

RCA UPDATE

June 8, 2020

Funding Opportunity Edition

COVID-19 Guidance for researchers is available on the [RCA Website](#), including NDSU guidance for PIs, Federal Agency guidance, and Funding Opportunities. As this situation is rapidly changing, please refer to the [NDSU COVID-19 Preparedness and Response page](#) for additional information.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research

The Department of Defense (DoD) announces the fiscal year 2020 (FY20) [Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research \(DEPSCoR\)](#). The aim of DEPSCoR is to improve the research capabilities at institutions of higher education (IHE) in [eligible States/Territories](#) to perform competitive basic research in science and engineering that is relevant to the DoD mission and reflect national security priorities. The Basic Research Office anticipates approximately \$7.2 million in total funding will be made available for this program to fund approximately twelve (12) awards up to \$600,000 (total cost) each. Each award will be funded up to \$200,000 (total cost) per year for three (3) years in the form of a grant.

The FY20 DEPSCoR competition seeks proposals addressing multiple topic areas, including:

1. Cognitive and Computational Neurosciences
2. Materials with Extreme Properties
3. Computational Architectures and Visualization
4. Probability and Statistics
5. Molecular Structure and Dynamics
6. Social and Behavioral Science
7. Biotronics
8. Machine Learning, Reasoning, and Intelligence
9. Power Electronics & Electromagnetism, Adaptive & Machinery Controls and Advanced Machinery Systems

This funding opportunity aims to create basic research collaborations between a pair of researchers, namely 1) Applicant/Principal Investigator (PI), a full-time faculty member who has never served as a PI on a prior DoD-funded award and 2) Collaborator/co-Principal Investigator (co-PI) who will provide mentorship to the Applicant and has served as a PI on a DoD-funded research award actively between 1 October 2013 and 30 September 2020. Both investigators must be in a tenure-track or tenured position at an IHE in an eligible State/Territory.

Whitepaper Deadline: September 21, 2020

The University of South Dakota is hosting a DoD DEPSCoR Day in September. [Learn more >>](#)



Facebook: Agent-Based User Interaction Simulation to Find and Fix Integrity and Privacy Issues

Software systems increasingly support communities of users who interact through the platform, elevating the importance and impact of research on integrity and privacy. How do we ensure that such communities remain safe and their data remains private?

To tackle these challenges, Facebook is undertaking research and development on a Web Enabled Simulation (WES) system called WW. WW is a multiagent simulation that trains agents (bots) using automated learning and optimization to simulate the social behavior of a range of good and bad actors. The simulation aims to automatically find and fix integrity and privacy issues.

In this [Request for Proposals \(RFP\)](#), Facebook is particularly interested in research work that tackles these challenges and that could also lead to collaboration with our WW project. More details, including open research problems and challenges Facebook hopes to tackle in partnership with the scientific community, can be found in the keynote paper on the WES agenda and [WW project](#).

Topics of interest for this RFP include (but are not limited to):

- AI-assisted gameplay
- Causal inference
- Evolutionary computation
- Game theory, graph theory
- Information theory
- Machine learning
- Multiagent systems
- Predictive modeling
- Programming languages
- Search-based software engineering
- Simulation
- Software repository mining
- Software testing (in particular, social testing)

Application deadline: July 15, 2020



Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division BAA

The Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) is interested in [receiving proposals](#) for research and development projects which offer potential for advancement and improvement of NAWCAD operations. NAWCAD has identified the research needed to address the challenges, problems, and future technology needs of the Warfighter. Research Opportunity Areas of Interest:

- Systems Engineering
- Cost Analysis
- Air Vehicle
- Power and Propulsion
- Avionics
- Human Systems
- Weapons and Energetics Integration
- Support Equipment
- Warfare Analysis
- Research and Intelligence
- Test and Evaluation Engineering
- Modeling and Simulation
- Logistics
- Data Analysis
- Cyber

NAWCAD may also consider submissions outside these areas if the white paper/proposal involves the development of novel-based capabilities with potential to enhance naval capabilities.

This Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) is open and accepting white paper submissions until June 3, 2021.



NDSU Foundation: Impact Grants

The NDSU Foundation Grants Committee is now accepting applications for the Impact Fund Grant Program for the 2020 academic year. The NDSU Impact Fund

Grant Program provides funding for projects that make a significant impact on excellence and the educational experience for students at North Dakota State University. This program is supported by annual contributions from alumni and friends of the university.

Applications are accepted from faculty, staff, and recognized student groups. The Impact Grant Fund Program offers grants of \$20,000 to \$75,000.

The application form and additional information about the NDSU Impact Grant Program can be found at the NDSU Foundation website:

<https://www.ndsufoundation.com/impact-fund>.

For any further questions, please email Jennifer Reinhold, Grants Committee Liaison, at jennifer.reinhold@ndsufoundation.com.

Application deadline: July 27, 2020

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NEH: Summer Stipends

Limited submission grant programs are those that indicate a limit on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution for a particular deadline. A selection process becomes necessary if more applicants express interest in applying than NDSU is allowed to submit to the grant program.

NEH Summer Stipends: Pre-application due by 7/17/2020.

[Pre-application instructions >>](#)

NEH Summer Stipends support individuals pursuing advanced research that is of value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both. Recipients produce articles, monographs, books, digital materials, archaeological site reports, translations, editions, or other scholarly resources. Summer stipends:

- Are awarded to individual scholars
- Support continuous full-time work on a humanities project for two months
- Support projects at any stage of development

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NIH: Advancing Genomic Medicine Research (Clinical Trial Optional) (R21 and R01)

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) encourages applications that stimulate innovation and advance understanding of when, where, and how best to implement the use of genomic information and technologies in clinical care. Proposed projects should be broadly applicable to genomic medicine as a field, and yield findings of significance beyond a single disease, gene, or setting. Projects are strongly encouraged to include ancestrally diverse and underrepresented participants and populations.

- R01: [RFA-HG-20-036](#)
- R21: [RFA-HG-20-037](#)

Letter of intent deadline: July 3, 2020

Application deadline: August 3, 2020

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NIH: Bridges to the Baccalaureate Research Training Program (T34) - Limited Submission Program

[Limited submission grant programs](#) are those that indicate a limit on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution for a particular deadline. A selection process becomes necessary if more applicants express interest in applying than NDSU is allowed to submit to the grant program.

NIH Bridges to the Baccalaureate : [Notify RCA](#) by 7/15/2020, 4:00 p.m. if you are interested in submitting to this program.

The goal of the Bridges to the Baccalaureate Research Training Program [[PAR-19-299](#)] is to provide structured activities to prepare a diverse cohort of community college students to transfer to and complete a bachelor's degree in biomedical research fields. This funding opportunity announcement (FOA) provides support to eligible, domestic institutions to develop and implement effective, evidence-based approaches to biomedical training and mentoring that will keep pace with the rapid evolution of the research enterprise. NIGMS expects that the proposed research training programs will incorporate didactic, research, mentoring, and career development elements to prepare trainees to bridge from the community college and complete the bachelor's degree in biomedical fields.

The Bridges to Baccalaureate Research Training Program requires strong partnerships between community colleges (or two-year colleges) and four-year baccalaureate degree granting institutions. One partner must be an institution that offers the associate degree as the highest science degree. The other institution must be a college or university granting baccalaureate degrees in disciplines relevant to the biomedical sciences. Two different scenarios are anticipated for these partnerships: (1) one baccalaureate degree granting institution as the lead applicant institution partnering with one or more associate degree granting institutions, or (2) one associate degree granting institution as the lead applicant institution partnering with one or more baccalaureate degree granting institutions. An eligible applicant or partner institution may participate in more than one Bridges to the Baccalaureate Research Training Program partnership if the multiple partnerships are strongly justified by the potential to magnify the programs' and institutions' outcomes. However, an institution may be the lead in only one Bridges to Baccalaureate Research Training Program at one time. To reinforce the strong partnerships, the Bridges to Baccalaureate Research Training Program requires the participation of at least one Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) from each partner institution. The program does not support single institutions offering both associate and baccalaureate degrees where graduates or transfers from the associate degree programs enter the baccalaureate programs, even if the students are moving to another department, school, or college.

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NIH: Enhancing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Education Diversity (ESTEEMED) (R25)

The NIH Research Education Program (R25) supports research education activities in the mission areas of the NIH. The overarching goal of this R25 program is to support educational activities that encourage individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups underrepresented in the biomedical and behavioral sciences, to pursue further studies or careers in research

To accomplish the stated over-arching goal, this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) ([PAR-20-223](#)) will support creative educational activities with a primary focus on ***Courses for Skills Development*** and ***Research Experiences*** for undergraduate freshmen and sophomores from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups underrepresented in bioengineering or

STEM fields relevant to bioengineering, such as engineering or the physical/computational sciences, which play key roles in biomedical technologies and innovation. The ESTEEMED program is intended to expose students to bioengineering research early in their college careers and interest them in potentially pursuing advanced studies in bioengineering or a related field. It will prepare students to join, in their junior and senior years, an honors program, supported by federal or institutional funds, that promotes STEM and entrance into a Ph.D. program. The ultimate goal is for the participants to pursue a Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D. degree and a subsequent research career integrating engineering and the physical sciences with medicine and biology in academia or industry.

Application Deadline: July 24, 2020; June 24, 2021; June 24, 2022



NIH NOI: Community Interventions to Address the Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic for Health Disparity and Vulnerable Populations (R01- Clinical Trial Optional)

The National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), with the other participating NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices (ICOs), intends to promote a new initiative by publishing a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) to solicit research to evaluate community interventions testing

1. the impacts of mitigation strategies to prevent COVID-19 transmission in NIH-designated health disparity populations and other vulnerable groups; and
2. already implemented, new, or adapted interventions to address the adverse psychosocial, sociocultural, behavioral, and socioeconomic consequences of the pandemic on the health of these groups.

This FOA will utilize the R01 activity code. Researchers will be encouraged to partner with community organizations, health service providers, public health agencies, policymakers, and other stakeholders to prepare and submit applications. This notice is provided to allow potential applicants sufficient time to develop meaningful collaborations and responsive applications. The FOA is expected to be published in June 2020 with an expected application due date in July 2020.

[Read the full Notice of Intent \(NOI\) >>](#)



NIH NOI: Digital healthcare interventions to address the secondary health effects related to social, behavioral, and economic impact of COVID-19 (R01 - Clinical Trial Optional)

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) with other Institutes and Centers are issuing this Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) to promote new initiatives that will solicit applications to support research to determine the role and impact of digital health interventions [e.g., mobile health (mhealth), telemedicine and telehealth, health information technology (IT), wearable devices] to address secondary health effects of the social, behavioral, and economic changes following the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly among populations who experience [health disparities](#) and vulnerable populations.

This FOA will utilize the R01 activity code and academic researchers will be required to partner with digital health developers and/or existing well-established digital health delivery platforms to prepare and submit applications. This notice is provided to allow potential applicants sufficient time to develop meaningful collaborations and responsive applications. The FOA is expected to be published in June 2020 with an expected application due date in July 2020.

[Read the full Notice of Intent \(NOI\) >>](#)



NSF / NIH: Research at the Interface of Biological and Mathematical Sciences (DMS / NIGMS)

The Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS) in the Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS) at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) plan to support fundamental research in mathematics and statistics necessary to answer questions in the biological and biomedical sciences. Both

agencies recognize the need to promote research at the interface between mathematical and life sciences. This program ([NSF 20-575](#)) is designed to encourage new collaborations, as well as to support innovative activities by existing teams.

The joint DMS/NIGMS initiative offers two submission tracks:

- Track 1 is for projects of high-risk, high-reward exploratory projects, or projects from new teams of collaborators. The total budget can be up to \$600,000 and the award duration is 3 years.
- Track 2 is for projects of large scope from well-established teams. The total budget can be up to \$1,200,000 and the award duration is 3-4 years.

Submission Window: September 1-18, 2020



NSF / USDA: Plant Biotic Interactions

The Plant Biotic Interactions (PBI) program ([NSF 20-576](#)) supports research on the processes that mediate beneficial and antagonistic interactions between plants and their viral, bacterial, oomycete, fungal, plant, and invertebrate symbionts, pathogens and pests. This joint National Science Foundation / USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NSF/NIFA) program supports projects focused on current and emerging model and non-model systems, and agriculturally relevant plants. The program's scope extends from fundamental mechanisms to translational efforts, with the latter seeking to put into agricultural practice insights gained from basic research on the mechanisms that govern plant biotic interactions. Projects must be strongly justified in terms of fundamental biological processes and/or relevance to agriculture and may be purely fundamental or applied or include aspects of both perspectives. All types of symbiosis are appropriate, including commensalism, mutualism, parasitism, and host-pathogen interactions. Research may focus on the biology of the plant host, its pathogens, pests or symbionts, interactions among these, or on the function of plant-associated microbiomes. The program welcomes proposals on the dynamics of initiation, transmission, maintenance and outcome of these complex associations, including studies of metabolic interactions, immune recognition and signaling, host-symbiont regulation, reciprocal responses among interacting species and mechanisms associated with self/non-self recognition such as those in pollen-pistil interactions. Explanatory frameworks should include molecular, genomic, metabolic, cellular, network and organismal processes, with projects guided by

hypothesis and/or discovery driven experimental approaches. Strictly ecological projects that do not address underlying mechanisms are not appropriate for this program. Quantitative modeling in concert with experimental work is encouraged. Overall, the program seeks to support research that will deepen our understanding of the fundamental processes that mediate interactions between plants and the organisms with which they intimately associate and advance the application of that knowledge to benefit agriculture.

Proposals accepted anytime.



NSF DCL: Engineering Research to Advance Solutions for Environmental PFAS

With this [Dear Colleague Letter \(DCL\)](#), the Environmental Engineering program in the Division of Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, and Transport Systems (CBET) in the Directorate for Engineering (ENG) announces a special funding focus on new science and technologies for the treatment and remediation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to improve and protect public and environmental health. Priority topics for this special funding focus include:

- Research that enables the development of technologies for mitigation, remediation, and/or treatment of PFAS in the environment;
- Research that elucidates the underlying limitations of PFAS transformation reactions that could lead to potentially transformative, feasible technologies for PFAS remediation; and
- Research that identifies biological, chemical, and/or physical reaction mechanisms for the treatment of fluorotelomer-based fluorosurfactants in AFFFs and other products.

Individuals interested in submitting a proposal relevant to this special funding focus are strongly encouraged to contact the cognizant Program Officer(s) for the [Environmental Engineering program](#).



NSF: Division of Integrative Organismal Systems Core Programs

The Division of Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS) **Core Programs Track** ([NSF 20-536](#)) supports research aimed at understanding why organisms are structured the way they are and function as they do. Proposals are welcomed in all of the core scientific program areas supported by the Division of Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS). Areas of inquiry include, but are not limited to, developmental biology and the evolution of developmental processes, nervous system development, structure, modification, function, and evolution; biomechanics and functional morphology, physiological processes, symbioses and microbial interactions, interactions of organisms with biotic and abiotic environments, plant and animal genomics, and animal behavior. Proposals should focus on organisms as a fundamental unit of biological organization. Principal Investigators (PIs) are encouraged to apply systems approaches that will lead to conceptual and theoretical insights and predictions about emergent organismal properties.

The Rules of Life Track supports integrative proposals that span the subcellular and cellular scales normally funded by MCB to the organ, tissue, organismal, and group scale typically funded by IOS, to population, species, community and ecosystem scales typically funded by DEB. Rules of Life proposals may also include enabling infrastructure through joint submission with DBI. Discovery of fundamental principles and enabling infrastructure will advance understanding and further predict how key properties of living systems emerge from the interaction of genomes, phenotypes, and developmental, social and environmental context across space and time. This track provides opportunities to advance understanding of the Rules of Life by new mechanisms for review and funding of proposals that span two or more divisions in the Biological Sciences Directorate.

Proposals accepted anytime.



NSF: Inclusion across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science (INCLUDES) – Limited Submission Program

Limited submission grant programs are those that indicate a limit on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution for a particular deadline. A selection process becomes necessary if more applicants express interest in applying than NDSU is allowed to submit to the grant program.

NSF INCLUDES : Notify RCA by 6/22/2020, 4:00 p.m. if you are interested in submitting to this program.

The NSF INCLUDES Big Idea is a comprehensive national initiative to enhance U.S. leadership in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) discoveries and innovations focused on NSF's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and broadening participation in these fields. The vision of NSF INCLUDES is to catalyze the STEM enterprise to work collaboratively for inclusive change, resulting in a STEM workforce that reflects the population of the Nation. More specifically, NSF INCLUDES seeks to improve collaborative efforts aimed at enhancing the preparation, increasing the participation, and ensuring the contributions of individuals from groups that have been historically underrepresented and underserved in the STEM enterprise.

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NSF: Research Experiences for Teachers (RET) in Engineering and Computer Science – Limited Submission Program – Limited Submission Program

Limited submission grant programs are those that indicate a limit on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution for a particular deadline. A selection process becomes necessary if more applicants express interest in applying than NDSU is allowed to submit to the grant program.

NSF RET: Notify RCA by 7/1/2020, 4:00 p.m. if you are interested in submitting to this program.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experiences for Teachers (RET) in Engineering and Computer Science program [NSF 17-575] supports active long-term collaborative partnerships between K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering, Computer and Information Science, and Mathematics (STEM) in-service and pre-service teachers, full-time community college faculty, and university faculty and students to enhance the scientific disciplinary knowledge and

capacity of the STEM teachers and/or community college faculty through participation in authentic summer research experiences with engineering and computer science faculty researchers. The research projects and experiences all revolve around a focused research area related to engineering and/or computer science that will provide a common cohort experience to the participating educators. The K-12 STEM teachers and/or full-time community college faculty also translate their research experiences and new scientific knowledge into their classroom activities and curricula.

This announcement features two mechanisms for support of in-service and pre-service K-12 STEM teachers and full-time community college faculty:

1. **RET supplements:** RET supplements may be included outside this solicitation in proposals for new or renewed ENG and CISE grants or as supplements to ongoing ENG- and CISE-funded projects.
2. **RET Site awards:** New RET in Engineering and Computer Science Sites, through this solicitation, are based on independent proposals from engineering and/or computer and/or information science departments, schools or colleges to initiate and conduct research participation projects for K-12 STEM teachers and/or full-time community college faculty.

RET Sites proposal deadline: September 16, 2020



NSF: Research Experiences for Undergraduates

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program [[NSF 19-582](#)] supports active research participation by undergraduate students in any of the areas of research funded by the National Science Foundation. REU projects involve students in meaningful ways in ongoing research programs or in research projects specifically designed for the REU program.

This solicitation features two mechanisms for support of student research:

1. **REU Sites** are based on independent proposals to initiate and conduct projects that engage a number of students in research. REU Sites may be based in a single discipline or academic department or may offer interdisciplinary or multi-department research opportunities with a coherent intellectual theme. Proposals with an international dimension are welcome.

2. **REU Supplements** may be included as a component of proposals for new or renewal NSF grants or cooperative agreements or may be requested for ongoing NSF-funded research projects.

Deadline: August 26, 2020

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Pork Checkoff: Public Health Impacts of Live Swine Production

The Public Health Impacts of Live Production Task Force is requesting proposals in **PUBLIC HEALTH –COMMUNITY HEALTH**. All proposals submitted **must** address at least one of these specific research topics:

- Respiratory outcomes associated with swine production (listed in order of priority)
 - Conduct an occupational health study to determine the health outcomes associated with swine production with an emphasis on respiratory health outcomes
 - Determine via experimental methods and/or models the associations and mechanisms behind the community, respiratory health outcomes associated with swine production
 - Identify environmental sources associated with respiratory health outcomes in the community
- Mitigations
Identify technologies to measure, analyze, and/or eliminate environmental sources known or suspected to be associated with respiratory health outcomes. Provide evidence to suggest the association in your proposal

Novel approaches and concepts are encouraged. [More information and application instructions >>](#)

Letter of Intent deadline: June 30, 2020

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Sloan Research Fellowships - Limited Submission Program

Limited submission grant programs are those that indicate a limit on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution for a particular deadline. A selection process becomes necessary if more applicants express interest in applying than NDSU is allowed to submit to the grant program.

Sloan Research Fellowship: Notify RCA by 7/1/2020, 4:00 p.m. if you intend to apply. Interested faculty must include the name of the proposed nominator at time of notification.

The Sloan Research Fellowships seek to stimulate fundamental research by early-career scientists and scholars of outstanding promise. These fellowships are awarded yearly to researchers in recognition of distinguished performance and a unique potential to make substantial contributions to their field.

Candidates must hold a Ph.D. or equivalent degree in chemistry, computer science, economics, mathematics, molecular biology, neuroscience, ocean sciences, physics, or a related field.

In order to be considered for a Sloan Research Fellowship, a candidate must have a letter of nomination from a department head or other senior researcher. Submissions unaccompanied by a nomination letter from a senior researcher are not accepted. More than one candidate from a department may be nominated, but no more than three.

For more information, see the program FAQs.

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USDA-NIFA: Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative (AG2PI) focuses on collaborative science engagement and invites innovative research proposals that will lay the foundation for expanding knowledge concerning genomes and phenomes of crops and animals of importance to the agriculture sector of the United States. AG2PI supports multiple goals within the USDA Science Blueprint, USDA Innovation Agenda, the Genome to Phenome: USDA Blueprint for Animal Genomics Research, and relevant publicly initiated and led crop research initiatives to catalyze and coordinate research linking genomics and predictive phenomics to achieve advances that generate societal and environmental benefits.

Deadline: July 15, 2020



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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