NIH UNITE: Ending Structural Racism (ESR) Activities

The NIH UNITE initiative was established to identify and address structural racism within the NIH-supported and the greater scientific community. The ESR Intranet includes various resources like the Toolkit, Newsletter, FAQs, and other information. UNITE Milestones and Progress and the Co-Chairs Corner (public ESR webpages) are other avenues to stay informed on UNITE efforts.

Mandatory Training Deadlines

2022 Mandatory Research Ethics Training for all DIR Scientists

Annual Discussion of Research Ethics Cases (1 hour, facilitated at the affinity group or individual laboratory level) are required. Case studies are provided by Building 1 and can be found at https://oir.nih.gov/sourcebook/ethical-conduct/responsible-conduct-research-training/annual-review-ethics-case-studies. The 2022 theme is Use of Human Biospecimens and Informed Consent.

These sessions are facilitated at the affinity group or individual lab level (depending on the affinity group) and all facilitators are required to complete a Facilitator Training Session: Facilitator notes and information about the facilitator training sessions can be found at: https://oir.nih.gov/sourcebook/ethical-conduct/responsible-conduct-research-training/annual-review-ethics-case-studies/research-cases-use-nih-community#theme22, and the pdf document below.


The Office of Education will be tracking participation for this training as required by Bldg. 1, and our goal is to reach over 90% compliance within the DIR. After your session, please send Ms. Veronica Harker (veronica.harker@nih.gov) your attendance list (a template document is attached here). It should include the facilitator’s name, lab staff names and NED IDs, training date. All attendance sheets are due by December.

Funding Opportunities

Check back next month!
Faculty Training Opportunity

The Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE) and the Office of Intramural Research (OIR) have partnered to create workshops and other training activities to support NIH intramural investigators (PI) and staff as they manage and lead research groups. Trainings are open to all faculty including PIs, Staff Clinicians, and Staff Scientists. The curriculum for the 2022–2023 'academic' year can be found here: https://www.training.nih.gov/for_staff/trainingsupport/workshops_trainings.

Upcoming NICHD Training Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Training Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 Nov 2022</td>
<td>2022 NIH Anti-Harassment (No FEAR/POSH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09 Dec 2022</td>
<td>NIH Annual Ethics Training</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2022 Anti-Harassment Training (No FEAR/POSH)

Anti-Harassment training is mandatory for all NIH staff, trainees, fellows, and contractors. The NICHD deadline to complete this training is November 22, 2022.

The annual Anti-Harassment training requirement can either be met by utilizing the self-paced online 2022 Anti-Harassment training module, or by attending any of the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion’s (EDI) instructor-led training offerings. If you completed the No FEAR and POSH trainings in the 2022 calendar year either via the prior online module, an instructor-led class, or new employee orientation, you have already met the 2022 training requirement. You may review your Learning Management System training record or consult your ICO’s training coordinator to verify completion.

If you have any questions, please contact nichwdps@mail.nih.gov.

2022 NIH Annual Ethics Training

NIH requires all employees to complete Annual Ethics Training by December 9, 2022.

The training module contains several scenarios and hypothetical questions, providing a self-check of your understanding. You must complete the entire module through to the certificate page for your training to be automatically recorded in our database.

NOTE: NIH Employees, The HHS Annual Ethics Training does not satisfy the NIH requirement to take the NIH Annual Ethics Training.

Additionally, requirements differ depending on your status:

- Federal employees may launch the training from http://ethics.od.nih.gov/aet
- Non-federal employees are instructed to complete training (e.g., fellows and trainees hired under other mechanisms), navigate to http://ethics.od.nih.gov/aet to review instructions, and launch training module under the section titled: “All others, e.g., Non-FTE Fellows, Special Volunteers, Guest Researchers, etc.”
- Note: Training progress and completion are not tracked for non-government employees. If you exit the module before reaching the last training page, you will be required to start from the beginning.
- Contractors are not required to complete annual ethics training.

Upon completion, you will have the option to Print or Save a copy of the training certificate for your records. You do not need to forward your certificate to the NICHD Ethics Office.

If you have any questions, please contact nichwdps@mail.nih.gov.

NICHD Division of Intramural Research (DIR) Monthly Tenure-Track Investigator Virtual Symposia Series
The NICHD DIR Tenure-Track Investigator Virtual Symposia Series provides investigators with an opportunity to showcase their area of science to faculty, trainees, and staff at NIH. The next symposium, *Cryo-Electron Microscopy: A Powerful Tool in the Field of Structural Biology*, will be hosted by Doreen Matthies, PhD, on **November 10, 2022**, from 1 to 4 p.m. ET. Link: https://nih.zoomgov.com/j/1617965338

Speakers include:

- **Doreen Matthies, PhD**, NICHD, NIH, *Single-Particle Cryo-EM of Membrane Proteins*
- **Misha Kudryashev, PhD**, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, *Structure of Ion Channels in Lipids by Cryo-Electron Tomography*
- **Oliver Clarke, PhD**, Columbia University Medical Center, *Architecture of Erythrocyte Ankyrin-1 Complexes*
- **Edward Egelman, PhD**, University of Virginia, *Cryo-EM of Helical Polymers: From Biology to Materials and Soft Matter*
- **Elizabeth Villa, PhD**, University of California San Diego, *Opening Windows into the Cell: Bringing Structure to Cell Biology using Cryo-Electron Tomography*

NICHD’s DIR Tenure-Track Investigator Virtual Symposia Series provides investigators with an opportunity to showcase their area of science to faculty, trainees, and staff at NIH.

## Future Symposia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Host</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 8, 2022</td>
<td>Impact of social disadvantage on children’s diet and eating behavior</td>
<td>Hosted by Dr. Bobby Cheon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 12, 2023</td>
<td>Shared mechanisms in neurodegenerative disorders</td>
<td>Hosted by Dr. Claire Le Pichon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 9, 2023</td>
<td>Consequences of fetal growth restriction: child neurodevelopmental and postnatal growth outcomes</td>
<td>Hosted by Dr. Katie Grantz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 9, 2023</td>
<td>Bedside to bench in vascular anomalies</td>
<td>Hosted by Dr. Sarah Sheppard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13, 2023</td>
<td>Disentangling host-microbe interactions through the analysis of high dimensional multi-omics data</td>
<td>Hosted by Dr. Jamie Morton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### = Procurement Due Dates =

*Check back next month!*

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### = Pertinent Notes & Dates =

**Division of Scientific Equipment & Instrumentation Services (DSEIS) is closing**

As you may know, DSEIS provided rental, sales, repair, maintenance, etc. to the NIH community. Please be aware of the following dates:

- **Hard closure: January 1, 2023**

In the future, they will be offering remaining inventory at the Lab Managers List Serv and on the NIH Free Stuff website – [https://stuff.nih.gov/Pages/Home.aspx](https://stuff.nih.gov/Pages/Home.aspx)

**FAES Housing**

FAES Housing provides private, single occupancy bedrooms close to the NIH campus. Housing may be co-occupied by up to 5 visiting NIH researchers and scholars. FAES Housing communities offer a safe and supportive, collaborative environment to enhance your professional and personal development during your NIH assignment. To apply for FAES Housing, please complete the application and visit our website for more information about FAES Housing.

**Eligibility requirements for FAES Housing include:**

- You must be enrolled as a participant in an official NIH Fellowship or scholarship program. You will need a copy of your Fellowship Program Invitation in order to complete the FAES Housing application.
You must have a NIH badge/ID.

Why choose FAES Housing?

- Affordable & Flexible Stays
  - FAES’s non-profit mission prioritizes keeping housing affordable for NIH visiting scholars and researchers by facilitating single-occupant bedroom units in co-occupied housing.
- Fully Furnished
  - FAES provides: furnishings for your private bedroom that includes a bed, dresser, desk, chair, and 2 lamps; furnished common area living/dining rooms; fully equipped kitchens and baths; laundry facilities; outdoor spaces; and more.
- Worry-Free Maintenance
  - Regularly provided services include: housecleaning, lawn care, snow removal, pest control, and facilities maintenance.
- Easy Online Process
  - Our online tools make it easy to apply for housing and enter into occupancy agreements from anywhere, allowing you to plan for your arrival at NIH.
- Internet & Basic Supplies Included

Travel reminders

1. All FTE travelers are required to obtain the IBA Travel card.
2. Leave must be approved in ITAS when leave is taken in conjunction with TDY.
3. Non-FTE travelers must receive approval via email or memo.
4. Government Furnished Equipment is not issued to travelers going on vacation to a foreign country.

Please visit Memorandum–Use of Government Furnished Equipment (GFE) During Foreign Travel for more information on the use of GFE during foreign travel. Also note that NICHD is in the process of updating the SOP on loaner Government Furnished Equipment (GFE).

Getting to know: NICHD Office of Communications

Did you know? You can share your scientific findings with broader, public audiences through NICHD’s social media platforms. If you’d like to feature your scientific image, publication, or other content, contact the NICHD Office of Communications at nichdpress@mail.nih.gov.

COVID-19 Community Levels and Safety Guidance for NIH Facilities

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) evaluates COVID-19 community levels nationwide by county each week. The NIH Office of Research Services (ORS), Division of Occupational Health and Safety (DOHS), bases mitigation strategies at all NIH locations on these community levels.

Effective Date: October 17, 2022—Since last week, Research Triangle Park in Durham County, NC, and Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Hamilton, MT, went from medium to low community level. All other locations remain at their current levels.

DOHS has updated the NIH Safety Plan to include mitigation efforts and safety protocols to be utilized the following Monday based on the COVID-19 community levels where you work, including elevated requirements for healthcare areas. Please continue to check the tables on the safety plan weekly as guidance can change from week to week.

For any questions, please contact your DOHS Safety Specialist or email DOHS_COVID19@mail.nih.gov.

For All NIH Facilities Nationwide:
COVID-19 Workplace Community Levels by County and NIH Requirements
Effective Date: October 17, 2022
https://go.usa.gov/xzyrV

NIH COVID-19 Safety Plan Updates

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently published updates to their recommendations for COVID-19 related safety measures. The NIH Office of Research Services (ORS), Division of Occupational Health and Safety (DOHS) has updated several pages within the NIH COVID-19 Safety Plan to reflect these changes.

There are two major changes in the CDC guidance that affect current policies at the NIH:

- Screening/testing of asymptomatic persons without known exposures no longer recommended
- Procedures after exposure no longer dependent on someone’s vaccination status for those working outside of a healthcare setting
NIH Guidance That Has Changed

Screening for Vaccination Status/COVID-19 Testing

NIH will no longer require reporting of vaccination status or a negative COVID-19 test to enter NIH facilities or to participate in NIH-sponsored meetings. Visitors to NIH facilities and attendees at NIH-sponsored meetings should not be asked to disclose any information regarding vaccination status. Additionally, there is no longer a testing requirement for unvaccinated staff when the COVID-19 Community Level is at medium or high.

What to do After Exposure

Staff who have a COVID-19 exposure and are not experiencing symptoms are permitted to come onsite but are required to wear a mask for 10 days post exposure (day of exposure is day 0) to continue to report to work. Please review the safety guidance on exposure for additional details. Please note, these updates do not apply to healthcare workers who remain subject to more stringent requirements.

In-Person Meetings

Regardless of the COVID-19 Community Level, there is no longer a requirement for meeting attendees to provide vaccination attestations or a negative COVID test. Attendees should not be asked to disclose any information regarding vaccination status. Additionally, the Office of Research Services, Division of Occupational Health and Safety (DOHS) has modified the requirements for in-person meetings and streamlined advance approvals for meetings when the COVID-19 Community Level of the location is high. In addition to the changes announced on Wednesday, the Safer Federal Workforce Taskforce has removed the requirement for federal agencies to approve meetings of 50 and higher when in high community levels. Effective immediately, only DOHS approval will be needed for in-person meetings with 50 or more attendees, and only when in medium or high. Outdoor meetings, while not without risk, are encouraged, especially for large gatherings.

NIH Guidance that Remains Unchanged

Distancing—The Six-Foot Rule

The current recommendations for distancing and density requirements at medium or high remain in place. NIH staff must continue to abide by the safety measures determined by the corresponding COVID-19 Community Level at all locations including government property, leased facilities, and off-site location. Outdoor meetings are encouraged, especially for larger gatherings.

Over the course of the pandemic, NIH has utilized distancing and limiting density to support safety of staff. In the CDC updates, they mention that distancing should be used as one layer for safety, not the only layer.

For any questions, please contact your DOHS Safety Specialist or email DOHS_COVID19@mail.nih.gov.

NICHD email address for questions about COVID-19

The NICHD Office of the Clinical Director has set up an email address for any questions you may have about CDC guidelines, quarantine recommendations, or NIH policies related to COVID-19. The goal is to help reduce the number of calls to the NIH Occupational Medical Service. If you have broad questions about COVID-19, you can send them to NICHDCOVIDInfo@mail.nih.gov, and NICHD clinical staff will respond.


The Staff Asymptomatic Testing Clinic on the 5th Floor of the CRC is open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Scheduled appointments are required between 7:30 am and 11:00 am only, with walk-ins accepted after 11:00 am until closing at 4:30 pm.

To participate, go to https://clinweb.cc.nih.gov/cct to sign up for asymptomatic testing for SARS-CoV-2.
COVID Notes

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.

In case you missed it: Persistent COVID-19 Information

== NICHD Director’s Newsletter ==

Current Edition of the NICHD Director’s Newsletter (October 2022)

== DDIR Web Board ==

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

== Trainee Highlights ==

For Trainee Highlights, check out this month’s fellows newsletter, The NICHD Connection, Volume 13, Issue 149.

== Congrats and Kudos! ==
Intramural Research Fellowship

Please join us in congratulating the five Intramural Research Fellowship awardees for the 2022–23 application cycle!

- Zhenyu Zuo, PhD (Rocha Lab)
- Adriana Golding, PhD (Bonifacino Lab)
- Miranda Marvel, PhD (Weinstein Lab)
- Avik Dutta, PhD (Love Lab)
- Jong Park, PhD (Weinstein Lab)

The Intramural Research Fellowships program is a competitive internal funding opportunity for NICHD postdoctoral and clinical fellows. The purpose of this research award is to promote grant writing among our intramural fellows while enhancing awareness of various application components for an NIH grant.

This year’s applicants’ hard work showed in the reviews with over 65 percent of applicants being scored in the “Exceptional” and “Outstanding” categories—within the fundable range of NIH extramural. Over the next few weeks, the Office of Education will contact applicants directly to provide your summary sheets.

For intramural fellows interested in submitting an application next year or learning about additional funding opportunities please visit: https://science.nichd.nih.gov/confluence/display/fellows/Funding+Opportunities+for+NIH+Intramural+Fellows.

Affinity Group Meetings

To promote interactions between groups, the Affinity Group Heads recently decided to share information about their meetings. Please consider dropping into another Affinity Group’s meeting to hear what your colleagues are up to in their labs. The details on when each group meets are below, along with a point of contact for the meetings.

Looking for a particular lab? The attached chart (PDF) lists the labs associated with each Affinity Group.

Aquatic Models of Human Development

- **When**: Weekly, Tuesdays from 12:00–1:00 pm. The last Tuesday of the month is the Zebrafish Frog Interest Group meeting (ZFIG) attended by zebrafish/frog community members in the greater Washington DC area.
- **Where**: Virtually via Zoom, contact Dr. Chitnis for the link
- **Point of Contact**: Dr. Ajay Chitnis, chitnisa@mail.nih.gov

Bone and Matrix Biology in Development and Disease

- **When**: Monthly, second Wednesday of the month from 12:00–1:00pm as part of the trans-NIH Matrix Biology Special Interest Group
- **Where**: Virtually via Zoom
- **Point of Contact**: Dr. Sergey Leikin, leikins@mail.nih.gov, or sign up for meeting announcements at https://list.nih.gov/cgi-bin/wa.exe?A0=matrix_biol_sig

Cell Regulation and Development

- **When**: Weekly, Thursdays from 12:00–1:00 pm followed by 30–45 minutes of discussion
- **Where**: Virtually via Zoom, contact Dr. Hinnebusch for the link
- **Point of Contact**: Dr. Alan Hinnebusch, alanh@mail.nih.gov

Cell and Structural Biology

- **When**: Biweekly, Tuesdays 9:00–10:00 am (schedule below)
- **Where**: Virtually via Zoom or In-person (location below): https://nih.zoomgov.com/j/1603332305
  - **Meeting ID**: 160 333 2305
  - **Passcode**: 327619
  - **Point of Contact**: Dr. Matthias Machner, machnerm@nih.gov

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 4</td>
<td>In-person social get together</td>
<td>B40/Rm 1201–1203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>Stephanie Lehman (Machner Lab)</td>
<td>Not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>Yingbiao Zhang (Lilly Lab)</td>
<td>B40/Rm 1201–1203</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Developmental Endocrinology, Metabolism, Genetics, and Endocrine Oncology

- **When:** Weekly, Fridays 9:00–10:00 am
- **Where:** Virtually, contact Ms. Hutcherson for the link
- **Point of Contact:** Ms. Priscilla Hutcherson, Priscilla.Hutcherson@nih.gov

Genetics and Epigenetics of Development

- **When:** Weekly, Wednesdays from 12:00–1:00 pm
  - **Where:** Virtually via Zoom: [https://nih.zoomgov.com/j/1619147741](https://nih.zoomgov.com/j/1619147741)
  - **Meeting ID:** 161 914 7741
  - **Passcode:** 1111
  - **Point of Contact:** Dr. Judy Kassis, jkassis@mail.nih.gov

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event/Speaker</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 6</td>
<td>Déborah Bourc'his, Institut Curie, Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 12</td>
<td>Mandatory Annual Ethics Training by Dr. Sakshi Chauhan and Dr. Vishal Nehru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 19</td>
<td>No meeting—DDB Seminar by Brant Weinstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 26</td>
<td>Anup Dey (Ozato Lab)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2</td>
<td>Yuzhong Cheng (Kassis Lab)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 9</td>
<td>Teri Hatzihristidis (Love Lab)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 16</td>
<td>No meeting—DDB Seminar by Todd Macfarlan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 23</td>
<td>Frank Jacobs, University of Amsterdam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 30</td>
<td>Hyungchul Lee (Pfeifer Lab)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Genomics and Basic Mechanisms of Growth and Development

- **When:** Weekly, Mondays from 9:30–10:30 am
- **Where:** Virtually via Zoom: [https://nih.zoomgov.com/j/1611195697](https://nih.zoomgov.com/j/1611195697)
- **Meeting ID:** 161 119 5697
- **Point of Contact:** Dr. Rich Maraia, maraiar@dir6.nichd.nih.gov

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 10</td>
<td>Columbus Day Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 17</td>
<td>Mandatory Annual Ethics Training by Dr. Abdul Khalique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 24</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 31</td>
<td>Hemant Prajapati (Clark Lab)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 7</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 14</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 21</td>
<td>Rachel Cosby (Macfarlan Lab)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Molecular Medicine

- **When:** Details Pending
- **Where:** Details Pending
- **Point of Contact:** Dr. Claire Le Pichon, claire.lepichon@nih.gov

Maternal-Fetal Medicine and Translational Imaging
• When: Monthly, last Wednesday of the month from 12:00–1:00 pm
• Where: Virtually via Zoom: https://nih.zoomgov.com/j/1615222699
• Meeting ID: 161 522 2699
• Point of Contact: Dr. Peter Basser, basserp@mail.nih.gov

Neurosciences

• When: Monthly, Tuesdays from 10:00–11:00 am (see schedule below)
• Where: Virtually via Zoom, contact Dr. Stopfer for the link
• Point of Contact: Dr. Mark Stopfer, stopferm@mail.nih.gov

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 11</td>
<td>Le Pichon Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>Mandatory Annual Ethics Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 8</td>
<td>Klein Lab</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology

• When: Biweekly, Thursdays, from 10:00–11:00 am
• Where: Virtually via Zoom, Contact Ms. Getachew for the link
• Point of Contact: Ms. Sofia Getachew, sofia.getachew@nih.gov

Physical Biology and Medicine

• When: Weekly, Mondays from 10:30 am–12:00 pm
• Where: Virtually, contact Dr. Chernomordik for the link
• Point of Contact: Dr. Leonid Chernomordik, chernoml@mail.nih.gov

Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

• When: Weekly, Tuesdays from 3:00–5:00 pm
• Where: Virtually via Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85002284086?pwd=dUY2czdZYXAYZGJBWnEzSGQxL1BQdz09
• Meeting ID: 850 0228 4086
• Passcode: NIHREI
• Point of Contact: Dr. Alan DeCherney, decherna@mail.nih.gov

No Meetings on:

• October 25, 2022
• November 22, 2022
• December 20, 2022
• December 27, 2022
• March 21, 2023