News, Opportunities and Deadlines for April 2018

The 6th Annual Louisiana Conference on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics held April 6-7 at LSU CCT

From April 6th to 7th, 2016, The 6th Annual Louisiana Conference on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics was held successfully in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Approved presentations and videos to the event webpage are forthcoming.

The conference brought together over 147 scholars in the related field. Dr. Gus Kousoulas started the opening remarks. Then, Dr. Jessica Kissinger from University of Georgia presented a keynote speech topic in "Unleashing Your Inner Data Scientist: Challenges and Opportunities from the Field of Infectious Diseases". After coffee break, Dr. Morgan Langille followed another keynote speech about "Disease Signatures of the Human Microbiome". On Saturday, Dr. Ben Busby from National Center for Biotechnology Information/NIH keynoste speech topic in "The Future is Now! Biomedical Data Science in the 21st Century", followed by Dr. Jake Chen speach about "Unravelling Complex Patterns in Omics Data with Integrative GNPA Tools". The audience actively involved in the Q&A after each speech and gained great knowledge from those brilliant presentations.

We accepted 45 posters on the conference topics for presentation during the poster session: Cancer Informatics; Evolutionary Genomics and Phylogenetics; Health Informatics, Big Data, and Computing; Microbiome and Metagenomic; Translational Bioinformatics and Data Visualization; Virology and Infectious Diseases. They were made available throughout the conference to view and brought a great deal of knowlege sharing and conversation among participants.

LBRN / LONI Scientific Computing Bootcamp

HPC@LSU will hold the **LBRN / LONI Scientific Computing Bootcamp** on **May 28 - 29** in Business Education Complex, Room 1615 at LSU, Baton Rouge, LA.

Nowadays computing is ever more ubiquitous. Skills and knowledge that are necessary to take full advantage of the power of computing, however, are often inadequately present in both curricular and extracurricular training. The purpose of this workshop is, by both presentation and hands-on experiences, to help attendants understand how computers work and to prepare them for the computational study and research career in the future.

In two days the attendants will learn:

- The basics of Python programming language
- Practical knowledge about computer and its components
- Command line interface of Linux
- Version control concept

Schedule

Note: This tentative Schedule is subject to change.

All sessions below include a hands-on session.

- **May 28: Environment, Python Basics and Command Line Tools**

Time	Topic
8:00 - 8:30	Registration
8:30 - 12:00	Computing Environment Setup and Python Basics
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00 - 5:00	Introduction to Computer Architecture through Linux Command Line Tools

- **May 29: Git Version Control, Intermediate Python and Bootcamp Project**

Time	Topic
8:00 - 12:00	Version control with GIT Scientific Computing with Python
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00 - 5:00	Bootcamp mini-Project

Registration

Registration opens: 10th April 2018 @ 12:00.
Registration deadline: 14th May 2018 @ 12:00.

Number of Seats Available : 20

Requirement
Web-enabled and internet-connected laptop for hands-on session

Participation (including travel and lodging) will be supported for LBRN faculty, graduate students, undergraduate students.

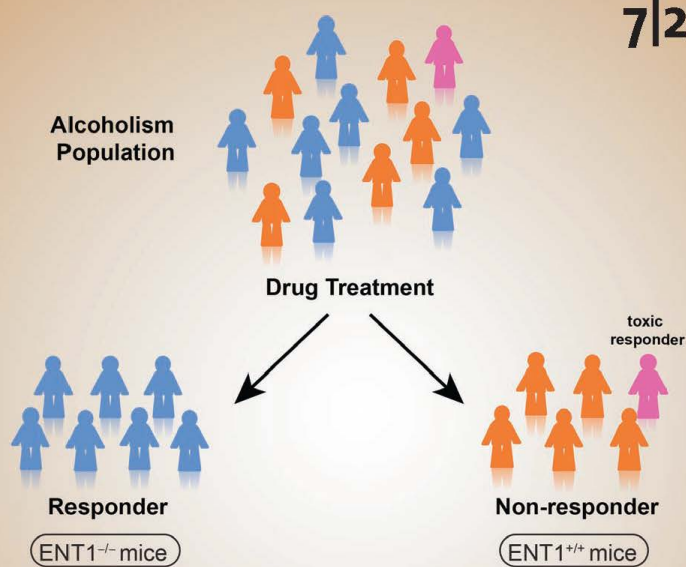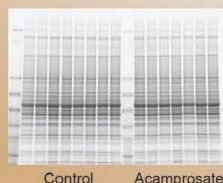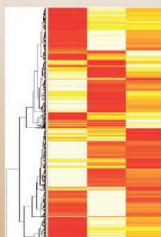**Seats are filling up fast, reserve yours now below link!**

LBRN/LONI SCIENTIFIC COMPUTING BOOTCAMP

Register Here

LBRN Publication News

LSUS LBRN Bioinformatics Core Faculty Work Featured on the Cover of Proteomics Journal !

Dr. Urska Cvek and Dr. Marjan Trutschl, members of the LBRN BBC Core and Professors in Department of Computer Science at LSU Shreveport are co-authors of a cross-institutional manuscript that has been published and featured on the cover of the latest issue of Proteomics, a Wiley journal: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/16159861/18/7**.**

This project was led by Dr. Hyung W. Nam from LSU Health Sciences Shreveport (Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology, and Neuroscience) and was a collaboration among faculty from Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, LSUHSC-S, and LSUS. In the article titled "Pharmacoproteomics Profile in Response to Acamprosate Treatment of an Alcoholism Animal Model" the authors studied the FDA-approved medication for the treatment of alcoholism that is only effective in certain patients. To investigate the mechanism of acamprosate efficacy, the authors employ a pharmacoproteomics approach using an animal model of alcoholism, type 1 equilibrative nucleoside transporter (ENT1) null mice. The results suggest that neuroimmune restoration is a potentialy efficient mechanism in the acamprosate treatment of certain sub-populations of alcohol dependent subjects.

Proteomics Journal is the premier international source for information on all aspects of applications and technologies, including software, in proteomics and other "omics". The journal with an impact factor of 4.041 includes but is not limited to proteomics, genomics, transcriptomics, metabolomics and lipidomics, and systems biology approaches.

Register Now for the Accelerating Rural Cancer Control Research Meeting (May 30-31, 2018)

Register to attend the Accelerating Rural Cancer Control Research Meeting!

This meeting aims to identify gaps in rural cancer control research and practice, to build stakeholder groups to address challenges and disseminate solutions, and to highlight and identify approaches to address shared and competing priorities of providers, health systems, researchers, patients and communities.

When: May 30-31, 2018
Natcher Conference Center
Where: National Institutes of Health Campus
Bethesda, MD

Visit the meeting website for more information about the agenda, hotel options and travel logistics.
Registration: Registering for the meeting is free, but space is limited.

Register Now !

2018 NIH VIsit Week (June 11-15th)

We are writing to let you know about an opportunity for your students to apply to attend our annual NIH Visit Week (June 11-15, 2018), a one-week summer enrichment program to expose Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian students to the NIH and to biomedical research and healthcare careers. Selected students will participate in science career workshops, interactions in selected NIH laboratories and clinical research settings, a science journal club, informational interviews and professional networking opportunities throughout the week. They will also meet with students in the NIH SACNAS Chapter, and learn about NIH internship opportunities.

To get the most of this program, students should have a strong interest in learning more about science careers. We welcome applications from students enrolled in Tribal colleges, and undergraduate college students at all levels. All students who apply must be affiliated with your INBRE program. Travel and accommodation costs will be the responsibility of the student or the associated INBRE grant.

We will begin activities at 9:00 am on June 11, 2018 and activities will end at 3 pm on Friday, June 15, 2018. We are unable to accommodate students who need to arrive after the start of the program or leave before the end of the program.

The students should complete a brief online application at https://www.training.nih.gov/sas/_20/1309 to be eligible for selection to attend the NIH Visit Week. The application includes the student's contact and school information, and a cover letter explaining his/her motivation for applying. Please have the student select "INBRE" under "Your Affiliation" under "Education History" in addition to referencing INBRE in the cover letter. The student should also include the name and email address for a reference. An automated email will be sent to the reference listed by the student with instructions on how to submit the reference letter explaining why the student will benefit from the program.   Student applications are due Tuesday, April 3rd, 2018, reference letters are due Tuesday, April 10th and accepted students will be notified by Tuesday, May 1st, 2018. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us of you have questions.

Due to a glitch in the new submission system, the deadline for **applications has been extended to May 4th with reference letters due May 11th**.

We look forward to welcoming your students to the NIH in June!

2018 LBRN Summer Research Program

The Louisiana Biomedical Research Network (LBRN) sponsors a summer research program in support of undergraduate students, graduate students and faculty from any Louisiana institute. We offer qualified participants the opportunity to work in established research laboratories at Louisiana State University, LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, Tulane Medical Center, or Tulane National Primate Research Center. The goal of our program and funding is to support biomedical research through an increase in graduate school admissions in these scientific fields and make Louisiana researchers more competitive in obtaining federal funding for research.

Thank you for your applications. The 2018 LBRN Summer Research Program applications are under review now.

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- **MENTORSHIP**

The LBRN program expects that our participants perform full time research for the period of funding. We do not allow for other jobs, teaching or classes or vacations to be scheduled during the funding period; fellowships (undergraduate students), stipends (graduate students), and summer salaries (faculty) are sufficient to enable the funded participant to focus 100% on the research project during the funding period. The student participant may become involved in a research project that is ongoing in the chosen laboratory, or design a project in collaboration with the intended mentor.

Mentor Application

**NIH : Academic Research Enhancement Award
for Undergraduate-Focused Institutions** (R15 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

National Institutes of Health
Office of Extramural Research

Grants & Funding
NIH's Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

A new **NIGMS R15 AREA program FOA** (PAR-18-714) that has been published today. The purpose of this Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) for Undergraduate-Focused Institutions is to support small scale research grants at institutions that do not receive substantial funding from the NIH, with an emphasis on providing biomedical research experiences primarily for undergraduate students, and enhancing the research environment at these applicant institutions. Eligible institutions must award baccalaureate science degrees, and have received less than 6 million dollars per year of NIH support (total costs) in 4 of the last 7 fiscal years. **This AREA FOA emphasizes the engagement and inclusion of undergraduates in research.**

See the details of this FOA at: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-18-714.html

Please note the following changes in NIGMS Support of Academic Research Enhancement Award (R15) Grants as published in the Notice (PAR-18-714):

1. NIGMS will no longer accept New, Renewal, Resubmission or Revision applications for R15 grants under the NIH Parent R15 Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) (PA-18-504 and subsequent reissuances).
2. All R15 applications for NIGMS support must be submitted to PAR-18-714 "Academic Research Enhancement Award for Undergraduate-Focused Institutions".

The first AIDS Application due date for this FOA is September 7, 2018

More details...

FY 2018-IDeA Co-funding Initiative

IDeA Co-funding Initiative invites R01 & R15 submissions from NIH ICs

- The applications must be investigator-initiated and from institutions in IDeA-eligible states that were deemed meritorious in initial peer review, but are beyond the IC's payline.
- The NIH ICs that have the primary assignment for the applications determine which of the applications they will nominate and send to NIGMS for consideration.

Investigators that are interested in their applications being considered for IDeA Co-funding should talk with the application's Program Officer (PO) about their interest in this program. The deadline for nominations this year is COB April 6, 2018.

Rashada Alexander serves as the NIGMS/IDeA point of contact for this initiative is and can be reached by phone 301-451-6416 or email below with any questions about the program.

Email Questions to Rashada Alexander, NIGMS/IDeA Point of Contact

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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

We are happy to announce that High Performance Computing allocation for supporting LBRN/BBC Core community from the LONI HPC system.

This can be utilized in lieu of individual investigators having to apply for and acquire their own allocations to access the HPC resources. If any of your campus members need access to high performance computing, please have them interface with Dr. Nayong Kim.

CFA for Short Term Core Pojects

Molecular Cell Biology Research Resources Core (**MCBRC**) and Bioinformatics, Biostatistics, and Computational Biology Core (**BBCC**) are calling for proposals to carry out short term projects in collaboration with the Cores. All LBRN researchers can submit a proposal for a defined project that can be carried out in collaboration with the Core facilities listed in the attached Call for Proposals (CFP) on a competitive basis. Each selected project will be allocated $1,500 to fully or partially offset Core expenses. More details can be found in the attached CFP.

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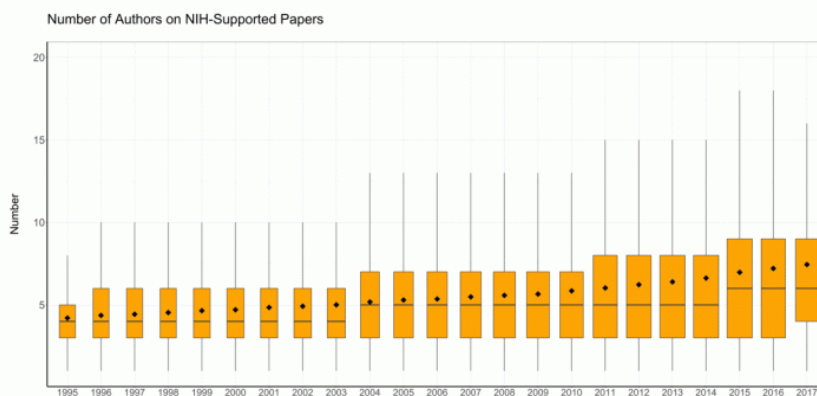NIH National Institutes of Health
Office of Extramural Research

• Impact of Teams Receiving NIH Funding

Almost 11 years ago, Stefan Duchy, Benjamin Jones, and Brian Uzzi (all of Northwestern University) published an article in *Science* on "The Increasing Dominance of Team in Production of Knowledge." They analyzed nearly 20 million papers published over 5 decades and 2.1 million patents and found that across all fields the number of authors per paper (or patent) steadily increased, that teams were coming to dominate individual efforts, and that teams produced more highly cited research.

In a *Science* review paper published a few weeks ago, Santo Fortunato and colleagues offered an overview of the "Science of Science." One of their key messages was that "Research is shifting to teams, so engaging in collaboration is beneficial."

I thought it would be worth exploring this concept further using NIH grants. For this post, data were acquired using a specific NIH portfolio analysis tool called iSearch. This platform prvides easy access to carefully curated, extensively-linked datasets of global grants, patents, publications, clinical trials, and approved drugs.

One way of measuring team size is to count the number of co-authors on published papers. Figure 1 shows box-and-whisker plots of author counts for 1,799,830 NIH-supported papers published between 1995 and 2017. The black diamonds represent the means. We can see from these data that the author counts on publications resulting from NIH support have steadily increased over time (mean from 4.2 to 7.4, median from 4 to 6).
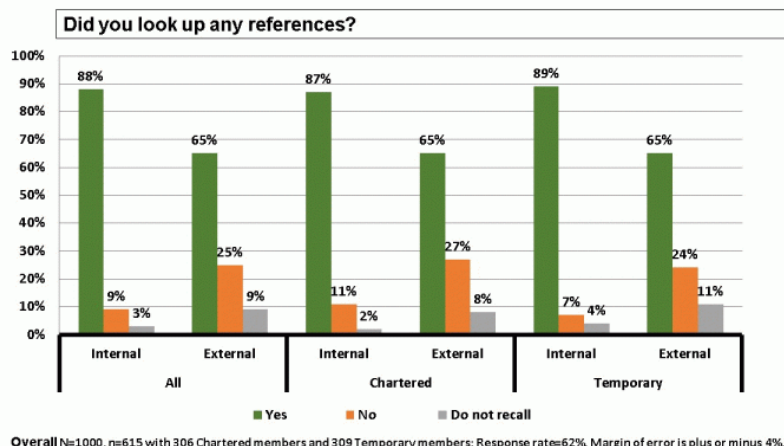

...Continue reading

• Do Reviewers Read References? And If So, Does It Impact Their Scores?

In March 2017, we wrote about federal funders' policies on interim research products, including preprints. We encouraged applicants and awardees include citations to preprints in their grant applications and progress reports. Some of your feedback pointed to the potential impact of this new policy on the peer review process.

Some issues will take a while to explore as preprints become more prevalent. But some we can dig into immediately. For example, how do references cited in an application impact review? To start to address this question, we considered another one as well: do peer reviewers look at references – either those cited by applicants or others – while evaluating an application? We had heard anecdotes, ranging from "Yes, I always do," to "No, I don't need to,' but we didn't have data one way or the other. And if reviewers do check references, how does it impact their understanding and scoring of an application?

So, together with colleagues from the NIH Center for Scientific Review (CSR), we reached out to 1,000 randomly selected CSR reviewers who handled applications for the January 1, 2018 Council Round. There were an equal number of chartered (i.e.

[permanent) and temporary reviewers](#) solicited to participate (n=500 each) over a three week period from November 16 to December 8, 2017.

[_...Continue reading_](#)

• Celebrating Women's History Month: Scientist Spotlight

Women's History Month quiz question (and no "Googling" allowed): Who was Joan Procter?

I didn't know either until a few months ago when I learned that my colleague, Dr. Patricia Valdez, wrote a children's book, called "[Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor](#)." Alfred A Knopf published Patricia's and her illustrator Felicita Sala's book a few weeks ago, on March 13, 2018. Critics have already acclaimed the work: [Publisher's Weekly](#) in a starred review wrote, "Valdez paints a portrait of a unique woman whose love for reptiles developed into a gratifying career."

So, who was Joan Procter? She was born in London in 1897 and had a rather unusual childhood. By age 10 she had developed a fascination for reptiles – she read voraciously about them and kept a pet lizard. At age 16 she brought a pet crocodile to school. And when she was ready to graduate high school, she worked for Dr. George Boulenger, a curator at the British Museum. Intestinal ailments prevented her from going to college, but fortunately Dr. Boulenger recognized her dedication and genius, taking her under his wing.

[_....Continue reading_](#)

• Make Your Voice Heard! We want Your Ideas to Reduce Administrative Burden in Research with Laboratory Animals

NIH has, [for many years](#), been concerned about the increasing burden of applying for, reporting on, and the costs faced by researchers when complying with requirements on federally-funded research grants— so much so that it is even [called out in our strategic plan as an area to](#) address. Today, as we continue to implement the [21st Century Cures Act](#), NIH is requesting public feedback on some proposed approaches to reduce administrative burden on investigators use of laboratory animals in biomedical research ([NOT-OD-18-152](#) and [Federal Register Notice 2018-05173](#)). Together with our colleagues at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), we are looking for constructive and thoughtful feedback on this topic from individuals, research institutions, professional societies, animal advocacy organizations, and other interested parties. Input will be [accepted electronically](#) during a 90-day comment period, that is until June 12, 2018.. [_...Continue reading_](#)

Top Stories

- ## xTRACT Anticipated to be Required in Fiscal Year 2020

In October 2015, eRA introduced xTRACT as an electronic system within eRA Commons for creating research training data tables and tracking trainee outcomes. xTRACT permits users to leverage data already in eRA Commons to pre-populate training tables with trainee names, institution information, award information, etc., which can be used both in new application submissions and for progress reports [the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR)]. While use of xTRACT is not required currently, it is anticipated to be required as of FY 2020 for certain types of training grant applications. …. Continue reading →

- ## Why Attend the Spring 2018 NIH Regional Seminar in Washington, DC

You've heard about it and may even know someone who attended, but is it right for you? With the next NIH Regional Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration coming to Washington DC May 2-4, let us help you decide. Or check out our YouTube video to get thoughts from previous attendees. If you are an investigator or research administrator new to working with the NIH grants process, don't let the 2018 NIH Regional Seminar in Washington, D.C. pass you by. Registration is underway now and seminars typically sell out! Learn about the NIH grants process and polices directly from ~ 70 NIH & HHS program, grants management, review and policy staff. …. Continue reading →

New Resources

- ### Having Challenges Tracking Down Students and Postdocs at the Time of the RPPR? Here is a Tip to Make It Easier…

Having challenges tracking down students and postdocs at the time of reporting? Establishing a process where you have students and postdocs establish an eRA Commons account at the time they start working on an NIH grant award can save you a lot of time and energy trying to track down people who may no longer be at your institution at the time of your Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) submission. You may even want to have them create an ORCID ID as well! (In case you missed it, read the November 2017 Open Mike blog post to learn more about eRA Commons and ORCID integration.)

- ### New to eRA Commons?

Sometimes when you are trying something for the first time, it can appear to be somewhat confusing, intimidating, and possibly overwhelming. eRA is continuously developing new resources for our applicants and grantees to eliminate that perception. Recently eRA has focused on ways to help people new to navigating eRA Commons for the NIH grant application, award, and reporting processes. Because these processes require attention to detail and patience, it can often be overwhelming for those who have never done it before.

With that in mind, a new link has been added to the eRA home page that asks, simply, are you New to eRA Commons? This link takes you to an infographic that highlights the major steps of navigating eRA Commons for the NIH grant process, from tracking an application to closeout. This high level overview will help new users understand the scope of eRA Commons and the NIH grant process without overloading them with details.

And while that infographic looks at the overall process, an additional resource that you will find at the bottom of that page, SO and PI Privileges in eRA Commons, helps outline who is responsible for completing the steps highlighted in the New to eRA Commons steps. While not all-inclusive, this will help many new Signing Officials (SOs) and Principal Investigators (PIs) understand their different responsibilities for managing NIH grant applications and awards via eRA Commons.

So take a look today and pass on these resources to any newbies. It might just help them along the way.

You Ask, We Answer

- ## After My Application is Submitted, Can I Include a Copy or Citation of a Preprint as Post-submission Materials?

No. Pre-prints are not included in the list of allowable post-submission materials, because they do not fall in the category of unanticipated events.

Post-submission materials are not intended to correct oversights or errors discovered after submission of the application, but rather allow applicants the opportunity to respond to unforeseen events.

See NOT-OD-17-066 and our post-submission policy FAQs for more information on NIH's post-submission material policy,

- ## How do you define a "study" for the purposes of providing information on the PHS Human Subject and Clinical Trial form and registering in ClinicalTrials.gov?

Our application instructions provide guidance to submit a study record for each protocol. When in doubt, NIH supports lumping several aims or hypotheses into a single study record, to the extent that makes sense for your research.
Have other questions related to the new PHS Human Subject and Clinical Trial form or NIH clinical trial policies? Find more FAQs and their answers at grants.nih.gov.

National Research Mentoring Network

Join us this **Wednesday April 18th at 1 pm EST/ 12 pm CST/ 10 am PST** to learn more about **MyNRMN - the networking and collaboration platform from NRMN**. This 30 minute webinar will introduce you to current and new features, and allows for an opportunity to engage in a 10 minute Q&A session.

Click the link below to register for the date and time that works best for you.

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/6250325968579817219

What to expect:

- Mentor/mentee onboarding
- Recommended members and groups
- Status updates
- Find a Mentor
- CV/Resume Builder
- Advance Search and Filter
- Making Connections
- Messaging
- My Groups

- Help!

NIH Acknowledgement

So that we can most effectively communicate the scope and results of our funding support, we would like to know when you are planning news announcements about IDeA awards or program activities and achievements…

When you produce such material, please be sure to identify the IDeA program, not just the INBRE, COBRE or sub-program, and to provide context about the program's goals along the lines of:

> **The University of _____ has received $XXX from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to support an Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Center of Biomedical Research Excellence. The IDeA program builds research capacities in states that historically have had low levels of NIH funding by supporting basic, clinical and translational research; faculty development; and infrastructure improvements.**

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

> **Research reported in this {publication, release} was supported by an Institutional Development Award (IDeA) from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health under grant number 5 P20 GM103424-15 and 3 P20 GM103424-15S1.**

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