



Sleep Research Society®

Advancing Sleep & Circadian Science

COVID-19: NIH Grant Updates

COVID-19 is having an unprecedented impact on the Sleep and Circadian Research Community and Sleep Research Society members need to be aware of the effect this is having on NIH extramural funding. Below we have summarized some of this information.



Proposal Submissions

[NIH Late Application Policy Due to Public Health Emergency for United States for 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

All grant applications submitted late for due dates between March 9, 2020, and May 1, 2020, will be accepted through May 1, 2020. Due dates after May 1 will remain as posted and follow usual late application policies.

NIH assures us that peer review will continue.

NIH will be highly accommodating of late applications submitted through May 1, 2020. They anticipate that all late applications submitted by that date will be reviewed in the council round to which they were submitted (e.g. August or October 2020). Therefore, applicants should assume that late applications submitted after May 1 may not be reviewed until meetings for the January 2021 council round (e.g., October-November 2020).

NIH understands that the emergency declaration related to novel coronavirus (COVID-19) will adversely affect many NIH applicants' ability to submit applications in a timely manner.

For Funding Opportunity Announcements that expire prior to May 1, 2020, NIH will extend the expiration date for 90 days to accommodate the submission of late applications and Grants.gov will be adjusted to allow NIH to receive applications.

Existing Research Projects

NIH has assembled a list of [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) that have arisen from the impact of COVID-19 on research projects to help researchers navigate this change in work flow. In general, NIH is being very flexible in terms of extending deadlines but you should always verify with the funding IC. A couple of important items related to salary:

- Can a recipient continue to pay personnel costs under awards in the event of an emergency?
 - Charging salaries to NIH grants when no work is being performed is allowable if your organization's policy allows for the charging of salaries and benefits to currently active awards (under unexpected or extraordinary circumstances) from all funding sources, Federal and non-Federal.
- May National Research Service Award (NRSA) trainees and fellows, who receive stipends rather than salaries, continue to receive stipend payments if they are unable to work as a result of COVID-19?
 - Yes, stipend payments may continue to be charged to NIH NRSA grants affected by COVID-19. Recipients should notify the Grants Management Specialist named in the notice of award and provide documentation demonstrating the effect of COVID-19, and how long the institution will be affected.
- If faculty at my institution are diverted from research to clinical work to care for COVID-19 patients, can the institution continue to charge their salary to an NIH grant?
 - Charging salaries to NIH grants when no work is being performed is allowable if your organization's policy allows for the charging of salaries and benefits to currently active awards (under unexpected or extraordinary circumstances) from all funding sources, Federal and non-Federal.
 - Prior approval is not required to divert faculty from research to clinical work related to COVID-19 until the end of the public health emergency period. Recipients may use clinical revenue from the work done by faculty as voluntary cost sharing to support salaries under the NIH funded project. The recipient institution may continue to charge salaries to the grant in accordance with their institutional policies.
 - If the PD/PI is absent from the project for a period of 3 months or more, recipients should notify the funding IC to identify a temporary replacement until the COVID-19 public health emergency/pandemic has passed or the research will, by default, be placed on hold and the delays must be reported in the RPPR.

SRS members should continue to pay attention to their funding agency announcements regarding grant administration changes.

New Funding Opportunities Specific to COVID-19

- [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\) regarding the Availability of Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\)](#) (NOT-AI-20-030)
- [Notice of Special Interest: NIEHS Worker Training Program Coronavirus and Infectious Disease Response Training \(Admin Supp Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#) (NOT-ES-20-014)
- [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Repurposing Existing Therapeutics to Address the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\)](#) (NOT-TR-20-012)
- [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\) regarding the Availability of Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) and the Causative Virus SARS-CoV-2](#) (NOT-GM-20-025)
- [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\) regarding the Availability of Administrative Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#) (NOT-DA-20-047)
- [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\) Clinical and Translational Science Award \(CTSA\) Program Applications to Address 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Public Health Need](#) (NOT-R-20-111)

The SRS strives to support its members through these tough and trying times. Please let us know how we can better support you by dropping us a note at coordinator@srsnet.org.