

Res Updates 2020 Mar11, Special Edition on COVID-19

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Funding Opportunities related to COVID-19

NSF Dear Colleague Letter on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) *

NSF is accepting proposals to conduct non-medical, non-clinical-care research that can be used immediately to explore how to model and understand the spread of COVID-19, to inform and educate about the science of virus transmission and prevention, and to encourage the development of processes and actions to address this global challenge. The research community is encouraged to respond to this challenge through [existing funding opportunities](#), or using the Rapid Response Research (RAPID) funding mechanism, which allows NSF to receive and review proposals having a severe urgency with regard to availability of or access to data, facilities or specialized equipment as well as quick-response research on natural or anthropogenic disasters and similar unanticipated events. Requests for RAPID proposals may be for up to \$200K and up to one year in duration. Well-justified proposals that exceed these limits may be entertained. All questions should be directed either to a program officer managing an NSF program with which the research would be aligned or to rapid-covid19@nsf.gov. A list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) is available.

More details are available at <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20052/nsf20052.jsp?org=NSF>

NSF Provisioning Advanced Cyberinfrastructure to Further Research on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) *

Through this Dear College Letter, the Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure (OAC) within the Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering is inviting RAPID proposals and supplemental funding requests to existing awards that address COVID-19 challenges through data and/or software infrastructure development activities.

Proposals in response to this DCL and the NSF DCL on COVID-19 ([NSF 20-052](#)) may also request the use of NSF-funded advanced computing resources such as [Frontera](#), [Stampede2](#), [Bridges](#), [Comet](#), and [JetStream](#). To ensure availability of these computing resources, investigators must contact OAC prior to submission of the proposal

More details are available at <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20055/nsf20055.jsp?org=NSF>

NIH Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

NIAID and NIGMS are issuing this Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) to highlight the urgent need for research on the 2019 novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). NIAID is particularly interested in projects focusing on viral natural history, pathogenicity, transmission, as well as projects developing medical countermeasures and suitable animal models for pre-clinical testing of vaccines and therapeutics against 2019-nCoV. NIGMS is specifically interested in incorporation of data from the 2019-nCoV into ongoing research efforts to develop predictive models for the spread of Coronaviruses and related pathogens.

More details are available at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AI-20-030.html>

Maintaining Research Continuity (based on COVID-19 guidance from CUNY)

The research enterprise must continue to follow regulatory guidance. Principal Investigators (PIs) should prepare to suspend projects, but only when doing so would not pose risk of harm to human or animal subjects or public health, and not starting new projects.

For labs with animals, the School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences has arranged a training session to provide additional back-up to ensure that basic care and feeding for lab animals will be continued in the case of an university wide shutdown. Extra food and bedding for animals should be ordered. Orders for additional animals should be suspended, except on a case-by-case basis.

For labs with tissue and other non-IACUC materials such as insects, plants, and sea animals, additional orders should be suspended, except on a case-by-case basis. PIs should be prepared to decide which to maintain (e.g., freeze) and which to abandon.

For equipment/facilities, which require human attention and/or supplies for operations, order extra supplies and train/cross train essential personnel considering commute to ensure adequate coverage so as to maintain operations and prevent equipment failure.

For researcher travel, including conferences and field research, researchers should follow CUNY travel guidance on the www.cuny.edu/coronavirus portal.

For research involving interactions with humans, interactions should be limited in accordance with CUNY Coronavirus Guidance and CDC guidance. If you expect a significant pause in your research procedures, you can contact Michael Brown at Michael.Brown@qc.cuny.edu, Assistant Director for Research Compliance. Unless otherwise notified by the sponsor, all reports due to sponsors must continue to be submitted.

*Added March 12, more detailed guidance on human subject research is in the following section.

Conducting Human Subject Research During the Coronavirus Outbreak

Researchers should inform funding sources and ORSP to notify of any delays that may affect their ability to meet project deadlines, reach milestones, and satisfy contractual research obligations and terms of awards.

There is no mandate to halt research involving human subjects at this time. Principal Investigators are responsible for making their own determinations about the appropriateness of continuing human subjects research activities. However, it is recommended that in-person interactions to recruit subjects and/or gather data should be limited to avoid unnecessary contact. Investigators can consider the following for both new and existing research studies:

- Recruiting subjects online, via social media, or email;
- Conducting in-person study procedures like interviews, face-to-face surveys, and focus groups remotely;
 - Using telephone or video conferencing (Skype, Zoom, etc.) to conduct interviews and focus groups;
 - Using online services like Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey, etc. to collect survey data;
- Obtaining Internet-Based Informed Consent (a waiver of documentation of informed consent) when applicable. See CUNY HRPP Policy: Consent Process and Documentation for more information.

Please review CUNY's Internet or Mobile Technology Based Research policy for information regarding responsibilities and considerations related to Internet or mobile technology-based human subject research.

As per CUNY policy, Principal Investigators are required to submit modifications and obtain IRB/HRPP approval prior to implementing changes. They are also advised to contact ORSP about their

Any delay or suspension of study activity that will adversely affect the treatment, health, and/or the emotional and/or physical well-being of study participants should be immediately reported to the CUNY-UI IRB.

CANCELLATION of Event this Friday

Due to the concern on COVID-19 and following CUNY guideline, the event "Fostering International Collaborations and Scholarship" (part of the Faculty and Leadership Development event series) scheduled for this Friday, March 13th, has been cancelled. If there is a plan to reschedule this, we will inform you promptly.

Weblinks related to COVID 19

NSF FAQs <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20053/nsf20053.jsp#q9>

NIH FAQs <https://www.nih.gov/health-information/coronavirus>

CUNY official guidance for COVID 19 <https://www.cuny.edu/coronavirus/>

QC website for Key Updates and Resources related to COVID 19

<https://www.qc.cuny.edu/StudentLife/services/health/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

RF Guidance for PIs and Employees (added March 12, 2020)

RF has updated their coronavirus guidance for PIs and employees through RF. Please see links below which also link to COGR Guidance that includes FAQs for NSF and NIH:

<https://www.rfcuny.org/RFWebsite/about/announcements/coronavirus-guidance/>

<https://www.rfcuny.org/RFWebsite/learning-resources/covid-19-guidance/workplace-guidance-related-to-covid-19-for-field-staff/>

<https://www.rfcuny.org/RFWebsite/learning-resources/covid-19-guidance/covid-19-event-guidance-and-faqs-for-cuny-pis/>

<https://www.rfcuny.org/RFWebsite/learning-resources/covid-19-guidance/rfcuny-remote-work-guidelines-for-the-covid-19-event/>

Additional concerns related to research can be communicated to us at yrong@qc.cuny.edu
