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 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

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.