.

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, release} 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 5 P20 GM103424-15 and 3 P20 GM103424-15S1.