

News, Opportunities and Deadlines for February 2024

Registration Now Open for NISBRE2024 Conference

at Washington Hilton, Washington DC
June 16-19, 2024

2024 National IDeA Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence (NISBRE) Conference



NAIPI aims to protect and promote the IDeA programs. It fosters interactions, promotes resource sharing, enhances the national visibility of the INBREs, COBREs, and CTRs, develops consensus on priorities, identifies and disseminates best practices, identifies opportunities and develops strategies.

The 9th Biennial National IDeA Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence (NISBRE) will be held in Washington, D.C. June 16-19, 2024 at the Washington Hilton. Louisiana State University (LSU) has been awarded an NIH: NIGMS U13 grant to organize 2022, 2024, and 2026 NISBRE meetings.

The NISBRE is a national scientific meeting to showcase the scientific and training accomplishments of the IDeA program of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS). The IDeA program develops scientific centers of excellence and also supports Networks such as INBRE, COBRE, and IDeA-CTR programs and trains biomedical scientists in the IDeA-eligible states.

Dates : JUNE 16-19, 2024

Location : Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C.

Important Dates

- Abstract submission deadline is March 18, 2024.
- Nominations for NISBRE awards are due April 15, 2024.
- Registration is open until April 15, 2024.

We are particularly interested in undergraduate students to submit an abstract and we will be providing the travel/registration funding to the students (preferably minority students) upon their acceptance of the abstract and faculty.



HPC Training



- **Wednesday, February 28, 2024: 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.

- **March 06,2024: Magic Tools to Install & Manage Software Part 1: Conda Virtual Environment**

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 feature 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).

* Materials has been updated to reflect a recent major Conda update in Jul 2023. Users are recommended to take / review the training even if they used conda before.

Prerequisites: Basic understanding of shell commands is assumed but not required.

- **March 20,2024: 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 2 will feature container technology and the software Singularity (a.k.a. Apptainer), a popular implementation of containers on HPC. Containers are gaining increasing popularity 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.

Prerequisites: Basic understanding of the Linux OS and shell commands is assumed but not required.

Please visit <http://www.hpc.lsu.edu/training/tutorials.php> for more details and register using the link provided. Users will be provided with a zoom link in their registration confirmation email.

40th Southern Biomedical Engineering Conference.

When : September 13-15, 2024

Where : Louisiana State University Health Shreveport, Shreveport, LA

(Major Sponsors- Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, LSU Health Science Center-Shreveport and Mississippi Academy of Sciences)

Abstract Deadline: April 30, 2024

Additional information is at <https://sbeconference.org/40th-sbec/>

40th ANNUAL

SOUTHERN BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING CONFERENCE

CALL FOR
ABSTRACTS DEADLINE
MAY 15, 2024

SEPTEMBER 13-15

2024

LSU HEALTH SHREVEPORT
SHREVEPORT, LA

International Presenters: Optional Virtual

INQUIRY

Program Chair

Dr. Giovanni Solitro
Louisiana State University Health Shreveport
giovanni.solitro@lsuhs.edu

Conference Co-chair

Dr. H. Benghuzzi
benghuzzi@bellsouth.net

sbeconference.org/40th-sbec

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Grant Writing Workshop

- Top 3 Mistakes Researchers Make Pursuing NIH Grants:
What To Do Instead

Grant Writing Workshop

Top 3 Mistakes Researchers Make
Pursuing NIH Grants: What to Do Instead

March 14th – 11AM CT | 5PM GMT



Proteintech and Learn Grant Writing are delighted to announce our upcoming workshop on writing competitive NIH grant applications. Learn all the insider tips from grant experts Meredith Noble and Dr. Faiza Peetz as they dive into what to do and not to do when submitting your next NIH grant.

Want to learn from Meredith Noble and Dr. Faiza Peetz? Join us on March 14th, 2024 at 11 am CST.

This webinar will include:

- Q&A with the speakers
- Certificate of attendance
- On-demand recording

Can't make the time? A recording will be sent to all registrants.



LA CaTS Professional Development Core Plenary Talk 2024

: Addressing Individual and Population Health in a Learning Health Community

"Addressing Individual and Population Health in a Learning Health Community" by Dr. Russell Rothman from Vanderbilt University Medical Center. The event is sponsored by the LA CaTS Professional Development Core and will be held at University Medical Center on Friday, March 8, 2024 from 12-1:00 PM.



LA CaTS Professional Development Core Presents

"Addressing Individual and Population Health in a Learning Health Community"



MARCH 8, 2024 ◆ 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM



Guest speaker

Russell Rothman, MD, MPP

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Director Institute for Medicine and Public Health
Senior Vice President, Population and Public Health
Ingram Chair in Integrative and Population Health
Professor Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, & Health Policy

University Medical Center Conference rooms G1516/J1518
2000 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA 70112
Use entrance at 2001 Tulane Ave

Note: This event is free and open to public A light lunch will be provided for the attendees preceding the talk

Talk presented in person and virtually via Zoom

For more information, contact Michelle Wilson
Phone: 504-988-6998 Email: mwilso21@tulane.edu
Please click [here](#) to RSVP by March 1, 2024



The Next Gen. Conversations at Louisiana Tech University

Please join the Next Gen. Conversations.

Albany at Tech

June 11 - 15, 2024

Louisiana Tech University in Ruston

After a very successful 40 year series of Conversations at SUNY Albany,
the Next Gen. Conversations will be held at Louisiana Tech

Additional information is at <https://coes.latech.edu/albany-conversations/>



Fundamentals for Proteomics Workshop



The Fundamentals for Proteomics Workshop targets those investigators and their students considering an experiment in global proteomics to enhance their understanding of their biological system. Various topics are included from experimental design, sample preparation, data collection, and bioinformatics analysis. This year the workshop's theme is "**Pitfalls of Proteomics**" (and how to avoid them). To increase the success of any protein mass spectrometry experiment the researcher needs to communicate with the National Resource before beginning the experiment. Faculty and students with research projects heavily utilizing proteomics techniques are encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to attendees in [IDeA-states](#). Travel and lodging are provided for selected attendees.

The 2024 workshop will be held March 13 – 14, 2024. The deadline to apply is December 15, 2023.



Fundamentals of Proteomics Workshop

March 13-14, 2024

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Little Rock, Arkansas



Hosted by Dennis Province, PhD
Director of Education and Outreach

**This Fundamentals of Proteomics Workshop is designed
for research faculty and students to provide:**

- Overview of quantitative proteomics workflows
- How to design a proteomics experiment
- Avoiding sample preparation pitfalls
- Leveraging proteomics data for publications and grant submissions

Deadline to apply for all workshops is Dec. 15, 2023.



Stephanie Byrum, PhD



Rick Edmondson, PhD



Mike Kinter, PhD



Sam Mackintosh, PhD



Alan Tackett, PhD



APPLY NOW

Applications are available by scanning the QR code above or visit UAMS.info/ProteomicsFundamentals. For more information, contact Dennis Province (DProvince@UAMS.edu). Preference is given to researchers in IDeA-eligible states. Travel and lodging are provided to attendees.

Workshop is supported by the IDeA National Resource for Quantitative Proteomics (R24GM137786).

NIH Extramural Nexus

• Unmasking Potential: Introducing New Beta Version Tool for Biomedical Dataset Discovery

In a world of rapidly changing digital expectations, new formats to access and store information, and a dynamic biomedical landscape, users want to connect to data across an abundant, widely available, and growing ecosystem of biomedical research with one click. That is the future we are working to create by leveling up our dataset discovery technology to better understand user expectations and enhance the user experience.

To bring you closer to that one-click reality, National Library of Medicine (NLM) is excited to announce the launch of a beta version of a new online tool, the [Dataset Catalog](#).

Search, Find, and Connect Biomedical Datasets

The Dataset Catalog is a catalog of biomedical datasets from publicly available repositories. The tool is designed to help improve the discoverability and reuse of research data by making it easier for users to find and connect biomedical datasets. This functionality aligns with [NIH's efforts](#) to make available to the public the results of research it supports and conducts. Bringing disparate metadata into a standardized format empowers researchers to share and discover data in a broader environment and create relationships that might otherwise not be apparent.

Adhering to FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) principles, the Dataset Catalog is an online, “all-in-one” tool that allows users to navigate among biomedical datasets by linking descriptive data. The system is modeled on the ease of use of [PubMed](#), and like PubMed, it provides links out to datasets. So you could think of the Dataset Catalog as the “PubMed of datasets”!

[..... continue to see more](#)

• NIH Director Statement on Catalyzing the Development of Novel Alternative Methods

Major leaps in science are often driven by the invention of new technologies and approaches. For example, while genome editing technologies have been around for decades, the novel approach used by the CRISPR-CAS system transformed researchers’ capabilities to solve previously intractable problems. By harnessing this new technological approach, we now have our first [FDA-approved gene editing therapy for patients suffering from Sickle Cell Disease](#).

We also are seeing dramatic leaps in technologies that allow researchers to use complementary, non-animal-based approaches to study biological functions and human disease. These so called “novel alternative methods” or NAMs, which include computational modeling and predictive technologies, cell-free methods and assays and cell-based culture models, hold tremendous promise when applied to the appropriate scientific inquiry.

With the explosion of work being done in developing and using NAMs, NIH charged a [working group](#) of the Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) to assess the challenges and opportunities for NAMs, as well as provide recommendations to the ACD for priority investments to catalyze their use and development in biomedical research. The working group consulted with experts in the field and reviewed input from the community to deliver its [report](#) to the ACD during the Dec. 14, 2023, meeting. This report, which the ACD enthusiastically endorsed and conveyed to the agency, recommended that NIH work with the community to:

[..... continue to see more](#)

• Salary Cap Guidance

While operating under a continuing resolution, all legislative mandates that were in effect in FY 2023 for NIH grant, cooperative agreements, and research and development contract awards remain in effect. This includes restricting direct salary support to the salary limitation set at Executive Level II of the federal pay scale.

The Office of Personnel Management recently released new salary levels for the Executive Pay Scale. Effective January 1, 2024, the salary limitation for Executive Level II is **\$221,900**. For active awards, including awards that have been issued in FY 2024 (continuation and new) that were restricted to Executive Level II, if adequate funds are available, and if the salary cap increase is consistent with the institutional base salary, recipients may rebudget funds to accommodate the current Executive Level II salary level.

Once the Department of Health and Human Services Appropriation for FY 2024 is enacted, NIH will publish the annual Notice of legislative mandates to provide information on any statutory provisions that limit the use of NIH grant funds in FY 2024.

- **Do I Need to Authenticate Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources? If So, How?**

NIH's Rigor and Reproducibility FAQs have been updated with new questions and answers about authenticating key biological/chemical resources:

- [What kind of information should I include in the “Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources” attachment?](#)
- [Do I need to include an “Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources” attachment?](#)

Have more questions on this topic? Check out the [Authentication of Key Biological/Chemical Resources](#) section, or visit the complete set of [Rigor and Reproducibility FAQs](#).

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 2024.

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](#).

LBRN "Core Bucks"



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.

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



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

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

Sample services:

1. Molecular Biology Reagent Equipment and Services

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

2. Protein Production, Purification and Characterization Laboratory

- Protein Purification and Characterization includes semi automated Bio-rad profinia affinity chromatography system, AKTA Explorer FPLC system, and HPLC and ultracentrifugation equipment
- Peptide Synthesis and purification
- Protein-protein interactions are investigated using primarily Surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR) implemented on Biacore and ForteBio SPR equipment. Additional physicochemical characterization of protein-protein interactions is available through collaborations with the LSU Department of Chemistry.
- Gene-to-Protein-to-Antibody Services – you provide the gene, we return an antibody

3. Molecular Immunopathology Laboratory Services

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

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

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.

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