POLICY AND SPONSOR UPDATES

Final Report on Reducing Administrative Burdens Associated with Research Involving Laboratory Animals (by Mike Laue): We are pleased to announce that last month the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published their final report on Reducing Administrative Burden for Researchers: Animal Care and Use in Research (NOT-OD-19-136). This report, called for in the 21st Century Cures Act, is the culmination of more than two years of diligent work to address inconsistent and overlapping policies governing oversight of research involving animals, while ensuring research findings remain credible and research institutions safeguard animal welfare. Full article

Seeking Comments on Using Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources for NIH-Supported Research (by Mike Lauer): NIH is currently accepting public comments on the use of standards for capturing, integrating, and exchanging clinical data for research purposes (NOT-OD-19-150). This is a great opportunity to hear more from the community on ways to strengthen approaches that find, share, and access high-quality patient data, while also making it more interoperable and reusable. Such goals align with long-standing NIH data sharing policies and what was also called for in a related NIH strategic plan on data science. Continue reading

New “All About Grants” Podcast on Letters of Support: In this next installment of the NIH’s All About Grants podcast series, Cathleen Cooper, Ph.D., who directs the NIH’s Center for Scientific Review’s Division of Receipt and Referral, joins us to talk all about letters of support. Hear what information should be included in these letters, what should not, how they differ from other letters submitted as part of an application, and more. Listen here

When in Doubt, Reach Out: When you can’t find what you need online, don’t hesitate to reach out to NIH staff. Often, the best folks to talk to will be in one of the NIH institutes or Centers. The Contacting Staff at the NIH Institutes and Centers page can help you understand the roles of NIH staff and help you contact the right person at each phase of the application and award process. More here

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. Here
CONTINUING EDUCATION/WEBINARS

Best Practices for Competitive Grant Applications: NIH Funding for Research & Career Development Activities
October 11, 2019, 12:00-4:30pm Register here

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 here

NCURA FRA & PRA 2020
March 2-3, 2020 (FRA) in San Juan, Puerto Rico Pre-Register here
March 4, 2020 Shared Workshop Day
March 5-6, 2020 (PRA) Pre-Register here

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

NIAID Announces Priority Disciplines for Mentored Research Scientist Development (K01) Award: Beginning with the October 12, 2019 application due date, NIAID will support K01 awards only in the areas of epidemiology and data science. More information

The Michelson Prizes: The Michelson Prizes are $150K annual scientific awards that support young investigators applying disruptive research concepts and inventive ideas to significantly advance the discovery of vaccines and immunotherapies for major global diseases. The Michelson Prizes are a $20 million initiative of the Michelson Medical Research Foundation and the Human Vaccines Project to support young researchers with potentially transformative ideas for vaccine and immunotherapy discovery. Applications Due: October 31, 2019 Apply here
Letters of Intent are being accepted through Tuesday, November 12, at 5 pm Central Time, for applications to the American Heart Association’s Health Technologies and Innovation Strategically Focused Research Network. Letters of Intent are required. Invited full application submissions will be due by Tuesday, January 7, 2020. The awards will begin on April 1, 2020. “Health Technologies” are broadly defined and refer to the application and utilization of organized knowledge and skills, including but not limited to, systems, structures, procedures, software, algorithms, digital health content, hardware and devices developed to solve a health problem and/or improve quality-of-life. These technologies may be used by any stakeholder or set of stakeholders in the healthcare and health and well-being ecosystem, including but not limited to patient/public, providers, payers, regulators, quality monitors and industry. A network is comprised of three to five institutions, or centers, working on projects focused on one strategic area that can assist the AHA in reaching its overall mission to be relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives. Please visit the Strategically Focused Research Networks page for full details.

The NIH Loan Repayment Program (LRP) application cycle opened this year on September 1 and closes on November 15. LRP awardees can receive up to $100,000 of qualified educational debt repayment with a two-year contract. Approximately 1,500 researchers benefit from the more than $70 million the NIH invests each year, so encourage them to apply! We really appreciate the support you've given LRP applicants over the years. Visit the Research Supervisor/Mentor webpage and review the LRP Application System Guide for more information about your role in the LRP process.

The Cancer Research Institute is requesting letters of intent for its Technology Impact Award. The program is designed to encourage collaboration between technology developers and clinical cancer immunologists in addressing the gap between technology development and clinical application of cancer immunotherapies. The ultimate aim of this program is to advance technologies that can speed up the entire field’s efforts in addressing one of the most defining challenges of our time—developing immunotherapies that are effective for all cancer patients. LOI Deadline: November 15, 2019 Apply here

Request for Applications, Single-Cell Analysis of Inflammation: Knowing more about inflammation will increase our understanding of many diseases and improve our ability to cure, prevent, or manage them. The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative invites applications from collaborative teams to carry out two-year pilot projects that will
accelerate inflammation research. Teams of two to three researchers can request up to $175,000 in total costs per lab. Application Deadline: November 19, 2019. Full details here

**Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology (PRFB):** The Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) awards Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology (PRFB) to recent recipients of the doctoral degree for research and training in selected areas supported by BIO and with special goals for human resource development in biology. Full Proposal Deadline Date: November 19, 2019. Details here

**Looking for Funding Opportunities?** Check out our online funding opportunity database, InfoEd SPIN. Sign up for an account and receive automatic funding alerts in your area of interest. Contact OSP for training and questions.