

## News, Opportunities and Deadlines for October 2022

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### 21st LBRN Annual Meeting

**Save the Date: January 20-21, 2023**

LBRN team is pleased to announce that the 21st Annual LBRN Meeting will be held at LSU school of Veterinary Medicine on the **20th and 21st of January, 2023**.

Each year the LBRN program has an annual meeting in which program participants, committee members and administrators meet to review individual research accomplishments and to discuss the overall program activity. Summer research faculty and graduate and undergraduate students are encouraged to present their LBRN sponsored research, and talks are scheduled to highlight sponsored research projects from partnered campuses across the state.

Please save the date on the calendar. Detailed schedule and registration will be updated later on our LBRN webpage: <https://lbrn.lsu.edu/annual-meetings.html>.

# 21<sup>ST</sup> Louisiana Biomedical Research Network Annual Meeting

## Save the Date

When 1.20 – 1.21.2023

Where LSU School of  
Veterinary Medicine



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### LBRN 2023 RFAs

Dear LBRN Community,

The purpose of these RFAs is to solicit new projects for the LBRN program. **The expected start date for projects is May 1, 2023. Pilot, translational, and instrumentation funding are eligible for 1 year of funding through April 30, 2024.** Funding for Investigators eligible for Start-up funds is available for 2 years. The selection and distribution of these projects by the Steering Committee will be based on the quality of the proposal and the needs of the LBRN program. Proposed projects should be consistent with the program's focal research areas (listed below). All interested researchers are encouraged to contact **Dr. Brent Stanfield** ([bstanf5@lsu.edu](mailto:bstanf5@lsu.edu)) prior to submitting a proposal to ensure that the proposed

research is eligible for inclusion in this program. In addition, projects are encouraged to involve LBRN core facilities. Applicants should contact their institution's LBRN core liaison officer prior to submission for input regarding core involvement. IACUC and IRB approvals will be required after notification of selection of projects for funding. No funding will be allocated unless all necessary compliance issues are resolved.

### **Computational & Structural Biology**

This area includes themes, for example, bioinformatics, development of new computational approaches to solving significant bio-medical questions, biological modeling or investigations of molecular structure.

### **Molecular Mechanism of Disease**

This area includes investigations focused on understanding the molecular mechanisms of significant human diseases, including, but not restricted to cancer, metabolic disorders, and infectious diseases.

### **Preventive Medicine**

This area includes basic research important in the prevention of major human diseases. Research topics might include work such as the development vaccines, tissue engineering, drugs or new diagnostic tests.

**Application Deadline: November 25, 2022**

## Applications and Competitions for Grant Funding



The Louisiana Biomedical Research Network offers a limited number of grants and research programs to which qualified researchers may apply. Please look at the available programs listed below.

Search:

Title	Due Date	Category	Cycle
		All	All
Louisiana Biomedical Research Network – Requesting Proposals for LBRN Pilot Research Project - 2023-2024	11/25/2022	LBRN - Pilot Projects	2023-2024
Louisiana Biomedical Research Network (LBRN) Requesting Proposals for LBRN Instrumentation Funds 2023-2024	11/25/2022	LBRN - Shared Instrumentation Proposals	2023-2024
Louisiana Biomedical Research Network (LBRN) Requesting Proposal for LBRN Start-up Funds 2023-2025	11/25/2022	LBRN - Start-up Funding Proposals	2023-2024
Louisiana Biomedical Research Network – LBRN and Louisiana Clinical & Translational Science Center-LACATS Requesting Proposals for Translational Science Projects 2023-2024	11/25/2022	LBRN - Translational Projects	2023-2024





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## LBRN Achievements

### **LATECH & GSU partnered to monitor SARS-CoV-2 in local wastewater**

Students and faculty from **Louisiana Tech University** (**Jamie Newman**, [https://lbrn.lsu.edu/pis/Newman\\_Jamie.html](https://lbrn.lsu.edu/pis/Newman_Jamie.html)) and **Grambling State University** (**Paul Kim**, <https://lbrn.lsu.edu/people.html>) partnered to monitor SARS-CoV-2 in local wastewater. The recent publication in PLoS One represents the work of undergraduates at these PUI campuses and critical work in an area of community health thanks to support of the Lincoln Parish institutions, the LBRN, and the Rockefeller Foundation.

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Wastewater surveillance in smaller college communities may aid future public health initiatives

Laura Lee<sup>1</sup>, Lescia Valmond<sup>2</sup>, John Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Audrey Kim<sup>2</sup>, Paul Austin<sup>1</sup>, Michael Foster<sup>1</sup>, John Matthews<sup>3</sup>, Paul Kim<sup>2</sup>, Jamie Newman<sup>1\*</sup>

**1** School of Biological Sciences, Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, Louisiana, United States of America,

**2** Department of Biology, Grambling State University, Grambling, Louisiana, United States of America,

**3** Trenchless Technology Center, Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA, United States of America

\* [jjnewman@latech.edu](mailto:jjnewman@latech.edu)



## OPEN ACCESS

**Citation:** Lee L, Valmond L, Thomas J, Kim A, Austin P, Foster M, et al. (2022) Wastewater surveillance in smaller college communities may aid future public health initiatives. PLoS ONE 17(9): e0270385. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0270385>

**Editor:** Asli Aslan, Georgia Southern University, UNITED STATES

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**Peer Review History:** PLOS recognizes the benefits of transparency in the peer review process; therefore, we enable the publication of all of the content of peer review and author responses alongside final, published articles. The editorial history of this article is available here: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0270385>

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**Data Availability Statement:** All relevant data are within the paper and its [Supporting Information](#) files.

## Abstract

To date, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in over 570 million cases and over 6 million deaths worldwide. Predominant clinical testing methods, though invaluable, may create an inaccurate depiction of COVID-19 prevalence due to inadequate access, testing, or most recently under-reporting because of at-home testing. These concerns have created a need for unbiased, community-level surveillance. Wastewater-based epidemiology has been used for previous public health threats, and more recently has been established as a complementary method of SARS-CoV-2 surveillance. Here we describe the application of wastewater surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 in two university campus communities located in rural Lincoln Parish, Louisiana. This cost-effective approach is especially well suited to rural areas where limited access to testing may worsen the spread of COVID-19 and quickly exhaust the capacity of local healthcare systems. Our work demonstrates that local universities can leverage scientific resources to advance public health equity in rural areas and enhance their community involvement.

## Introduction

Since the COVID-19 pandemic was declared, there have been over 570 million infections and over 6 million deaths worldwide [1]. Over the past two years, mutations during viral replication coupled with the unchecked global spread of COVID-19 have led to the emergence of more transmissible variants of concern. The first of these variants, the novel SARS-CoV-2 B.1.617.2 (Delta), was identified in India in December 2020 [2]. This variant was the catalyst for a COVID-19 surge seen in July 2020 [3]. Similarly, the novel SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.529 (Omicron) variant emerged in November 2021 and resulted in yet another surge and a record number of cases across the United States [4].

Rapid diagnostic testing is a critical tool for breaking viral transmission chains and provides data on the prevalence and spread of infectious diseases that can inform public health decision making. However, in the case of COVID-19, each surge was exacerbated by limited supply and

Student, staff and faculty participants from universities across the state gathered at LSU Shreveport on October 20, 2022, for the 2022 Biomedical Research and Industry Day (BRAID). BRAID was hosted by a partnership between the Center for Cardiovascular Diseases and Sciences (CCDS), Center for Brain Health (CBH), and Louisiana Addiction Research Center (LARC), at LSU Health Shreveport, and Louisiana State University Shreveport (LSUS), in collaboration with University of Louisiana Monroe and the Innovation Enterprise at Louisiana Tech University.

Several of LSUS' LBRN members presented their work. Dr. Cory Coehoorn presented an oral talk on "Rapid heat stress and firefighters: the Problem and Solution," while LSUS students and faculty presented seven of the sixty posters:

**Sara-Alexis Jarecki:** *Large-scale Production of Central Precursors for Anticancer Alkaloids in Microbial System* (Mentor: Dr. Vonny Salim)

**Audrey Lashley:** *Structural Determinants for Substrate Specificity in Anticancer Alkaloid Methyltransferase* (Mentor: Dr. Vonny Salim)

**Michael Minamyer:** *Subcellular Localization of Enzymes for Anticancer Alkaloid Synthesis in Recombinant System* (Mentor: Dr. Vonny Salim)

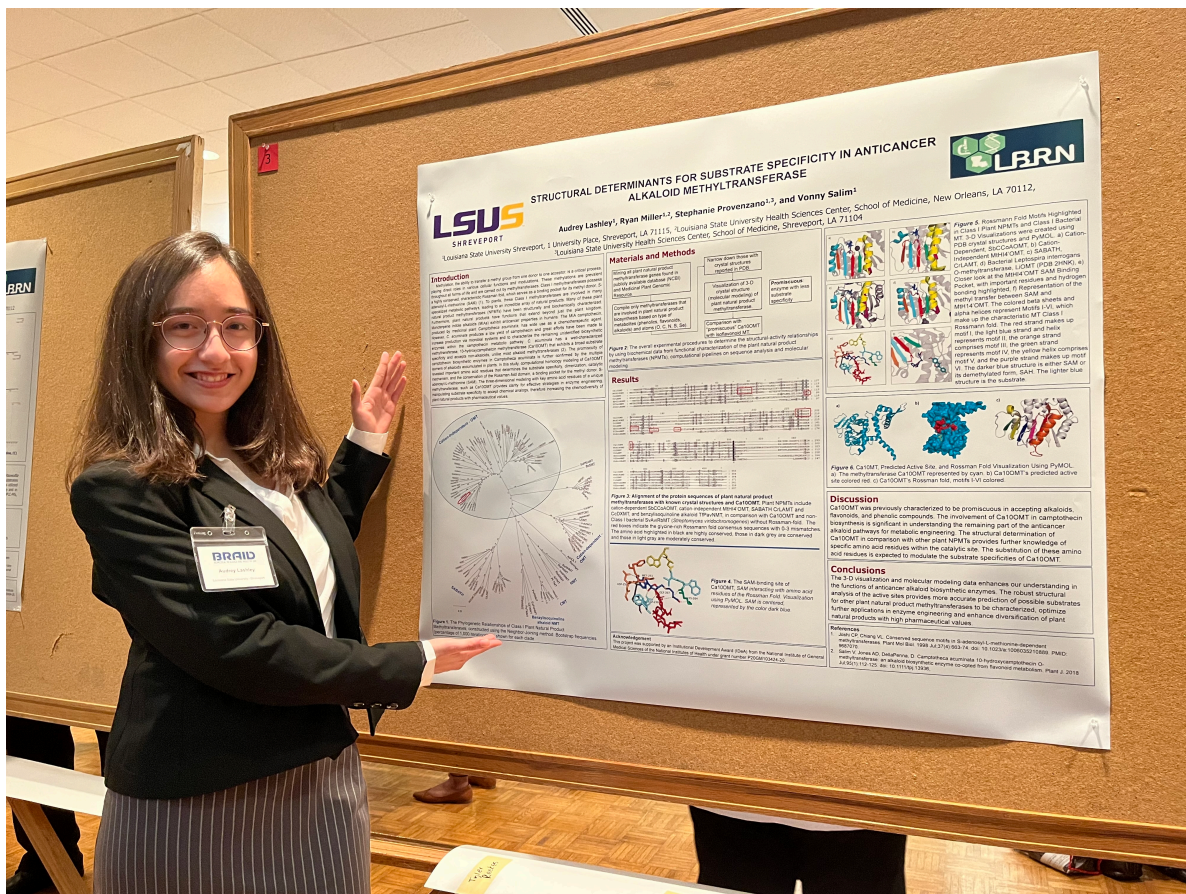
**Ankit Patel:** *Basic Emergency Guidance Instrument: A Training Device for Bag Mask Ventilation* (Mentors: Dr. J. Steven Alexander, Dr. Marjan Trutschl, Dr. Urska Cvek)

**Dylan Roberts:** *Development of Therapeutic Drugs for Alzheimer's Disease* (Mentor: Dr. Santosh D'Mello)

**Dr. Stephanie Villalba:** *The Olfactory Epithelium of GAD65-GFP Mice Expresses Glutamic Acid Decarboxylase (GAD), the Enzyme for Synthesizing the Neurotransmitter, GABA*

**Dr. Marjan Trutschl:** *A Technique for Producing Novel AI-Assisted, Self-Organizing Venn Diagrams*

**Audrey Lashley was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place Undergraduate Poster Category (below).** *She has worked with Dr. Vonny Salim under an LBRN Full Project grant since Spring 2022.*



## LBRN Piestar Rollout

LBRN will be rolling out and replacing its in-house assessment system, written back in 2006, with [Piestar](#).

The LBRN Piestar system is specifically designed for the purposes of collecting data, managing projects, monitoring progress, evaluating impact, and reporting results.

Effective November 1st, this system will begin roll out. We're excited to streamline our data collection system and reporting in the process. All program participants should be on the lookout for emails regarding the new system.





# The 8th NISBRE Meeting

Save the Date: December 12-14, 2022

The 8th Biennial National IDeA Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence (NISBRE) will be held **virtually December 12-14, 2022**, while the 2024 and 2026 NISBRE will be held in Washington, DC. Louisiana State University (LSU) has been awarded an NIH: NIGMS U13 grant to organize 2022, 2024, and 2026 NISBRE Meetings.

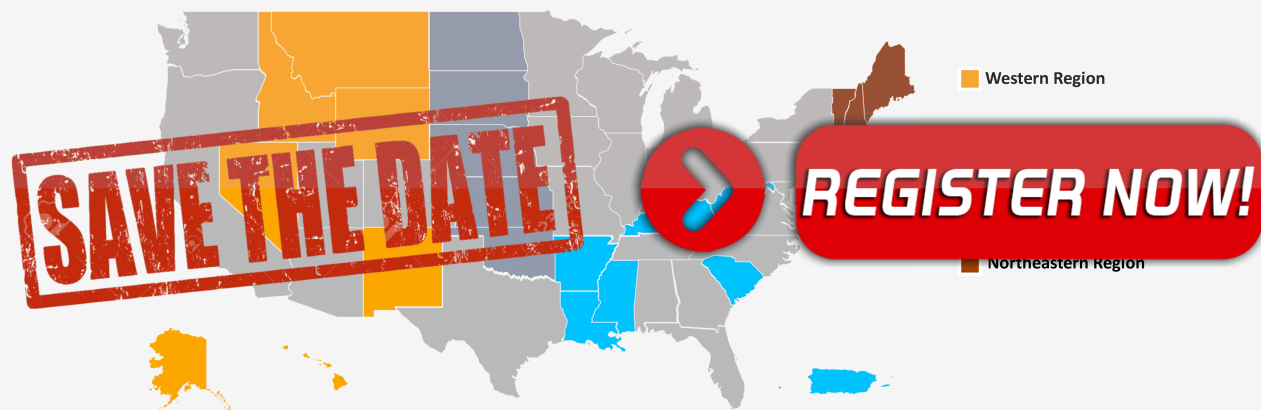
The NISBRE is a national scientific meeting to showcase the scientific and training accomplishments of the IDeA program of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences ([NIGMS](#)). The IDeA program develops scientific centers of excellence and trains biomedical scientists in the [IDeA eligible states](#)

**NISBRE**

**National IDeA Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence**

**December 12-14, 2022 Virtual Conference**

*(supported by NIH:NIGMS 1U13GM143856-01)*



The NISBRE is a national scientific meeting to showcase the scientific and training accomplishments of the IDeA program of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences ([NIGMS](#)). The IDeA program develops scientific centers of excellence and trains biomedical scientists in the [IDeA eligible states](#)







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## National Research Mentoring Network





## Apply Today to Participate in the Communicating Across Difference (CAD) Research Study

This study is investigating what factors may influence the development of researchers' communication skills, including the role or mentors in facilitating this process.



Are you a **near-peer (grad or postdoc) mentor** working with an **undergrad researcher**?

Are you a **undergrad researcher** working with a **near-peer (grad or postdoc) mentor**?

If so, we invite you to apply to participate in the Communicating Across Difference research study!

This study is investigating what factors may influence the development of researchers' communication skills, including the role or mentors in facilitating this process.

This study is funded by the National Institute of General Medicine Sciences (U01 GM 132219) and approved by The University of Texas MD Anderson IRB (Protocol #2019-1010).

**Registration is due by**  
**October 31, 2022**

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## NIH Funding Opportunities and Notices



## NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts

## General Notices

- [Notice of Upcoming Prize Competition Announcement for the 2023 DEBUT Challenge](#)  
(NOT-EB-22-010)  
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering
- [Notice of Change in the Number of Disease Study Sites \(DSSs\) in RFA-HG-22-008 Multi-Omics for Health and Disease - Disease Study Sites \(U01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)  
(NOT-HG-23-006)  
National Human Genome Research Institute
- [Notice of Change in the Number of Disease Study Sites \(DSSs\) in RFA-HG-22-009 Multi-Omics for Health and Disease - 'Omics Production Centers \(U01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)  
(NOT-HG-23-007)  
National Human Genome Research Institute
- [Notice of Change in the Number of Disease Study Sites \(DSSs\) in RFA-HG-22-010 Multi-Omics for Health and Disease - Data Analysis and Coordination Center \(U01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)  
(NOT-HG-23-008)  
National Human Genome Research Institute
- [Notice of Intent to Publish a Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\) for Efficacy Trials of Epidural Stimulation for Spinal Cord Injury](#)  
(NOT-NS-23-030)  
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
- [Request for Information on Augmenting Research Training and Engaging Scientists in Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research Careers](#)  
(NOT-DE-22-019)  
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research

## Funding Opportunities

- [Development of Animal Models and Related Biological Materials for Down Syndrome Research \(R24 Clinical Trials Not-Allowed\)](#)  
(PAR-22-247)  
Office of the Director, NIH  
National Cancer Institute  
National Eye Institute

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

National Institute on Aging

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

*Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

Division of Program Coordination, Planning and Strategic Initiatives, Office of Research

Infrastructure Programs

Application Receipt Date(s): May 25, 2025

- [Limited Competition: Development and Renovation of Research Space for HIV/AIDS Research at Institutions Serving Underrepresented Populations or Located in Institutional Development Award \(IDeA\)-eligible States \(C06\)](#)

(PAR-22-253)

Division of Program Coordination, Planning and Strategic Initiatives, Office of Research

Infrastructure Programs

Office of AIDS Research

Application Receipt Date(s): Not Applicable

- [Dual Purpose with Dual Benefit: Research in Biomedicine and Agriculture Using Agriculturally Important Domestic Animal Species \(R01\)](#)

(PAR-23-031)

Division of Program Coordination, Planning and Strategic Initiatives, Office of Research

Infrastructure Programs

*Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Office of Research on Women's Health

Application Receipt Date(s): Multiple dates, see announcement.

## Notice of Changes to Funding Opportunities

- [Notice of Change to Key Dates to PAS-19-391, "Small Research Grant Program for the Next Generation of Researchers in AD/ADRD Research: Area of Focus Archiving and Leveraging Existing Data Sets for Analyses \(R03 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)"](#)  
(NOT-AG-22-040)  
National Institute on Aging
- [Notice of Change to Key Dates to PAS-19-392, "Small Research Grant Program for the Next Generation of Researchers in AD/ADRD Research: Area of Focus Basic Science \(R03 Clinical Trials Not Allowed\)"](#)  
(NOT-AG-22-041)  
National Institute on Aging
- [Notice to Clarify Expiration Date for NOT-HL-20-815 "Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Use of Predictive Analytics to Accelerate Late-Stage Implementation Research to Address Heart, Lung, Blood, and Sleep Disorders"](#)

(NOT-HL-22-061)

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

- [Notice of Change to Key Dates for RFA-NS-22-021 "HEAL Initiative: Human Pain-associated Genes & Cells Data Coordination and Integration Center \(U24 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)"](#)

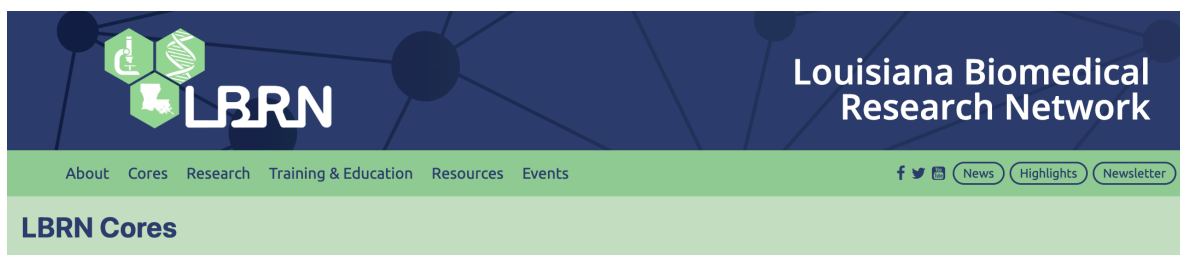
(NOT-NS-23-034)

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

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## LBRN Cores Support Form

LBRN Bioinformatics, Biostatistics, and Computational Biology Core (BBCC) and Molecular and Cell Biology Resources Core (MCBRC) remind you that they are available for questions and contact via our LBRN Cores website. If you're not sure who to reach out to, you can ask via our website [Cores Contact form](#) and we will get back to you with the appropriate resource to do the best we can to answer your question. Look for the "Cores Contact" on the Cores page.



### BBC

The Bioinformatics, Biostatistics, and Computational Biology Core (BBCC) of the Louisiana Biomedical Research Network (LBRN) serves to train and support project investigators and their teams across Louisiana, and to lead and support translational research activities at the frontiers of biomedical science. Its team uses both established and custom computational tools, operating at computational scales ranging from the mundane to analyses engaging many hundreds of compute cores.



### MCBR

Molecular and Cell Biology Resources Core (MCBRC) provides an essential linkage among important basic fields of biomedical science, such as genetics, developmental biology, structural biology, immunology, neurobiology, and cancer biology. The MCBRC takes advantage of existing highly organized, centralized services and equipment facilities located primarily at the LSU flagship institution in Baton Rouge, effectively uniting these units toward the common goal of supporting biomedical research performed by PUI investigators. The MCBRC will provide technical and logistical support, enabling the ready exchange of information, ideas, technology, and research capabilities among PUI investigators. MCBRC will ensure that PUI researchers have full access to state-of-the-art equipment and modern research techniques and services.



### Cores Training & Support

The cores provide one on one training. If you have a question or would like to talk about your training needs, you would like more information about services provided by the cores, or you would like to talk to someone in the core about how someone can assist you, please use Cores Contact link:

[Cores Contact](#)





Please complete the questions below.

Thank you!

<b>Your Name</b> * must provide value	<input type="text"/>
<b>Your Email</b> * must provide value	<input type="text"/>
<b>Your Institution</b> * must provide value	<input type="text"/>
<b>Indicate which core(s) that best fits / you'd like to contact:</b> * must provide value	<div><input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Core <input type="checkbox"/> Bioinformatics, Biostatistics, and Computational Core <input type="checkbox"/> Molecular and Cell Biology Resources Core <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Not Sure</div> <p>select all that apply</p>
<b>Please describe what you would like to ask and the question will get routed to the appropriate person in the core or the administrative core will contact you to try to help who is the appropriate person to contact you.</b> * must provide value	<div><input type="text"/></div> <p>Expand</p>
<input type="submit" value="Submit"/>	

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## Weekly Update from DRCB / NIGMS

### Updates from DRCB/NIGMS

Issue 102, 10/11/2022

#### NIH Funding Opportunity and/or Policy Announcements

- NIH Natural Disaster Policy - Hurricanes Fiona and Ian ([NOT-OD-22-221](#)).
- Change to Eligible Organizations in COBRE Phase 1 PAR-22-250 ([NOT-GM-23-002](#)).

#### Upcoming Events

- NIGMS Grant Writing Webinar Series for Institutions Building Research and Research Training Capacity, November 1, 2:00 – 3:15 PM ET. See [more information](#) and [register](#).
- 8th Biennial National IDeA Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence (NISBRE) Conference (Virtual), December 12-14. More information to follow.

## Reports/News/Program Messages

- NIGMS Feedback Loop Blog: [Increasing Diversity in NIGMS' Medical Scientist Training Program](#).
- IDeA National Resource for Quantitative Proteomics:
  - IDeA state faculty and trainees can apply for a free on-site workshop on March 2-3, 2023, before December 15. Apply [here \[PDF\]](#).
  - IDeA state Proteomics Core Directors can apply for a free on-site symposium on February 8-9, 2023, before December 15. Apply [here \[PDF\]](#).
- Slides of COBRE Phase 1 Pre-application Webinar have been posted on the COBRE [website](#). The recording of the webinar will be posted at a later date.

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## Issue 101, 10/03/2022

### NIH Funding Opportunity and/or Policy Announcements

- Administrative Supplements to INBRE Awards to Fund Research Collaborations ([NOT-GM-22-001](#)). Applications due: January 31.
- COBRE Phase 1 ([PAR-22-250](#)). Applications Due: January 30.
- Limited Competition: IDeA Regional Entrepreneurship Development (I-RED) Program (STTR) ([PAR-22-254](#)). Applications due: January 6.

### Upcoming Events

- NIGMS Grant Writing Webinar Series for Institutions Building Research and Research Training Capacity, November 1, 2:00 – 3:15 PM ET. See [more information](#) and [register](#).
- 8th Biennial National IDeA Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence (NISBRE) Conference (Virtual), December 12-14. More information to follow.

## Reports/News/Program Messages

- Slides of COBRE Phase 1 Pre-application Webinar have been posted on the COBRE [website](#). The recording of the webinar will be posted at a later date.
  - New concepts cleared at NIGMS Council meeting on September 15. View at <https://videocast.nih.gov/>.
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## Issue 100, 9/26/2022

### NIH Funding Opportunity and/or Policy Announcements

- COBRE Phase 1 ([PAR-22-250](#)). Applications Due: January 30.
- Limited Competition: IDeA Regional Entrepreneurship Development (I-RED) Program (STTR) ([PAR-22-254](#)). Applications due: January 6.
- IDeA Clinical Research Resource Center (I-CRRC) ([PAR-22-150](#)). Applications due: September 26 (but see [NOT-OD-22-190](#)).
- Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) Phase 2 ([PAR-22-163](#)). Applications due: September 27 (but see [NOT-OD-22-190](#)).
- Support for Research Excellence - First Independent Research (SuRE-First R16) ([PAR-21-173](#)). Applications due: September 28 (but see [NOT-OD-22-190](#)).

### Upcoming Events

- 2022 Judith H. Greenberg Early Career Investigator Lecture, September 28, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm, please [register](#). Live broadcast view [here](#).
- COBRE Pre-application Webinar, September 27, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM ET. View [here](#).
- NIH Data Management and Sharing (DMS) Policy Webinar Series, August 11, 1:30 – 3:00 PM ET; September 22; 1:30 – 3:00 PM ET. [See NOT-OD-22-184](#).
- NIGMS Grant Writing Webinar Series for Institutions Building Research and Research Training Capacity, August 16, 2:00 – 3:15 PM ET; September 26, 2:00 – 3:15 PM ET; November 1, 2:00 – 3:15 PM ET. See [more information](#) and [register](#).
- 8th Biennial National IDeA Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence (NISBRE) Conference (Virtual), December 12-14. More information to follow.

### Reports/News/Program Messages

- New concepts cleared at NIGMS Council meeting on September 15. View at <https://videocast.nih.gov/>.

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LSU HPC Training



## **Wednesday, October 26, 2022: Introduction to Singularity: Creating and Running Containers on HPC**

Containers such as Singularity allow users to pack an application and all of its dependencies, including the operation system, into a single image, which makes the application more portable, shareable, and reproducible. For instance, one user can create in his/her own HPC environment a Singularity image for a complex workflow with many software components and their dependencies, then share it with other users, who can run the workflow on other HPC systems, independent of the environment as long as Singularity is supported. In this tutorial, we will show how to build Singularity images and run them on the LSU/LONI HPC clusters.

**Prerequisites:** Basic knowledge on using HPC environment is assumed but not required.

### **Next HPC Training:**

## **Wednesday, November 02, 2022: Open OnDemand: Interactive HPC via the Web**

This training will provide an introduction to Open OnDemand, a browser based tool now available to all LSU HPC users on campus. Open OnDemand requires only a web browser (no plug-ins) and an LSU HPC account. It features a file browser, command line shell access, job management, and access to interactive Jupyter notebooks and RStudio servers running interactively on SuperMike-II's compute nodes. This training will feature an overview of Open OnDemand, and a demonstration of all it's features, including Jupyter Notebook and RStudio.

Prerequisites: LSU HPC account, some knowledge of using HPC is assumed but not required

Please visit <http://www.hpc.lsu.edu/training/tutorials.php> for more details and register using the link provided. Users will be provided with a zoom link in their registration confirmation email. Please see the system requirements at <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-System-Requirements-for-PC-Mac-and-Linux>.

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## **NIH Extramural Nexus**

- **Data on Number of Research Project Grants per Principal Investigator**

Earlier this year, [we posted a blog](#) about inequalities in Research Project Grant (RPG) support for extramural principal investigators (PIs). [The blog](#) was based on [a paper we published](#) in which we showed, among other things, that well-funded PIs not only were supported by more money but also by a larger number of distinct grants. Over 80% of the PIs in the top centile (top 1%) of funding were supported by two or more grants, compared to only 33% of the PIs in the bottom 99%.

Many comments to that post requested data on time-related trends of number of RPGs supporting individual PIs. Figure 1 shows exactly that. In Fiscal Year 1985, approximately 80% of designated RPG PIs were supported on just 1 RPG (line with triangles at the top); that proportion has fallen over time to 67% in Fiscal Year 2021. Note the vertical dotted lines correspond to the NIH doubling (Fiscal Years 1998-2003) and budget sequestration (Fiscal Year 2013).

## RPGs per PI

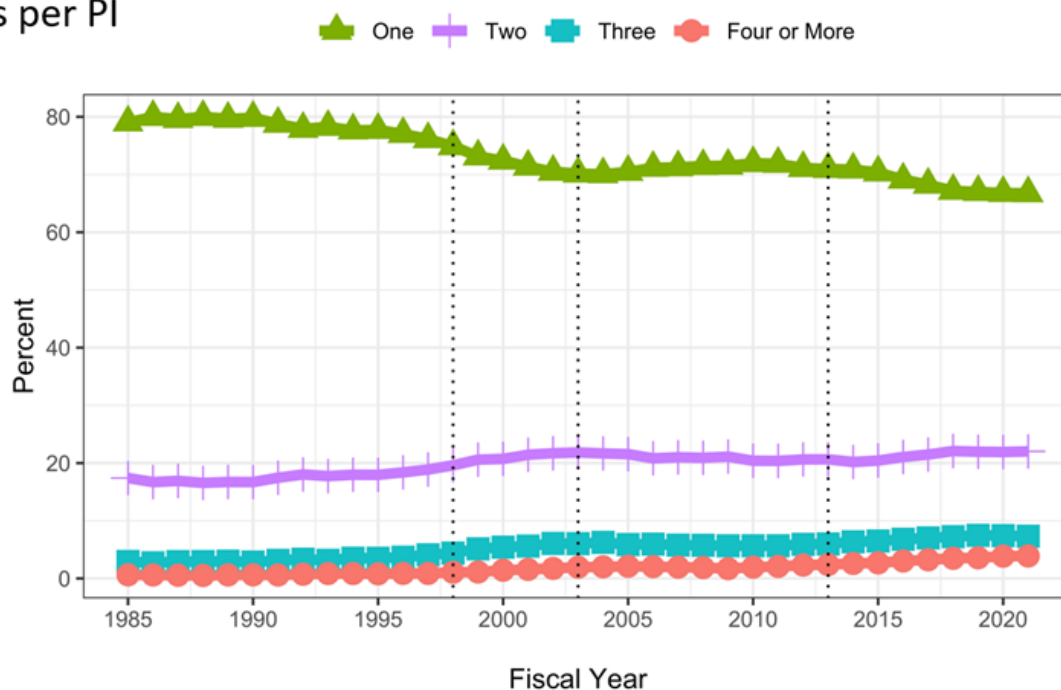
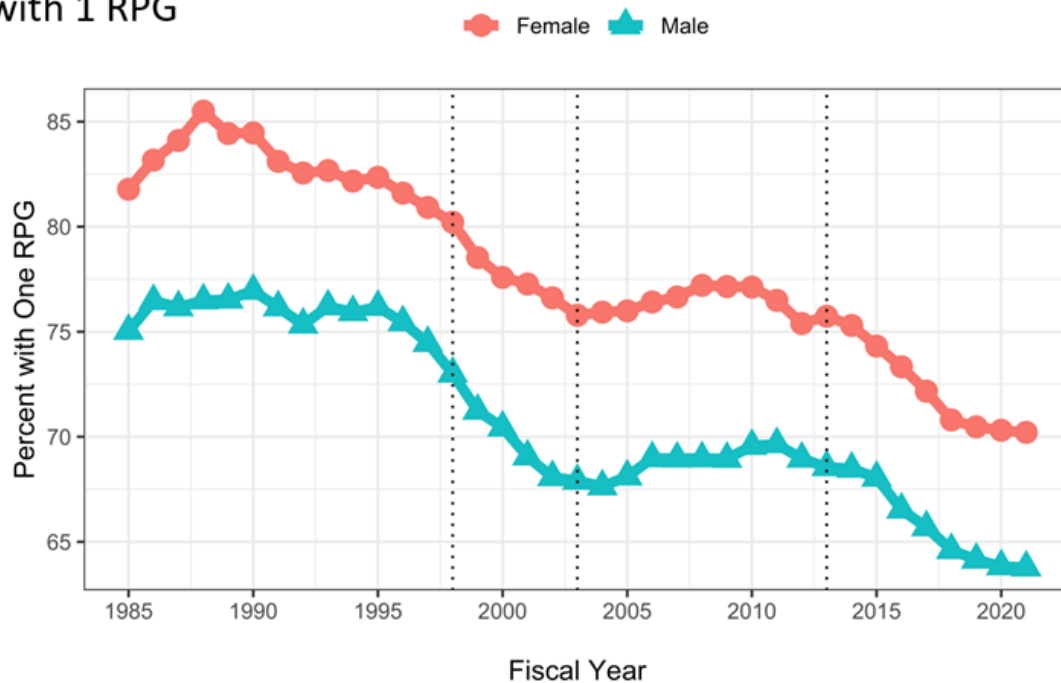


Figure 2 breaks down the same data according to the principal investigator's self-reported sex. Over time, women were more likely than men to be designated as PI on only 1 RPG.



## PI's with 1 RPG



..... [continue to read](#) .....

## • Center for Scientific Review 2022-2027 Strategic Plan

Guest post by Noni Byrnes, originally released on the NIH Center for Scientific Review's [Review Matters blog](#)

I am pleased to announce the release of the [Center for Scientific Review \(CSR\) 2022-2027 Strategic Plan](#). CSR is entrusted with most of the peer review that enables NIH to support a broad range of biomedical research. Our primary goal, to ensure that peer review identifies the strongest, most promising science, depends upon an evaluation process that is fair, independent, expert, timely and free from inappropriate influences. This plan delineates a forward-looking framework comprising five overarching goals that organize CSR's current and future initiatives in support of our important mission.

Goal 1: Maintain scientific review groups that provide appropriate scientific coverage and review settings for all of NIH science.

Goal 2: Further develop a large cadre of diverse, well-trained, and scientifically qualified experts to serve as reviewers.

Goal 3: Further develop an outstanding, engaged, and diverse staff.

Goal 4: Implement changes to the peer review process to make it more fair, effective, and efficient.

Goal 5: Achieve our mission through transparency, engagement with the scientific community and a data-driven approach to decision-making.

In developing and finalizing the plan, CSR sought and received broad input from the [CSR Advisory Council](#) as well as the wider extramural scientific community within and outside the NIH. A total of 275 comments were received on the draft plan, with 262 coming from individuals and 13 from scientific societies. Most of the comments indicated strong alignment with the priorities CSR has developed. Some offered useful differences of opinion and constructive criticism as well as comments that pertain to the implementation of these goals. This input will be valuable as we develop detailed action plans.

Note that Goal 5 of our strategic plan speaks to a decision-making process that includes engagement with the scientific community on the topic of peer review. We, of course, appreciate hearing from those who support our initiatives, but we also value dissent and suggestions for change. The insight we gain through interactions with the broader scientific community help us in our efforts to continually improve the NIH peer review process. You can reach CSR at [communications@csr.nih.gov](mailto:communications@csr.nih.gov).

## • Webinar Resources: Diving Deeper into the New NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy

The January 25, 2023 implementation date for the new [Data Management and Sharing \(DMS\) Policy](#) is right around the corner. Now is a great time to explore the [many resources and materials](#) to help the community prepare for the new policy!

In August and September, NIH hosted a 2-part webinar series to help the community understand the DMS policy and answer your questions.

Webinar recordings and materials are now available on the [Learning page](#) of the NIH Scientific Data Sharing website. We encourage you to view the recordings if you missed the live events!

Part I of the series was dedicated to understanding the policy basics and covered topics including:

- Expectations of the DMS policy
- Policy applicability
- Preparing DMS Plans
- Considerations for sharing data responsibly

In Part II of the series, we took a deeper dive into the policy and covered topics including:

- Protecting privacy when sharing data from human research participants;
- Responsible management and sharing of American Indian and Alaska Native participant data;
- The interaction of the Genomic Data Sharing Policy with the Data Management and Sharing Policy; and
- Other topics including intellectual property, informed consent, secondary research, and timelines for sharing.

Don't forget to consult our [DMS Policy Overview page](#) to review the expectations of the policy and dig into the details.

## • **Subscribe to Receive Weekly NIH Funding Opportunities and Notices**

What better way to ring in the weekend than with a [table of contents](#) of the latest funding opportunities and policy notices from across NIH? [Subscribe](#) to receive the weekly table of contents emails (usually on Friday afternoon) from the NIH Guide to Grants and Contracts, including direct links to all funding opportunities and notices published during the week.

The [NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts](#) is how we communicate funding opportunities, changes in policy, and other updates. Compliance with these policy updates also becomes a term and condition of award. NIH incorporates these notices into the annual update of the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#).

You can also set up alerts for new funding opportunities in your area of interest with the 'Save Your Search' feature. Simply filter by organization, activity code, and/or search term, then click the "Save Your Search" button. Happy hunting!

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## LONI HPC Allocation for LBRN



To support the LBRN / BBC Core community on LONI HPC systems, we have renewed our high-performance computing allocation for 2022 / 2023.

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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**LBRN "Core Bucks"**

The BBC Core and MCBR Core offer researchers the opportunity to earn “Core Bucks” to support faculty and students up to \$1500. Requests for Core Bucks from Member Institutions must be initiated through the respective Core Contact on campus.



#### **- The Bioinformatics, Biostatistics, and Computational Biology Core (BBC Core)**

The BBC Core serves to train and support project investigators and their teams across Louisiana. It works to enable Louisiana Biomedical Research Network project PIs and their teams to employ Louisiana cyberinfrastructure (especially high performance computing), and to provide bioinformatics services, training, and educational support.

The core provides bioinformatics training, conducts workshops, and provides bioinformatics analysis services. The core also provides access to the IBM Delta Cluster and has a dedicated BBC allocation for the high performance computing resources at LSU. The BBC Core maintains software licenses and access to Ingenuity Pathway Analysis (IPA), Partek Flow, DNASTAR, and Ion Torrent analysis software. In addition, several open source tools for bioinformatics such as bowtie, tophat, cufflinks, samtools, GATK, QIIME, DADA2, Phyloseq, etc. are installed and maintained.

Some examples of standard bioinformatics workflows that can be supported through core bucks requests:

- Gene Pathway Analysis
- RNA-Sequencing Processing and Analysis



- 16S rRNA Microbial Community Analysis
- ITS2 Fungal Community Analysis

Other workflows can be developed or adapted from existing software on an as needed basis.

For more information, see: <https://lbrn.lsu.edu/cores.html#corebucks>



### **- The Molecular and Cell Biology Resources Core (MCBR Core)**

MCBR Core Services include both one-on-one training for faculty and students as well as workshops on topics like bioinformatics and protein purification.

Sample services:

#### **1. Molecular Biology Reagent Equipment and Services**

- GeneLab provides conventional and next generation nucleic acid sequencing (NGS), and recombinant DNA Service. NGS equipment includes Torrent PGM, Ion Proton etc
- NGS Services provides a reliable connection between NGS experiments and the analysis of NGS data

#### **2. Protein Production, Purification and Characterization Laboratory**

- Protein Purification and Characterization includes semi automated Bio-rad profinia affinity chromatography system, AKTA Explorer FPLC system, and HPLC and ultracentrifugation equipment
- Peptide Synthesis and purification
- Protein-protein interactions are investigated using primarily Surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR) implemented on Biacore and ForteBio SPR equipment. Additional physicochemical

characterization of protein-protein interactions is available through collaborations with the LSU Department of Chemistry.

- Gene-to-Protein-to-Antibody Services – you provide the gene, we return an antibody

### 3. Molecular Immunopathology Laboratory Services

- Pathology Services including necropsy procedures, gross and histopathological examinations and interpretation of immunohistochemistry and special stains performed by veterinarians and histology specialists
- Flow Cytometry and immunophenotyping Services
- Multiplex/Luminex complements immunophenotyping services for rapid and standardized analysis of soluble factors e.g., lymphokines, using bead based array technology.
- Microscopy – contains transmission and scanning electron microscopes, a laser dissection microscope, a Leica TCS SP2 for 3D fluorescence microscope, and a high-throughput digital slide-scanner.

For more information, see: <https://lbrn.lsu.edu/cores.html#corebucks>

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## CFA for Short Term Core Projects



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. [Please contact your LBRN Steering Committee Member.](#)

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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 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 GM103424-20.

- 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 P20GM103424-20.*

- 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 (2P20GM103424-20) an Institutional Development Award (IDeA) from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health.*

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