News, Opportunities and Deadlines for January 2019

LBRN 17th Annual Meeting

LBRN Annual Meeting, Friday January 18 - 19, 2019 @ Center for Computation and Technology, LSU

LA Conference on Computational Biology & Bioinformatics

Save the Dates!

7th Annual LA Conference on Computational Biology & Bioinformatics, Friday April 5-6, 2019 @ Center for Computation and Technology, LSU

The 7th Annual Louisiana Conference on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics is an ISCB Affiliated Conference.

We encourage attendees to consider joining the International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB) here

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LBRN/CCT - Pine Biotech Fall/Winter Bioinformatics Program

The aim of this network is to enhance the quality of biomedical research conducted throughout the state of Louisiana by increasing access to state of the art research infrastructure.

What do students say about the LBRN program?

- Overall great view into the research world that is not given at my home institution.
- Gaining research experience and developing new friendships.
- Learning techniques in lab because that will be something I take with me forever.
- It gives students an opportunity to work in a research lab and it also allows them to determine what career path to follow.
- I've learned so much about research. My mentor has been very effective in delivering post-grad information.
- My research experience has reinforced my plans for the future.

Program Date

May 20 - July 26, 2019

Awards

- Undergraduate and Graduate students will receive support of $4,000 and $6,000 respectively
- Housing is provided, if needed

Application Deadline

Friday, February 11, 2019

If you would like to know more about this program, please go to Research Programs at: **https://lbrn.lsu.edu/summer-research-program.html**

If you have any questions, please contact **Alexis M. White** at **lbrn@lsu.edu**

Louisiana Biomedical Research Network is supported by an Institutional Development Award (IDeA) from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health grant number 5P2O GM103424-15, 3P2O GM103424-1551 and the Louisiana Board of Regents for the purpose of improving the competitiveness of Louisiana biomedical researchers.

LBRN

Louisiana Biomedical Research Network

Summer Research Program for Undergraduate and Graduate students

May 20—July 26, 2019

Phone: 225-578-9683
Email: LBRN@lsu.edu
Web: LBRN.lsu.edu

Who are we?

Louisiana Biomedical Research Network was established in September 2001 with funding by NIH, NCRR's IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence Program (Grant P20RR016456) and National Institute of General Medical Sciences (Grant P20GM103424) and Louisiana Board of Regents, the LBRN program is committed to raising the research competitiveness of Louisiana researchers.

What do we do?

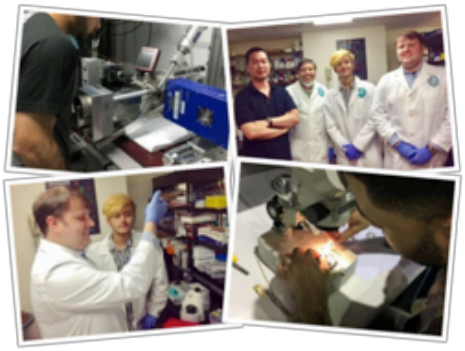
The Department of Biological Sciences at LSU, in conjunction with the NIH/NIGM, is hosting research opportunities for eligible faculty, graduate and undergraduate students in Bioinformatics, Computational Biology, and Cell and Molecular Biology. Our focus is providing research opportunities to faculty and students from primarily undergraduate institutes in the state of Louisiana. Those interested in working on projects at the interface between the biological and computational sciences are encouraged to apply to this program. Women and members of under-represented minorities are urged to apply.

Who can apply?

- Full-time undergraduate and graduate students with at least a 3.0 GPA.
- Students enrolled in a College or University in Louisiana (excluding LSU and Tulane).
- Students with research interests in the Biological or Computational Sciences.
- Students who have to completed the appropriate science introductory courses.
- Students interested in attending graduate, medical or professional schools.

What do you get out of the LBRN program?

- Hands on research experience in the laboratory and/or the field.
- Experience using different types of research instruments and techniques.
- Meet other young investigators from across the state and the country.
- Exposure to a wide range of ongoing research projects.
- Tips on scientific writing and presentation.



Where will research be done?

- Work will be done in established laboratories with interaction among scientists and peers.
- Other research opportunities may be available at LSU School of Veterinary Science, Pennington Biomedical Research Center, LSUHSC in New Orleans or Shreveport, Tulane Medical Center and Tulane National Primate Research Center. Please contact the LBRN Program Office for details.

Presentation

The program culminates in a professional poster session (Summer Undergraduate Research Forum, SURF) where each participant presents the results of their summer research project.

Student Scholar Program

Eligible students will have the opportunity to continue their mentored research during the academic year or at their PUI campus.

Future Plans

Participants are encouraged to attend local or regional science meetings to present their funded research.

Mailing address

Louisiana Biomedical Research Network
School of Veterinary Medicine
Louisiana State University
VMED 3110, Baton Rouge, LA 70803

The Summer Application is open. Please begin your application early. You can update as you go.

Apply Here!

Summer Program and Recruitment
Deadline : Friday 11th, 2019

We are pleased to announce the CCT/LBRN - Pine Biotech Fall/Winter Bioinformatics Program for LSU/LBRN Network institutions Students, Grad and Undergrad, PostDocs and Faculty members.

- **Curriculum: The LBRN Fall/Winter Bioinformatics Training Program consists of 6 courses and 2 projects.**

In this curriculum, analysis skills are developed in a project setting that combines insight into the typical problems addressed by a bioinformatician and exposure to the analysis logic, highlighted by a unique online research and learning environment, the T-BioInfo platform (see more at https://t-bio.info/). The platform is a platform designed to be transparent and offers links to methods as well as downloadable code for some modules.

- ## Modules Overview

Program Modules descriptions: LBRNCCT-2018-BioinformaticsProgram-modules-FALLWINTER-overview.pdf

- ## Program Sessions

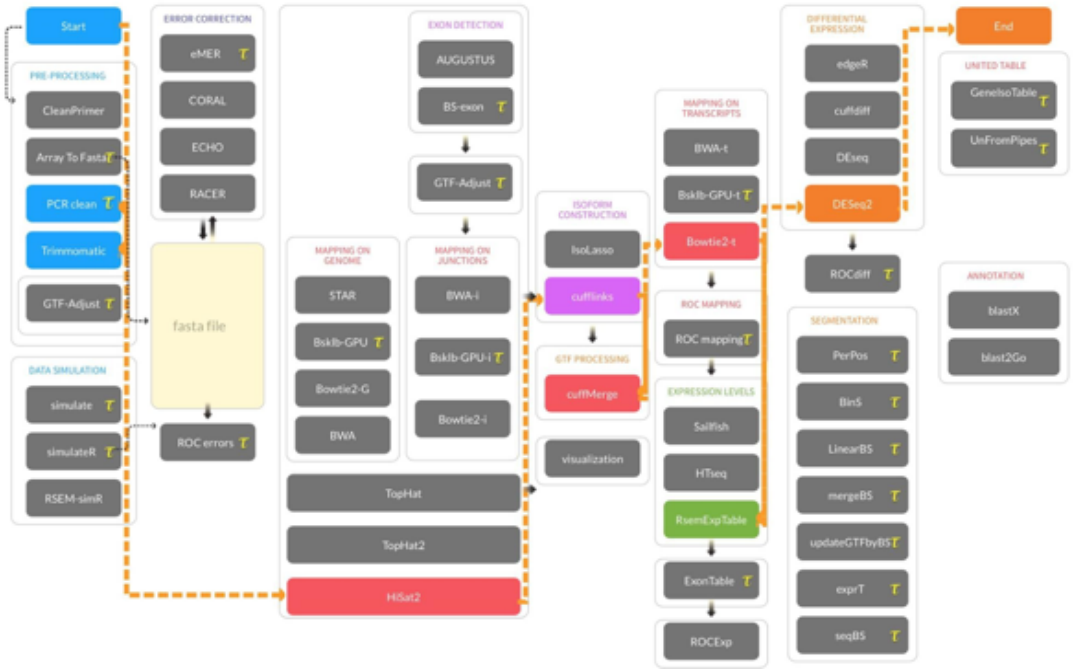
The program sessions will be available via (formerly ViewMe) Video conferencing software and on-site at Conference room# 1034 at Center for Computation & Technology, LSU, 340 E Parker Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70808. Details will be given to program registrants as the sessions progress.

Date	Topic	Date/Time
November 5, 2018	Introduction to Bioinformatics	10:00 am CST to 12:00 pm CST
November 9, 2018	Introduction to RNA Seq Course	10:00 am CST to 11:00 am CST
December 3, 2018	Introduction to Epigenetics Course	10:00 am CST to 11:00 am CST
December 10, 2018	RNA Seq Workshop	10:00 am CST to 12:00 pm CST
December 17, 2018	Introduction to Genomics Course	10:00 am CST to 11:00 am CST
January 18, 2019	Hands on Workshop	10:00 am CST to 12:00 pm CST
February 4, 2019	Genomics Workshop	10:00 am CST to 12:00 pm CST
February 25, 2019	Machine Learning Workshop	10:00 am CST to 12:00 pm CST

March 8, 2019	Introduction to MetaGenomics Course	10:00 am CST to 11:00 am CST
March 28, 2019	Machine Learning Workshop	10:00 am CST to 12:00 am CST
April 5-6, 2019	Bioinformatics Conference	TBA

On the last workshop, more than thirty researchers and students from the Louisiana Biomedical Research Network member campuses participated in the hands-on RNA-Seq workshop. The event was organized jointly by Pine Biotech and LBRN and was held at the LSU Center for Computation and Technology in Baton Rouge.

Before the workshop (see the video recording here), participants completed the online courses developed to prepare biologists for in-depth hands-on data analysis. These online courses on Transcriptomics cover processing raw sequence files and converting them to a table of expression (Transcriptomics 1), applying statistical methods and visualizing multi-dimensional datasets (Transcriptomics 2) as well as utilizing supervised and unsupervised machine learning techniques for data analysis and extraction of biologically meaningful signals from noisy data (Transcriptomics 3).



This RNA-seq training module is the first out of 6 planned modules for this academic year. All of the online materials are prepared in collaboration with bioinformatics specialists from Tauber Bioinformatics Research Center and other faculty from renowned US and international academic institutions. The program is designed for accessibility with non-technical users in mind. This user-friendly bioinformatics hands-on experience is made possible by utilizing the T-BioInfo analytics platform for multi-omics data analysis.

Changes to the R15 Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA), and Introducing the R15 Research Enhancement Award Program (REAP)

Students in institutions with significant amounts of NIH funding, whether they be undergraduate or graduate students, generally have plenty of opportunities to gain exposure to biomedical research. This early exposure is key to engendering interest in exploring careers in science and enhancing understanding of the value of the research process.

Institutions with little NIH funding often offer significantly fewer opportunities for students to do hands-on research. That's where NIH's AREA program comes in. Historically the goal of the AREA program has been to support meritorious research while exposing undergraduates to research and strengthening the research environment of schools that have not been major recipients of NIH support. The AREA program has also supported graduate students at eligible schools, and students at eligible health professional schools.

As announced in this guide notice, as of January 2019, NIH is shifting its approach to how we use the R15 activity code. While NIH will continue to provide R15 research enhancement opportunities for health professional

and graduate schools, the name, AREA, will be reserved for grants to undergraduate-focused institutions that do not receive substantial funding from NIH. Today's undergraduates represent the future of biomedical research and, as such, it is imperative that we support access to research opportunities for students at undergraduate schools across the country.

The AREA program will have its own set of FOAs, distinct from those issued for health professional schools and graduate schools of arts and sciences. This approach will allow us to better track the undergraduates we support at under resourced institutions. Institutions applying for AREA grants must have an undergraduate student enrollment that is greater than graduate student enrollment and, in order to qualify for the AREA program, all the non-health professional components of the institution together cannot have received support from the NIH totaling more than $6 million per year in total costs in 4 of the last 7 years.

NIH will also offer R15 opportunities to support graduate schools of arts and sciences and health professional schools that grant baccalaureate or advanced degrees. We will be calling this the Research Enhancement Award Program (REAP). For these grants the applicant organization (all components) may not receive research support from the NIH totaling more than $6 million per year in total costs in 4 of the last 7 years.

Another change for 2019 involves how an institution determines eligibility and how that is reflected in the application. Since early this year the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, who historically has funded the majority of AREA projects, has been piloting the inclusion of a signed letter in the application from the Provost or similar official with institution-wide responsibility verifying the eligibility of the applicant institution at the time of application submission. The pilot has been successful and as of January 24, 2019, NIH will no longer maintain its list of institutions ineligible for R15 grants. For R15 applications submitted for due dates on or after February 25, 2019, NIH will rely on the institutional letter verifying eligibility that will be required in the application as part of the letters of support attachment.

How will this impact funding opportunity announcements (FOAs)? Existing R15 FOAs referencing the ineligibility list will be expired, including the parent AREA FOA. The AREA Parent Announcement, PA-18-504, will expire after the January 7, 2019, AIDS due date and will not be reissued. Instead, the following announcements will be available in December:

- The Academic Research Enhancement Award for Undergraduate-Focused Institutions (R15 – Clinical Trial Not Allowed) PAR-18-714 already requires a signed letter verifying eligibility, and thus will continue on without needing to be reissued.
- An AREA announcement allowing clinical trials
- An announcement for health professional and graduate schools of arts and sciences (Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
- An announcement for health professional and graduate schools of arts and sciences (Clinical Trial Required)

Be sure to look closely at the list of participating institutes and centers on each announcement. Not all Institutes and Centers participate on the R15 FOAs. We encourage you to consult with the scientific contacts listed in section VII of the FOA to ensure that the funding opportunity you plan to apply to is suitable for your science.

The AREA and REAP programs are important complements to NIH's other types of funding programs. It's so important to ensure that we are tapping into all the talent pools across the country, not just those in research-

intensive institutions and regions, to bring the broadest thinking possible to the research enterprise. To assist you in navigating the program changes, we updated the R15 web page and created a resource to assist institutions in calculating eligibility.

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.

HPC Training

The schedule for the Spring 2019 HPC Training is available at http://www.hpc.lsu.edu/training/tutorials.php.

Our first HPC training will be held on Wednesday, January 23 at 9:00 AM in 307 Frey Computing Service Center and broadcast through WebEx for remote users.
Note that all HPC trainings will start at 9:00AM.

Wednesday, January 23, 2019: Introduction to Linux
The aim of this training is to get users familiar with using Linux systems e.g. the HPC resources. This training will cover basic Linux commands and editors (emacs and vi) on Linux systems. Anyone who is interested in learning about using a Linux based computer is encouraged to attend. If you are not familiar with using a Linux system particularly creating/writing files then this course is a prerequisite for the forthcoming training on HPC User Environment 1 and 2.
This training is ***mandatory*** for HPC users who are not familiar with using a Linux/Unix system.
Prerequisite: Access to a Linux/Unix based computer i.e. Linux (VirtualBox images provided at HPC website), Mac OSX and Windows with Cygwin and Bash installed.

Next two HPC Trainings:

Wednesday, January 30, 2019: HPC User Environment 1, Job Management with PBS
Wednesday, February 06, 2019: HPC User Environment 2, Job Management with PBS
This training provides an overview of the HPC/LONI general account and allocation policies, hardware and software environments, queuing system, compiling programs, writing submit scripts, running and monitoring jobs on HPC systems.
This training is a ***mandatory*** two day training event for all HPC/LONI new users held on January 30 and February 06.
Prerequisite: Familiarity with Linux/Unix commands and editors

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.

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

- ## Resources for Rigorous Research

Advancing public health depends on science being empirical, transparent, and rigorous. As yet another step towards fostering rigorous science, we have revamped the Rigor and Reproducibility webpage to highlight and include more resources you might find helpful. Since sketching out our plan last summer with the Advisory Council to the NIH Director, the webpage now reflects policy updates and explores new resources, all in a simple and easy to read manner.

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- ## Comments Welcomed on the Draft Report Recommending How to Reduce Administrative Burden in Research with Laboratory Animals: A Next Step in Implementing the 21st Century Cures Act

The 21st Century Cures Act requires federal agencies to "review applicable regulations and policies for the care and use of laboratory animals and make revisions, as appropriate, to reduce administrative burden on investigators while maintaining the integrity and credibility of research finding and protection of research animals." This past March we requested feedback from the public on ways to reduce regulatory burden while also maintaining the highest standards for protecting animal welfare and scientific integrity. You responded with constructive and helpful feedback with more than 19,000 comments. Generally, many responses supported the actions initially proposed in the request, but they were balanced with concerns from animal advocacy and other groups.

A working group of animal welfare experts from NIH, the US Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug

Administration thoroughly reviewed and carefully considered all public comments. The working group integrated their analysis of the public comments with their previous studies of relevant published reports, survey findings from diverse animal welfare organizations, and feedback provided by engaged stakeholders at listening sessions during professional meetings. They have now released a draft report (see also the Federal Register Notice), which includes proposed actions to address inconsistent, overlapping, or unnecessarily duplicative laboratory animal welfare regulations and policies (NOT-OD-19-028).

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- ## Changes to the R15 Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA), and Introducing the R15 Research Enhancement Award Program (REAP)

Over the past year, since we published an essay in Nature Human Behaviour on "NIH policies on experimental studies with humans," NIH has engaged in a discussion with the basic science community to find ways to meet our shared obligations to study participants and taxpayers, while respecting the unique goals and outcomes of basic science. While we are still in the midst of that conversation, we are pleased to announce real progress in the form of new funding opportunity announcements for Basic Experimental Studies involving Humans.

...Continue reading

- ## Working Together to Protect the Integrity of NIH-funded Research

When research findings are made up from thin air, misrepresented in some way, or blatantly and without credit copied from others, we risk eroding the public's trust, damaging institutional reputation, harming careers, incurring skepticism, misleading future research, and, arguably most importantly, hurting patients. NIH takes research misconduct seriously. We are being proactive.

...Continue reading

Top Stories

- ## Revised NIH Grants Policy Statement for Fiscal Year 2019

NIH has released a revised Grants Policy Statement that applies to all NIH grants and cooperative agreements with budget periods beginning on or after October 1, 2018. This revised version does not introduce new policies, but it does incorporate all policy changes or updates made throughout the previous year and includes significant enhancements to improve the user interface, navigation, and search.

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- ## FY 2019 Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Stipends, Tuition/Fees, and Other Budgetary Levels

Looking for the latest on Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) stipend levels, tuition/fees, and training related expenses? Check out NOT-OD-19-036 for full details.

- ## FY 2019 Fiscal Policies for Grant Awards: Funding Levels, Salary Limits, and Stipend Levels

NIH issued guidance for NIH Fiscal Operations for FY 2019 including the following new policies:

- **FY 2019 Funding Levels** – Non-competing continuation awards made in FY 2019 will generally be issued at the commitment level indicated on the Notice of Award.
- **Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSA)** – Increase of NRSA stipends by ~2% on average.
- **Next Generation Researchers Initiative Policy** – Prioritizing meritorious R01- equivalent applications from early stage investigator (ESI) principal investigators.
- **Salary Limits** – Salary limit is set at $189,600.

For additional guidance and details, see NOT-OD-19-031.

New Resources

- ## New Resources Available for Basic Experimental Studies with Humans (BESH) Funding Opportunities

In November, NIH announced the publication of new funding opportunities specifically for Basic Experimental Studies Involving Humans (BESH) (see Open Mike Blog).

Need help determining if your research fits within the scope of a BESH funding opportunity announcement (FOA)? Check-out these new resources:

- New FAQs
- Table comparing Funding Opportunity Types by Clinical Trial Allowability
- Guidance for Determining if a Study Falls Within a BESH FOA

...Continue reading

- ## Is My Ancillary Study Considered a Clinical Trial?

It depends. Yes; if the ancillary study adds an additional prospectively assigned intervention to patients or a sub-population of patients within the larger clinical trial and all elements of the NIH clinical trial definition are met. No; if the ancillary study is only adding additional measures to an existing clinical trial.

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You Ask, We Answer

- ### How Do I Determine if My Institution is Eligible For an R15 Research Enhancement Award?

As of January 24, 2019, NIH will no longer maintain its list of institutions ineligible to apply for R15 grants. Instead, for R15 applications submitted for due dates on or after February 25, 2019, institutions are responsible for determining their own eligibility. At the time of application submission, a signed letter will be required from the Provost or similar official with institution-wide responsibility verifying the eligibility of the applicant institution (see NOT-OD-19-015).

Institutions can determine eligibility using the NIH RePORT website, a public tool that provides access to information on NIH awards by awardee organization through its RePORTER and NIH Awards by Location subsites. For detailed instructions, see our Need Help Determining Organization Funding Levels for R15 Eligibility? document.

- ### Can My Application be Considered a Resubmission Even if I am Not Re-Submitting to the Same FOA?

It depends on whether the FOAs are Program Announcements (PA, PAR, PAS or Parent) or Requests for Applications (RFA).

An application originally submitted as “new” to a Program Announcement may be resubmitted as an A1 (resubmission) to any other Program Announcement so long as that Program Announcement accepts resubmissions and you are within 37 months of the A0 (original) submission date.

For RFAs the situation is a little different. If you originally submitted to an RFA and want to resubmit to a Program Announcement, this will be considered a new application. Similarly, if your original application was submitted to a Program Announcement and you want to now submit to an RFA, it would also be considered a new application.

For more on resubmission policies, check out our Resubmission FAQs page. To learn more about types of funding opportunities, see our Understanding Funding Opportunities page.

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 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.

• 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.