

News, Opportunities and Deadlines for April 2024

NIH's *All of Us* Research Program Begins 2024 National Mobile Tour



The tour will visit more than 80 communities to bring medical research to underrepresented groups.

The National Institutes of Health's *All of Us* Research Program is traveling to dozens of cities and towns from coast to coast, engaging communities historically underrepresented in medical research. The 2024 nationwide tour, called "the *All of Us* Journey," begins April 16th with stops planned in California to the Midwest and throughout New England.

The *All of Us* Journey mobile exhibit shares information about the program's goal to build one of the most diverse health databases in history. With robust data, researchers can learn more about how biology, lifestyle, and environment affect health and disease.

"Where we live, our zip code, or 'ZNA,' is as important as our DNA," said Karriem Watson, D.H.Sc., M.S., M.P.H., chief engagement officer of *All of Us*. "We all experience health differently and have different exposures. When people from all communities and backgrounds have the chance to take part in research, we can learn more about these influences and find more tailored ways to prevent and treat disease."

[.....please find more information here](#)

The *All of Us* Research Program invites one million people across the U.S. to help build one of the most diverse health databases in history. We welcome participants from all backgrounds. Researchers will use the data to learn how our biology, lifestyle, and environment affect health. This may one day help them find ways to treat and prevent disease.

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, encourages 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.

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.



Training : QIAGEN Ingenuity Pathway Analysis



New user training:

Large dataset analysis and knowledge base queries using QIAGEN Ingenuity Pathway Analysis (IPA)



• May 7, 2024 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Join us for a 120-minute training session for new users of QIAGEN IPA.

In this training, you'll learn how to:

- Upload your dataset (RNA-seq, scRNA-seq, proteomics, metabolomics, and more) and perform interactive core/pathway analysis in IPA
- Understand the different result types produced (pathways, key regulators, impact on biological functions/diseases, and more)
- Compare different experimental conditions (treatments, time points, single-cell clusters, disease types, and more) and identify similarities and contrasts
- Generate a network even without a dataset or experimental design for hypothesis generation

For those with an IPA license,

To install IPA before or after this training, please use the below installer.

<https://qiagen.showpad.com/share/CBv30blCPKFDUYHRWtAvl>

[REGISTER FOR EVENT](#)

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)

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



SuRE R16 NOFO Announcement

SuRE Resource Center

A pathway for under-resourced academic institutions to build research capacity and increase NIH funding success.

SuRE R16 NOFO Announcement

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has published NOFOs for the SuRE (PAR-24-144) and SuRE-First (PAR-24-145) R16 grant mechanisms. Notable changes include:

Deadlines

Beginning in 2024, each SuRE R16 grant now has two annual submission deadlines, with the due dates being the same for each. The next due date for both SuRE and Sure-First applications is May 29, 2024.

- 2024: May 29 and Sept 27
- 2025: May 28 and Sept 29
- 2026: May 27 and Sept 28

PEDP Attachment

The NIH now requires that an attachment called a Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspective (PEDP) be included with all R16 submissions. This is a summary of strategies to advance the scientific and technical merit of the proposed project through inclusivity. The PEDP is submitted as a one-page "Other Attachment" to be included in grant applications. You may learn more by visiting this NIH page on PEDPs.

News from Fogarty International Center at NIH



NIA releases Notice of Special Interest on U.S. Health in the International Perspective

This NOSI expresses NIA's interest in research that examines mechanisms and causes behind the increasing U.S. health disadvantage, which refers to worsening life expectancies and health outcomes in the U.S. compared to other countries. Applications proposing analysis of existing data collected in LMICs are welcomed, as LMICs often have greater variation and speed of change in their policy contexts compared to high-income countries.

- [Notice of Special Interest \(NOT-AG-24-004\)](#)
- First Available Due Date: June 5, 2024
- Expiration date: May 8, 2027

Fogarty to host G11 Pre-Application Webinar

The Fogarty International Center will hold two free pre-application interactive Q&A webinars for

the [Fogarty Infrastructure Development Training Programs for Critical HIV Research at Low-and Middle-Income Country Institutions \(G11\)](#) funding opportunity.

- Webinar dates:
 - April 22, 2024 - 8:30-10a.m. ET (USA) - [Register](#)
 - May 22, 2024 - 2:00-3:30pm. ET (USA) - [Register](#)
- Application deadline: August 22, 2024

NIH funding opportunities for which foreign organizations and/or foreign components of U.S. organizations may apply:

- [Exploring Proteogenomic Approaches to Unravel the Mechanisms of Mis-Folded Protein Accumulation in Tauopathies \(R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#) (RFA-AG-25-017)
Application due date: Multiple dates, see announcement.
- Research on the Neuro-Immune Axis in the context of HIV and Substance Use funding opportunities:
 - [Research on the Neuro-Immune Axis in the context of HIV and Substance Use \(R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#) (RFA-DA-25-004)
Application due date: Multiple dates, see announcement.
 - [Research on the Neuro-Immune Axis in the Context of HIV and Substance Use \(R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#) (RFA-DA-25-005)
Application due date: Multiple dates, see announcement.

NIH funding opportunities for which foreign components may apply:

- [Utilizing Equipment to Study Environmental Extrinsic Factors and Enhance Rigor and Reproducibility of Animal Research \(R24, Clinical Trials Not-Allowed\)](#) (PAR-24-167)
Application due date: Multiple dates, see announcement.
- [Center of Excellence for Systems Modeling of Infection and Immunity across Biological Scales \(U54 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#) (RFA-AI-23-077)
Application due date: Multiple dates, see announcement.

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/>



NIH Extramural Nexus

• Increases for National Research Service Award Stipends and Childcare Subsidies

We are committed to sustaining the vitality of the future biomedical research workforce, including providing appropriate support and addressing the many challenges faced by postdoctoral scholars in biomedicine. As part of this commitment, we are pleased to announce stipend and childcare subsidy increases for the [over 17,000](#) early career scholars supported on NIH Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSAs) ([NOT-OD-24-104](#)). Stipends will be raised by 4% for predoctoral trainees and by 8% for postdoctoral scholars in fiscal year (FY) 2024 compared to last year), the most substantial year over year increase since FY 2017. Additionally, the [childcare subsidy](#) will be increased by an additional \$500 (from \$2500 to \$3000) in FY24.

Appropriate support for early career researchers is something we take seriously. The [Advisory Committee to the NIH director \(ACD\)](#), following thoughtful deliberations on re-envisioning the NIH-supported postdoctoral experience, reiterated that financial concerns were a topmost challenge for postdoctoral scholars. Echoing sentiments made in [their final report from last December](#) (see recommendation 1.1), lack of appropriate support dissuades some individuals to pursue a research career because of the negative effects on financial security.

The new stipend levels begin at \$61,008 and are upwardly adjusted based on years of experience. In addition to higher stipend levels, there is also a modest \$200 increase in [training-related expenses](#) and [institutional allowances](#). Tuition and Fees for all educational levels remain unchanged from last year.

This is a significant step given a relatively flat NIH budget (see [this recent blog](#) about the interplay between budgets and success rates). The approach allows for an immediate stipend increase without drastic cuts to the number of available awards. As appropriations and budget realities allow, our goal is to reach the ACD recommended stipend levels (around \$70,000 per year for postdoctoral scholars) in the coming years.

As we move toward that goal, institutions should note that:

- As noted in the NIH Grants Policy Statement (e.g., 11.2.10.1), “Kirschstein-NRSA fellows receive **stipends** to defray living expenses. **Stipends** may be supplemented by an institution from non-Federal funds provided this supplementation is without any additional obligation for the fellow.”
- Recipient institutions are **reminded** that they are not prohibited from hiring NRSA trainees and fellows as employees or provide them with benefits consistent with what the institution provides others at similar career stages.

Raising NRSA stipends and childcare subsidies are only two ways we are committed to fostering a strong and robust future workforce. We will continue to assess our policies and procedures. We anticipate releasing a request for information (RFI) in the near future to seek input on specific recommendations from the ACD.

- **Announcing Revisions to the NIH Fellowship Review and Application Process**

The changes to peer review and the fellowship application result from years of analysis and discussion. In response to continued concerns voiced by the extramural community that the current fellowship review process potentially disadvantages some highly qualified candidates, the NIH Center for Scientific Review (CSR) formed a [CSR Advisory Council working group](#) in Fall 2021, charged with evaluating the peer review process for NIH fellowship candidates. The working group [recommendations](#) evolved through input from the community, including that in response to a [Request for Information](#), and input from NIH leadership.

The revisions to the NIH fellowship application and review process are meant to increase the chances that the most promising fellowship candidates will be consistently identified by scientific review panels. The changes are intended to:

1. **Better focus reviewer attention on three key assessments:** the fellowship candidate's preparedness and potential, research training plan, and commitment to the candidate.
2. **Ensure a broad range of candidates and research training contexts can be recognized as meritorious by clarifying and simplifying the language in the application and review criteria.**
3. **Reduce bias in review by emphasizing the commitment to the candidate without undue consideration of sponsor and institutional reputation.**

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

- **Changes Coming to Applications and Peer Review in January 2025**

NIH is implementing multiple changes that will impact the preparation and peer review of most grant applications submitted to NIH for due dates on or after January 25, 2025. Although each of these initiatives have specific goals, they are all meant to simplify, clarify, or ensure greater fairness.

We just released a guide notice ([NOT-OD-24-084](#)), what we are referring to as an “uber” notice, that provides an overview of each change to help the community contextualize them as details are released over the next few months. We developed this [video \(25 min\)](#) to provide you with an overview of the following changes:

Simplified review criteria for most research project grants. We [announced this initiative this past October](#), held an [informational webinar](#) in November, and are also providing additional information on what this means for funding opportunities in [a separate blog today](#), and in an upcoming April 17 [webinar](#).

Revisions to the fellowship application and review process. You may remember the [request for information](#) NIH published last year. In the next few weeks, NIH will be releasing details of the

resulting fellowship application and review changes that we are implementing. The changes are intended to: (1) better focus reviewer attention on the fellowship candidate's preparedness and potential, the research training plan, and the sponsor/sponsoring institutional commitment to the candidate; (2) ensure a broad range of candidates and research training contexts can be recognized as meritorious; and (3) reduce bias in review by emphasizing the commitment to the candidate without undue consideration of sponsor and institutional reputation. NIH will be hosting a [webinar](#) to walk the community through the fellowship changes on September 19, 2024.

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

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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