News, Opportunities and Deadlines for October 2023

Save the Date!

22nd LBRN Annual Meeting

This year, the LBRN will hold its Annual Meeting January 19-20 at the Baton Rouge Marriott. We are looking forward to bringing our funded researchers from across the state together to showcase the culture of biomedical research excellence in our state. A closed Steering Committee Retreat will be held on Friday, January 19 at the hotel so that our Steering Committee members can provide detailed updates on the impact that the LBRN has had on their institutions.

LBRN - Requesting Proposals for Research Projects

Applications Are Open!

The application period for Research Funding Proposals (RFPs) is now open through **December 8, 2023**. Submit your proposal here: https://lbrn.infoready4.com/

About

The LBRN receives funds from NIH/NIGMS to fund biomedical research throughout the state. Please note that starting this year, **all Louisiana Primarily Undergraduate Institutions are eligible for funding** in the following areas:

- **Computational & Structural Biology**
  This area includes development of new computational approaches to solving significant bio-medical questions, biological modeling, bioinformatics, 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.

Additional information on funding can be found on the application page. You can also email Program Coordinator Brent Stanfield at bstanf5@lsu.edu with questions.

HPC Training

Wednesday, October 25,2023: Magic Tools to Install / Manage Software Part 1: Conda Virtual Environment

Wednesday, November 01,2023: Magic Tools to Install / Manage Software Part 2: Singularity Container

Installing and managing software packages often poses a challenge to HPC users on Linux systems without root permission. This two-part mini-series is aiming at introducing helpful tools to remedy that.

Part 1 will introduce virtual environments and the software Conda, a popular tool working with virtual environments. In this training, we will discuss how to use Conda and virtual environments to install and manage software packages on our clusters, including frequently requested packages such as Tensorflow and PyTorch. We will also share useful tips, such as sharing virtual environment with group members and using Conda to manage software packages beyond Python (e.g., R / Perl).

Part 2 will introduce container technology and the software Singularity (a.k.a. Apptainer), a popular implementation of containers on HPC. Containers are gaining increasing popularities for its flexibility and portability. More and more developers now start to release their software packages as working containers for users' convenience. In this training, we will discuss how to use Singularity to run container images on our clusters, acquire more container images, and build your own container images. We will also showcase the usage of containerized popular packages such as Tensorflow and PyTorch.

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.

NIDA Career Workshop

– Virtual Meeting

NIDA Career Workshop – Virtual Meeting
Monday, November 9, 2020 ● 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm ET

This virtual workshop is designed to inform scientists in the earlier stages of their career and those who mentor them or oversee National Institutes of Health (NIH) training, career or educational grants about mechanisms that are designed for particular career stages. Participants will be able to identify new opportunities and converse directly with National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) program and review staff during the break-out sessions.

NIDA Director Dr. Nora D. Volkow, will give the workshop welcome and Dr. Yasmin Hurd, Professor at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, will give the keynote address. The workshop will highlight diversity, women sex/gender, grant application and review, and will give special attention to research training, career development and research opportunities by career stage. An overall theme will be preparation at each level for the next stage. Plenary and career level presentations will be followed by break-out room discussions.

Agenda

Monday, November 9, 2020 1:00-4:00 pm ET

- Welcome – Nora D. Volkow, MD, Director, NIDA, NIH
- Keynote address – Yasmin Hurd, PhD, Director, Addiction Institute at Mount Sinai, Icahn School of Medicine
- Plenaries
    - NIDA Diversity Initiatives
    - Focus on Women, Sex/Gender
    - Grant Application and Review
- Career Stage Planning Sessions
    - Predoctoral
    - Postdoctoral
    - Early Stage Investigator

You are cordially invited to [Register today](#) for NIDAs Early Career Workshop

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National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) News

Funding Opportunity: Predoctoral Basic Biomedical Sciences Research Training Program (T32)

Posted by Alison Gammie and Mercedes Rubio on October 16, 2023

We're pleased to announce our Predoctoral Basic Biomedical Sciences Research Training Program (T32) notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) has been reissued ([PAR-23-228](#)). This NOFO continues our support of eligible, domestic organizations to develop and implement effective, evidence-informed approaches to biomedical graduate training and mentoring that will keep pace with the rapid evolution of the biomedical research enterprise. We expect that the proposed research training programs will incorporate didactic, research, and career development elements to prepare trainees for careers that will have a significant impact on the health-related research needs of the natio

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New Advancing Research Careers (ARC) Predoc to Postdoc Transition Program and Upcoming Webinar

Posted by Laurie Stepanek, Kenneth Gibbs, and Alison Gammie on October 10, 2023

We're pleased to announce the new [Advancing Research Careers (ARC) program](#) as part of NIGMS' strategic efforts to enhance support for trainees from diverse backgrounds—for example, individuals from [underrepresented groups](#)—through critical career transition points. The ARC program is designed to enhance participation of trainees as they transition from predoctoral research training to postdoctoral research and career development.

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NIGMS Diversity Supplements—Expanded Program Eligibility

Posted by Shakira Nelson, Zuzana Justinova, Christy Leake, and Michele McGuirl on October 4, 2023

We'd like to make you aware that NIGMS is expanding eligibility within the diversity supplement program (PA-23-189) to include applications from principal investigators (PIs) of parent awards from the following programs:
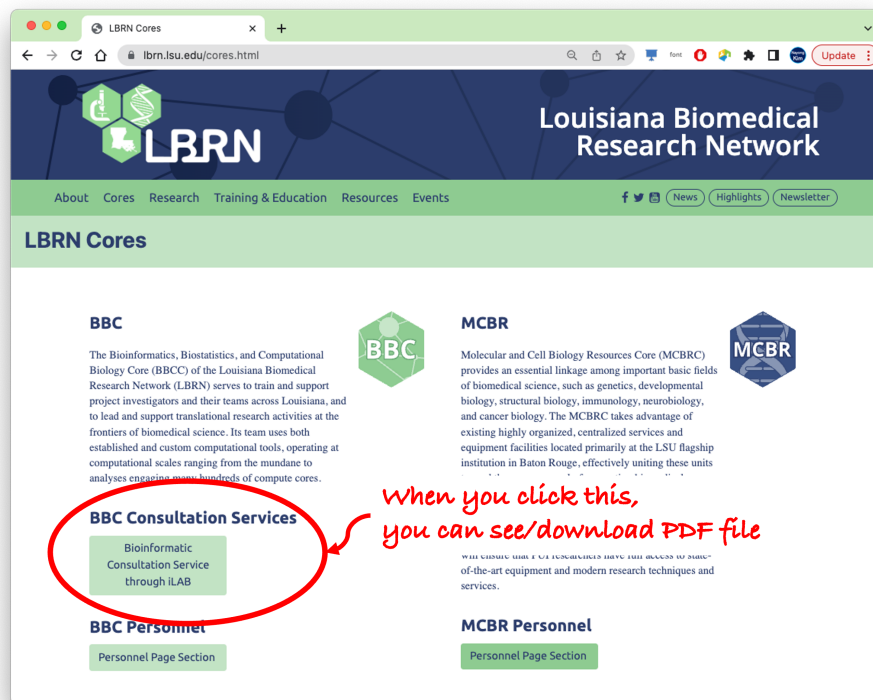
- Support for Research Excellence (SuRE, R16)

- Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE Phases 1 and 2, P20)

- Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Networks for Clinical and Translational Research (IDeA-CTR, U54)

- IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE, P20)

- Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH, S06)

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Bioinformatic consultation service through iLAB

Bioinformatic consultation service through iLAB was recently added to the LBRN webpage. Please read it and if you need help or need more information, please contact Dr. Emmanuelle M. Ruiz (ruiz10@lsu.edu).

It is currently located at LBRN Cores (https://lbrn.lsu.edu/cores.html), please refer to the following.

Updates from DRCB/NIGMS

Issue 154, 10/16/2023
NIH Funding Opportunity and/or Policy Announcements

- **NOTICE:** Expanded Program Eligibility for PA-23-189 "Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research" (NOT-GM-24-003). **IDeA, NARCH, SuRE, and SCORE grantees** are eligible to apply for this opportunity. See the recent *Feedback Loop* post and NIGMS Diversity Supplement website for more information. Applications accepted: October 1 – May 31.
- Modern Equipment for Shared-use Biomedical Research Facilities: Advancing Research-Related Operations (PAR-24-028). Applications due: November 15.
- Encouraging Small Businesses to Partner with Resource-Limited Institutions (RLIs) on SBIR and STTR Program Applications (NOT-OD-23-179). Applications Due: January 5.

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Issue 153, 10/10/2023
NIH Funding Opportunity and/or Policy Announcements

- *Reminder:* Administrative Supplements to IDeA awards: Women's Health Research (NOT-GM-22-005). Applications Due: October 17.
- Encouraging Small Businesses to Partner with Resource-Limited Institutions (RLIs) on SBIR and STTR Program Applications (NOT-OD-23-179). Applications Due: January 5.

Upcoming Events

- Sure Resource Center:
    - Navigating the NIH Resubmission Process, October 10, 3:00-4:00 pm ET. Register here.
    - Components of the SuRE R16 Application, October 18, 2:00-3:00 pm ET. Register here.
- **ScHARe** **Think-a-Thon** webinar: Preparing for AI 1: Common Data Elements and Data Aggregation, October 18, 2:00-4:30pm ET. Register here.

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- ## Announcing a Simplified Review Framework for NIH Research Project Grant Applications

NIH is pleased to announce that a simplified review framework will be implemented for grant receipt deadlines of January 25, 2025 and beyond. The simplified framework is expected to better focus peer reviewers on the key questions needed to assess the scientific and technical merit of proposed research projects: "*Can* and*should* the proposed research project be conducted?"

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- ## Update on Improving NRSA Fellowship Review: Analysis of Comments from the Request for Information

NIH received 164 unique responses to the RFI: 147 from individuals, 10 from scientific societies, and 7 from academic institutions. Regarding **review criteria**, many respondents were supportive of efforts to simplify the review of NRSA fellowships to emphasize the potential of applicant, strength of science, and the quality of the training plan. They also believed that the proposed changes would make reviews more equitable and less subjective for applicants from disadvantaged backgrounds, without penalizing other applicants.

Many respondents were in favor of revising the PHS Fellowship Supplemental Form and believed it would streamline the application, reduce burden, and improve clarity and accessibility of the application process. While many were in favor of removing grades from this section, a smaller subset of respondents believed that grades should still be evaluated, as they believe past performance is often a predictor of future performance.

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- ## Reminders About When to Cite an NIH Grant in a Paper: Overcite Oversight

NIH Grants Policy Statement Section 4.2.1 states "all HHS recipients must acknowledge Federal funding when issuing statements, press releases, requests for proposals, bid invitations, and other documents describing projects or programs funded in whole or in part with Federal money." Therefore, researchers are required to acknowledge NIH grants that support the work described in their papers, but only if they contributed to the project.

Though we do not collect data on how often overcitation happens, we come across it in different ways. We have seen situations where an NIH grant was linked to a paper, yet private sector sponsors or non-federal grants fully supported the research. Some of these come to our attention because NIH systems like My Bibliography connect publications and grants. It takes effort to untangle these errors when working out the details with the researchers involved.

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- ## Reminder: Annual Reports to the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare Due December 1, 2023

Domestic institutions with an approved Domestic Animal Welfare Assurance are reminded that Annual Reports for the reporting period October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023, are due to the NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) by December 1, 2023. (NOT-OD-24-008). These reports cover the October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023 reporting period.

The following information must be reported:

- Any change in the institution's AAALAC International accreditation status;
- Any change in the institution's animal care program and use as described in PHS Policy section IV.A.1.a-i.;
- Any change in the Institutional Official or the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) membership;
- Dates that the IACUC conducted its semiannual evaluations of the program and facilities; and
- Any minority view by an IACUC member.

Visit the OLAW Annual Reports website for instructions and to download the Annual Report form.

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.

The BBC Core and MCBR Core offer researchers the opportunity to earn "Core Bucks" to support faculty and students upto $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.

- 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

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 GM103424-21.

• 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 P20GM103424-21.

• 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 (2P20GM103424-21) 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.