



MONTHLY UPDATE - APRIL 2020

RESEARCH SUPPORT & COLLABORATIONS:

May USC Internal Grant Deadline: 5 pm, Monday, May 11, 2020 (for both programs)

[Zumberge Special Solicitation Epidemic & Virus Related Research and Development Award](#)

[Provost New Strategic Directions for Research Award](#)

For COVID-19 funding opportunities, click [here](#). There are now over 70 COVID-19 related research projects at USC in all areas for research. Look [here](#) to find out more and to add your own work, interests, and expertise.

Join us on Slack: If you are looking for collaborators or want to share research ideas, we have created a [Slack channel](#).

TRAINING WORKSHOPS & MENTORING: We broke our record, with over 60 people registered for last week's Center of Excellence in Research workshop. Do you have an idea for a CER workshop? We'd love to [hear from you!](#)

FEDERAL FUNDING PATHWAYS: Latest funding opportunities related to COVID-19 are available [here](#), including NIH opportunities released this month ([here](#)) as supplements to existing grants, competitive revisions, and/or modifications to future program announcements. NIH also announced a public-private partnership between federal researchers and 16 pharmaceutical companies, aimed at coordinating and accelerating the development of COVID-19 treatments and vaccines. NSF is inviting researchers to use the Rapid Response Research (RAPID) funding mechanism to submit proposals to conduct non-medical, non clinical-care COVID-19 research. For assistance, contact [Steven Moldin](#).

USC STEVENS CENTER FOR INNOVATION: The USC Stevens home page now links to our COVID-19 discoveries on [Flintbox Covid-19](#). We have signed AUTM's COVID-19 licensing guidelines, developed a COVID-19 humanitarian license, and are expediting COVID-19 MTA/DTA agreements and discoveries. The first step is a disclosure via [Sophia](#), which is actively monitored for expediting; the info will be sent to an IP firm to quickly file a provisional patent application. Once disclosed, USC software can be made available through an academic/non-profit use license; see the [USC Software Guidance memo](#). For other open source license options, please [contact USC](#); alternatives are found in the [USC Open Source memo](#). All COVID-19 related software resources are listed on our available [technologies list](#). Please reach us through our office numbers or emails for help with invention disclosures or any other assistance.

OPRS/IRB: OPRS and the Office of Research and Scholarly Integrity will be offering weekly online office hours to assist investigators preparing protocols for first-time IRB review. Priority will go to protocols involving COVID-19 research. See the [OPRS](#) website for days and times or reach out to oprs@usc.edu for more information. COVID-19 specific protocols (new studies and amendments) are receiving IRB priority review; all other studies have slowed. We are working to bring three new IRB analysts to speed up the process and appreciate your understanding.

RESEARCH INTEGRITY: The Office of Research Integrity is partnering with OPRS to assist researchers in protocol development. All protocols involving a novel bio or data repository need to be approved by the Office of Research. If your protocol involves a new repository, please contact [Kristen Grace](#) for assistance.

CONTRACTS & GRANTS: Effective June 1, 2020, the National Science Foundation (NSF) will require new formats for both the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support. To assist in the transition, DCG developed a [quick guide](#) on how to log into SciENcv and create a BioSketch. Over the next month, DCG will also distribute a series of [NewsFlashes](#) to highlight the new requirements and provide training materials. More info is found on the [NSF](#) website.

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE: The URC is preparing a series of recommendations for how the University can enhance its culture of faculty service and disclosure across all areas of research administration.