



Research and Economic Development Newsletter

May 22, 2020

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RED Updates

A Message from the Vice Chancellor



Dear Research Community,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones healthy. We are experiencing very difficult and uncertain times, but I continue to be impressed by the resilience of our campus and how so many have stepped up to help our community and maintain campus activities. I am particularly thankful to the staff in the different departments in RED and members of the compliance committees, all of which are fully operational. Proposals continue to be submitted on time, animals cared for, and research compliance and reviews continue as always. A measure that the campus has

retained some level of research and scholarly productivity is that our research expenditures are slightly above this time last year. Nonetheless, the situation remains very difficult for researchers and scholars who have not been able to use their facilities, meet with their subjects or students, or conduct in-person activities. I appreciate your sacrifices and efforts to remain as active as possible under the circumstances.

I also want to thank those of you who have contacted me directly or indirectly with your concerns and suggestions. In particular those who attended the campus “virtual office hour” Vice Chancellor Hayashida and I held last Friday. The questions and feedback we received motivated me to report some timely information in this newsletter, even though some campus decisions are still not finalized.

Research and scholarly activities ramp-up

As you have seen in the news, there have been some changes in the health authority’s orders both at the county and state level. To gradually increase the research and scholarly work on campus, Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Tom Smith and I formed an ad-hoc Emergency Ramp-up/Ramp-down Research Committee to develop a framework for the phased ramp-up. In addition to Tom and me, committee members include: Shaun Bowler, Graduate Division Dean; Djurdjica Coss, Academic Senate Committee on Research Chair; Derick Fay, IRB-SB Chair; Sheila Hedayati, Environmental Health and Safety Executive Director; Marcus Kaul, School of Medicine Representative; Chris Lynch, Bourns College of Engineering Dean, Peggy Mauk, Agricultural Operations Director; Milagros Peña, College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Dean; Dylan Rodriguez, Academic Senate Chair; Jason Stajich, Academic Senate Chair-Elect; David Volz, IACUC Chair; Ameae Walker, Vice Provost for Academic Personnel; Christiane Weirauch, Academic Senate Vice Chair; and John Warren, UCR News and Information Director.

The committee worked from an initial document developed in collaboration with all the UC Systemwide VCRs, adapting it to our campus needs based on feedback from units. I am extremely grateful for their efforts and collegiality in producing the [Research Ramp-Up Recommendations](#) document linked here. As you will see, some information is still “in progress” and being developed by other groups on campus, including the Operations/Support Recovery and Public Health committees.

Nevertheless, I am releasing the document at this early stage to address requests of numerous colleagues, even though the framework will not go in effect until it includes additional information and is approved by the Chancellor’s cabinet, which could happen as early as next week. As of this writing, no changes in the level of on-campus research and scholarly activities have yet been approved.

COVID-19 Testing

You may have seen in the news discussion about the need for testing to mitigate the spread of the pandemic and possibly as a mechanism to allow for gradual opening of activities in our community and university campuses. The UC system has created a task force on testing, tracing, and modeling and UCR is well-represented. No guidelines at the system level have yet been developed and our campus Testing Committee, co-chaired by Deborah Deas, School of Medicine Dean, and the VCRED, continues to explore several options. One option is the possibility of conducting PCR testing at a campus lab, likely to be located in the Incubator facilities in the Multidisciplinary Research Building (MRB). This would follow models developed at UC Berkeley (also broadly featured in the news) and UC Santa Cruz. I am extremely thankful to Katherine A. Borkovich, Professor and Chair of Microbiology and Plant Pathology and Isgouhi Kaloshian, Professor and Chair of Nematology, who are spearheading the efforts to determine the feasibility of such lab facility on campus. I also want to express my gratitude to Rosibel Ochoa, Associate Vice Chancellor for Technology Partnerships, for making available incubator facilities in MRB and to all the other individuals in RED, the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, the School of Medicine, and other units on campus, who are supporting our scientists in determining if we can conduct this project for the common good and, if so, to take it to completion. I will keep you informed of future progress in this area.

Funding opportunities

As always, please take a look at the funding opportunities in this newsletter. In particular I want to call your attention to a new solicitation for the [UCR UC National Laboratory Fees Research Program \(LFRP\)](#).

Finally, if you are applying (or thinking of applying) for an NSF CAREER award or would like to provide internal review services, please read about the now traditional [RED Early NSF CAREER Proposal Review Initiative](#), which has been successfully run by Gillian Wilson, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor in RED.

Please stay safe.

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Office of Technology Partnership Update

Newly Announced Inland Empire Tech Bridge is Poised to Accelerate the Growth of Technology Startups in the Region

On Tuesday, May 12, the assistant secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, James “Hondo” Geurts, announced the expansion of the Tech Bridge initiative by 6 locations that will accelerate and expand the network of innovators in the nation. Among those named was the Inland Empire Tech Bridge which is anchored by Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC), Corona Division, and will focus on solutions in data analytics and visualization; networked data environments, including live, virtual and constructive (LVC) training environments; and measurement technology.

UCR’s EPIC and EPIC Small Business Development Center (SBDC), leading organizations that support the launch and growth of technology-based startups, is excited to partner with NSWC Corona Division, Riverside Community College, Riverside County and the City of Riverside to support the workforce of the future and kick start the local economy through the Inland Empire Tech Bridge initiative.

As a partner, UCR’s EPIC and EPIC SBDC will provide an integral component in building the innovation ecosystem by facilitating access to specialized mentorship and commercialization opportunities for dual-use technology solutions to meet warfighter and industry needs. UCR’s EPIC SBDC will be providing entrepreneurial and leadership training, individualized consulting by a seasoned pool Entrepreneur-in-Residence mentors, access to capital, and SBIR/STTR assistance of early stage technology entrepreneurs and companies in the region.

For more information on the Inland Empire Tech Bridge, [read the full press release here.](#)

Breaking NSF News

Implementation of the revised NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (NSF 20-1)

On June 1, 2020, NSF will implement the [Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide \(PAPPG\)](#)(NSF 20-1) for proposals submitted or due on or after this date. The revised PAPPG implements a variety of changes and clarifications, the highest profile of which requires use of an NSF-approved format for the preparation of the biographical sketch and current and pending support.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing stress on proposers, the research community has not been able to adequately prepare and train their staff for the implementation of the new requirements.

NSF has therefore made the decision to **delay the requirement to use NSF-approved formats for**

the biographical sketch and current and pending support sections of NSF proposals until October 1, 2020. Proposers must continue to format these documents in accordance with PAPPG requirements (see PAPPG sections [II.C.2.f](#) and [II.C.2.h](#)). NSF encourages the community to use these formats and continue to provide valuable feedback as we enhance them for future implementation.

Over the coming week, NSF will make updates to existing policy guidance, websites and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to reflect the change. NSF will communicate further with the community once these updates have been made.

Webinars covering the use of NSF-approved formats as well as all of the significant changes to the PAPPG are available on the [NSF Policy Outreach website](#).

NSF will continue to implement all other changes to the PAPPG beginning June 1, 2020, including the following:

- New requirement for proposing organizations to submit government-wide representations and certifications in the System for Award Management (SAM);
- New requirement for providing e-mail documentation of Program Officer approval for the submission of RAPID and EAGER proposals; and
- Clarifications to current and pending support coverage as well as other changes throughout the document.

You are encouraged to review the by-chapter summary of changes provided in the Introduction section of the PAPPG. If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact the DIAS/Policy Office at policy@nsf.gov.

Fulbright Scholar Liaison COVID-19 Update

Delayed Start of the 2020-21 U.S. Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program

The COVID-19 global pandemic has created extraordinary circumstances around the world and enormous challenges for the Fulbright Program. As sponsors of the Fulbright Program, the United States Department of State's highest priority is the health and safety of all participants. Please know that our goal is to work flexibly with you to ensure you can have a safe and successful overseas experience.

As you may be aware, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State issued a [global Level 4 Travel Advisory on March 19](#), which advised U.S. citizens to avoid international travel. Current U.S. Fulbrighters were directed and assisted to return to the United States at that time. Additional information about the U.S. Department of State policy and plans related to the COVID-19 virus can be found [online](#).

It is not clear at this time when the State Department travel advisory will be reduced. This is an essential requirement for the resumption of travel for U.S. Fulbright participants. There is also uncertainty about the potential for a resurgence of the virus in the fall. Fulbright acts in partnership with educational systems in the United States and around the world, many of which are also in flux and may not open their physical facilities on a normal schedule this fall.

Therefore, ECA will delay the start date of the 2020-2021 Fulbright U.S. Scholar Programs until after January 1, 2021 to give selected candidates, host institutions, and program partners worldwide as much information as possible in order to plan for the coming academic year. This revised January start date assumes that the travel warning level has been reduced by that time. We regret that, for many participants, the total duration of your Fulbright grant may be shorter than anticipated.

If the travel and health warnings for each country are reduced to a level that permits exchanges to take place, U.S. Fulbrighters will be able to begin their exchanges after January 1, 2021, with exact start and end dates to be agreed in advance with the Fulbright Commission or U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section in the host country.

Please be aware that we will not approve departure on a U.S. Fulbright exchange to countries where a Level 3 or higher State Department Travel Advisory or CDC Level 3 Warning is in place at the proposed time of

departure. All U.S. Fulbrighters must also follow their host country's travel guidance and instructions.

We are committed to moving forward with the Fulbright Program to the full extent possible. At the same time, it is too soon to know what the specific parameters of the program will look like during the coming academic year, and whether every country overseas will be able to move forward with programming starting after January 2021.

We sincerely hope that you will still be able to take part in the Fulbright Program with this timeline change. *Please note that the Fulbright Program policies do not permit the grant to be postponed to the subsequent academic year.*

IIE or the Fulbright Commission in your host country will keep you updated with more specific information as it relates to your host country and the corresponding timeline in the coming weeks. In addition, we will be updating the Fulbright Scholar websites with any developments in response to this evolving situation.

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and flexibility. We look forward to continuing to work with you as you embark on your Fulbright experience.

Funding Opportunities

Limited Submissions with Upcoming Deadlines

For more information about current and past limited submission competitions, as well as details on how to apply, please visit our website at <https://research.ucr.edu/ord/limitedsubmissions.aspx>.

FY21 DoD Research and Education Program (REP) for HBCU/MI Equipment and Instrumentation

Internal Deadline: 08/28/2020

Number of Submissions Allowed: 3

To Apply: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=327228>

Overview

The Department of Defense (DoD) is soliciting applications for the acquisition of equipment/instrumentation under the Fiscal Year 2021 Research and Education Program for HBCU/MI. The Research and Education Program is designed to enhance the research capabilities of HBCUs and MIs and to strengthen their STEM education programs. The purpose of funding under this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to:

1. support the acquisition of equipment/instrumentation to augment existing capabilities or to develop new capabilities in research areas of interest to DoD
2. attract students to pursue studies leading to STEM careers.

Although funding provided under this FOA cannot be used for student support, in order to further DoD's objective of attracting students to pursue studies leading to STEM careers, applicants must address the impact of the requested equipment/instrumentation on student participation in research.

Other Opportunities

Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate and Postgraduate Fellowship (NNF) Grants Program

Overview

The Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate and Postgraduate Fellowship grant program supports training students for master's and doctoral degrees in food, agricultural and natural resource sciences; and Special International Study or Thesis/Dissertation Research Travel Allowances for eligible USDA NNF beneficiaries. Awards are specifically intended to support traineeship programs that engage outstanding students to pursue and complete their degrees in USDA mission areas. Applicants provide clarity about the philosophy of their graduate training, and relevance to USDA mission sciences, NIFA priorities, and national science education policies and statistics. Applications are being solicited from institutions that confer a graduate degree in at least one of the following Targeted Expertise Shortage Areas:

1. animal and plant production
2. forest resources
3. agricultural educators and communicators
4. agricultural management and economics
5. food science and human nutrition
6. sciences for agricultural biosecurity
7. training in integrative biosciences for sustainable food and agricultural systems.

For more information, read the Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate and Postgraduate Fellowship [funding opportunity](#).

Deadline for applications is **June 22, 2020**.

RED Early NSF CAREER Proposal Review

If you are applying for an NSF CAREER award and you finish a complete draft and submit it to <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=ecrp2020> by June 8th (11.59pm), RED will hold a review panel and provide feedback to you by June 26th.

As an incentive for finishing early, RED will support your research/travel with:

- \$500 for first time submission
- \$250 for resubmission if you include the reviews of your prior submission and a summary of how you HAVE already modified the proposal

If you are a CAREER awardee or have reviewed for the NSF program, and would like to serve as reviewer on RED's CAREER panel, send email to vcredadmin@ucr.edu. Panelists will review 5-8 CAREER proposals and \$1,000 in a research fund.

UCR resources for CAREER proposers are available at the (password protected) site <https://research.ucr.edu/ord/proposaldevelopment.aspx>.

These include:

- Slides from Gillian Wilson's 2020 workshop presentations

- Recordings of the 2020 workshop presentations including advice from panelists and Q/A session
- CAREER handbook (15 years of experience)
- Sample proposals, and more

UCR UC National Laboratory Fees Research Program (LFRP)

UCR's Office of Research and Economic Development is pleased to announce a Call for Proposals in response to a \$50,000 block grant that the UC National Laboratory Fees Research Program (LFRP) has provided to each campus in order to rapidly support emergent UC research in areas related to COVID-19. Depending on the UCR restrictions at the time of the award, **personnel selected for funding may need to apply for permission from their Dean(s) to do on-campus research, unless the proposed project can be done completely remotely.**

Scope and Goals:

The primary goal of this program is to support UCR faculty undertaking emergent COVID-19 related research efforts, with priority given to projects that align with one of the six designated DOE COVID-19 response thrusts listed below and that can result in additional external funding as a result of the seed grant.

- Pandemic modeling and analysis
- COVID-19 High Performance Computing Consortium
- Artificial intelligence and machine learning for COVID-19
- Materials and manufacturing to address supply chain issues (masks, shields, swabs, and ventilators)
- Clinical and surveillance testing issues (how to improve diagnostic techniques, new instrumentation and reagents)
- Medical therapeutics related to COVID-19 and SARS-COV-2

For further details and information: [UCR UC National Laboratory Fees Research Program](#)

Health Disparities Research Funding Opportunities

The UCR Center for Health Disparities Research recently posted new pilot grant award opportunities in Health Disparities Research through their NIH-funded U54 center. The information is on their website (<https://healthdisparities.ucr.edu/funding-opportunities>).

They include a repeat round of pilot grants for emerging investigators (FIRST awards), interdisciplinary groups (PIC and IRWG), and two new funding opportunities in COVID-related research in health disparities, and Clinical research in health disparities. All of their grant applications involve a community engagement component as well.

This round of applications is due June 5 (to be submitted to Cristina Gonzalez at Cristina.Gonzalez@medsch.ucr.edu). You can also contact David Lo (david.lo@medsch.ucr.edu) or Juliet McMullin (juliet.mcmullin@ucr.edu) directly if you have any questions, or would like some assistance in writing proposals, which follow the NIH format requirements.

