POLICY AND SPONSOR UPDATES

New NIH Resource to Analyze Biomedical Research Citations: The Open Citation Collection (by Mike Lauer): My colleagues within the NIH Office of Portfolio Analysis embarked on a hefty bibliometric endeavor over the past several years to curate biomedical citation data. They aggregated over 420 million citation links from sources like Medline, PubMed Central, Entrez, CrossRef, and other unrestricted, open-access datasets. With this information in hand, we can now take a better glimpse into relationships between basic and applied research, into how a researchers’ works are cited, and into ways to make large-scale analyses of citation metrics easier and free.

Case Study in Review Integrity: Undisclosed Conflict of Interest (by Mike Lauer): This series aims to raise awareness and inspire creative problem solving of the challenges in maintaining integrity in peer review. In this case, Dr. Smith, who is being considered as a reviewer for the application, is a professional associate of Dr. Jones, the PI on the application. However, Dr. Smith had not declared a conflict with that application.

Extension Policy for K99/R00 Eligibility: NIH recognizes that a lot can happen to interrupt the 4-year K99 eligibility window. Since one of the most popular reasons for extension requests involve childbirth, NIH will approve an extension of one year for childbirth, consistent with the NIH Extension Policy for Early Stage Investigator Status (ESI), effective immediately. Men, those adopting children, and same-sex partners of individuals giving birth can also apply for an extension.

Are Letters of Intent Required? Sometimes a letter of intent is requested by the funding opportunity announcement as a way for NIH staff to begin planning for the review of your application. We encourage you to submit the letter of intent. However, NIH welcomes your application even if you chose not to submit the letter.

Looking for Submission Policies? Do you know whether NIH ever accepts a late application, what to do when a due date falls on a holiday or weekend, what the NIH policy is on accepting materials after application submission and before review? Before you hit submit, check out the Submission Policies page for answers to questions you may have.

New “All About Grants” Podcast on Managing Conflicts of Interest in Peer Review: In this next installment of the NIH’s All About Grants podcast series, we talk about how NIH manages conflicts of interest to ensure that we maintain integrity throughout the peer review process. Sally Amero, Ph.D., NIH’s Review Policy Officer,
joins us and explains why it is important to manage these conflicts, what is and is not a potential conflict, how to disclose conflicts, and who is involved throughout the peer review process.

**NIH Guide LISTSERV:** Subscribe to Weekly TOC E-mail with New NIH Guide Postings. Signing up for the guide ensures that you will receive important NIH announcements directly to your inbox.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION/WEBINARS

**NCURA Executive Shadow Program:** The 2019-2020 Executive Shadow Program (ESP) is now accepting applications. Region I members in good standing will have an opportunity to witness the business and programmatic aspects of running Region I activities by "shadowing" in a non-voting capacity up to three Advisory Committee meetings over the course of a year, normally January through December. Identifying and recruiting future leaders for Region I is a priority. By providing Region I members with an informal exposure to the inner-workings of the region, ESP is intended to inspire Region I members to volunteer for key leadership positions. We look forward to your applications! To apply, please click here: [NCURA Executive Shadow Program Application Link](#). For questions or additional information please contact [pdc@ncuraregioni.org](mailto:pdc@ncuraregioni.org). Application Deadline: Friday, December 6, 2019

**NCURA Mentor Program:** The 2019-2020 Mentor Program is now accepting applications. Apply today at: [NCURA Mentor/Mentee Application Link](#). Background: Volunteer mentors and mentees are matched based upon criteria such as specific area of interest, institution type, years in research administration, and goals. Once matched, the flexibility of the program allows the mentor and mentee to coordinate the collaboration that works best for them. Benefits: The program provides a unique and rewarding opportunity for seasoned professionals in the field of research administration to share their knowledge and experience with colleagues who are newer to research administration. Mentors may provide information related to networking opportunities as well as advice and guidance with respect to professional and career development. For questions or additional information please contact [pdc@ncuraregioni.org](mailto:pdc@ncuraregioni.org). Application Deadline: Friday, December 6, 2019

### NOTABLE DATES/EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

GrantGPS will be hosting a NIH and a NSF grant-writing seminar in mid-December. Both will be led by John Robertson, PhD, of Grant Writers’ Seminars and Workshops (GWSW). The NIH event will be held on December 12, 2019 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, in Oopik Auditorium. The NSF event will be held December 13, 2019 from 8:30
am to 12:00 pm in Room 201 in the Life Sciences Center. Register at: NIH and NSF Seminars Registration Link.

NCURA FRA & PRA 2020
March 2-3, 2020 (FRA) in San Juan, Puerto Rico
March 4, 2020 Shared Workshop Day
March 5-6, 2020 (PRA) Register Here
Region I FRA / PRA Travel Award Nominations Due December 13, 2019

2020 NCURA Region I Recognition Award Nominations: You can make nominations starting now for Recognition Awards to be awarded at the Region I 2020 Spring Meeting in Newport, Rhode Island. Nominations will be accepted for the following awards: (1.) The Julie T. Norris Distinguished Service Award; (2.) Merit Award; (3.) Outstanding New Professional Award; (4.) Outstanding Volunteer Award. Submit your nomination packet here: Recognition Award Nominations Packet Link. Nominations for the Region I Recognition Awards are due March 27, 2020.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

NIH and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced plans to investment at least $100 million each over the next four years toward an ambitious goal to develop affordable, gene-based cures for sickle cell disease (SCD) and HIV. Because SCD and HIV disproportionately affect populations living in Africa or of African descent, the collaboration will focus on aligning research efforts to develop gene-based curative therapies that can be delivered safely, effectively and affordably anywhere around the world, including in low-resource settings. The collaboration sets a bold goal of advancing gene-based cures to clinical trials in the United States and relevant countries in sub-Saharan Africa within the next seven to 10 years.

The U.S. Air Force Research Lab Summer Faculty Fellowship Program offers hands-on exposure to Air Force research challenges through 8- to 12-week research residencies at participating Air Force research facilities for full-time science, mathematics, and engineering faculty at U.S. colleges and universities. Application deadline: November 29, 2019.

ARMI | BioFabUSA Fall 2019 Project Calls: This fall there are three, an Education & Workforce Development Project Call, a Technical Project Call, and a Project Call for demonstration tissues for the BioFabUSA Tissue Foundry.

Damon Runyon Launches New Quantitative Biology Fellowship Award: Biologists are increasingly required to not only work at the lab bench, but also to mine vast amounts of data to find the valuable clues that will address key challenges in cancer research and patient treatment. To proactively address this need, Damon Runyon has created a new
funding mechanism designed to encourage quantitative scientists (trained in fields such as mathematics, physics, computer science, engineering, and others) to pursue research careers in computational biology. Application deadline: December 10, 2019.