Dear colleagues,

Please see below further updates for the Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine research community on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Phased Resumption of In-Person Research Activities**

The Office of Research is continuing to review new resumption requests as well as revisions to previously approved requests. Final formal approval is issued by the BU Office of Research. Please review the [Research Recovery Toolkit](#) for details on this process.

**CTSI vouchers for investigators whose research has been adversely impacted by the pandemic**

The BU CTSI is launching a [voucher program](#) to support the short-term needs of investigators whose research has been negatively impacted by pandemic-related family care or other home responsibilities. Assistance is intended to allow investigators to complete a study, submit publications, generate preliminary data necessary for publishing findings, or write research grants. Vouchers up to $5,000 are offered to defray the costs of translational research. Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis, and all funds must be spent by March 31, 2021.

**Discussing COVID-19 Exposure with Research Subjects**

The IRB has posted a new requirement regarding how and when to discuss risks of COVID-19 exposure with research subjects who are being scheduled for an in-person visit:

- For studies requiring an in-person visit that is occurring *for research purposes only*, the communication with the subject when setting up the visit must address the risks of exposure to COVID-19 because of a study visit and explain the mitigation practices in place.
- Subjects should be given the opportunity to decline the visit or withdraw from the study if they have concerns about the risks of COVID-19 exposure.
- The opportunity to discuss this information should be presented to subjects before all types of in-person visits; this includes when...
the visit is to BMC or the BU Medical Campus, and/or for in-home visits conducted by study personnel.

**Updates to Human Subject Guidance**

Two updates have been made to BU’s guidance for research groups approved to return to human subjects research:

- Study participants who may be in the CDC high risk category may be included in studies and are now allowed on campus.
- The 15-minute rule for close contact has been clarified to allow multiple researchers to interact with the participant so long as none of the researchers individually exceed the 15-minute limit.

**Recent NIH Updates**

*Extension of the Special Exception to Post-Submission Material Policy During the COVID-19 Pandemic*

- NIH has extended the special exception for post-submission material to applications submitted for the May 2021 Council.
- NIH will accept a one-page update with preliminary data as post-submission materials.
- The deadline for submitting all post-submission materials, including preliminary data, will be 30 days before the study section meeting.
- Applications for emergency competitive revisions and urgent competitive revisions undergo expedited review; therefore, post-submission materials will not be accepted for those applications.
- Please see [NOT-OD-20-163](#) for full details.

*Temporary Extension of Eligibility for the NIH K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award During the COVID-19 Pandemic*

- Due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, NIH will be providing up to a two receipt cycle extension (roughly eight additional months) of eligibility for prospective applicants meeting the requirements for submission of an application for a K99/R00 Pathway to Independence award.
- Please see [NOT-OD-20-158](#) for full details.

**Funding Opportunities**

The BU Research Support website includes links to COVID-19 research announcements, and this page is updated on a regular basis.

I encourage you to contact the GSDM Research office if you have questions or if there is any support that you need.

Best regards,
Maria

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