COVID-19 Intramural Funding Opportunity

The Rutgers Center for COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparation (CCRP2) invites applications for internal research grants that address critical gaps in knowledge on COVID-19. Research priorities for internal funding should be aligned with, but are not limited to, high-priority research areas at NIH (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AI-20-030.html). These intramural COVID-19 research grants 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.

Program Goals:
- To support breakthrough advances in basic, translational, and clinical research on COVID-19
- To stimulate COVID-19 research pilot projects and to generate rapid preliminary data for extramural funding
- To help Rutgers faculty and trainees connect and build synergistic collaborations
- To connect Rutgers COVID-19 researchers to relevant resources
- To fund a diverse breadth of topics to maximize potential for winning extramural support
- To raise philanthropic support for CCRP2’s basic, translational and clinical research, and for the research training of students and postdoctoral and clinical fellows

Areas of Equal Priority (in alphabetical order)
- Basic and Translational Science
- Clinical Trials
- Diagnostics (e.g., point-of-care, disease detection, patient triage)
- Environmental and PPE Decontamination
- Public Health / Epidemiology / Health Policy
- Technology Development / Resource Building (e.g., in vivo / in vitro models, biobanking)
- Therapeutics (e.g., virus or host-directed, cure or recovery from disease)
- Vaccine Development

* Social science research proposals are not appropriate for this mechanism. We will announce a new mechanism specific for social science research before the end of April

Funding Parameters:
- $50K-$100K direct costs only (no indirects)
- Budget cannot include PI salary support and cannot include equipment costs > $10K
- 3-6 months of research funding
- 1 Specific Aim (or sub-Aim) in scope
- No-cost extension possible, contingent on accomplishing proposed deliverables and submissions/plans for submission to extramural RFAs
- Teams of PIs highly encouraged (ideally 2-4 Co-PIs)

Research proposals are to be submitted as PDFs by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15, 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 and/or other funding bodies)

II. **Significance and Basic / Clinical / Translational Impact** (up to 1 page)
   - How will this research significantly impact the field 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 would make the proposed work competitive for extramural support from NIH or other funding agencies?
   - 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
   - $50K-$100K direct costs only (no indirects)
   - 3-6 months of research funding

VIII. **Biosketches**
   - Please provide biosketches for PI(s) and Key Personnel
   - Biosketches may be in either NIH or NSF format

Please email Dr. Amariliz Rivera (Center for Immunity and Inflammation; riveraam@njms.rutgers.edu) or Dr. Jason Yang (Center for Emerging and Re-Emerging Pathogens; jason.y@rutgers.edu) with any questions or suggestions.