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### MOOR Updates – Brian J. Day, PhD



The COVID-19 pandemic has brought many changes in our personal and professional routines. I want to give an update to all our scientists as our research endeavors begin the process of recovery. During the social distancing and stay-at-home period, our scientists and clinicians have made great strides in the battle against COVID-19.

Our genetics and diagnostic laboratories have generated an in-house COVID-19 molecular assay for viral RNA defining viral presence and an antibody test to define immune status. A number of our clinical scientists have begun sample collection from COVID-19 infected subjects. A shout out to Drs. Janssen, Make, Bowler, Horn, Wechsler, Finigan, Groshong and the Biobank staff to make this happen. These samples will be a boon for research into

COVID-19 mechanisms of infection, disease and treatment. We are also involved in several interventional clinical trials for novel therapeutic to treat COVID-19.

Numerous grants have been submitted over the last two months, considering the large number of IRRs I have processed. The grants office and DOM have gone to an electronic IRR signature process to speed the process. Our superb Administrative Staff has also stepped in to help Grants Administration process the large volume of grant applications. A reminder to our researchers that the grant writing workshop is available via ZOOM to help on grant proposals.

In my conversations with Program Officers at NIH HLBI they are urging any applications in response to the COVID-19 Administrative Supplement notice to get their proposals in before May 15<sup>th</sup>. Administrative supplements are funded on a first-come, first-served basis. I expect there will be many applications, and waiting may mean that all funds could be already committed. If anyone needs extra support on grant applications, please let me know and I can work on additional administrative support. As a reminder, all COVID-19 related research proposals need to go through Dr. Gerber and Downey's COVID research committee for pre-approval.

All of our research seminars will continue. Until the COVID pandemic subsides, seminars will switch to a ZOOM format with individual ZOOM times to meet with the speaker after the talk. MOOR will continue to provide research infrastructure in the upcoming fiscal year and the section heads will give program updates next month.

DOM has put in place some measures to help with the financial toll the COVID-19 has placed on our institution. All new expenditures on AEF, fund-30 and recruitment funds are being held. Emergency requests for use of these funds will be considered on a case-by-case basis. All requests should be submitted to me and require approval by our Chair. *New expenditures on extramural grant funding sources are not being restricted and do not require pre-approval.* We have also postponed implementing the Research Compensation Plan.

These measures have been undertaken with the guiding principle of preserving jobs during these uncertain and trying times. MOOR is here to help our science and scientists move toward our new normal. If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to me or the Section Heads.

### NEW NIH Funding Opportunities

Following is a special selection of new NIH funding opportunities, announced since April 27, 2020.

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| To view any of these opportunities, visit: <a href="https://grants.nih.gov/searchGuide/search_guide.cfm">https://grants.nih.gov/searchGuide/search_guide.cfm</a> |   |
| <b>National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases</b> - <a href="#">2 new entries for NIAID</a>   | <b>National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute</b> <a href="#">2 new entries for NHLBI</a>                  |
| <b>National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences</b> – <a href="#">2 new entries for NIEHS</a>   | <b>National Institute of Nursing Research</b> <a href="#">0 new entries for NINR</a>                      |
| <b>National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences</b> - <a href="#">0 new entries for NCATS</a>  | <b>National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health</b> – <a href="#">0 new entries for NCCIH</a> |

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| <b>National Institute on Aging</b><br><a href="#">0 new entries for the NIA</a> | <b>National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases – 1 new entry for NIDDK</b>      |
| <b>National Cancer Institute</b><br><a href="#">0 new entries for NCI</a>       | <i>Apply for any of these opportunities with our <a href="#">Grant Writing Workshops program</a></i> |

**Administrative Pro News – New Support Staff!** – *Irena Bjelanovic, Manager*



Please welcome Nanette Grivetti to our DOM Administrative Professionals Team! Nanette started on April 1, 2020 in the role of the Sr. Administrative Professional for Dr. Irena Petrache, Chief of Pulmonary, Sleep and Critical Care Medicine. Nanette has over 15 years of project management experience at various international organizations which include oil, telecom and money transfer. Most recently, she held the role of Assistant Global Brand Manager at Western Union. Nanette’s responsibilities included identification of business requirements of services, products, marketing, sales and core internal divisions. Additionally, she was

responsible for Design & Copy Innovation, business development and revenue generation. Prior to the role, she was the Sales Coordinator/Executive Assistant at Time Warner Telecom, where she supported the EVP of National Sales, Sr. VP of Marketing, VP of Communication Service Providers, and several National Sales Directors.

Nanette is thrilled to be on the NJH team! She’s looking forward to meeting everyone in person when the current situation allows.