RESEARCH, ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH UPDATE

Marian McCord’s recent communication about ramping up research and engagement is here. It includes links to the recording and slides from her second Virtual Town Hall.

COVID-Related News

Visit the COVID-19 Information and Communications page for updated information related to research, and UNH’s main COVID-19 page for university-wide news and resources.

COVID-19-related funding opportunities and resources particularly suited to UNH are here. Information is updated daily. Please send any new opportunities or resources to Lynnette Hentges.

We continue to gather information on UNH research community efforts and interests related to COVID-19. Our goal is to collate information, identify resources to support research activities, connect individuals with complementary
interests and explore additional support to help advance research and its impact. We’ve also compiled UNH resources that could help our region’s business, industry and community partners address COVID, particularly in the areas of small businesses, municipalities, K-12 education, telehealth, manufacturing, food and agriculture. Report any existing or potential COVID-19-related research/outreach/scholarship activity to Maria Emanuel.

Sponsors have announced policies and procedures around research disruptions in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most federal granting agencies have implemented administrative relief and flexibility under OMB notices. Many foundations have also issued COVID guidance for grants. In order to incur certain costs by meeting additional documentation/sponsor notification requirements, Sponsored Programs Administration is collecting information and will assist researchers in managing sponsor communications as needed. Complete the COVID-19 Disruption form (one per sponsored program) only if your sponsored project activities have been hindered due to COVID-19 precautionary measures and/or illnesses. The completed form may be emailed to SPA.AFC@unh.edu; contact Susan Zipkin, Karen Jensen or Louise Griffin with questions.

UNH’s federal relations firm, Lewis Burke Associates (LBA), recently presented five webinars exclusively to the UNH and USNH research community on new and developing COVID-19-related funding opportunities from the Economic Development Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation and US Department of Agriculture. They are available to the UNH community.

UNH launched six interdisciplinary research projects that address public health and welfare challenges related to COVID-19. The pilot projects, supported by the Collaborative Research Excellence (CoRE) initiative, combine expertise from across the university with local and national partners. We are particularly appreciative of the eight reviewers who evaluated all submitted proposals in less than a week.

**Resuming Research**

Information on resuming research at UNH, including guidelines and forms, is here.

The University Instrumentation Center is performing analyses of samples during the research ramp-up period for researchers who, for any reason, do not have students available to conduct analysis on their own.

The UIC is developing formal procedures for lab and instrument use to align with the six research ramp-up phases and will make these available for other facilities on campus for reference or adoption once finalized.

The Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) continues to review essential research requests from principal investigators; OEHS has received approximately 100 essential research forms. After a PI’s essential research request is approved by the college dean or center director, OEHS and the PI review safety protocols, including hazard controls, social distancing, remote monitoring, decontamination and spill procedures. Once OEHS approves the forms, the PI receives instructions on getting cloth masks and EPA-approved disinfectant wipes in conjunction with UNH Policy as well as facilities and housekeeping staff. Contact Brad Manning with any questions about the OEHS review.

OEHS is working with college and center stakeholders to determine personal protective equipment (PPE) needs and assess the availability of PPE supplies on campus.
Updates and Announcements

The May 2020 issue of Research Development & Grant Writing News is here. Each newsletter is copyrighted and available through our UNH subscription to UNH employees only.

The CoRE RFP is currently underway, with a proposal deadline of 5pm Friday, June 6, 2020. More information about the various funding opportunities and additional competition details are here.

Summer meeting schedules for the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) have been set. Contact Melissa McGee, Sue Jalbert or Julie Simpson in Research Integrity Services with questions.

Do you have questions about submitting an IRB or IACUC application, but aren’t sure how to condense everything into an email? Do you see the conflicts of interest certification on the Sponsored Programs routing form, and wonder what it really means? Contact Research Integrity Services for informal Q&A sessions by Zoom about any of our topic areas.

The UNH Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Library Guide, an online collection of materials, addresses a wide range of research integrity topics and includes news articles, online videos and training modules, publications, checklists and codes of conduct. There is also a series of case studies developed by the UNH RCR Committee to promote discussion among research personnel about research integrity issues (each case is real, not contrived).

The LevelUP Micro-Credentialing Program, a new educational opportunity for individuals with responsibility for the financial management of grants and contracts, is an innovative solution to support your educational development and continued success. The flexible, cutting-edge program is for individuals to master competency in the research administration lifecycle, including regulatory and financial compliance, sponsor frameworks and department research administration. Contact Karen Jensen for additional information.

The UIC continues to add online training resources to its website. It’s also added information about citing UIC instrumentation in publications, presentations and posters.

Good News

Congratulations to Meghan Howey, professor of anthropology, named a 2020 Andrew Carnegie Fellow. Kabria Baumgartner, assistant professor of American studies, received two fellowships to support her work on her next book, about Robert Morris, the first African American trial lawyer in the U.S. SPARK, UNH’s annual review of research and scholarship, is now online. Printed copies will await faculty and staff when they return to campus in the fall.

Calendar of Research-Related Events