Center for COVID-19 Research and Pandemic Preparedness (CCRP2)
pilot research and training grant program

The CCRP2 is committed to advancing new basic and applied research on COVID-19 and to train the next generation of scientists in pandemic research. This grant program will provide pilot funds to support COVID-19 research projects and provide training opportunities for Newark-based high school or college student*. We are accepting COVID-19 research proposals intended to begin new research, to study a new aspect of established research, or to supplement ongoing studies with demonstrable progress in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.

The proposal PI will receive up to $10,000 to support the research activity. The proposal must include a commitment to involve a Newark-based high school or college student in the funded research. Additional $3,500 will be available as a stipend for the student-trainee. Students will be expected to work full time over the summer of 2022, and work two afternoons a week in either the five months before or after the summer research period. A student does not need to be identified prior to applying to this pilot program, as CCRP2 will aid the successful applicants in making a good student match.

Applicants should fill out an online proposal application, found at https://redcap.link/fur4mkyo. As part of this application, please plan to submit an abstract describing the project in plain language suitable for a layperson, a brief (no more than one page) description of the project including the envisioned contribution that will be made by the student-trainee, and provide a budget outline and narrative (see template attached for your convenience). All applications must be submitted by 5 pm February 11, 2022.

*on-site research for students is contingent upon the public health status due to the COVID-19 pandemic; virtual internships will be supported regardless.

David Alland, MD
Chief, Division of Infectious Disease
Director, The Public Health Research Institute and The Center for COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness
Email: david.alland@rutgers.edu
Proposal guidelines:

Program Goals:
- To support breakthrough advances in basic, translational, and clinical research on COVID-19
- To provide Newark high school and community college students training opportunities for research experiences
- To help Rutgers faculty and trainees connect and build synergistic collaborations
- To stimulate COVID-19 research pilot projects and to generate rapid preliminary data for extramural funding
- 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 Translation 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

Funding Parameters:
- $10K direct costs only (no indirects)
- Newark high school or community college trainee required
- Research funds for a full student intern project to cover 8 weeks over the summer of 2022, two afternoons a week in either the six months before or after the summer research period
- Budget cannot include PI salary support and cannot include equipment costs > $5K
- 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

Research proposals are to be submitted as PDFs by 5 p.m. on February 11, 2022, here: https://redcap.link/fur4mkyo.
Proposal instructions:

Proposals should include:

- A cover page including your name, affiliation and project title
- an abstract
- a project description limited to a total of 1 page, single-spaced, in Arial size 11 and 0.5” margins
- an NIH biosketch
- a budget (uploaded separately, template provided)

please note, references are optional but can be attached in the final pdf

In the project proposal, please include the following:

I. Aim and/or Hypothesis.
   a. What is the overall purpose of the study? What will be learned.

II. Significance and Basic / Clinical / Translational Impact (please address one or both of the below).
   a. How will this research contribute to a better understanding, diagnosis or treatment of COVID-19 or COVID-19 related outcomes.
   b. How might results from this work prepare us for future pandemics?

III. Approach
   a. Briefly describe how the planned research will be performed.

IV. Describe the training opportunity for the student intern
   a. What role will the student play in this project?
   b. How will this experience benefit the student’s career path?

V. Extramural Funding Plan
   a. How might this project lead to future extramural funding?

VI. Key Personnel
   a. What expertise or experiences does the PI possess that makes this work feasible?

In addition to the project proposal, please include the following, uploaded as a single pdf:

I. Abstract / Overview (300 words max)
   a. What are the key concepts / hypotheses driving this work?
   b. What are the key deliverables during the project time frame? (These include preliminary data to be competitive for extramural funding from NIH and/or other funding bodies)
II. An NIH Biosketch

Please upload your budget information as one separate file with the following information:

**Budget**

a. Using the template provided, please upload a detailed budget and justification for requested funds
b. $10K direct costs only (no indirects)
c. Research funds for a full student intern project to cover 8 weeks over the summer of 2022, two afternoons a week in either the five months before or after the summer research period

Please email Dr. David Alland, David.alland@rutgers.edu with any questions or suggestions.