POLICY AND SPONSOR UPDATES

**Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity:** NIH’s mission is to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and to apply that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability. To achieve this mission, NIH substantially invests in research to improve public health; it also devotes substantial resources to identify, develop, support and maintain the quality of its scientific resources, including human capital.

**New NIH "FORMS-F" Grant Application Forms and Instructions:** This notice informs the biomedical and health services research communities of changes to grant application form and application guide instructions for due dates on or after May 25, 2020.

**Why NIH is beefing up its data sharing rules after 16 years:** The U.S. National Institutes of Health last week released a draft policy that will require all investigators with NIH funding to make their data sets available to colleagues.

**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.

**NSF Fall Grants Conference Webcast:** Missed last week's recent NSF Grants Conference in Boston? Watch the webcast.

**Standard federal grant application seen as defense against foreign influence:** University administrators have long advocated for uniformity among grant applicants to federal agencies for the sake of efficiency. Lawmakers now see a standard application as a way to protect the integrity of grantmaking against foreign influence by making it easier to spot those who may be trying to game the system.

**Despite political turmoil, global scientific collaboration continues to flourish:** Connections prove resilient as researchers circumvent geopolitical obstacles.

**Google health-data scandal spooks researchers:** Scientists fear the controversy over the Nightingale project will undermine trust in research.

**European data privacy law affecting health research:** The European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation has stymied a long-standing diabetes study funded by the
National Institutes of Health. NIH cannot guarantee that protections for health data provided by Finland will meet the law’s requirements.

**NCURA Podcast:** Data Driven Decision Making and Strategic Planning

Check out NCURA’s Changing Landscape: [Issues Impacting the Research Community](#).

**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: NCURA Region I Recognition Award Nominations Packet Link. Nominations are due March 27, 2020.

NCURA 62nd Annual Meeting of the Membership
Sunday, August 09, 2020 - Wednesday, August 12, 2020

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CZI's Neurodegeneration Challenge Network Collaborative Pairs RFA: Join a webinar at 12:00pm on December 4, 2019 to hear about a new CZI funding opportunity to support interdisciplinary collaborative research on neurodegenerative disease. The Neurodegeneration Challenge Network Collaborative Pairs RFA is the next phase of CZI's Neurodegeneration Challenge Network and provides support for 18-month pilot projects that aim to explore innovative, interdisciplinary approaches for addressing key challenges in the biology of neurodegenerative diseases. Successful pilots will be eligible to apply for additional four-year project development grants.

Research Seed Funding Opportunity 2020: The purpose of the NH BioMade Research Seed Funding Opportunity is to expand research capacity at the state’s academic institutions by providing support for faculty and post-doctoral associates at universities,
four-year colleges, or community colleges to pursue research questions related to the NH BioMade focus areas but the topic does not have to adhere to NH BioMade’s four research thrusts. Also, New Hampshire companies may collaborate with academic researchers on a research project and/or apply for use of core facilities through these seed 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.

**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.