COVID-19 Intramural Funding for the Social Sciences

The Rutgers Center for COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparation (CCRP2) invites proposals from the social sciences to explore research problems related to COVID-19 and its implications. These intramural COVID-19 research awards are intended to build research teams focused on COVID-19 related research and to provide support for the rapid acquisition of preliminary data and proof-of-concept evidence for extramural funding applications. Proposals may come from Rutgers faculty at any of the Rutgers University campuses.

Research problems may draw from any social science discipline. Examples of relevant topics include, but are not limited to:

- accuracy of scientific communication in the media and to society
- behavioral health and substance abuse
- effects on K-12 and college students
- environmental effects
- markets and collective behavior
- medical ethics
- migration and immigration
- political decision making
- telecommuting, data privacy, and other technological implications
- trauma and grief
- workforce implications
- and inequities across these and other dimensions

Funding Parameters:
- $10K-$30K direct costs only (no indirect costs)
- 3-6 months of research funding
- No-cost extension possible, contingent on accomplishing proposed deliverables and submissions/plans for submission to extramural RFAs
- Teams of PIs highly encouraged

Budget Clarification
- Faculty summer salary support is not permitted
- Salary support for research staff and trainees is permitted
- Indirect costs (e.g., fringe benefits) are not permitted
- Equipment expenses should be below $10K

Research proposals are to be submitted as PDFs by 5 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 2020, here: https://research.njms.rutgers.edu/covid19sand/
Proposals are limited to a total of 4 pages for Sections I-VI, as described below. Proposals should be formatted single-spaced, in Arial size 11 and 0.5” margins. Please structure your application with the following sections and addressing the following questions:

I. **Abstract / Overview** (300 words max)
   - What are the key concepts / hypotheses driving this work?
   - What are the key deliverables in a 3-6 month time frame? (These include preliminary data to be competitive for extramural funding from NIH, NSF and/or other funding bodies, both public and private)

II. **Significance and Social Impact** (up to 1 page)
   - How will this research significantly impact society and provide the basis for future breakthrough research advances?
   - What is the expected impact of this work on the current COVID-19 pandemic?
   - How might results from this work prepare us for future pandemics?

III. **Key Personnel**
   - What expertise or experiences do the PI(s) possess that makes this work feasible?
   - What synergies may be created by bringing these PIs together?

IV. **Innovation and Strategic Advantage(s)** (up to 1 page)
   - What unique skills, innovative tools and/or novel approaches are to be employed?
   - What strengths at Rutgers will you leverage and further develop?

V. **Extramural Funding Plan**
   - What kinds of extramural RFAs will you seek funding from?
   - What would be the major, long-term aims of the extramural grant application?

VI. **Research Strategy** (up to 2 pages, excluding references and supplemental figures)
   a. Rationale
   b. Approach
   c. Expected Outcomes
   d. Timeline
   e. References
   f. Supplemental Figures (up to 2 illustrations if needed)

VII. **Budget** (1 page)
   - Please provide a detailed budget and justification for requested funds
   - $10K-$30K direct costs only (no indirecs)
   - 3-6 months of research funding

VIII. **Curriculum Vitae**
   - Please provide CVs for PI(s) and Key Personnel
   - CVs may be in any format

Please email Dr. Marika Dunn and Dr. Henry Turner at the Rutgers University-New Brunswick Office for Research and Innovation (vcri@rutgers.edu) with any questions about this funding opportunity.