

RCA UPDATE

March 30, 2020



NDSU Research Community:

On behalf of the RCA team, I want you to know that among all the recent changes to your work and personal lives, we all hope that you are finding a rhythm and structure to the new normal of your research activities. I also want you all to remember that as we move through this pandemic, we face and manage problems together, as a team. This is a core strength of NDSU and it means that if you're

facing something you can't see your way through, reach out. We're here to help.

We currently have a limited pool of funds available for equipment repair requests. These funds must be spent no later than June 15, 2020 so now is the time to submit your requests (see [below](#) for additional information).

One of the biggest drawbacks to working outside of this office is that I miss my daily interactions with each of you. Please feel free to update me on what's happening in your world and I will continue sharing what's happening at NDSU research via the RCA Update (which we will send on our regular schedule of every Monday). Keep innovating, researching, and wash your hands!

Kind regards,
Jane Schuh

Vice President
Research and Creative Activity



Cindy Eleson, a budget and program officer in the Office of Research and Creative Activity at NDSU, is the recipient of a 2020 NDSU Staff Recognition Award. The annual peer-nominated awards recognize staff members who have made an impact on the business of NDSU.

Cindy became the first hire at NDSU's newly formed American Indian Public Health Resource Center in 2014 after working 30 years in various roles in human services and in the support of people with developmental disabilities in Montana. In 2015, she joined the RCA Sponsored Program Administration team in her current role.

Cindy's role as a budget and program officer requires her to provide advice and guidance to faculty, researchers and staff in various areas including preparation of proposal budgets, verifying appropriate and allowable F & A rates, providing guidance on proposal routing and proposal application compliance, and helping researchers streamline and improve their proposal budget process.

One nominator commented how Cindy, "completes assigned tasks with care, attention to detail, and in a timely manner," how Cindy is a "shining star" in providing direct support, and how she serves faculty and researchers with excellence, integrity, and patience. The nomination also

stated that when a researcher walks into her office, their needs take priority and they receive Cindy's full attention. Given that the total of NDSU sponsored awards was more than \$67 million in FY 2019, the nominator highlighted Cindy's important impact and role in the university receiving these funds.

"I can't say enough good things about Cindy and all that she brings to the SPA team," said Val Kettner, associate vice president of sponsored programs at NDSU. "She always gives 100% and is willing to assist our faculty, staff and students in any way that she can. Cindy puts the needs of a principle investigator and their proposal first and her focus is on providing the best and most complete advice and service that she can. We are so fortunate to have Cindy as part of our team, and she is very deserving of this recognition."

Jane Schuh, Vice President of Research for the Office of Research and Creative Activity added, "Thank you Cindy for being such a fantastic reason to come to work every day. You are what makes NDSU great."

COVID-19 Guidance for researchers from the Sponsored Programs Administration (SPA), the Institutional Review Board (IRB), and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is available on the [RCA Website](#). As this situation is rapidly changing, please refer to the [NDSU COVID-19 Preparedness ad Response page](#) for additional information.

Event Cancellations

With NDSU's move to remote teaching and instruction for the remainder of the Spring semester, a number of events have been cancelled:

- **Proposal Development Program**
March 31, 2020; April 14, 2020
- **NDSU EXPLORE Showcase of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity**
April 22, 2020
- **How to Speak to Humans: A Workshop for Academics**
April 22, 2020

If you have questions about any of these cancellations, or if you would like assistance with proposal development, funding opportunities, or research communication, please contact us by email at: ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu.

March Issue: Research Development & Grant Writing News

The March issue of [*Research Development and Grant Writing News*](#) is now available to view. Use your NDSU login information to access this resource. Various topics are covered, including:

- The Power of Faculty Writing Groups for Reviewing Proposals and Overall Writing Improvement
 - Where's the Money? The State of US Science and Engineering 2020
 - How to Write Your Data Management Plan
 - Writing Better STEM Education Grants
 - Humanities and Arts Funding Opportunities and News
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DoD: Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program

The FY20 Defense Appropriations Act provides funding to the Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program ([PRCRP](#)) to support innovative, high-impact research into cancers **not** addressed in the breast, pancreatic, prostate, ovarian, kidney, lung, melanoma, and rare cancer research programs. To be considered for funding, applications for the FY20 PRCRP **must** address at least one of the FY20 PRCRP Topic Areas as directed by Congress:

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| • Bladder cancer | • Head and neck | • Neuroblastoma |
| • Blood cancers | cancers | • Pediatric, adolescent, |
| • Brain cancer | • Immunotherapy | and young adult |
| • Colorectal cancer | • Liver cancer | cancers (PAYAC) |
| • Esophageal | • Mesothelioma | • Pediatric brain tumors |
| cancer | • Metastatic cancer | • Stomach cancer |

It is central to the vision and mission of the PRCRP that applications address how the proposed research is related to military health, mission readiness, and the cancer health needs of both deployed and non-deployed military personnel, their dependents, Veterans, and other military beneficiaries (i.e., family members of retirees). The FY20 PRCRP requires all applications to answer at least one of the following Military Health Focus Areas:

- Environmental/exposure risk factors associated with cancer
- Mission Readiness
 - Gaps in cancer prevention, early detection/diagnosis, prognosis, and/or treatment that may affect the general population but have a particularly profound impact on the health and well-being of military Service members, Veterans, and their beneficiaries.
 - Gaps in quality of life and/or survivorship that may affect the general population but have a particularly profound impact on the health and well-being of military Service members, Veterans, and their beneficiaries.

For more information, and to view all available funding mechanisms under this program, visit the [PRCRP website](#).

Gates Foundation: Grand Challenges

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's [Grand Challenges](#) family of initiatives fosters innovation to solve key global health and development problems. Grant applications are still being accepted for the following Grand Challenges and Grand Challenges Explorations initiatives.

Accelerating Discovery for Non-Hormonal Contraceptives: This program seeks new approaches and concepts for the characterization of contraceptive drug targets, the identification of active contraceptive compounds, and the establishment of novel and impactful research tools with the potential to revolutionize the field of contraceptive R&D and yield substantially improved contraceptives that better meet women's needs. Please see the announcement [blog](#).

Improving Access to and Use of Safe and Appropriate Cesarean Section:

This program seeks ideas for interventions to address challenges related to cesarean section: increasing access to cesarean section where it is currently inadequate, increasing quality and safety of cesarean section to reduce iatrogenic harm to both mothers and newborns, and reducing rates of non-medically indicated cesarean section.

Innovations in Materials Science for a Transformative Menstrual Health and Hygiene Product:

This program seeks transformative and innovative ideas to support the design and development of a new menstrual health and hygiene product that meets key criteria of being responsive to user needs, focusing on discreetness, affordability, and sustainability.

Innovations for Improving the Impact of Health Campaigns: This program seeks innovative solutions that accelerate the improvement of coverage, reach, efficiency, and effectiveness of campaign-based delivery of health interventions.

On the Foundation's website, you can read summaries of the [grants](#) funded to date across the Grand Challenges family of initiatives and explore an [interactive world map](#) of projects across the global Grand Challenges funding partner network. You can also [sign up](#) for email updates with the latest opportunities.

Application Deadline: April 22, 2020

HHS Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) Broad Agency Announcement (BAA)

The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) is investing in an array of medical countermeasures to diagnose, treat, or protect against the 2019 novel coronavirus under the [BARDA Broad Agency Announcement \(BAA\)](#). Specifically, BARDA is pursuing the following products or technologies: Diagnostic assays for human pan-coronaviruses; Point-of-Care diagnostic assays for SARS-CoV-2 virus; Diagnostic assay to detect COVID-19 disease; Vaccines for novel coronavirus; Therapeutics for novel coronavirus; Ventilators; Immunomodulators or therapeutics targeting lung repair; Pre-exposure and post-exposure prophylaxis for novel coronavirus exposure; Respiratory protective devices; and Advanced Manufacturing Technologies.

Hillman Foundation: Innovative Nursing-Driven Solutions

With the goal of improving patient care in hospitals, clinics, homes, and communities, the [Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation](#) supports nurse-led healthcare innovation and research. The Foundation welcomes applications for its [Emergent Innovation Program](#), which seeks to accelerate the development of bold nursing-driven interventions targeting the needs of vulnerable populations. Through the program, grants of \$50,000 will be awarded in support of early-stage (pre-evidence or untested) innovations that address health and healthcare problems in new ways.

Priority will be given to proposals that include one or more of the following: the engagement of patients, families, caregivers, and/or community organizations; inter-professional or multidisciplinary collaboration; institutional and community partnerships; and the provision of care in non-hospital settings.

The Foundation believes that transformative ideas are as likely to come from small community care settings as they are from major academic research centers and thus supports innovations from a range of institutions, care settings, and practitioners (including postdocs, adjunct faculty, and interdisciplinary faculty).

Letter of Intent deadline: April 27, 2020.

Invited Full Proposal deadline: July 20, 2020.



NSF DCL: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

With this [Dear Colleague Letter](#) (DCL), the National Science Foundation (NSF) is accepting proposals to conduct non-medical, non-clinical-care research that can be used immediately to explore how to model and understand the spread of COVID-19, to inform and educate about the science of virus transmission and prevention, and to encourage the development of processes and actions to address this global challenge.

NSF encourages the research community to respond to this challenge through [existing funding opportunities](#). In addition, NSF invites researchers to use the Rapid Response Research (RAPID) funding mechanism, which allows NSF to receive and review proposals having a severe urgency with regard to availability of or access to data, facilities or specialized equipment as well as quick-response research on natural or anthropogenic disasters and similar unanticipated events. Requests for RAPID proposals may be for up to \$200K and up to one year in duration. Well-justified proposals that exceed these limits may be entertained. All questions should be directed either to a program officer managing an NSF program with which the research would be aligned or to rapid-covid19@nsf.gov.

Through a second [Dear Colleague Letter \(DCL\)](#), the Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure (OAC) within the Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering is inviting RAPID proposals and supplemental funding requests to existing awards that address COVID-19 challenges through data and/or software infrastructure development activities. Such activities would be funded by the [Computational and Data-Enabled Science and Engineering](#)

[\(CDS&E\) program](#) or the [Cyberinfrastructure for Sustained Scientific Innovation \(CSSI\) program](#).

Proposals in response to this DCL and the NSF DCL on COVID-19 ([NSF 20-052](#)) may also request the use of NSF-funded advanced computing resources such as [Frontera](#), [Stampede2](#), [Bridges](#), [Comet](#), and [JetStream](#). To ensure availability of these computing resources, investigators must contact OAC prior to submission of the proposal.

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NSF DCL: Request for Information on Future Topics for the NSF Convergence Accelerator and Call for Future Topics Conference Proposals

This [Dear Colleague Letter \(DCL\)](#) replaces [NSF 19-065](#), which was a Request for Information (RFI) on Future Topics for the NSF Convergence Accelerator for FY2020.

The purpose of this RFI and call for future topics conference proposals is to seek input from global industry, institutions of higher education (IHEs), non-profits, government entities, and other interested parties on potential NSF Convergence Accelerator tracks for FY 2021.

Potential NSF Convergence Accelerator tracks for FY 2021 can be related to [Industries of the Future \(IoT\)](#), [NSF's Big Ideas](#), or other topics, that may not relate directly to an IoT or Big Idea, but nonetheless have the potential for significant national impact. Ideas suggested in response to this RFI should be similar in breadth to [NSF 19-050](#) tracks, which are broad enough to each support a set of related research teams working together as a cohort.

Note that this RFI does not invite research proposals, though the process itself may result in the identification of potential topics for future research funding opportunities. Respondents to this RFI may submit their ideas and they are highly encouraged to also submit conference proposals to develop and refine those ideas so as to incorporate convergence research, breadth, and collaboration among key stakeholders from industry, IHE's, non-profits, government entities, and other interested parties.

NSF: Future Manufacturing

The goal of this solicitation [[NSF 20-522](#)] is to support fundamental research and education of a future workforce that will enable Future Manufacturing: manufacturing that either does not exist today or exists only at such small scales that it is not viable. Future Manufacturing will require the design and deployment of diverse new technologies for synthesis and sensing, and new algorithms for manufacturing new materials, chemicals, devices, components and systems. It will require new advances in artificial intelligence and machine learning, new cyber infrastructure, new approaches for mathematical and computational modeling, new dynamics and control methodologies, new ways to integrate systems biology, synthetic biology and bioprocessing, and new ways to influence the economy, workforce, human behavior, and society.

Among this array of technologies and potential research subjects, three thrust areas have been identified for support in FY 2020 under this solicitation:

- **Future Cyber Manufacturing Research,**
- **Future Eco Manufacturing Research,** and
- **Future Biomanufacturing Research.**

This solicitation will support the following three award tracks:

- **Future Manufacturing Research Grants (FMRG)** - Two types of awards will be supported in FY 2020:
Type I: \$500,000 to \$750,000 per year for up to five years,
Type II: \$750,000 to \$2,000,000 per year for up to five years;
- **Future Manufacturing Seed Grants (FMSG)** - Awards in this track will provide support for up to two years at a level not to exceed \$250,000 per year; and
- **Future Manufacturing Networks (FMNet)** - Awards in this track will provide up to five years of support at a total amount of \$500,000.

Interdisciplinary teams commensurate with the scope of the proposed research, education plan, and budget are required. Proposals must include demonstrated

expertise among the team members to carry out the proposed research, education, and workforce development activities. The use of a convergence approach is expected.

An investigator may be a PI, co-PI or Senior Personnel on only one proposal in each track (FMRG, FMSG, and FMNet).

Letter of Intent Deadline: April 10, 2020

Full Proposal Deadline: June 5, 2020



RCA Equipment Repair Fund

The Research and Creative Activity Office has a limited pool of funds available for equipment repair requests. In the request, please include details of the equipment to be repaired, its use (departmental, college, institution-wide), and an estimate/quote of the repair cost. For departmental/unit requests, priority will be given to equipment that is used by multiple researchers and that has a match of at least 33%. For Service/Recharge Centers and Core Facilities, priority will be given to requests that have at least a 50% match. Funds must be spent no later than June 15, 2020.

Requests that are for preventive maintenance and calibration, capability upgrades, or new equipment purchases are not eligible.

Please submit your request to Becky Hellman Tangen (becky.hellman@ndsu.edu).



RCA Research Support Services

Funds of up to \$1,000 may be requested to help defray the costs of support services required for research, creative, or scholarly activity. For example, funds may be used in one of the NDSU Core Facilities, another recharge/service center, or for transcription services. All funds must be spent by June 15, 2020.

[More information and application instructions >>](#)



Russell Sage Foundation: Social, Political, Economic, or Psychological Disruptions of COVID-19

Because of the effects of COVID-19 on all facets of American life, the Russell Sage Foundation (RSF) is changing its immediate priorities for letters of inquiry (LOI) for the May 21, 2020, deadline. For this deadline, RSF will only consider LOIs that satisfy at least one of the following criteria:

1. The research is so timely and time-sensitive that the project must start before April 1, 2021; or,
2. the research analyzes social, political, economic, or psychological disruptions resulting from the coronavirus crisis that affect social and living conditions in the United States.

All LOIs must focus on issues related to the Foundation's core program areas and special initiatives: Behavioral Economics; Decision-Making and Human Behavior in Context; Future of Work; Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration; Social, Political, and Economic Inequality.

Any LOIs submitted for the May 21 deadline must include an appendix of one or two pages that explains why the proposed research meets either or both criteria. This appendix does not count against the usual page limits for LOIs.

After the May 21 deadline RSF will return to standard practice, with RSF accepting LOIs in all programs and special initiatives for the August 5, 2020 deadline. Funding decisions for applications submitted in August will be made at the March 2021 board of trustees meeting according to its usual guidelines.



Spencer Foundation: Small Research Grants in Education

The Spencer Foundation [Small Research Grants Program](#) supports education research projects that will contribute to the improvement of education, broadly conceived.

This Program is "field-initiated" in that proposal submissions are not in response to a specific request for a particular research topic, discipline, design, or method. The goal for this program is to support rigorous, intellectually ambitious and technically sound research. The Foundation recognizes that learning occurs across the life course as well as across settings--from the classroom to the workplace, to family and community contexts and even onto the playing field--any of which may, in the right circumstance, provide the basis for rewarding study that makes significant contributions to the field. The Foundation values work that fosters creative and open-minded scholarship, engages in deep inquiry, and examines robust questions related to education. To this end, this Program supports proposals from multiple disciplinary and methodological perspectives, both domestically and internationally, from scholars at various stages in their career. Proposals are anticipated to span a wide range of topics and disciplines that innovatively investigate questions central to education, including for example education, anthropology, philosophy, psychology, sociology, economics, history, or neuroscience, amongst others.

The Foundation encourages rigorous research designs that sensibly investigate the focal phenomena with the appropriate partners and expertise. The Foundation expects and welcomes methodological diversity in answering pressing questions, and therefore is open to projects that utilize a wide array of research methods including quantitative, qualitative, mixed-methods, ethnographies, design-based research, participatory methods, and historical research, to name a few.

Deadline: July 1, 2020, 12pm (noon)

Have questions, ideas, or suggestions for the RCA Update?

[Contact Us](#)



The Office of Research and Creative Activity (RCA) sends weekly emails to NDSU faculty and staff to provide current information on various topics including funding opportunities, grant program changes, research resources, deadlines, notices, and training.

You are receiving this notification through the NDSU official employee listserv or sub-list. The official listserv refreshes after each pay period.

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