

SPHHP Research Activities Newsletter

University at Buffalo

October 2019

IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to the Following Awardees!



Gregory Homish, Professor and Interim Chair of Community Health and Health Behavior, is Co-PI on a new award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Contact PI: Linda Kahn, Family Medicine) for the project entitled, *A Rigorous Evaluation of the Opioid Intervention Court Strategy- A Public Health Response*. The study will evaluate the nation's first "public health court" known as the Opioid Intervention Court (OIC) model, which was designed to get non-violent users into treatment within hours of their arrest, instead of weeks. The OIC was established in Buffalo, NY in May 2017 and has served as a catalyst for other localities to adopt an infusion of public health approaches into the drug court response.



David Hostler, Professor and Chair of Exercise & Nutrition Sciences, is PI on a new award from the Trustees of Indiana University/NIOSH for the project entitled, *Occupational Safety and Health Research*. The project will examine if the occupational heat stress and dehydration exposures encountered by American workers are capable of eliciting acute kidney injury, placing them at risk of developing chronic kidney disease. **Jennifer Temple**, Associate Professor of Exercise & Nutrition Sciences, is Co-Investigator.



John Violanti, Research Professor of Epidemiology and Environmental Health, is PI on a new award from the Icahn School of Medicine Mount Sinai/NIOSH for the project entitled, *Mortality among WTC Rescue and Recovery Workers*. Analyzing a combined database comprising three World Trade Center (WTC) cohorts, the study will examine the association between WTC exposure and mortality of WTC workers. The study also will provide information about the best methodology to quantitatively assess the effects of disasters on mortality of exposed individuals.

GRANT CLINIC

NIH Extramural Repayment Loan Programs (LRPs) Application Period is Open 09/01/19 – 11/15/19

The LRPs are a set of programs established by Congress and designed to recruit and retain highly qualified health professionals into biomedical or biobehavioral research careers. The NIH invites qualified health professionals who contractually agree to engage in NIH mission-relevant research for an average of at least 20 hours each week for at least two years, initially, to apply for an award in the Extramural LRP. The award will repay up to \$50,000 annually of a researcher's qualified educational debt. Research funding from NIH is not required to participate in the Extramural LRPs. Additional information about each LRP is provided [here](#).

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All About Letters of Support (NIH podcast, September 23, 2019)

Who should provide a letter of support?

NIH expects letters of support to come from people who are actively participating in the projects. Generally, this includes collaborators and people who are identified in the application as senior key persons.

What kind of content should be included?

NIH is looking for content such as: what are the expectations for co-authorship; what are the rules that have been established between the collaborators for sharing reagents and other things, are they exclusive to the collaboration or is it something that the collaborator is widely sharing with everybody in the field, and this distinction is very important for determining conflict of interest.

NIH also is looking for rates of charge if it is a consultant, and if someone is depending upon a core facility, do they have free access to the core and is there a fee for service.

What should not be included?

“Cheerleading letters” – these are the types of letters submitted by people who are not participating in the project and they’re talking about how important the field is, how important the work is to the field, or what a great PI the PI is. These types of letters have the potential to bias the review and should not be included.

“Overstuffing” – including information that belongs in the page-limited research strategy (i.e., discuss background and significance of the field; methods, preliminary data, a response to reviewer’s critique (all are examples of information NIH has seen in letters of support).

Are Letters of Support reviewed during the peer review process?

Letters are important in peer review for a couple of reasons: 1. to establish that someone is participating in the work and what the terms of the relationship are; 2. to determine whether there is a conflict of interest. Letters of support are carefully scrutinized by review staff, to identify any kind of relationships between the support-writer and any of the reviewers which could potentially review the application.

Tips and Tricks: Only submit the letters you need; stay on topic; put the correct information in the right letter; and confine letters to talking about collaboration in terms of the collaboration. NIH will withdraw the application if there is extra information in the letters.

NIH Notices

[NOT-CA-20-001](#)

Pre-Application Webinar for RFA-CA-19-064, Improving the Reach and Quality of Cancer Care in Rural Populations

The NCI will hold a pre-application webinar on Thursday, November 7th, from 3:00pm – 4:00pm ET. NCI staff members will explain the goals and objectives for the FOA and answer questions from webinar attendees. Potential applicants should submit their questions by November 4th to NCIHDRP@mail.nih.gov. Pre-registration is required through Webex (please refer to the Notice for the link). Specific webinar information will be provided upon registration.

Notices of Special Interest

If you will be applying under any of the special interest topics listed below, please indicate so, including the NIH Notice number, in the Comments box of the RAS Questionnaire. The RAS staff will ensure that this information is included with the application to NIH.

[NOT-DK-19-019](#)

Nutrigenetics and Nutrigenomics Approaches for Nutrition Research

The National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) is particularly interested in nutrigenetic and nutrigenomic-based mechanistic studies of interaction and competition between nutrient-nutrient, nutrient-drug, dietary supplements, and probiotics/prebiotics on host-microbial metabolism, immunologic/inflammatory signaling, neuro-hormonal pathways and target tissues [including bio-availability, absorption, transport, metabolism and excretion studies] that impact the basic fundamentals that will eventually lead to a better understanding of the gut brain function in health promotion and disease prevention. This Notice applies to due dates on or after February 5, 2020. The following funding opportunity announcements must be used for submissions for this initiative: PA-19-055; PA-19-056; and PA-18-330.

[NOT-HL-19-711](#)

Epidemiologic Studies to Characterize Cardiovascular Health and its Predictors and Trajectories in Diverse Groups of Children

The purpose of this initiative is to stimulate and support novel epidemiological research that assesses cardiovascular health, its trajectory during childhood and its relationship to adult disease. Currently there is evidence that CVD starts early in life, however metrics for ideal cardiovascular health (ICVH) during key pediatric developmental periods is limited.

This initiative will help to define those metrics and lay a foundation to support integration of clinical, population, and mechanistic behavioral studies to provide early information on the predictors of CVH. Research supported by this initiative will leverage existing resources, address disparities in cardiovascular health and enhance the careers of early stage investigators by supporting focused analytic and ancillary study collaborative opportunities. This Notice applies to due dates on or after February 5, 2020. Applications submitted in response to this Notice must be submitted through the parent announcement, PA-19-056.

Notices of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement

[NOT-AA-19-026](#)

Impact of Alcohol on the Onset and Progression of Alzheimers Disease and Its Related Dementias (R01) – clinical trial optional; estimated release: January 2020; expected due date: April 2020

[NOT-OD-20-005](#)
[NOT-OD-20-006](#)

Pathway to Independence Award in Tobacco Regulatory Research (K99/R00); estimated release: March 2020; expected due date: July 2020.

NIH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

REQUESTS FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)

November Due Dates

[RFA-CA-19-039 \(U01\)](#) – clinical trial optional

Early-Stage Development of Informatics Technologies for Cancer Research and Management

This FOA invites applications for the development of enabling informatics technologies to improve the acquisition, management, analysis, and dissemination of data and knowledge across the cancer research continuum and focuses on early-stage development from prototyping to hardening and adaptation. **Application Due Date:** November 20, 2019

[RFA-CA-19-040 \(U24\)](#) – clinical trial optional

Advanced Development of Informatics Technologies for Cancer Research and Management

This FOA focuses on emerging informatics technology, defined as one that has passed the initial prototyping and pilot development stage, has demonstrated potential to have a significant and broader impact, has compelling reasons for further improvement and enhancement, and has not been widely adopted in the cancer research field.

Application Due Dates: November 20, 2019

[RFA-CA-19-041 \(U24\)](#) – clinical trial optional

Sustained Support for Informatics Technologies for Cancer Research and Management

The focus of this FOA is on sustaining operations and improving the user experience and availability of existing, widely-adopted informatics tools and resources. This is in contrast to early-stage and advanced development efforts to generate these tools and resources that are supported by the companion FOAs. **Application Due Dates:** November 20, 2019

[RFA-AT-20-002 \(U54\)](#) – clinical trial required

Center of Excellence for Natural Product Drug Interaction Research

This FOA solicit applications for a Center of Excellence for Natural Product Drug Interaction Research to provide leadership in the study of natural product drug interactions. The ultimate goals of this program are to 1) clearly establish the clinical relevance of pharmacokinetic interactions from a select number of natural products, and 2) provide guidance and leadership to the broader research community on how best to research metabolism mediated drug interactions involving complex natural products. **Application Due Date:** November 22, 2019

[RFA-OD-19-029 \(R01\)](#) – clinical trial optional

The Intersection of Sex and Gender Influences on Health and Disease

This FOA invites applications on the influence and intersection of sex and gender in health and disease including: (1) research applications that examine sex and gender factors and their intersection in understanding health and disease; and (2) research that addresses one of the five objectives from Strategic Goal 1 of the new 2019-2023 [Trans-NIH Strategic Plan for Women's Health Research](#) "Advancing Science for the Health of Women."

Application Due Date: November 25, 2019

[RFA-HD-20-001 \(R24\)](#) – clinical trial not allowed

Data Sharing for Demographic Research Infrastructure Program

This FOA seeks applications to develop a research infrastructure to: promote data sharing; support the development of procedures and technologies for data sharing; disseminate best practices in data sharing; provide a resource that catalogs NICHD-funded data available for secondary analysis; and promote the secondary analysis of data collected through NICHD grants to research teams outside the original grantees. **Application Due Date:** November 29, 2019

December Due Dates

[RFA-HD-20-008 \(R61/R33\)](#) – clinical trial not allowed

Innovative Epidemiologic Approaches for Understanding Long-term Health Outcomes of HIV-exposed Uninfected (HEU) Populations

This FOA will support two-phased research applications to (1) demonstrate the capacity to enroll sufficient numbers of HIV-exposed uninfected (HEU) infants, children, adolescents, and/or young adults in the United States and/or international settings with high HIV burden, and then, to (2) utilize the established cohort to conduct innovative epidemiological approaches to assess health in these populations. **Application Due Date:** December 2, 2019

[RFA-ES-20-003 \(R01\)](#) – clinical trial not allowed

Pregnancy as a Vulnerable Time Period for Women's Health

The purpose of this FOA is to accelerate multidisciplinary research projects studying the effects of environmental chemicals on maternal physiology, and endocrine and metabolic functions during and shortly after pregnancy, as well as potential long-term maternal health effects caused by environmental exposures.

Application Due Date: December 6, 2019

[RFA-CA-19-054 \(U01\)](#) – clinical trial not allowed

Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network

This FOA invites multiple PD/PI applications for collaborative research projects using simulation and other modeling techniques for specific cancer types. The proposed research is expected to generate sophisticated, evidence-based decision tools that could inform international/national/regional/local decisions on the most efficient utilization of existing and emerging technologies and strategies for the control of cancer. **Application Due Date:** December 10, 2019

[RFA-NR-20-001 \(R01\)](#) – clinical trial optional

Strategies to Improve Health Outcomes and to Reduce Disparities in Rural Populations

This RFA encourages research to promote a greater understanding of the challenges faced by rural population groups, for the development (or adoption/adaptation) of evidence-based interventions that can reduce health risks faced by rural Americans. Both prevention and treatment interventions are needed to address rural health issues. Prevention strategies should address and measure reductions in risk factors and enhancement of protective factors, while treatment approaches would seek to measure and address amelioration of health in individuals living with existing conditions. **Application Due Date:** December 13, 2019

[RFA-AA-20-003 \(U01\)](#) – Research Projects, clinical trial not allowed

[RFA-AA-20-004 \(U24\)](#) – Administrative Resources, clinical trial not allowed

[RFA-AA-20-005 \(U24\)](#) – Research Resource, clinical trial not allowed

Consortium on the Neurobiology of Adolescent Drinking in Adulthood (NADIA)

These FOAs solicit research cooperative agreements as part of the Neurobiology of Adolescent Drinking in Adulthood (NADIA) consortium to elucidate persistent changes in complex brain function-behavior relationships following adolescent alcohol exposure. **Application Due Date:** December 18, 2019

January Due Dates

[RFA-CA-19-064 \(R01\)](#) – clinical trial required

Improving the Reach and Quality of Cancer Care in Rural Populations

This FOA encourages two types of applications: (1) observational research that includes intervention pilot testing to understand and address predictors of cancer care/treatment and outcomes in rural low-income and/or underserved populations; or (2) intervention research to address known predictors of cancer care/treatment and outcomes in rural low-income and/or underserved populations. **Application Due Date:** January 15, 2020

[RFA-DA-20-026 \(R01\)](#) – clinical trial not allowed

Targeting Inflammasomes in Substance Abuse and HIV

This FOA encourages research that will examine the involvement of inflammasomes in virus and drug-induced immune activation, as well as identify novel therapies to target inflammasome activation or suppression to treat neuroinflammation and immune dysregulation aroused in these processes. **Application Due Date:** January 15, 2020

[RFA-AG-20-031 \(R25\)](#) – clinical trial not allowed

Research Education: Short Courses on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias for the Behavioral and Social Sciences

This FOA supports short courses geared to behavioral and social scientists who have existing expertise in aging research and can make research contributions in Alzheimer's disease and Alzheimer's disease-related dementias (AD/ADRD) with additional knowledge about the disease and related research resources. **Application Due Date:** January 21, 2020

[RFA-AG-20-051 \(R01\)](#); [RFA-AG-20-050 \(R61/R33\)](#) – clinical trial required

Low Cost Detection of Cognitive Decline in Clinical Settings

These FOAs invite applications to pursue development and validation studies of cognitive screening instruments or assessments in clinical settings and to translate these screening and assessment tools into electronic health record (EHR) systems that can assist physicians in making clinically meaningful care recommendations for patients experiencing cognitive decline. **Application Due Date:** January 30, 2020

February Due Dates

[RFA-AG-20-037 \(R01\)](#); [RFA-AG-20-038 \(R21\)](#) – clinical trial not allowed

Dementia Care: Home – and Community-Based Services (HCBS)

These FOAs invite applications to examine the outcomes of care for persons with Alzheimer's disease and Alzheimer's disease-related dementias by identifying home- and community-based services used, as well as barriers to accessing these types of care and unmet needs of persons with AD/ADRD concerning care and services in these settings.

Application Due Date: February 3, 2020

March Due Dates

[RFA-DK-19-019 \(R01\)](#) – clinical trial optional

Food as Medicine: Food Insecurity and HIV-related Comorbidities, Coinfections, and Complications within the Mission of the NIDDK

This FOA seeks US domestic research projects that address how food insecurity effects HIV comorbidities, coinfections, and complications (CCCs) within the mission of the NIDDK. The approaches may address the pathways linking food insecurity and the development or exacerbation of CCCs; or they may evaluate the mechanisms whereby interventions that alleviate food insecurity improve CCCs. These mechanisms could be related to nutritional inadequacies or patient health-related behaviors. **Application Due Date:** March 9, 2020

Multiple Due Dates

[RFA-CA-19-042 \(UE5\)](#) – clinical trial not allowed

Informatics Technology for Cancer Research Education Resource

The UE5 awardee to be supported under this FOA will serve as an ITCR Education Resource for educational activities that will help their participants to enhance the use and usability of the informatics tools and other resources developed and supported by the ITCR program. The courses supporting education in cancer informatics should cover the variety of cancer research domains supported by ITCR tools (<https://itcr.cancer.gov/informatics-tools>).

Application Due Dates: December 19, 2019; July 31, 2020

[RFA-NS-20-008 \(R41/R42\)](#); [RFA-NS-20-010 \(R43/R44\)](#) - clinical trial required

[RFA-NS-20-009 \(R41/R42\)](#); [RFA-NS-20-011 \(R43/R44\)](#) – clinical trial not allowed

HEAL INITIATIVE: Development of Therapies and Technologies Directed at Enhanced Pain Management

These FOAs aim to speed scientific solutions to stem the national opioid public health crisis by supporting the development of therapies and technologies directed at enhanced pain management. They are focused on applications directed at improving pain treatment, including the development of new non-addictive medications and devices and objective pain measurement. In addition, NIH is interested in new screening tools and models focused specifically on pain and development of pain therapies. **Application Due Dates:** January 8, 2020, April 7, 2020, September 9, 2020, January 6, 2021, April 6, 2021, September 8, 2021, January 6, 2022, April 6, 2022, and September 8, 2022

[RFA-HL-19-025 \(K01\)](#) – clinical trial required; [RFA-HL-19-026 \(K01\)](#) – clinical trial not allowed

Mentored Career Development Award to Promote Faculty Diversity in Biomedical Research

Applications are invited to enhance the pool of highly trained investigators from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups underrepresented in research areas of interest to the NHLBI. These FOAs are targeted toward individuals whose basic, clinical, and translational research interests are grounded in the advanced methods and experimental approaches needed to solve problems related to cardiovascular, pulmonary, and hematologic diseases and sleep disorders in the general and health disparities populations.

Application Due Dates: February 11, 2020, October 9, 2020, February 11, 2021

[RFA-OD-19-028 \(R01\)](#) – clinical trial optional

Tobacco Regulatory Science

This FOA supports biomedical and behavioral research that will provide scientific data to inform regulation of tobacco products to protect public health. Research Projects must address the research priorities related to the regulatory authority of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Tobacco Products (CTP).

Application Due Dates: February 13, 2020, July 17, 2020, February 13, 2021

[RFA-HL-19-024 \(R25\)](#) – clinical trial not allowed

Short-Term Research Education Program to Increase Diversity in Health-Related Research

The over-arching goal of this program is to support educational activities that enhance the diversity of the biomedical, behavioral and clinical research workforce by providing research experiences and related opportunities that enrich the pool of individuals from nationally underrepresented groups who will be available to compete for research opportunities in the mission areas of importance to NHLBI.

Application Due Dates: February 26, 2020, September 10, 2020, February 26, 2021

[RFA-DA-19-019 \(R43/R44\)](#) – clinical trial optional

[RFA-DA-19-020 \(R41/R42\)](#) – clinical trial optional

America's Startups and Small Businesses Build Technologies to Stop the Opioid Crisis

These FOAs invite applications from US small business concerns to develop technologies to provide science-and research-based solutions to the opioid emergency. **Application Due Dates:** April 9, 2020, September 8, 2020, April 9, 2021, September 8, 2021

[RFA-CA-19-034 \(P20\)](#) – clinical trial optional

Feasibility and Planning Studies for Development of Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPOREs) to Investigate Cancer Health Disparities

The P20 grants will support feasibility and planning activities to build comprehensive cancer health disparities research programs. All applications must propose translational research that will contribute to improved prevention, early detection, diagnosis, and/or treatment of cancers found to disproportionately affect specific racial/ethnic minority populations. **Application Due Dates:** June 19, 2020, and October 18, 2020

[RFA-OD-19-022 \(R21\)](#) – clinical trial not allowed

Secondary Analyses of Existing Datasets of Tobacco Use and Health

This FOA supports research proposing the innovative analysis of existing (publicly available) nationally representative U.S. cross-sectional and longitudinal data, to investigate novel scientific ideas and/or to generate new models, systems, tools, methods, or technologies that have the potential for significant impact on biomedical or biobehavioral research in areas relevant to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) - Center for Tobacco Products (CTP).

Application Due Dates: July 20, 2020, March 8, 2021

[RFA-OD-19-021 \(R21\)](#) – clinical trial not allowed

Maximizing the Scientific Value of Existing Biospecimen Collections: Scientific Opportunities for Exploratory Research

This FOA invites applications to stimulate exploratory research relevant to the mission of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) - Center for Tobacco Products (CTP) using existing (publicly available) biospecimens currently stored in repositories in the United States. Research results from this FOA are expected to generate findings and data that are directly relevant in informing the FDA's regulation of the manufacture, distribution, and marketing of tobacco products to protect public health. **Application Due Dates:** August 7, 2020, March 8, 2021

[RFA-ES-19-011 \(R21\)](#) – clinical trial not allowed

Mechanism for Time-Sensitive Research Opportunities in Environmental Health Sciences

This FOA supports novel environmental health research in which an unpredictable event or policy change provides a limited window of opportunity to collect human biological samples or environmental exposure data. A distinguishing feature of an appropriate study is the need for rapid review and funding, substantially shorter than the typical NIH grant review/award cycle, for the research question to be addressed and swiftly implemented.

Application Due Dates: Monthly due dates starting November 1, 2019; please refer to the RFA.

Program Announcements Reviewed by an Institute (PAR)

[PAR-19-386 \(R01\)](#); [PAR-19-385 \(R21\)](#) – clinical trial not allowed

Environmental Risks for Psychiatric Disorders: Biological Basis of Pathophysiology

This FOA seeks to stimulate research to understand the biological basis by which environmental exposures alter brain and behavioral functioning to increase risk for psychiatric disorders with onset in late-childhood, adolescence or early adulthood. **Application Due Dates:** December 10, 2019; November 16, 2020; November 16, 2021

[PAR-19-373 \(R01\)](#) – clinical trials not allowed

[PAR-19-384 \(R01\)](#) – basic experimental studies with humans required

Research on Biopsychosocial Factors of Social Connectedness and Isolation on Health, Wellbeing, Illness, and Recovery

These FOA solicit research projects that seek to model or explain the underlying mechanisms, processes, and trajectories of social relationships and how these factors affect outcomes in health, illness, recovery, and overall wellbeing. **Application Due Dates:** March 17, 2020; March 17, 2021

[PAR-19-394 \(R36\)](#) - clinical trial not allowed

Aging Research Dissertation Awards to Increase Diversity

This FOA provides dissertation awards in all areas of research within NIA's strategic priorities to increase the diversity of the scientific research workforce engaged in research on aging and aging-related health concerns.

Application Due Dates: Standard dates apply; **Expiration Date:** January 8, 2023

[PAR-20-034 \(R01\)](#) - clinical trial optional

Fundamental Mechanisms of Affective and Decisional Processes in Cancer Control

This FOA encourages projects to generate fundamental knowledge of affective processes. Basic affective science projects should have key consequences for single (e.g., cancer screening) and multiple (e.g., adherence to oral chemotherapy regimen) event decisions and behaviors across the cancer prevention and control continuum.

Application Due Dates: Standard dates apply; **Expiration Date:** January 8, 2023

FOUNDATION FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

The Gates Foundation is inviting proposals for the latest round of [Grand Challenges Explorations](#). Applicants can be at any experience level; in any discipline; and from any organization. Applications are two pages and no preliminary data is required. Initial grants will be \$100,000 each and Phase I awardees may have one opportunity to apply for a follow-on Phase II award of up to \$1 million. The topic for Round 24 is Innovations for Improving the Impact of Health Campaigns.

Application Due Date: November 13, 2019

Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI)

HHMI is seeking creative and innovative scientists to join its [Investigator Program](#). Approximately 20 new Investigators will be selected through its national open competition to join the nearly 300 investigators who perform basic biological research across the nation. HHMI Investigators receive a seven-year appointment, which is renewable pending favorable scientific review. Candidates apply directly to HHMI and must hold a PhD and/or MD (or the equivalent); have a tenured or tenure-track position as an assistant professor or higher rank; have more than five but no more than 15 years of post-training, professional experience; and are the PI on one or more active, national peer-reviewed research grants with an initial duration of at least three years as of April 1, 2020. Finalist will be selected by the end of April 2021, with appointments starting as early as September 1, 2021. Applications are due March 18, 2020, 3PM EDT.

