RESEARCH TOWN HALL

Sandra A. Brown
Vice Chancellor for Research

April 9, 2020
The Current Situation
Dr. Chip Schooley

• Globally: Rising case count driven by US and Europe: 1,502,618
• Nationally: 432,554 cases (>1/3rd in New York)
  – Expect the disease now to shift to the Southeast and mid-west
• California: 19,063 cases (#4 in US) but with a much flatter curve
• San Diego: reasonably “spared” so far
  – 1530 reported cases, 36 deaths
• UC San Diego
  – Very steady at 13 – 21 inpatients for ~3 weeks
  – Peak likely to be a mesa rather than a mountain and will likely come in next 1 – 3 weeks
• Social distancing is working.
Elizabeth H. Simmons
Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Margaret Leinen
Vice Chancellor for Marine Sciences
Director of Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Research Continuity

**Guiding Principle:** To maintain and protect the health of our community and its members, while maintaining research activity

**Procedures:**

- Modify all research to reduce on-site activity, presence of staff
  - Reduce on-site activity to focus on “critical” research, no more than 1–2 persons on site, or (at most) <15% of normal staff density
  - Comply with CDC guidelines regarding physical distancing and sanitization of common workspaces

*Update and resubmit on-site activity plans to department chair if change in personnel or activity*
Reminders about on-site research

- Personnel should always be kept to a minimum (both at one time, and over time)

- Sanitize regularly (shared equipment as well as doorknobs, light switches, counters, railings, chairs … anywhere people regularly touch)

- Students (graduate and undergraduate) should not be in research facilities unless required to complete their research

Thank you!
• No immediate need to submit amendments due to COVID–19 adjustments
  – Guidelines available at https://irb.ucsd.edu

• Guidelines for clinical trials
  – Interventional clinical trials (as defined by FDA) with therapeutic intent for drugs and devices
    • Reduction of face-to-face activity is required
    • Continue treatment and safety monitoring as per protocol
    • New enrollment allowed for serious or life-threatening diseases
  – Other clinical trials research
    • Activity for current participants must be remote/virtual
    • Enrollment of new participants allowed only if 100% remote

• Social and behavioral human subjects research can proceed and enroll new participants, provided that all activity can be conducted remotely.
Animal Care Program: Operations

Phil Richter

- Animal housing locations remain fully operational.
- ACP providing full husbandry and research support, and after-hours emergency response.
- Research laboratory personnel continue to access animal facilities as needed.
- Vivarium SOPs are designed to prevent viral/microbial contamination and cross-contamination.
- ACP has increased the frequency of decontamination to minimize the potential for personnel exposure to SARS-CoV-2.
- Locations to support COVID-19 animal research are being discussed.
Supporting Research Staff

UC policy on job protection for career staff prevents layoffs for COVID-related reasons through June 30th.

- Enable research staff who cannot work on-site to contribute to research program by working remotely
- Underutilized staff may be temporarily assigned to work on other projects
- HR’s Temporary Work Opportunity Clearinghouse is a resource for non-academic staff

If grants/contracts expire or are depleted before June 30th, current terms of employment contract apply.

Supplemental funding from agencies may be available for some portion of these costs.
Funding Agency Flexibilities

Per OMB guidance, numerous federal agencies have adopted flexibilities for grants/cooperative agreements impacted by COVID–19. Examples include:

- Late proposal submissions
- No–cost extensions and prior approval requests
- Reporting obligations (progress, financial, etc.)
- Allowability of salaries, stipends and benefits (as allowed by UC Policies)
- Travel costs (non–refundable costs associated with travel)
- Supplemental funding requests

More information is available at
blink.ucsd.edu/go/ocqa-covid19-sponsors
blink.ucsd.edu/go/ocqa-covid19-federal
blink.ucsd.edu/go/ocqa-covid19-at-a-glance-federal
Track all COVID-19 related expenses

Track and document all expenses caused by or related to the pandemic
• For potential reimbursement from FEMA (if eligible)
• For potential reimbursement through agency supplements

Example: Updated NIH Guidance addresses costs associated with donating NIH-funded research supplies to meet emergency needs, such as PPE donated to hospitals
• grant recipients may rebudget to repurchase supplies,
• use unobligated balances, or
• submit administrative supplement requests
but NIH can only provide additional funds to support supplies that are directly charged to the project(s)
COVID-19 Emergency Legislation

Angela Diaz

- $3B+ allocated for vaccine, therapeutic and diagnostics R&D, including $826 million for NIH (Phase 1).
- Federal research agencies received funding to expand COVID-19 related research: NIH $945.5M; NSF $75M; DoE Office of Science $99.5M (Phase 3).
Outstanding Areas of Concern

Funding: Additional funding to assist research institutions in addressing costs related to the forced suspension/slowdown of federally supported research (workforce, institutions, students)

Administrative Burden: Consistent flexibilities for grant recipients affected by the COVID-19 crisis (short term relief for administrative, financial management, and audit requirements) (3/19/2020 OMB Memo)

Timely Disbursement of Federal Funds

Advocacy with Members of Congress continues
Covid-19, SARS-CoV-2 Research Portal

https://blink.ucsd.edu/research/covid-19/research-ops.html
On-campus networks

- **Earth2.0 CO-RESPOND** is a UCSD-based program to support *front line clinicians and researchers*; and for *multidisciplinary teams to work on rapid-response solutions* to the COVID-19 crisis. [earth2-covid.ucsd.edu](http://earth2-covid.ucsd.edu)

- **San Diego Covid REsearch Enterprise Network (SCREEN)** is a grassroots-driven, multi-institutional effort (UC San Diego, the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, Scripps Research, San Diego State University, the Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute, La Jolla Institute for Immunology, Rady’s Children Hospital, and many biotech and technology collaborators) to coordinate research and connect researchers. ([https://screencovid.info](https://screencovid.info))

- A variety of **clinical trials** are beginning – connect to these, and to a **Biospecimen Repository** through ACTRI
Funding Opportunities (federal, private)

Current RFPs  [https://blink.ucsd.edu/research/covid-19/research-ops.html#Research-Opportunities](https://blink.ucsd.edu/research/covid-19/research-ops.html#Research-Opportunities)

A sampling:

**DoD**: Newton Award for Transformative Ideas ($100k, deadline May 15th)

**DoE**: RfI for scientific questions re: Covid-19 that researchers may answer using DoE facilities and infrastructure (rolling)

**NASA**: Making Innovative Use of Satellite Data ($100k, through March 2021)

**NIH**: Competitive Revisions to address SARS-CoV-2 at numerous institutes

**NSF**: RAPID grants (up to $200k, rolling deadline)

**Russell Sage Foundation** (social sciences, $175k, May 21st)

Contact RPDS for support on large, complex proposals, and for direction to other campus resources for proposal-development assistance  [researchdevelopment@ucsd.edu](mailto:researchdevelopment@ucsd.edu)
Funding Opportunities (UC)
Miroslav Krstic

UCOP: Emergency Covid–19 Research Seed Funding
rolling deadline, $25k cap, first come–first served ($2M fund)

UCSD Seed Grants: One-time, non-renewable awards of $5K for six months
One-page abstracts due April 16, 11:59 pm, via https://ucsd.infoready4.com

- Pandemic modeling and analysis
- High performance computing consortium
- AI and machine learning
- Materials and manufacturing to address supply chain issues
- Clinical and surveillance testing issues
- Medical therapeutics

Contact RPDS for support on large, complex proposals, and for direction to other campus resources for proposal-development assistance researchdevelopment@ucsd.edu
We're distancing, but ready to help

All UC San Diego research offices are open and ready to assist you:

- ACTRI
- Animal Care Program
- HSSPPO
- Human Research Protections Program
- Office of Contract and Grant Administration
- Office of Innovation and Commercialization
- Office of Postdoctoral and Research Scholar Affairs
- Office of Research Affairs
- Research Compliance and Integrity
- SIO-Office of Contract and Grant Administration

Contact us at research@ucsd.edu or 858-534-9758
Questions?

Among those on the webinar ready to answer questions are:

EVC Elizabeth Simmons, VC Margaret Leinen, Dr. Chip Schooley, Provost Leslie Carver, Dean James McKerrow, SAVC Miroslav Krstic

Animal Care: Phil Richter
EARTH 2.0 Co-Respond: Linda Hill
EH&S: Lance Scott
Government Relations: Kaitlin Chell, Angela Phillips Diaz
Graduate Division: Judy Kim
Innovation & Commercialization: Paul Roben

IRB: Kip Kantelo
Research Compliance & Integrity: Angie McMahl
Research Proposal Development: Sharon Franks
SCREEN Network: Rob Knight, Gene Yeo
Sponsored Program Offices: Linda Collins, Frank Truong, Erika Wilson

Please use Q&A button on the bottom of your webinar screen
Exceptions to on-site activity reduction

All on-site activity is and will continue to be reduced, but somewhat higher-than-recommended activity is permitted, following departmental approval, when:

• Curtailment of activity would jeopardize the health of human participants (in clinical trials involving FDA-regulated interventions treating serious or life-threatening diseases) or animals
• Study is near completion, and requires near-full staff to complete
• Suspension or curtailment of activity would seriously jeopardize the entire project (loss of subjects in longitudinal study, missing measurement of rare events, etc.)
• Research requires collection or maintenance of critical materials that cannot be replaced (cell lines or biospecimens) or research equipment
• Research is directed at responding to the COVID-19 pandemic