News, Opportunities and Deadlines for March 2020

LBRN Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information

To our all our partners, faculty, and students. As you know, the current situation in Louisiana is currently fluid with regards to the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

LBRN is based at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge with administrative staff at LSU School of Veterinary Medicine and the LSU Center for Computation & Technology. On March 17th, we shifted to working remotely from the LSU Campus. Any announcements regarding our activities will come out as needed directly to our members and participants. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to drop us a note at LBRN E-mail if you are not already in touch with us directly.

Link and update to NIH Coronavirus (COVID-19) information and subscribe to NIH for Updates.

Link and update from LBRN to Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information.

LBRN Administration

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) advice for the public

- **Wash your hands frequently**

Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.

Why? Washing your hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand rub kills viruses that may be on your hands.

- **Maintain social distancing**

Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.

Why? When someone coughs or sneezes they spray small liquid droplets from their nose or mouth which may contain virus. If you are too close, you can breathe in the droplets, including the COVID-19 virus if the person coughing has the disease.

- **Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth**

Why? Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and can make you sick.

- **Practice respiratory hygiene**

Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.

Why? Droplets spread virus. By following good respiratory hygiene you protect the people around you from viruses such as cold, flu and COVID-19.

- **If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early**

Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance. Follow the directions of your local health authority.

Why? National and local authorities will have the most up to date information on the situation in your area. Calling in advance will allow your health care provider to quickly direct you to the right health facility. This will also protect you and help prevent spread of viruses and other infections.

- **Stay informed and follow advice given by your healthcare provider**

Stay informed on the latest developments about COVID-19. Follow advice given by your healthcare provider, your national and local public health authority or your employer on how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

Why? National and local authorities will have the most up to date information on whether COVID-19 is spreading in your area. They are best placed to advise on what people in your area should be doing to protect themselves.

Cancelled - 8th Annual LA Conference on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

Out of an abundance of caution in response to the potential spread of COVID-19, we have decided to cancel this year's 8th Annual LA Conference on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics on April 3-4, 2020. More information goto 8th Annual LA Conference on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

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LSU SCIENTISTS RESEARCHING CORONAVIRUS VACCINES

LSU scientists are working to produce vaccines in our secure lab facilities for testing that will potentially stop the spread of the novel coronavirus. Watch the video at youtube.com/watch?v=cY7DNXEcloY.

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

LSU - Coronavirus Updates & Information

Check for LSU COVID-19 updates here

Travel. Faculty, staff, and students who have previously been approved for any international travel, or who plan to travel prior to August 17, 2020, must have travel reapproved through the High Risk Travel process. Travel to countries with Level 3 or Level 4 travel advisories will not be approved.

LBRN Summer Research Program - 2020

LBRN Summer Research Program for Undergraduate and Graduate students May 25 — July 31, 2020*

AWARDS
- Undergraduate and Graduate students will receive support of $4,000 and $6,000 respectively
- Housing is provided, if needed

APPLICATION DEADLINE
- If you would like to know more about this program, please go to Research Programs at: https://lbrn.lsu.edu/summer-research-program.html
- If you have any questions, please contact Alexis M. White at lbrn@lsu.edu
- Phone: (225) 578-9683
- Email: lbrn@lsu.edu
- Web: https://lbrn.lsu.edu/
- *Pending Funding

Louisiana Biomedical Research Network

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.

The schedule for undergraduate students covers ten weeks during the summer; the summer program dates are May 25 - July 31, 2020. The schedule for graduate students and faculty is more flexible.

Please see our website for support details and program requirements for each application type, applications are open on our LBRN Summer Program Webpage now. Deadline for applications

extended to February 21, 2020.

The schedule for the Spring 2020 HPC Training is available at http://www.hpc.lsu.edu/training/tutorials.php.

Note that our next HPC training will be held *<mark>online only</mark>* via Zoom on Wednesday, March 18 at 9:00AM.

Wednesday, March 18, 2020: Introduction to RStudio
RStudio is the de facto environment for R on the desktop system. Powered by Open OnDemand, now LSU HPC users can access to the RStudio server running on SuperMike-II's compute nodes. In this tutorial, you will learn the basics of RStudio, including R language fundamentals and some useful RStudio IDE features. A few examples of using R to process real-life data will be presented as well.
Prerequisites: Laptop with RStudio Desktop installed. RStudio Desktop can be downloaded from https://rstudio.com/products/rstudio/download/, OR LSU HPC account, Laptop with a web browser (no plug-ins); Basic understanding of a programming language is assumed but not required.

Next HPC Training:

Wednesday, April 1, 2020: Run HPC jobs with Agave Web Interface
Would you like to submit your HPC jobs without using the command line? Agave is a science gateway that has a web interface. Once you get an Agave account you can submit your jobs to any cluster you have an account and allocation on using the Agave web interface. While this tutorial concentrates on getting you comfortable with running code from the Agave portal web interface here are other things you can use Agave for:
The list provided is not intended to be exhaustive. To simplify, we group it into four categories.
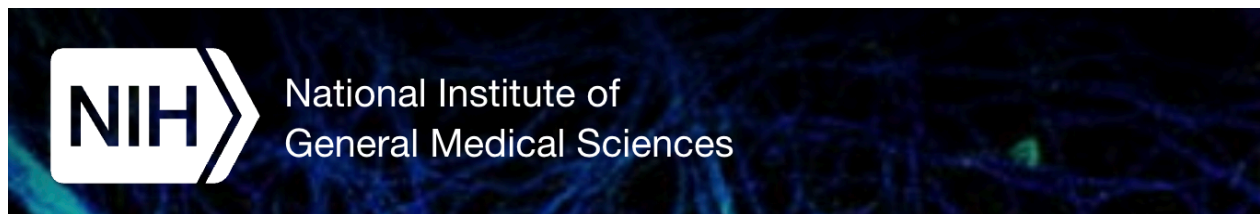
- Run Code This is our primary concern in this tutorial. Agave will run your scientific code from a web page, enable you to track its progress.
- Collaborate Anywhere Running a program is not enough. You need to enable other people to run your code, or see the output it generates. Agave lets you do that too. Once you make it possible for a large user base to run your scientific code through Agave's web interface, you will have a scientific gateway.
- Manage Data Running a program generates data, and frequently that data needs to be moved around, shared, or stored. Agave provides methods to uniquely identify data and to transfer it from one resource to another. When multiple protocols are available, it will use the fastest one available.
- Connect Anything Agave can send notifications as jobs progress through the system. Jobs can also create custom call-backs to handle events.

Prerequisites: Some experience running jobs on a super computer will be useful.

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.

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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

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.

National Institutes of Health
Office of Extramural Research

• COVID-19 Resources for 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. This is a rapidly evolving situation, and we are aware that many institutions are taking a variety of "social distancing" measures, including switching to telework and cancelling or postponing classes and non-essential meetings.

Due to the potential exceptional impact of the declared public health emergency, we want to assure our recipient community that NIH will be doing our part to help you continue your research. Our website on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Information for NIH Applicants and Recipients has a list of available resources. The resources include links to NIH Guide Notices and FAQs as well as information provided by the CDC and the WHO. Among the CDC links are advice for institutions of higher education and advice for mental health and coping.

Please visit our website often as we anticipate updates.

Most important of all please take care – we wish you, your colleagues, and your families all the best as we deal with the current challenges.

• Seeking Your Input on Simplifying Review Criteria

Guest post by Bruce Reed, Deputy Director of the NIH Center for Scientific Review, originally released on the Review Matters blog

Over the past several years we have heard consistent concerns about the complexity of review criteria and administrative load of peer review. CSR shares the concern that the current set of standards has the unintended consequence of dividing reviewer attention among too many questions, thus reducing focus on scientific merit and increasing reviewer burden. Each element was intended make review better, but we worry that the cumulative whole may in fact distract from the main goal of review — to get input from experts on the scientific and technical merit of the proposed work.

To address these concerns, CSR has convened a working group of our advisory council, charged with recommending changes to research project grant review criteria that will improve review outcomes and reduce reviewer burden. The group is co-chaired by Tonya Palermo and me, and includes some of our council members, other members of the scientific community, and the NIH Review Policy Officer from the Office of Extramural Research.

We would like to hear your thoughts on the issue. How might review criteria be modified to obtain the best evaluations of scientific merit? You can provide feedback directly to me at bruce.reed@nih.gov, to feedback@csr.nih.gov, or to any member of the working group. Before you fire off that email, though, read on.

First, be aware that current criteria derive from multiple regulations; changes that conform to them well are more feasible than those that don't. The Code of Federal Regulations ([42 C.F.R. Part 52h.8](#)) requires that research project applications be evaluated based on significance, investigators, innovation, approach, and environment. Protections for humans, animals, and the environment, adequacy of inclusion plans, and budget must be evaluated. The "21st Century Cures" Act ([Public Law 114-255](#)) requires attention to rigor and reproducibility and aspects of clinical trials. That said, there is room for improved implementation.

Second, consider how simplified criteria that might also help address some of the issues below:

- Multiple studies show that reviewer ratings of Approach carry the most (perhaps too much) weight in determining overall impact scores. Yet, aspects of rigor and reproducibility are too often inadequately evaluated. Can better criteria help?
- Review is often criticized as being risk-averse, as too conservative. If you agree, how might revised criteria help?
- How can criteria be defined to give the applications of all investigators, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, career stage, or setting, fair hearing on a level playing field?

Third, focus on the criteria for R01s. The criteria for training grants (F's, K's, T's) and for SBIR/STTR grants are different. Addressing criteria for R01s would be a great start.

Finally, please be patient. Getting from good ideas to a revised set of criteria is a complex, multi-level process that will include NIH's Office of Extramural Research, eRA, NIH Institutes and Centers, Office of the General Counsel, and other relevant stakeholders. This is a preliminary effort to get your input on what changes we should think about. Were we to propose regulatory changes, we would ask for additional public input. We are starting a conversation. Share your ideas.

- ## Guidance for NIH-Funded Clinical Trials and Human

Subjects Studies Affected by COVID-19

NIH recognizes the significant effects that this emergency is having on NIH-funded clinical trials and other human subjects studies. For details on expanded flexibilities, such as mid-project period extensions and administrative supplements for unanticipated costs, see NOT-OD-20-087.

- ## NIH Late Application Policy, Administrative Flexibilities, and FAQs Related to 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

When delays occur because the applicant or recipient organization is officially closed or unable to submit grant applications due to the effects of COVID-19, the NIH will consider accepting applications late, on a case-by-case basis and has other flexibilities available.

See the Guide Notices below for information on:

- NIH Late Application Policy Due to Public Health Emergency for COVID-19
- Flexibilities Available to Applicants and Recipients Affected by COVID-19
- General Frequently Asked Questions – Proposal Submission and Award Management Related to COVID-19

- ## NIH Hosting Public Webinars to Answer Your Questions About the Next NIH-Wide Strategic Plan

Learn more about the planning process and ask questions at one of the upcoming webinars hosted by NIH, registration required:

- March 9 from 1:30–2:30 p.m. ET
- March 16 from 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. ET.

NIH is also seeking public input on the framework for the NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2021–2025. The Request for Information invites the public to provide feedback via the RFI submission site through April 1.

Please see the NIH Open Mike post for more about the process to develop and comment on the FY 2021-2025 NIH-wide Strategic Plan framework.

- # Important Reminder: Revised Deadlines for Continuous Submission

The NIH Center for Scientific Review recently updated the continuous submission policy. Among the changes are revised cut-off dates for assignment to advisory council rounds. For example, applications submitted under the continuous submission policy for the standard February and March R01, R21 or R34 due dates must now be submitted by April 10 and applications for the standard May 7 AIDS due date must be submitted by June 1 in order to be included in the October advisory council round.

Have questions about the updated policy? Check out our FAQs on Continuous Submission. Still need help? Reach out to CSR.cont.sub.comm@csr.nih.gov.

- # Preparing for Updated Application Forms (FORMS-F)

Although the FORMS-F version of our grant application forms won't be used until due dates on or after May 25, 2020, preparation for their use is well underway. In fact, we just posted the FORMS-F application guides on our How to Apply – Application Guide page. Read through the significant changes setction to familiarize yourself with what's new.

Throughout March you'll see FORMS-F application packages being added to non-parent funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) and we expect to complete that process by March 25th. We'll reissue Parent Announcements with updated text and FORMS-F application forms at least 60 days before their first use. For example, the R01 parent FOAs will be reissued by April 5 for the June 5 standard due date.

Whether choosing between FORMS-E and FORMS-F application packages on non-parent FOAs or selecting the appropriate parent announcement, carefully select the correct version for your intended due date. Your application may be withdrawn from funding consideration if you use the incorrect form version.

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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 GM103424-18 and 3 P20 GM103424-15S1.

• In journal articles, oral or poster presentations, news releases, news and feature articles, interviews with reporters and other communications, acknowledge the IDeA program's full or partial support of the research. The citation in scientific publications should use the following format:

Research reported in this publication was supported by an Institutional Development Award (IDeA) from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health under grant number P20GM12345.

• 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 (*P20 GM103424-18*) 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.