2020 July

The OSD News Bulletin is an evolving platform that may include other features in the future. If you have any items that you would like to submit for our Congrats and Kudos section or if you would like to request specific items to be included in the bulletin, please contact Dr. Triesta Fowler at fowlerlt@nih.gov.

Mandatory Training Deadlines

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and Veteran Employment Training

July 30th is the deadline for all supervisors to complete the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and Veteran Employment Training. Please log in to LMS, enter the name of the training(s) into the search bar then register, launch and complete both courses by the end of the month.

Funding Opportunities

2020 Intramural Research Fellowship Awards

These research fellowships are specifically for NICHD intramural fellows within their second or third year of training, preparing them for the entire process of applying to an NIH grant. The applications should be prepared by the fellows, but mentors are expected to offer guidance and input throughout the writing process. A panel of our Board of Scientific Counselors and NICHD scientists will review all of the applications using the NIH scoring system. More information about the fellowship details can be found here: Intramural Research Fellowship (IRF).

The application deadline is Monday, September 14, 2020. The required application components are below:

- Biographical sketch for the fellow
- Specific Aims for 1 year of training
- Budget Justification
- Significance and Approach
- Statement of Support from the NICHD mentor

For applications that result in an award, the appointed lab will receive $25,000 for one fiscal year (FY2020) towards the fellow’s stipend, equipment, and/or travel to a scientific conference related to their proposed work. Up to four fellowships will be awarded for fiscal year 2020.

Please let Dr. Erin Walsh at erin.walsh@nih.gov know as soon as possible if you plan to apply.

Award Calls for Nominations

Call for Nominations

The NICHD Director’s awards recognizes individuals who have gone above and beyond in 2020 to advance NICHD’s mission. The NICHD Award Ceremony will be presented virtually on Tuesday, December 1st, 2020.

Nominations will be accepted for the following awards:

1. NICHD Merit Award: Recognizing excellent contributions in scientific, management, and administrative arenas.
2. NICHD Collaboration Award: Recognizing individuals at NICHD who have advanced the institute’s mission in tangible ways through successful collaboration with partners across NICHD or outside of the institute.
3. NICHD Mentor Award: Recognizing individuals at NICHD who have demonstrated significant dedication and ability in serving as a mentor.
4. NICHD Partnership Award: Recognizing individuals, groups, or organizations who have played a significant role in helping to advance NICHD’s mission or one or more specific institute activities.
5. NICHD Innovation Award: This award is designed to encourage innovation that results in programmatic improvements or cost savings which benefit the NICHD mission.
6. **NICHD Diversity Award**: This award will recognize employees who have made significant contributions in furthering the goals and objectives in the area of promoting diversity.

7. **NICHD Lifetime Achievement Award**: This award recognizes the career achievements of distinguished individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions to NICHD and NIH.

All staff members are encouraged to nominate employees, colleagues, or supervisors who fit into any of these that categories, including women, minorities, persons with disabilities, and employees representing all grades and occupations. Award nominations are due by Friday, August 14th via NIH's e-HARTS Awards Nomination System. Please visit the NICHD Insider for more information about the e-HARTS award system, information regarding award criteria, and instructions (PDF - 669 KB) for using the e-HARTS system. If you have any questions, please contact Deserae Philpott or Michele Rose at nichdawards@mail.nih.gov for additional information.

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**2021 Lurie Prize in Biomedical Sciences**

The Foundation for the National Institutes of Health is accepting nominations for its 2021 Lurie Prize in Biomedical Sciences. This recognizes outstanding achievement by a promising young scientist in biomedical research. Nominations can be made by any member of an accredited scientific/educational institution, including NIH. PIs are encouraged to nominate their promising colleagues.

**The nomination deadline is September 16, 2020.** Candidates must be 52 years of age or younger as of January 1, 2021. More information is available at https://fnih.org/what-we-do/programs/lurie-prize.

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### Lectures & Training Sessions

*Check back next month!*

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### Procurement Due Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dollar Thresholds</th>
<th>Deadline Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equipment, Supplies and Services $250,001 – $7.5M</td>
<td>5/22/2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>$25,001 – $250,000</td>
<td>6/19/2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>$15,001 – $25,000</td>
<td>7/17/2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>$10,001 – $15,000</td>
<td>8/7/2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>$10,000 and Less</td>
<td>8/21/2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>$5,000 and Less P-Card Only</td>
<td>Early September*</td>
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### Pertinent Notes & Dates

- **COVID Notes**
COVID-19 Self-assessment Reporting Tool

The NIH is launching a pilot self-assessment reporting tool utilizing the existing notification system, AlertNIH. This tool is an effort to promote a culture of safety as we return to the physical workspace and be compliant with the HHS instruction for employees, including contractors, to continuously self-monitor and self-assess for COVID-19 symptoms before entering their place of work.

Employees began to receive emails and text messages daily in the evening starting on Thursday, June 25, from "NIH COVID Self-Check (AlertNIH@athoc.nih.gov)" to all work and personal email and phone numbers on file. No phone calls will be sent. Employees are asked to respond for the next day, no matter what time their shift begins and whether they are scheduled to work. Employees are asked to self-assess for COVID-19 symptoms and reply with one of 3 responses:

1. I do not have symptoms and will report to work tomorrow
2. I have symptoms or recent exposure and will submit an OMS form
3. I will not be onsite tomorrow

If an employee answers yes to 'having symptoms' or 'recent exposure' with someone known or suspected of having COVID-19, they should not report to work, notify their supervisor, and fill out an Occupational Medical Service (OMS) screening form: [https://go.usa.gov/xvDRR](https://go.usa.gov/xvDRR).

Employees who want to confirm their contact information is up to date in AlertNIH, to include personal emails and phones numbers, should visit: [https://ww.ors.od.nih.gov/ser/alert/get-connected/Pages/update-ned.aspx](https://ww.ors.od.nih.gov/ser/alert/get-connected/Pages/update-ned.aspx).

To download the AlertNIH mobile app, search for "Blackberry AtHoc" in the Apple or Google Play Store. Register with your work email and use the Organization Code, "NIH".

If you are not already working on campus or part of Group A, and you receive the message in error, or if you are already working onsite or part of Group A and do not receive the message, please contact your ICO Emergency Coordinator. The coordinators can also help answer questions. A list of emergency coordinators can be found at: [https://www.ors.od.nih.gov/ser/alert/Pages/Emergency-Coordinators-by-InstituteCenter.aspx](https://www.ors.od.nih.gov/ser/alert/Pages/Emergency-Coordinators-by-InstituteCenter.aspx)

NIH Workforce COVID-19 Impact Survey

The NIH Workforce COVID-19 Impact Survey is now available and Dr. Collins is inviting all NIH staff—employees, contractors, students, fellows, and guest volunteers—to take the survey. A strong response rate including both positive and negative experiences will give important context about how COVID-19 has affected your work. The results will shape NIH’s efforts to mitigate the immediate and long-term impact of COVID-19 on our workforce and understand how best to support the NIH workforce during these unprecedented times.

The survey will be sent by email from Deloitte—the independent survey contractor—with a link that is unique to you so that you can complete the survey. The survey will be sent from the email address "noreply@qemailserver.com" with an associated name, “NIH Workforce COVID-19 Impact Survey.”

Here are some important points about the survey:

- The survey should take no more than 20 minutes to complete.
- It is confidential and administered by a third party, who will share only de-identified survey data with NIH.
- You can take it at your convenience, including during work hours, on your mobile device or computer.
- The survey will close on July 28, 2020.

More information about the survey and how to take it is available on the survey webpage on the NIH Office of Scientific Workforce Diversity (SWD) website.

Presidential proclamation affecting Visiting Scientists in the NIH Visiting Program

Reminder to staff that they are expected to wear masks while on campus. This practice is a courtesy to your co-workers and is essential to safety of our community.

Those interested in a detail as a contract tracer in the Clinical Center should contact the OSD. Please secure the approval of your supervisor prior to volunteering. Note that this detail will entail a substantial full-time commitment, including a required training that is over a week.
On June 22, 2020, the United States Government announced a new proclamation suspending entry of certain H, J, and L Nonimmigrants. The proclamation was effective on June 24, 2020 and expires on December 31, 2020. The proclamation may be modified during this period as deemed necessary.

It suspends entry into the United States of anyone seeking H-1B (or H-4 dependent) status, J-1 status in certain categories, or L-1 status. Exceptions to the proclamation may apply, including for medical professionals working to combat COVID-19. DIS is monitoring the situation and will update the Visiting Program community of any changes as they occur. The Division of International Services/Office of Research Services will work with ICs and scientists impacted by this (and previous) proclamations and other travel restrictions.

**How to determine who this affects:**

*If you are currently in the U.S., this proclamation does not affect your current nonimmigrant status. You may continue to work/train at NIH and remain in the U.S. DIS does not recommend that you travel at this time. If you have an emergency situation, please contact us before making any travel plans.*

Current and prospective H-1B Employees and their H-4 dependents **outside** the U.S. face the greatest impact of this proclamation. H-1B nonimmigrants are unable to enter the U.S. unless falling under an exception. As mentioned above, if you are currently in the U.S., your H-1B nonimmigrant status is not affected at this time.

Current and prospective H-1B Employees and their dependents **inside** the U.S. are still eligible for extensions and changes of status.

- This means current H-1Bs are still eligible for extensions of H-1B status.
- Those holding alternate nonimmigrant status (e.g., J-1 or F-1) are still eligible to change to H-1B status from within the country.

**J-1 Research Scholar and Short-Term Scholar** categories are exempt from this proclamation. NIH sponsors primarily these two categories. If your J-1 status is sponsored by NIH, then you are not affected by this proclamation.

**J-1 Alien Physicians sponsored by ECFMG** are also exempt from this proclamation. Consult with DIS and ECFMG if you have questions.

F-1, O-1, TN, and other nonimmigrant status are not affected by this proclamation. The only other status that is specifically affected by this proclamation is L-1 status. NIH does not sponsor L-1 status.

Please note previous proclamations for travelers coming to the U.S. remain in effect, specifically from Brazil, the Schengen Area, United Kingdom, Ireland, China, and/or Iran. Additionally, the Department of State’s suspension of routine visa services implemented on March 18, 2020 remains in place.

This may be a challenging time for all of our Visiting Program participants. The Division of International Services is committed to assisting you during these unprecedented times. They can be contacted with any questions or concerns at DIS@mail.nih.gov or DIS staff is available by phone at 301-496-6166 during normal operating hours (M-F 8:30am-4:30pm EST). Message response times may vary, but responses are usually provided within one business day.

**Childcare Centers**

NIH childcare centers are preparing to develop plans for their re-opening. Updated information can be found on their website here: [https://www.ors.od.nih.gov/pes/dats/childcare/centers/Pages/centers.aspx](https://www.ors.od.nih.gov/pes/dats/childcare/centers/Pages/centers.aspx)

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**= NICHD Director’s Newsletter =**

*Current Edition of the NICHD Director’s Newsletter (July 2020)*

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**= DDIR Web Board =**

*Current Edition of the Deputy Director for Intramural Research’s Web Board*

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**= Trainee Highlights =**

For **Trainee Highlights**, check out this month’s fellows newsletter, *The NICHD Connection, Volume 11, Issue 122.*
A standing search committee, comprised of members from the DIR, DIPHR, and outside NICHD, evaluated candidates for three open Associate Scientific Director (ASD) and Deputy ASD positions that were advertised in April. Congratulations and welcome to the following individuals who have been appointed:

- **Els Serpe**: ASD for Administration and Budget
- **Yun-Bo Shi**: Deputy ASD for Administration and Budget
- **Harry Burgess**: Deputy ASD for Recruitment, Retention, and Diversity

Congratulations to **Dr. Philip Adams**, currently a postdoctoral fellow in the Storz lab, who has been selected as an Intramural Research Scholar (IRS).