News, Opportunities and Deadlines for July 2020

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Information for NIH Applicants and Recipients of NIH Funding

The NIH is deeply concerned for the health and safety of people involved in NIH research, and about the effects on the biomedical enterprise in the areas affected by the HHS declared public health emergency for COVID-19. Due to the potential exceptional impact, we want to assure our recipient community that NIH will be doing our part to help you continue your research.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and we will provide updated guidance and information as it becomes available.

See page update history.

On This Page:

- Guidance
  - Overview
  - Proposal Submission & Award Management
  - Human Subjects & Clininal Trials
  - Animal Welfare
  - Peer Review
- FAQs
- Funding Opportunities
- Funded Grants
- Resources

Guidance

Overview

- Overview presentation (Powerpoint) – updated 7/17/2020
- Overview talking points (Word) – updated 7/17/2020

Proposal Submission & Award Management

- NEW NIH Implementation of OMB Memorandum M-20-26 "Extension of Administrative Relief for Recipients and Applicants of Federal Financial Assistance Directly Impacted by the Novel

Coronavirus (COVID-19) due to Loss of Operations" - 6/25/2020

- M-20-26 issued June 18, 2020: Extension of Administrative Relief for Recipients and Applicants of Federal Financial Assistance Directly Impacted by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) due to Loss of Operations
- NEW NOT-OD-20-122: Guidance for Applicants Preparing Applications for the Fall 2020 Due Dates During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- NOT-OD-20-123: Special Exception to the NIH/AHRQ/NIOSH Post-Submission Material Policy During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Late Applications
  - See NIH FAQ on late applications during COVID-19
  - NEW NOT-NS-20-076: Notice to Extend Eligibility for Submission of Diversity K22 Applications due to COVID–related Disruptions
  - NOT-AG-20-033: NIA Late Application Policy for NIA-Specific FOAs with Application Due Dates in May, June, and July 2020
  - NOT-GM-20-029: NIGMS Late Application Policy for NIGMS-Specific FOAs with Application Due Dates in May 2020
- NOT-GM-20-086: Flexibilities Available to Applicants and Recipients of Federal Financial Assistance Affected by COVID-19
- NOT-GM-20-026: Guidance for Cost-Related Flexibilities Available to Support of Competitive Research (SCORE) Award Recipients Affected by COVID-19 - NOT-GM-20-026
- M-20-11 issued March 9, 2020: Administrative Relief for Recipients and Applicants of Federal Financial Assistance Directly Impacted by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Contracts must be handled on a case by case basis. Details regarding any contract must be directed to the cognizant Contracting Officer. Salary changes must be handled by the contracting officer.

Human Subjects & Clinical Trials

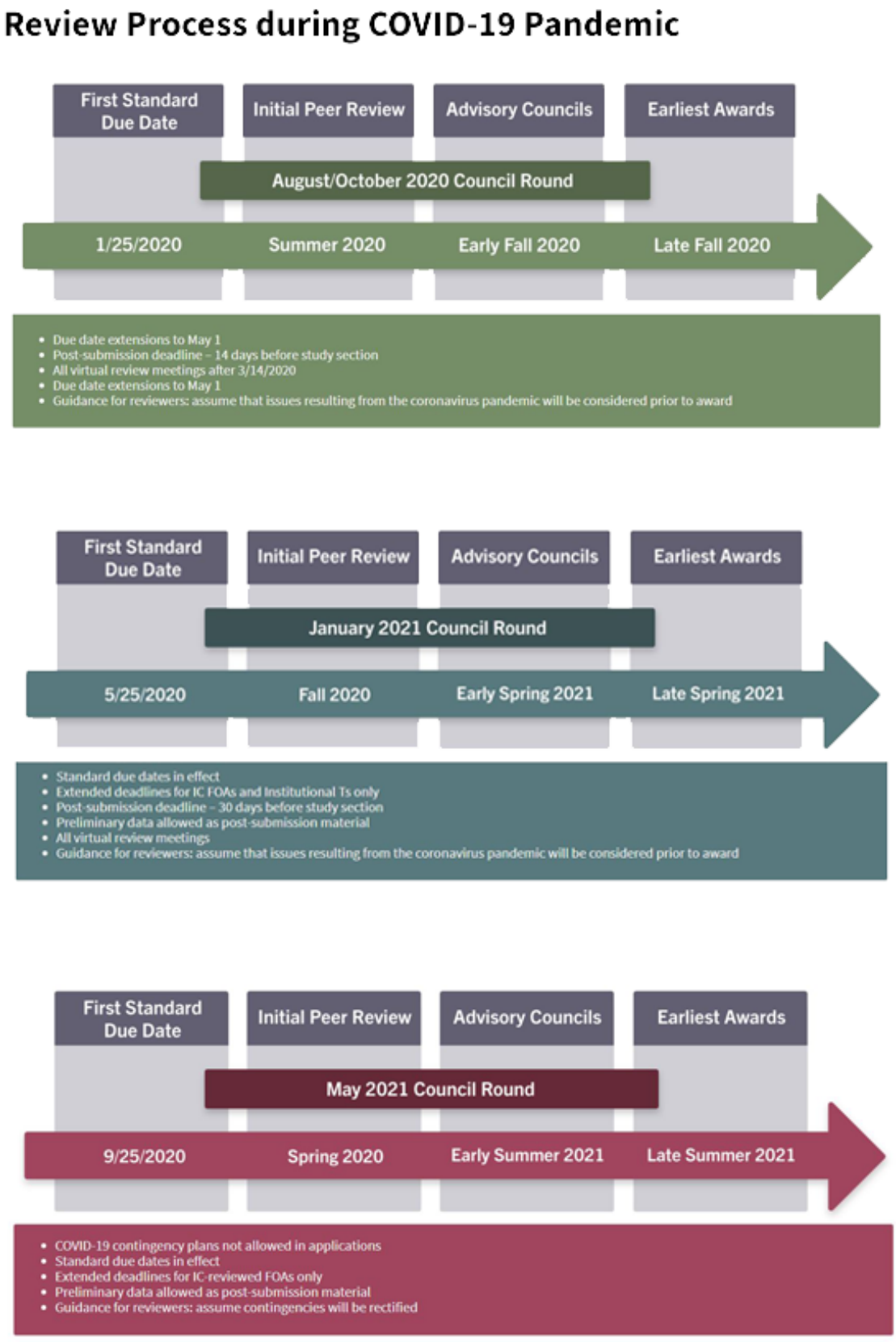
- NOT-OD-20-087: Guidance for NIH-funded Clinical Trials and Human Subjects Studies Affected by COVID-19
- FDA Guidance on Conduct of Clinical Trials of Medical Products during COVID-19 Pandemic
- OHRP COVID-19 Resources
  - OHRP Guidance on COVID-19
- Considerations for New and Ongoing Human Subjects Research During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (Word) - 6/22/2020

Animal Welfare

- COVID-19 Pandemic Contingency Planning for Animal Care and Use Programs
- NOT-OD-20-088: Flexibilities for Assured Institutions for Activities of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUCs) Due to COVID-19

Peer Review

- Review Process



- Coronavirus Update: Guidance for Peer Reviewers
- Based on NIH Guidance on Travel and Meetings, in-person NIH peer review meetings are being held in alternate formats. Scientific review officers will be in contact with peer reviewers about these changes.

LBRN PUI Publication

Professor David Mills, Louisiana Tech University, Department of Biological Sciences, Center for Biomedical Engineering and Rehabilitation Science, an LBRN Translational Project Program Funded Participant.

- Voltage regulated electrophoretic deposition of silver nanoparticles on halloysite nanotubes

Results in Materials 7 (2020) 100112

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Results in Materials

journal homepage: www.journals.elsevier.com/results-in-materials

Voltage regulated electrophoretic deposition of silver nanoparticles on halloysite nanotubes

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:
Electrodeposition
Functionalization
Halloysite nanotubes
Metal nanoparticles
Silver

ABSTRACT

Halloysite nanotubes (HNTs) are naturally occurring clay nanotubes mined from abundant mineral deposits, making it an easily accessible nanomaterial. Surface functionalization of HNTs with different components including metals, antibiotics, and bioactive compounds is of increased importance for their potential use in biomedical devices, antimicrobial surface coatings, drug delivery systems, radiation absorptive composites, elastomer composites, electronic components, and as industrial catalysts. We used a simple method for the fabrication of HNT-supported metal nanoparticles. Here, we report our strategy for controlled weight deposition of positively charged metal ions on negatively charged HNTs dispersed in an aqueous medium where metallization can be controlled using changes in voltage, solvent medium, time and other electrolytic parameters without the use of any toxic chemicals, expensive reagents or lengthy pre-processing steps. Our method offers a one-step and low-cost process that offers many advantages, including, the deposition of different metal oxides (Ag, Cu, and Zn) or dual metal coatings. HNTs act as a nanocarrier with an ability for sustained drug release and as a nanofiller with a record for improving the physical properties of polymers. When combined with metal-coated HNTs, this may lead to the creation of multi-functional applications in drug delivery, regenerative medicine and, tissue engineering.

- Surface Modification of 3D Printed PLA/Halloysite Composite Scaffolds with Antibacterial and Osteogenic Capabilities

applied sciences

MDPI

Article

Surface Modification of 3D Printed PLA/Halloysite Composite Scaffolds with Antibacterial and Osteogenic Capabilities

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check for updates

Abstract: Three-dimensional (3D) printing techniques have received considerable focus in the area of bone engineering due to its precise control in the fabrication of complex structures with customizable shapes, internal and external architectures, mechanical strength, and bioactivity. In this study, we design a new composition biomaterial consisting of polylactic acid (PLA), and halloysite nanotubes (HNTs) loaded with zinc nanoparticles (PLA+H+Zn). The hydrophobic surface of the 3D printed scaffold was coated with two layers of fetal bovine serum (FBS) on the sides and one layer of NaOH in the middle. Additionally, a layer of gentamicin was coated on the outermost layer against bacterial infection. Scaffolds were cultured in standard cell culture medium without the addition of osteogenic medium. This surface modification strategy improved material hydrophilicity and enhanced cell adhesion. Pre-osteoblasts cultured on these scaffolds differentiated into osteoblasts and proceeded to produce a type I collagen matrix and subsequent calcium deposition. The 3D printed scaffolds formed from this composition possessed high mechanical strength and showed an osteoinductive potential. Furthermore, the external coating of antibiotics not only preserved the previous osteogenic properties of the 3D scaffold but also significantly reduced bacterial growth. Our surface modification model enabled the fabrication of a material surface that was hydrophilic and antibacterial, simultaneously, with an osteogenic property. The designed PLA+H+Zn may be a viable candidate for the fabrication of customized bone implants.

Keywords: 3D printing; antibiotics; bone regeneration; composites; halloysite; zinc

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- Differential antimicrobial and cellular response of electrolytically metalized halloysite nanotubes having different amounts of surface metallization

Materials Advances

ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY

PAPER

View Article Online
View Journal

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Cite this: DOI: 10.1039/d0ma00134a

Differential antimicrobial and cellular response of electrolytically metalized halloysite nanotubes having different amounts of surface metallization

Ahmed Humayun,[a] Yangyang Luo,[a] Anusha Elumalai[ab] and David K. Mills *[ab]

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Accepted 14th July 2020

DOI: 10.1039/d0ma00134a

rsc.li/materials-advances

We demonstrate an electrolytic method to metalize the outer surface of halloysite nanotubes (HNTs). Different metal HNT (mHNT) combinations (copper, silver, zinc) were produced with metal content in the 5–30 wt% range. mHNTs were characterized using a Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM), energy-dispersive spectroscopy (EDS), X-ray fluorescence (XRF), Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) and X-ray powder diffraction (XRD). Different amounts of surface/lumen metal content of a system can confer differing antimicrobial/cellular response; hence, it is essential to assess the antimicrobial/cellular response as a function of metal content. Cellular response after exposure to mHNTs was studied in *Staphylococcus aureus* and pre-osteoblasts, respectively. Coated mHNTs could easily be identified using the characterization methods, and contrasting bacterial and cellular responses were obtained, which we propose was due to the extent of metallization. These findings demonstrate the potential of this method for creating metal-coated HNTs and suggest they have potential as an implant coating solution.

Dr. Mills' BioMorph Laboratory is used for designing novel and dynamic nanofilms (biodegradable, bioactive, micropatterned) for cell adhesion, differentiation and functionality; nanoassembly for dental & orthopedic implants; layer-by-layer assembly for cell encapsulation; application of nanoscale topographic and chemical cues for controlling chondro- and osteogenesis; understanding complex soft tissue modeling during development and remodeling in response to altered joint mechanics; structure-function relationships in TMJ soft tissues, engineering tissues for TMJ repair or replacement.

2020 LBRN Virtual Summer Program In-Progress

On June 8th, 2020 LBRN was pleased to make available the 2020 Virtual Summer Program for LBRN Participants across the state. This program is in place of our regular summer program which was cancelled due to COVID-19. We have proceeded with the following programs with various virtual/online formats with support from our LBRN PUI campuses and Pine BioTech.

We also provided the following online orientations, thanks to our LSU faculty and Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) Department with the ability to follow up for those who could not view it in real time.

On July 14, 2020, LBRN's program participants were invited to a "Managing Stress" seminar that we all the LSU Summer REU's are made available to the last several years. This year more relevant than before! It was given by Dr. Melinda Le and Dr. Carrie Tucker from the LSU Mental Health Services.

On June 15th, 2020, LBRN hosted a 2nd orientation online seminar about ***Lab Safety and Biosafety*** with Dr. Jason Lejeune, LSU's EHS and Dr. Abigail Fish, also with LSU's EHS. Dr. Jason Lejeune is responsible for conducting routine safety audits and inspections of research laboratories for regulatory compliance as well as compliance with LSU policies and procedures and Dr. Abigail Fish is the Biological Safety Manager at EHS at LSU. The Biological Safety Manager oversees the EHS consultation and laboratory inspection program in support of the biological safety program. These duties include inspection of biological research labs, review of lab protocols, and preparing reports on existing and proposed lab activities, including biosecurity-related and environmental aspects of the research. This is also required for LBRN students in our program participating in lab research. Recordings are available via our Video Repository publicly and directly to our participants.

On June 12th, 2020, LBRN hosted a 2 hour orientation online seminar by Dr. Arthur Penn, Professor at LSU School of Veterinary Medicine in Comparative Biomedical Sciences (CBS). The seminar was on "***Responsible Conduct of Research***", or his alternate title: "***how to keep from destroying your career before it gets started***", and "***Lab Notebook/Record Keeping***". This is a seminar we conduct for our regular REU program each summer and is required for LBRN students conducting research. It covered important topics in Responsible Conduct of Research as well as Record Keeping and what participants should and should not be doing and who to report and how to best handle situations in research. Due to the sensitive nature of the session, a recording was not publicly available afterwards but was made available for a short period of time to our participants.

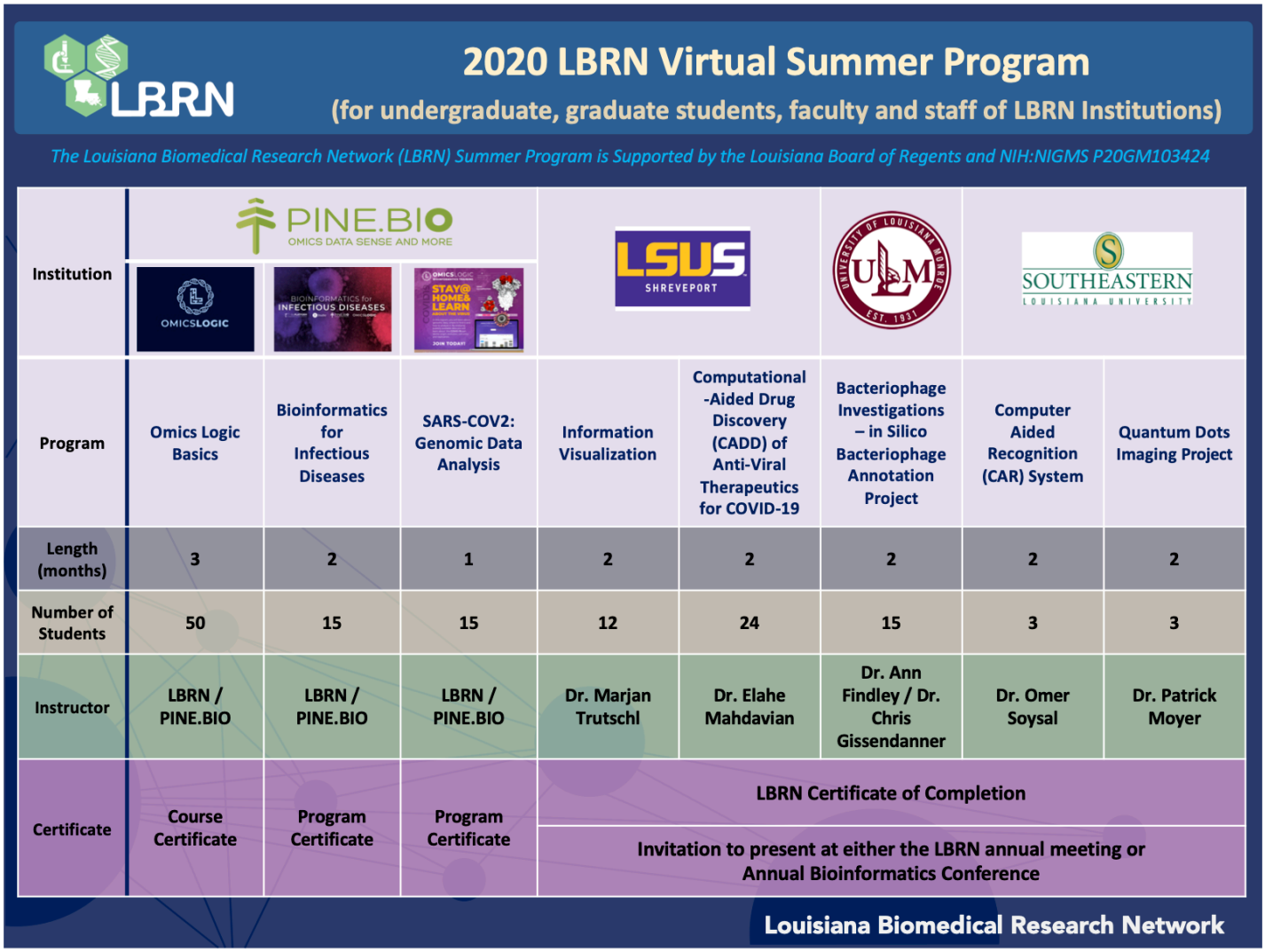
We are pleased to have participation in the following programs with the following participation from across the state with the approximate numbers:

Program List with participation numbers:

- Pine.Bio:
  - *Omics Logic Basics (29)
  - Bioinformatics for Infectious Diseases (12)
  - SARS-COV2: Genomic Data Analysis (16)
- LSU Shreveport:
  - Information Visualization (4)
  - Computational -Aided Drug Discovery (CADD) of Anti-Viral Therapeutics for COVID-19 (20)
- University of Louisiana at Monroe:
  - Bacteriophage Investigations – in Silico Bacteriophage Annotation Project (7)

- Southeastern Louisiana University:
  - Computer Aided Recognition (CAR) System (6)
  - Southeastern Louisiana University: Quantum Dots Imaging Project (1)

**Pine.Bio Omics may be taken with any other program listed.*

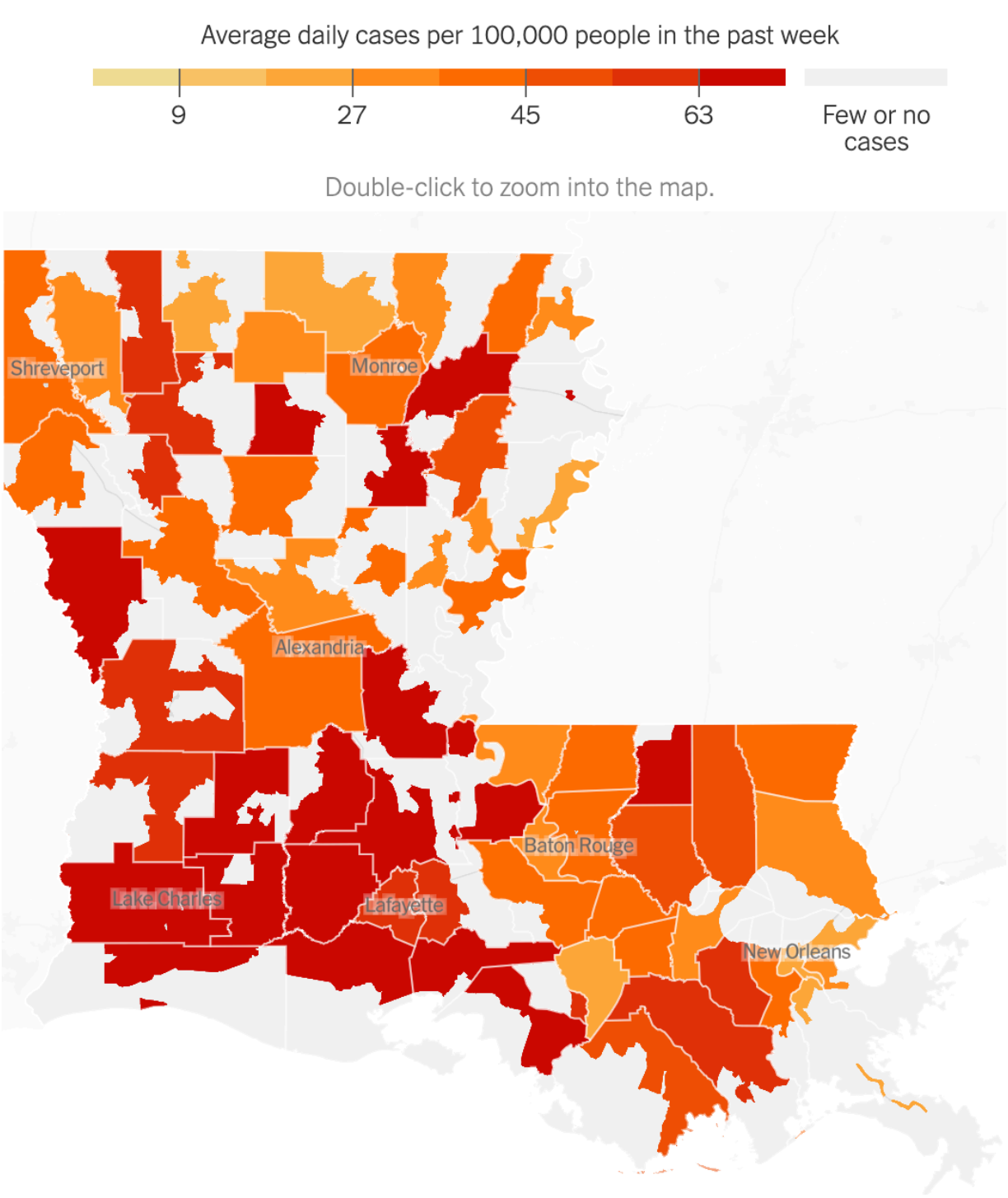


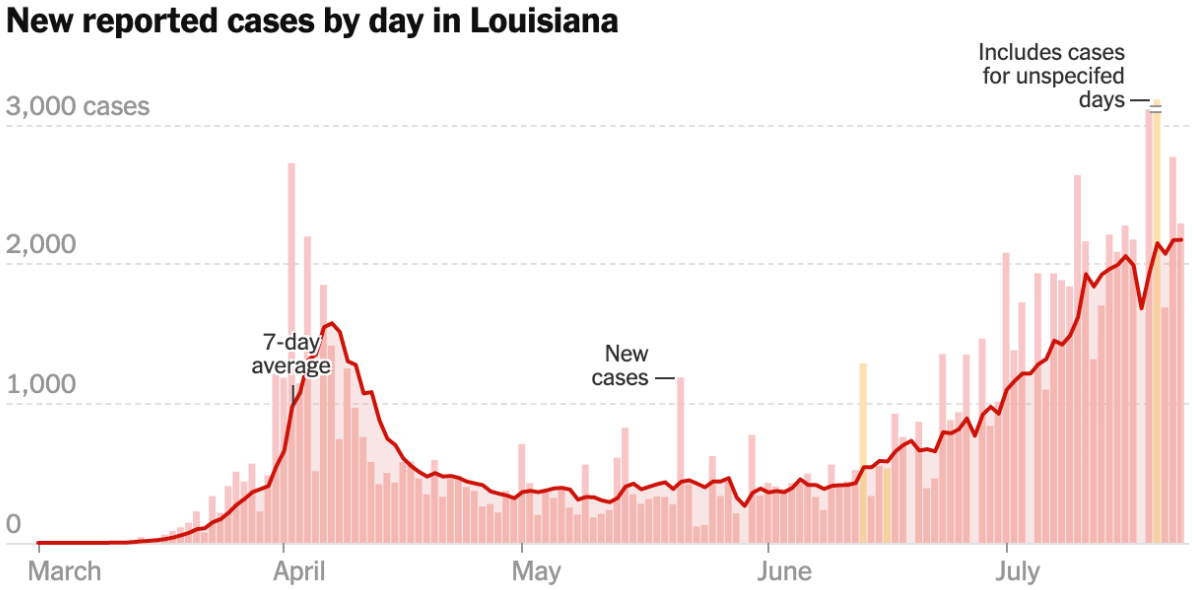
Institution	PINE.BIO OMICS DATA SENSE AND MORE			LSUS SHREVEPORT		ULM	SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY	
Program	Omics Logic Basics	Bioinformatics for Infectious Diseases	SARS-COV2: Genomic Data Analysis	Information Visualization	Computational -Aided Drug Discovery (CADD) of Anti-Viral Therapeutics for COVID-19	Bacteriophage Investigations – in Silico Bacteriophage Annotation Project	Computer Aided Recognition (CAR) System	Quantum Dots Imaging Project
Length (months)	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	2
Number of Students	50	15	15	12	24	15	3	3
Instructor	LBRN / PINE.BIO	LBRN / PINE.BIO	LBRN / PINE.BIO	Dr. Marjan Trutschl	Dr. Elahe Mahdavian	Dr. Ann Findley / Dr. Chris Gissendanner	Dr. Omer Soysal	Dr. Patrick Moyer
Certificate	Course Certificate	Program Certificate	Program Certificate	LBRN Certificate of Completion				
				Invitation to present at either the LBRN annual meeting or Annual Bioinformatics Conference				

Please use the link for more detailed information and registration.

Louisiana Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information

The following information was provided by The New York Times Interactive Coronavirus website.


Average daily cases per 100,000 people in the past week
9
27
45
63
Few or no cases
Double-click to zoom into the map.
Shreveport
Monroe
Alexandria
Baton Rouge
Lake Charles
Lafayette
New Orleans



We want to remind everyone to continue practicing safety with regards to prevention of spreading and contracting the COVID-19 virus.

The state of Louisiana, per the Governor, will remain in phase 2. Information here: https://coronavirus.la.gov.

We remind everyone of the information provided here on our website: LBRN COVID-19.

LBRN Summer Research Program 2020 Cancelled

Thank you for your interest in the LBRN Summer Research Program. We regret that owing to COVID-19 related issues LBRN Summer Research Program as advertised for 2020 is cancelled.

Plans are underway to have a virtual Summer program with at least four different modules/modes available for participants. We will have more details including registration information posted on the LBRN website soon. We hope to start this virtual summer program on June 8th.

We realize these are unique times that we live in posing a variety of different challenges to all. Rest assured that we at the LBRN are trying our best to provide an enriching summer research/educational experience.

More details coming soon. In the meanwhile sit tight and stay safe.

With best regards, Team LBRN

Newest CDC COVID-19 Recommendations for Pet Owners

CDC has posted new recommendations for pet owners, as well as new QAs, on the CDC COVID-19 website. Main messaging regarding COVID-19 and animals remains the same. New information includes recommendations to limit pets' contact with people and animals outside the household, to wear a cloth face covering if sick and caring for pets, and to contact your vet if sick and your pet gets sick. New QAs cover concerns about what animals can be infected with SARS-CoV-2, pet cats, walking dogs, what to do if a pet gets sick, and testing animals.

See below for a summary of new pet recommendations.

- Until we learn more about how this virus affects animals, treat pets as you would other human family members to protect them from a potential infection.
    - Do not let pets interact with people or other animals outside the household.
    - Keep cats indoors when possible to prevent them from interacting with other animals or people.
    - Walk dogs on a leash, maintaining at least 6 feet (2 meters) from other people and animals.
    - Avoid dog parks or public places where a large number of people and dogs gather.
    - Talk to your veterinarian if your pet gets sick or if you have any concerns about your pet's

health.

- If you are sick with COVID-19 (either suspected or confirmed by a test), you should restrict contact with your pets and other animals, just like you would around other people.
    - When possible, have another member of your household care for your pets while you are sick.
    - Avoid contact with your pet including, petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, and sharing food or bedding.
    - If you must care for your pet or be around animals while you are sick, wear a cloth face covering and wash your hands before and after you interact with them.

- If you are sick with COVID-19 and your pet becomes sick, do not take your pet to the veterinary clinic yourself.
    - Call your veterinarian and let them know you have been sick with COVID-19.
    - Some veterinarians may offer telemedicine consultations or other alternate plans for seeing sick pets.
    - Your veterinarian can evaluate your pet and determine the next steps for your pet's treatment and care.

Notice of Special Interest : NIH

- **Availability of Administrative Supplements to INBRE Awards to Fund Research Collaborations**

The National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) announces the availability of funds for Administrative Supplements to NIGMS-funded Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) (P20) awards. These funds are intended for existing INBREs to develop collaborations between investigators at the INBRE partner institutions, including primarily undergraduate institutions (PUIs), community colleges (CCs) and Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs), and investigators supported by Centers of Biomedical Research

Excellence (COBRE), IDeA-Infrastructure for Clinical and Translational Research (IDeA-CTR), IDeA States Pediatric Clinical Trials Network (ISPCTN) awards or Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) to institutions located in IDeA states, in research areas that are currently supported by these programs. The goal of this funding opportunity is to encourage collaborations by investigators in IDeA states while providing students a broad continuum of research opportunities. Although in-state collaboration is encouraged, the collaborative projects can also be proposed between programs across the IDeA states.

The collaborative project should be an expansion of a project currently supported by a COBRE, IDeA-CTR, ISPCTN or CTSA award. The project must not constitute a change in scope of the parent INBRE or COBRE/IDeA-CTR/ISPCTN/CTSA awards.

For these supplements, all active INBREs, including those in their final year of funding or in a no-cost extension, are eligible to apply. This applies also to COBRE, IDeA-CTR, ISPCTN or CTSA programs that will collaborate with INBREs.

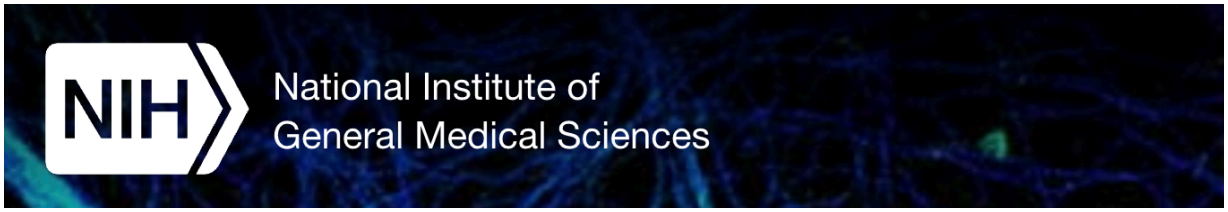
..... More in detail

- **Administrative Supplements for Research on Women's Health in the IDeA States**

The Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) and the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), along with Institutes and Centers (ICs) of NIH participating in this Notice, announce the availability of administrative supplements to IDeA awards to expand research and research capability in the IDeA states to address important issues of women's health with a special interest in maternal and infant mortality and morbidity. The proposed research must address at least one of the strategic goals of the 2019-2023 Trans-NIH Strategic Plan for Women's Health Research "Advancing Science for the Health of Women".

..... More in detail

IDeA Co-Funding



The IDeA program managed by NIGMS is pleased to announce the 2020 co-funding opportunity for investigators in IDeA-eligible states whose R01 or R15 applications scored well but fall just outside of an IC's funding range. The IDeA program provides a maximum of $320K in total costs for each of the first two consecutive years of a selected award. Nominations are made by the NIH IC that has the primary assignment for the application. PIs wishing to be considered for IDeA co-funding should contact directly the program officer at the IC assigned to the application.

IDeA co-funding is conducted once per year, and the nomination period will close in early April. Final selections will be made in June of 2020. Please visit https://www.nigms.nih.gov/Research/DRCB/IDeA/Pages/IDeA-Co-funding.aspx for further information about this initiative.

GeneLab Launched Two New Illumina Sequencing Machines

GeneLab (School of Veterinary Medicine - Louisiana State University) is a multi-faceted core laboratory directed by the Division of BIOMMED in the School of Veterinary Medicine at Louisiana State University. GeneLab engages in specific research and training projects, which require expertise in Next-Generation Sequencing, traditional DNA sequencing, gene cloning, PCR, gene expression and other molecular methods. The goal of GeneLab is to facilitate the utilization of the state-of-the-art technologies in genomics research by LSU faculty and researchers nationwide at a competitive price and in a timely fashion.

The primary focus of GeneLab is its portfolio of sequencing capabilities. Currently, two Next Generation Sequencing instruments, the Illumina NextSeq, the Illumina MiSeq and 10X Genomics Chromium Controller along with bioinformatics support for NGS data are provided to the research community and offerring will be extended rapidly as NGS and other emerging sequencing technologies are evolving.

Illumina NextSeq

The Illumina NextSeq System is a desktop sequencer with power and flexibility to carry out applications such as whole genome sequencing, exome sequencing, whole transcriptome sequencing, mRNA-Seq, and others. In one run it can sequence a full human genome at 30x coverage. Users can choose between high output or mid output flow cell configurations. At high output, up to 800 million paired end reads can be generated (at 150 bp read length) to produce up to 120 Gb of data in 29 hours. The Illumina sequencing systems utilize a well-established sequencing by synthesis (SBS) method and patented cluster generation technology in which fluorescently labeled nucleotide bases are detected as they are incorporated into DNA template strands. All four reversible terminator-bound dNTPs are present in each sequencing cycle.

Illumina MiSeq

Cluster generation, sequencing, and analysis are all done on a single instrument. The sequencing process takes place on a flow cell with 1 channel. Multiple samples can be run at once by using indices for each sample. 2x300bp reads are supported on the MiSeq and takes ~3 days to run. With v.3 kits the MiSeq can produce >25 million reads or 15GB per run. With v.2 kits the MiSeq can produce >15 million reads or 7.5 GB per run with standard flow cells. There is also the option of using micro and nano flow cells which produce up to 4 million and 1 million reads per run (1.2Gb & 500Mb). Actual output can vary depending on cluster density.

10X Genomics Chromium Controller

Go beyond traditional gene expression analysis to characterize cell populations, cell types, cell states, and more on a cell-by-cell basis. From assessing tumor heterogeneity and stem cell composition, to dissecting neuronal populations—the technological advancements provided by the Chromium Single Cell Gene Expression Solution allow the creation of high complexity libraries from single cells to maximize insight from any sample type.

Services and collaboration can be delivered through the LBRN cores.

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. More details can be found in the attached CFP.

More details can be found in the attached CFP.

BBC Core Educational Resource

The BBC Core provides introductory educational lecture series on informatics topics that are recorded and streamed. Prior offerings that are available for on demand streaming include;

- An Introduction to Computers and Informatics in the Health Sciences

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

- An Introduction to Microbial Community Sequencing and Analysis

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

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

LONI HPC Allocation for LBRN

To support the LBRN / BBC Core community on LONI HPC systems, we have renewed our high-performance computing allocation for 2019/2020.

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.

NIH Extramural Nexus (NIH/OD)

- ## Useful Flexibilities for Animal Care and Use Programs to Comply with the PHS Policy During the COVID-19 Pandemic

As we continue to address the effects of COVID-19 and as some states and institutions are considering reopening, we would like to share some administrative flexibilities that NIH is providing to research institutions with laboratory animal programs. These flexibilities are meant to assure personnel safety and animal welfare while enabling research personnel to prioritize and preserve research efforts. Some of these can be useful in reducing administrative burden, too.

My colleagues with the NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW), Drs. Catharine Pritchard, Nicolette Petervary, and Neera Gopee, described these administrative flexibilities in their recent contribution to Laboratory Animal Science Professional (available on the OLAW website). If you'd like more information to help your animal program during this pandemic, please visit OLAW's frequently updated COVID-19 webpage for additional resources. FAQs were also recently updated last week.

... Continue reading

- ## Addressing Foreign Interference and Associated Risks to the Integrity of Biomedical Research, and How You Can Help

On Tuesday, June 23, Dr. Kelvin Drogemeier, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), gave a presentation to the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) on "Enhancing the Security and Integrity of America's Research Enterprise." Dr. Drogemeier articulated five "key takeaway" messages:

- The integrity of our research enterprise rests upon core principles and values, including transparency, honesty, accountability, objectivity, respect, freedom of inquiry, reciprocity, and merit-based competition;
- Principled international collaboration and foreign contributions are critical to our success;
- Some individuals and foreign governments violate core principles of integrity and pose risks to research security;
- Hidden diversions of intellectual property weaken our innovation base and threaten our security and economic competitiveness; and

- The U.S. government is taking deliberate steps to address risks to research integrity and security while maintaining an open and collaborative enterprise.

I'd like to take this opportunity to summarize Dr. Drogemeier's presentation and how it fits within the context of NIH extramural research.

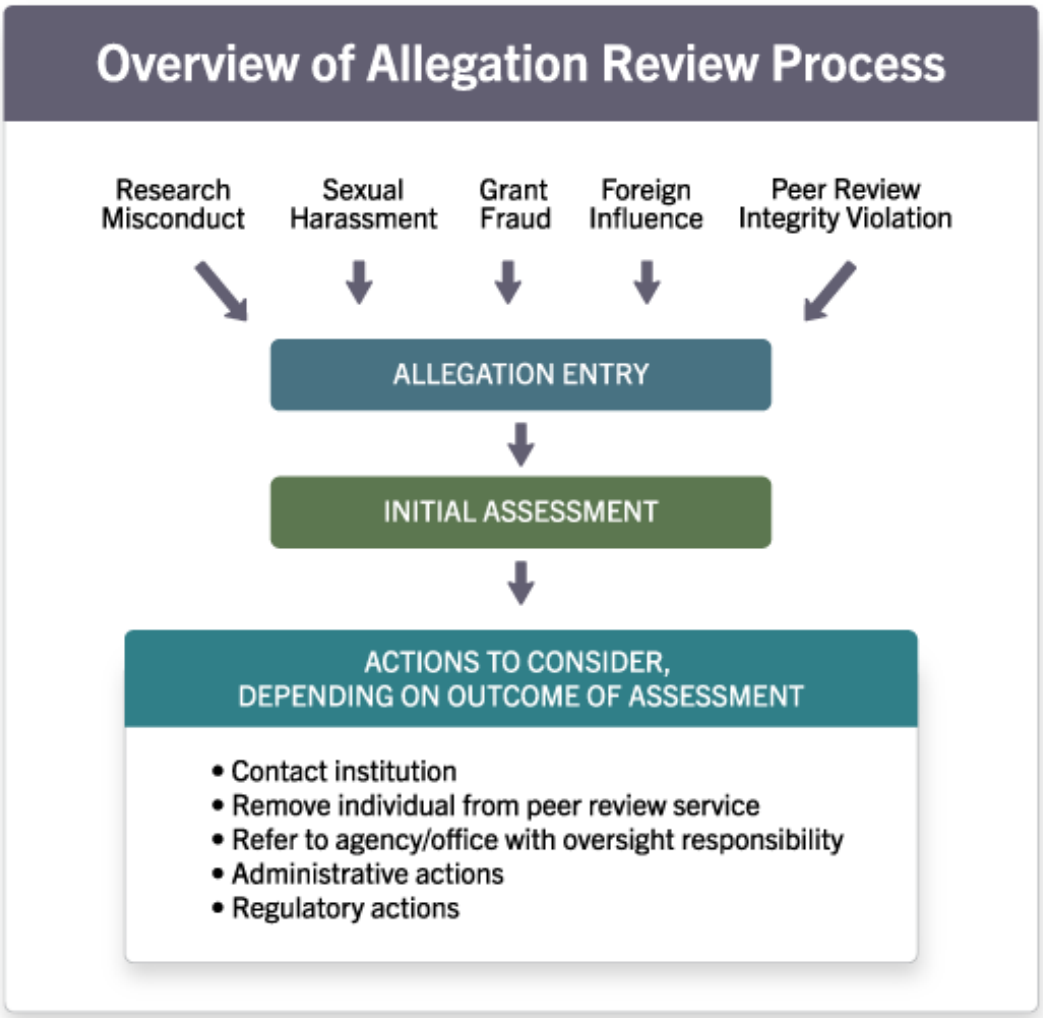
... Continue reading

How We Handle Allegations of Sexual Harassment

As we have discussed frequently over the past couple of years (see related statements), if there are concerns that sexual harassment is affecting an NIH-funded project, we want to know about it.

At the NIH Advisory Council to the Director (ACD) meeting on June 12 (see video for presentation, starting at 1hr 37sec), we mentioned that we would be posting our process for handling notifications of sexual harassment at the institutions we fund. Publishing these standard operating procedures aligns with our commitment to transparency. It is also one of the recommendations of the ACD Working Group on Changing the Culture to End Sexual Harassment.

We have added a page on our Anti-Sexual Harassment: for NIH Awardee Organizations and Those Who Work There website that highlights the detailed steps NIH takes when we receive notification of a concern.



You will note that the flowcharts illustrate that NIH takes the same rigorous approach to addressing allegations involving sexual harassment as we do other integrity issues.

We look forward to implementing additional ACD recommendations soon.

- ## New Steps to Help Ensure Safe Work Environments for NIH-Supported Research

If an institution requests approval to remove a principal investigator (PI) or other senior key person named in the grant award due to concerns about safety and/or the work environments (e.g. due to concerns about harassment, bullying, retaliation, or hostile working conditions), NIH expects to be notified. If an institution requests a change of recipient institution, and there are concerns about safety and/or work environment involving the PD/PI, NIH expects to be informed.

The reason is clear — NIH does not tolerate sexual harassment. Period. The two situations we cited above are two critical loopholes identified by the Advisory Committee to the NIH Director's (ACD) Working Group on Changing the Culture to End Sexual Harassment as needing more

attention.

We are moving to close those gaps in our continued effort to address sexual harassment across NIH-funded research. Today, NIH has issued new guidance to grantees setting clear expectations that for awards (competing, non-competing and supplements) issued after today, NIH expects recipients requesting prior approval for changes in PI, key personnel, or recipient institution, to include mention as to whether these requests are related to concerns about the safety and/or work environment, including issues related to sexual harassment or bullying. (See NOT-OD-20-124).

As of tomorrow, when requesting changes in either investigators (see NIH GPS Section 8.1.2.6

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- ## Accepting Preliminary Data as Post-Submission Material and Other COVID-19-Related Application Flexibilities

As our nation looks to begin reopening, NIH continues to track how well our policies are meeting the evolving needs of the research community. In this post, we would like to highlight allowance of preliminary data as a new special exception to our post-submission materials policy and our guidance for reviewers.

Many of you are well aware that COVID-19 mitigation measures have adversely affected the ability of many researchers to generate preliminary data. Now that all 50 states have begun to reopen, and investigators may be better positioned to develop preliminary data, we want to give them the opportunity to have that data considered for this application submission round. The Guide Notice we issued today announces that for applications submitted for due dates beginning May 25, 2020 for the Fall 2020 review meetings/January 2021 Council round, NIH will accept a one-page update with preliminary data as post-submission materials for single component applications, or one page for each component of a multi-component application. A few items to note:

- The FOA must allow preliminary data.
- The deadline for submitting all post-submission materials, including preliminary data, will be 30 days before the study section meeting.
- Emergency competitive revisions and urgent competitive revisions, since they are undergoing expedited reviews, do not allow any type of post-submission materials.

As you are developing your application, you should keep in mind that NIH has issued guidance for reviewers. This guidance makes it clear that reviewers should assume that temporary, emergency situations resulting from the coronavirus pandemic will be rectified and/or dealt with by NIH staff, and therefore should not affect scores. It is the responsibility of NIH staff to request the information needed to resolve issues related to temporary, emergency conditions prior to award, as many of these temporary issues may be resolved before or during the early stages of the award.

We hope that the special exception for post-submission materials, and the guidance for reviewers, will provide our applicant community with some additional support as we all navigate this evolving landscape.

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…

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In journal articles, news releases, or other materials about your program's activities or achievements, please use funding acknowledgement language such as:

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