LBRN announces the following funding opportunities for Network PUI participants

These proposals have funding start date of 05/01/2022 subject to NIH approval.

Proposals may be submitted under the mechanisms listed below:

• Requesting Proposals for LBRN - Full Project 2022-25
• Requesting Proposals for LBRN - Pilot Project Funding -2022-2023
• Requesting Proposals for LBRN - Shared Instrumentation Funding 2022-2023
• Requesting Proposals for LBRN - Start-up Funding 2022-2024
• Requesting Proposals for LBRN - Translational Project Funding 2022-2023

Please go to Proposal Link for details on each Project: https://lbrn.infoready4.com/
Louisiana Biomedical Research Network will have Work In Progress (WIP) meetings Tuesday and Thursdays from **Noon – 1:00 PM**, starting October 5 2021.

These WIP meetings not only provide PUI project investigators with an opportunity to present the research progress of their respective projects to the LBRN community in general and the specifically to the Administrative Core and Core Directors.

The meeting schedule is as follows, and all meetings will be conducted via video conference.
Details: 20 Minute presentation, 10 Minute Q&A. Schedule to begin with existing projects, after that setup Full/Pilot for each day. We have one Translational, one INBRE-COBRE Supplement.

Please check [LBRN website](#) for updated schedule.

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**LBRN Achievement**

![Image of LSUS Shreveport logo]
Dr. Urska Cvek, Dr. Marjan Trutschl, Professors of Computer Science, and Phillip Kilgore, Research Scientist, from the Laboratory for Advanced Biomedical Informatics at LSU Shreveport recently published two articles. “Experimental evaluation of the Elson test efficiency following central slip injury” resulted from their collaboration with Dr. Giovanni F. Solitro, Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at LSU Health Shreveport, and was published in the Journal of Hand Surgery Global Online. Injuries to the hand are fraught with multiple, concurrent injuries and many injuries may have chronic debilitating complications, if not detected early. One such example is a finger laceration with a concurrent extensor tendon injury, causing delayed boutonniere deformity formation and limited function. The research focused on exploring the amount of work, quantified by flexion and extension cycles, that are needed to obtain a positive Elson test following a central slip injury of a finger.

Their second recent manuscript “A retrospective analysis of calcium levels in pediatric trauma patients” (PMID: 34336394) was published in the International Journal of Burns and Trauma and explored traumatic injury in pediatric patients, which is a major cause of morbidity and mortality. Evidence exists that major trauma patients are at high risk for hypocalcemia, but the rate of pediatric occurrence is not documented. The purpose of this study was to determine the incidence of hypocalcemia in pediatric trauma patients, as well as to investigate any correlation between hypocalcemia and the need for transfusion and operative intervention.

Dr. Galina Goloverda (Top left) of the Xavier University of Louisiana, who received project funding from LBRN, applied for and received a patent for her research on "Methods Of Solvent Removal At
Ambient Temperatures - Cryovap" with her mentor, Dr. Vladimir Kolesnichenko (Top right).

US patent Patent 17/118319 “Methods Of Solvent Removal At Ambient Temperatures – Cryovap”, Vladimir Kolesnichenko et al

https://uspto.report/patent/app/20210178287


STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT
This invention was made with government NIH support under RCMI 2U54MD007595, IDeA 5 P20 GM103424-15, 3 P20 GM103424-15S1 and BUILD 5UL1GM118967, 5RL5GM118966, and 5TL4GM118968. The government has certain rights in the invention.

Another professor, Dr. Jayalakshmi Sridhar, who received full project funding from LBRN at the Xavier University of Louisiana, received a grant from the NIH for research in Alzheimer's disease.

- Title: Development of Therapeutics Targeting Tauopathy for Alzheimer's Disease (Awarded)
- Grant #3U45MD007595-12S2 (NIH-NIMHD)
- Amount: $348,650
She is also currently applying for a grant to the NIH with other associated studies and the decision is waiting now.

- **Title:** Development of novel therapeutics to block Alzheimer's Disease progression (Pending)
- **Grant Agency:** NIH-NIMHD
- **Amount:** $374,181
- **Period:** 04/01/2022-03/31/2023

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**Dr. Joseph Chaney** has published the following paper. He is invited to attend the 2021 Southeast Regional IDeA Conference in Puerto Rico this month.

Dr. Kun (Karen) Zhang has published a number of papers supported by LBRN and is also involved in projects.

Publications:

Projects:

- "A Comprehensive Bridge2AI Data Generation Project (ACB-DGP) for Health Care and Genomics" to the NIH Bridge to Artificial Intelligence (Bridge2AI) Program / Role: Co-director of Tool module
- NIH U54 Specialized Cooperative Center proposal entitled “Tulane Tissue Mapping Center (Tulane-TMC) for Brain, Muscle, Fat and Bone” / Role: Co-director of Data Analysis Core
Grambling State University sets up NGS lab for SARS-CoV-2 genomic surveillance

The Rockefeller Foundation awarded $340,000 to former LBRN PIs Paul Kim (Grambling State University) and Jamie Newman (Louisiana Tech University) in collaboration with co-PI Jeremy Kamil (LSU Health Shreveport) to join the Rockefeller Foundation’s Pandemic Prevention Institute.

Thus far, 18 SARS-CoV-2 specimens with complete metadata from the GSU student health center have been sequenced in Dr. Kim’s lab and uploaded to GISAID’s EpiCov database.

In memory of Adeola Adedokun-Afolayan
We are saddened by the untimely passing of Ms. Adeola Adedokun-Afolayan due to COVID-19 related complications. The LBRN was a proud supporter of Ms. Adeola’s academic endeavor. She was an active participant in the LBRN summer program and LBRN supported research projects. She was undaunted in her academic pursuit despite her struggles with Myasthenia Gravis. Her academic excellence was recognized at the LBRN Annual Meeting in 2020, where she won the first prize for the Graduate Student Poster Competition for her work title "Fabrication of Human-Scaled Biliary Trees Surgical Replacements through 3D Printing." Ms. Adeola graduated from LSU Shreveport with a Master’s in Public Health and was all set to join John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in the fall of 2021. She is survived by her husband Mr. Sodiq Afolayan and two daughters Rumaysa (7) and Salma (5).
LSU HPC Training: Introduction to Python
**Wednesday, October 20, 2021: Introduction to Python**

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.

Please visit [http://www.hpc.lsu.edu/training/tutorials.php](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](https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-System-Requirements-for-PC-Mac-and-Linux).

Next HPC Training:

**Wednesday, October 27, 2021: 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 along 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.

Note that all HPC trainings will start at 9:00AM.

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**Save the Date**

20th LBRN Annual Meeting

**Save the Date: January 28-29, 2022 for the 20th LBRN Annual**
Save the Date

20th LBRN Annual Meeting - 2022
January 28th-29th, 2022

Further details will be forthcoming through LBRN website and monthly newsletter

Mark your calendars!
January 2022

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Fall 2021 NIH Virtual Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration
If you’re new to working with the NIH grants process as an investigator or administrator, then mark your calendar for Monday, November 1 – Thursday, November 4 for a unique opportunity to learn, share and meet virtually with NIH and HHS experts. The NIH is offering a virtual seminar that you won’t want to miss! Here are our top five reasons:

#1: Four days of sessions with live and simu-live sessions, as well as an on-demand video library

#2: Three tracks designed around grants policies, processes, case-studies and Q&As

#3: Live chats one-on-one with NIH & HHS experts on the grants process and policies

#4: Downloadable resources to reuse and/or share with others at your institution

#5: Registration is free! Yes, you read it right.

Are you excited yet? Visit our [Save the Date](#) page and sign-up to be notified when registration opens. We hope to “see” you there!

To learn more about this and similar events check out the [NIH Regional Seminar Home Page](#) and sign up for our listserv while you’re there.
The Puerto Rico IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence is honored to host the 2021 Southeast Regional IDeA Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico on November 12-14, 2021. The Regional Conference has served as an important platform for faculty, postdoctoral, and student scientists of the Southeastern IDeA States and Puerto Rico to discuss matters of science, administrative policy, and best practices in a cordial and interactive scholarly environment.

* COVID-19 TEST REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY

LBRN encourage you and your students to submit abstracts for Oral and Poster Presentations. LBRN will be able to support travel for up to two Faculty members and two students subject to abstract selection and Admin core review. There is a possibility that the conference may also include virtual participation.

The abstract submission deadline is September 13.

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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: http://lbrn.lsu.edu/resources/cores

- 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
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 highthroughput digital slide-scanner.

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Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information


**Who Is Eligible for a COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot?**

**What You Need to Know**

COVID-19 Vaccine booster shots are available for the following Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine recipients who completed their initial series at least 6 months ago and are:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18+ who live in [long-term care settings](#)
- Age 18+ who have [underlying medical conditions](#)
- Age 18+ who work in [high-risk settings](#)
- Age 18+ who live in [high-risk settings](#)

**Data Supporting Need for a Booster Shot**
Studies show that after getting vaccinated against COVID-19, protection against the virus may decrease over time and be less able to protect against the Delta variant. Although COVID-19 vaccination for adults aged 65 years and older remains effective in preventing severe disease, recent data suggest vaccination is less effective at preventing infection or milder illness with symptoms. Emerging evidence also shows that among healthcare and other frontline workers, vaccine effectiveness against COVID-19 infections is decreasing over time. This lower effectiveness is likely due to the combination of decreasing protection as time passes since getting vaccinated (e.g., waning immunity) as well as the greater infectiousness of the Delta variant.

Data from a small clinical trial show that a Pfizer-BioNTech booster shot increased the immune response in trial participants who finished their primary series 6 months earlier. With an increased immune response, people should have improved protection against COVID-19, including the Delta variant.

**Booster Shots Are Only Available for Some Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine Recipients**

Employees and residents at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission

People aged 18–64 years at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting may get a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine based on their individual benefits and risks. Adults aged 18–64 years who work or reside in certain settings (e.g., health care, schools, correctional facilities, homeless shelters) may be at increased risk of being exposed to COVID-19, which could be spreading where they work or reside. Since that risk can vary across settings and based on how much COVID-19 is spreading in a community, people aged 18–64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting may get a booster shot after considering their individual risks and benefits. This recommendation may change in the future as more data become available.

We remind everyone of the information provided here on our website: LBRN COVID-19.
Register Today for Our Capacity Building Webinar to be Held on October 21

Are you at an institution with little NIH research support? Are you interested in sustaining or increasing research capacity at your institution? If so, then whether you are a researcher or institutional official, you may be interested in joining us for the 2021 Capacity Building for the Future of Biomedical Research Webinar, an official NIH Virtual Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration preconference event, on Thursday, October 21, 2021, 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM EDT. Registration is required for the Capacity Building event. Register today, as space is limited!

This webinar will strengthen your knowledge base by allowing you to learn from the success of other institutions like yours, identify programs that can provide support in your capacity building efforts, help you learn to navigate common challenges in the grants process, and expand your connections.

We hope you leave the webinar inspired, prepared with tailored expert information and advice, and excited to make the most of the NIH Virtual Seminar (Nov. 1-4). (Note, you need to register separately for the NIH Virtual Seminar and the Capacity Building Webinar!)

Take a look at the topics covered during the pre-conference event:

- **Capacity Building Success Stories**
  - Turtle Nation Research Group
  - Morgan State University
  - NIH Idaho INBRE Program, University of Idaho

- **Overcoming Challenges**
  - Preparing to Apply
  - Application Review Issues
  - Reapplying & Resubmission
  - Grant Policy Considerations
  - Funding Capacity Building Efforts

- **Pathways to Success**:
  - Current and Future STEM Workforce
  - Research Science and investigation
  - Capacity Building for Contracting
  - Partnerships & Networks
Remember, registration and attendance are free. Register today!

- Register for the Fall 2021 NIH Virtual Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration!

Are you ready to learn more about the NIH grants process while connecting with NIH/HHS staff and collecting resources to share with your team? This fall, the NIH is bringing back the NIH Virtual Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration directly to your computer... FREE of charge! Mark your calendar for Monday, November 1 – Thursday, November 4!

This event is designed to demystify the NIH grant application, review, award and post-award processes and policies! Register today and be sure to check out all the networking opportunities taking place during the seminar, including new ways to chat one on one with NIH and HHS experts, interact with attendees, and make the most of the seminar.

If you’re new to working with the NIH grants process as an investigator or administrator, join us as we connect and collaborate! Here’s what to expect:

- **Free registration!** Yes, you read it right.
- **Four-day event** with live sessions, as well as an on-demand video library
- **Three concurrent sessions** designed around grants policies and programs, including case studies and Q&As
- **Live chat opportunities** with NIH and HHS experts on the grants process, policies, and programs
- **Downloadable resources from over 45 booths** to reuse and/or share with others at your institution.

- Animal Welfare Assurance Annual Reports to OLAW Due by December 1, 2021

Recipient institutions with an Animal Welfare Assurance must submit their Annual Reports to the NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare by December 1, 2021 (NOT-OD-22-002). These reports cover the October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021, reporting period, as required by the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

The following information must be reported:

- Changes in the institution’s AAALAC International accreditation status, animal care and use
program, Institutional Official, and/or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) membership
- Dates for the program and facility IACUC Semiannual evaluations
- Any IAUC member minority view

You can download the Annual Report Form, and watch this webinar for more on the updated annual reporting period (NOT-OD-20-109).

- Get Your Questions Answered at the NIH Virtual Seminar on Program Funding & Grants Administration

Grants managers, policy officials, review officers, and other NIH grants experts are preparing their booths for the 2021 NIH Virtual Seminar on Program Funding & Grants Administration. When you register for this free event, not only will you have access to over 50 scheduled sessions about applying for NIH funding, peer review, grants policy and compliance, research integrity, human subjects, animal welfare, and more, you will have access to hundreds of NIH staff at booths and at the conference, waiting to answer your questions. The ability for you to schedule one-on-one 20-minute appointments with NIH staff is new to the seminar this year, so take advantage of the opportunity to ask your questions and learn from the NIH and HHS staff behind grants policies and processes. Make sure you register for the seminar to join in the fun and bring helpful answers back to your team.

As you attend the seminar, you might be wondering how a policy applies to your situation or research area. Luckily you don’t have to go far to find answers, just visit the Exhibit Hall to chat with representatives from many of the NIH Institutes and Centers who can address your specific questions.

What our booths lack in candy and free pens, we make up for in expert advice from staff and informational resources you can share. Stop by and stay awhile – here’s a sampling of the booths you can expect:

- Ask an NIH Grants Compliance Expert
- Ask an NIH Grants Management Officer
- Ask an NIH Policy Officer
- Ask an NIH Review Officer
- Ask an NIH Training Officer
- & NIH ICs, special funding programs, and more!
You will be able to access the booths and start scheduling 1:1 appointments when the Exhibit Hall opens approximately 1 week prior to the event. Registered attendees will receive an announcement, so register today!

- **Replace eRA Commons Password with Passphrase, Starting Sometime in November**

While eRA has been transitioning users of eRA Commons, Commons Mobile, ASSIST and IAR to two-factor authentication using either Login.gov or an InCommon Federated Account that supports NIH’s two-factor authentication standards, users will still need to maintain their eRA Commons username and password for the time being.

So eRA account credential maintenance will continue, at least for now, but not to worry, gone are the days of having to continually change your password every 120 days. NIH is moving from passwords to passphrases — a set of random words or a sentence at least 15 characters long — effective sometime in November (date to be confirmed). Passphrases will only need to be updated annually.

This change is part of a new NIH password policy designed to make passwords easy for users to remember but hard for others to guess. The new policy aims to improve user experience and enhance cybersecurity.

Once this new change is in effect, Commons users will be prompted to change their password to a passphrase when trying user credentials with an expired or forgotten password. Users are advised to avoid words that can be easily guessed, such as family names.

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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.

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 2020/2021.

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.
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 GM103424-18 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 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 (2P20GM103424-19) 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.