ISCE NEWS FLASH
April 7, 2020

As we continue to settle into routines of remote working and physical distancing, we hope everyone is well and staying socially connected.
Please note the following COVID-19 funding opportunities:

- ISCE is offering bridge funding to support NSF RAPID proposals, or other external proposals, related to individual and community responses to COVID-19.
- ISCE is coordinating COVID-19 research questions for consideration for Census research partnerships.
- OVPRI has developed a new website of COVID-19 related funding opportunities.

See the information below for more details.

Please send any news items to Yancey Crawford
at yanceyc3@vt.edu by Friday each week.

Funding Opportunities

- **U.S. Census Soliciting COVID-19 Research Questions**
  The U.S. Census Bureau is soliciting research questions for collaboration with University faculty related to COVID-19 and its aftermath. Faculty whose research questions are prioritized by Census staff will be notified for possible research partnerships. **Submit specific research questions to** Isabel Bradburn**, Administrative Fellow at ISCE, as soon as possible. ISCE will organize the response from Virginia Tech and submit it to the Census liaison for consideration**. To see types of Census and related data, click here.

- **ISCE Bridge Support for NSF RAPID and other External Proposals**
  To better understand individual and community response to COVID-19, NSF has issued a Dear Colleague Letter on COVID-19 using the RAPID mechanism, which has received additional federal funding to support non-medical, non-care studies. Other agencies and foundations may also offer similar opportunities now or in the future.

  If you have received the "green light" from an NSF Directorate to submit a full RAPID proposal, or from some other funding agency, for a non-medical COVID-19 study, **ISCE is making available limited bridge funding of up to $5,000 if there is a need to start data collection prior to receiving notification of the award.**

  To apply for bridge funding, use the ISCE Unsolicited Request Form and include a copy of the email from NSF, or other organization from which you are seeking funds. In addition, all ISCE staff is available remotely to

assist you with proposal reviews and submissions. Contact Yancey Crawford with questions.
Deadline: Ongoing

NSF Research Collaborations with European Colleagues

The National Science Foundation has announced an **opportunity for US researchers to win awards to support travel for work with scientists in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland** when the worldwide COV-19 emergency ends. The objective of this partnership is to encourage trilateral, collaborative research projects that address significant challenges in the areas of nanoscale science and engineering, sensors and sensor networks, telecommunications, energy and sustainability, and cybersecurity. PIs from the partner countries must collaborate to submit a single, joint trilateral proposal that goes through a single review at the NSF. Click here for details.
Deadline: Check with the specific Directorate

Improving the Impact of Health Campaigns

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation invites applications for a Grand Challenge focused on Innovations for Improving the Impact of Health Campaigns. The foundation is **seeking innovative solutions that accelerate the improvement of coverage, reach, efficiency, and effectiveness of mass health campaigns that deliver health products or services in low- and middle-income countries,** specifically through improved planning/microplanning and focus on unreached populations. Click here for details.

Deadline: April 22, 2020

Open Technology Fund Accepting Applications for Internet Freedom

The Internet Freedom Fund strives to advance technology-centered efforts to strengthen Internet freedom and promote human rights, improve digital security capabilities, and contribute to the overall health of the internet. Specifically, **the fund supports applied research** that focuses on real-time monitoring and analysis of both technical and political threats to Internet freedom; new content redistribution methods able to reintroduce content behind firewalls; and next-generation tools that move beyond traditional "cat-and-mouse" circumvention techniques. Most grantees will received between $50,000-$200,000. Click here for details.

Deadline: May 1, 2020

Call for Applications for Aging Research

The RRF Foundation for Aging (formerly The Retirement Research Foundation) is accepting proposal applications for its next grant cycle. RRF recently completed a strategic planning process that focuses its grant making on four **priority areas: caregiving, economic security in later life, housing, and social and intergenerational connectedness**. Click here for details.

Deadline: May 1, 2020

Call for Proposals for Waste Management Practices

The Environmental Research & Education Foundation welcomes **applications for projects and research addressing any area of integrated solid waste management, with priority given to research aimed at increasing sustainable solid waste management practices**. The following topic areas will be considered: waste minimization; recycling; waste conversion to energy, biofuels, chemicals or other useful products; strategies to promote diversion to higher and better uses; and landfilling. Click here for details.

Deadline: May 1, 2020

Call for 2021 Applications for Bogliasco Fellowships in Italy

The Bogliasco Foundation **supports the arts and humanities by providing residential fellowships at its study center in Bogliasco near Genoa, Italy**. The fellowships provide one-month residencies to individuals whose achievement in any discipline of the arts and humanities helps society understand its place in the world, shaping and defining what it means to be human. To be eligible, applicants must be able to demonstrate significant achievement in their disciplines, commensurate with age and experience. Click here for details.

Deadline: May 1, 2020

Invitation for Research Grants to Reduce Inequality

The William T. Grant Foundation is inviting applications for its Research Grants on Reducing Inequality program, which **supports high-quality field-initiated studies from a range of disciplines and methodologies relevant to policies and practices that affect the lives of young people between the**

ages of 5 and 25 in the United States. Through the program, grants of up to $600,000 over up to three years will be awarded. Click here for details.

Deadline: May 6, 2020 (Letters of Inquiry)

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facebook research

RFPs for Research in Misinformation and Polarization
Facebook Research is offering awards to researchers interested in **exploring the societal issues of misinformation and polarization related to social communication technologies.** Grants will range from $50,000-$150,000. Click here details including descriptions of their priority areas.

Deadline: May 6, 2020 (Extended)

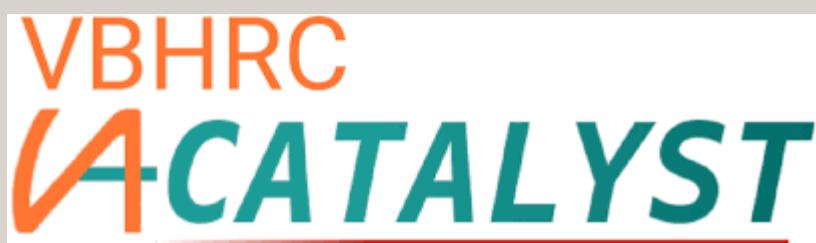NIH > National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health

New NIH R01 for Remote Complementary and Integrative Interventions
This NIH funding opportunity encourages applications for investigator-initiated, **fully remotely delivered and conducted clinical trials to assess the efficacy or effectiveness of complementary and integrative health interventions** in NCCIH priority areas. Click here for details.

Deadline: June 5, 2020 (First standard due date)

VBHRC V4CATALYST

Virginia Catalyst Announces Round 11 of Grant Funding
The Virginia Catalyst is accepting letters of intent for Grant Round 11 to fund

the development and commercialization of life science projects that address major unmet needs for improving human health and advancing Virginia's economy. **Emphasis will be placed on innovative projects focused on solutions for COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.** Awards, which range from $200,000-$800,000, help fund collaborative efforts between industry and Virginia research universities. [Click here](#) for details. A free webinar for applicants will be held on April 22nd from 12:00-1:00 p.m. via Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/644376195.

Deadline: June 30, 2020

Access Census Data through The Opportunity Project

The Opportunity Project (TOP) is a program of the Census Open Innovation Labs that brings together technologists, government and communities to rapidly prototype data driven digital products that solve real-world problems for communities nationwide. **TOP works through 10-12 week virtual technology development sprints that leverage federal open data to address national problems**, which this year will focus on challenges related to the natural and built environment. [Click here](#) for more details and information on how to join a "sprint team."

Previously Posted Opportunities

- **VT Data & Decisions Destination Area** - [Concept Papers](#)
  Deadline: April 12, 2020

- **ICAT** - [2021 Accelerate Festival](#)
  Deadline: April 17, 2020

Conferences, Seminars and Events

Due to the need for social distancing, all in-person events at VT have been cancelled. Check back for announcements of any virtual events in our next issue.

Announcements and Faculty News

VT Website of COVID-19 Research Opportunities Now Available
The Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation (OVPRI) has **established a COVID-19 Rapid Response Team that seeks to identify and provide funding opportunities for Virginia Tech researchers to use their expertise to make an impact on the pandemic that has affected communities near and far**. Visit the new COVID-19 research funding opportunities webpage for the current list of known COVID-19 research opportunities. Resources available to help, include:

- The VT-FAST team (including an ISCE representative), is available to assist principal investigators directly and work with your department's proposal development staff;
- Scholarly Integrity and Research Compliance's teams are prioritizing COVID-19 related work to ensure your protocols are approved quickly; and
- Proposals that require additional support from Office of Sponsored

Programs will be addressed on an as needed basis.

All COVID-19 proposals will need to be initiated in the Summit system and assigned to your department's regular Office of Sponsored Programs Pre-Award Associate.

NSF Announces New Acting Director

Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier, Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, has been named Acting Director of the National Science Foundation effective March 31, 2020. Droegemeier has previously served two six-year terms on the National Science Board, the governing body of NSF. He currently serves as the President's Science Advisor and Director of OSTP, with responsibility for coordination of science and technology initiatives across the Federal Government. Click here for the full story.

Separately Submitted Collaborative Proposals from NSF Now Available

Effective March 30, 2020, the **research community can prepare and submit separately submitted collaborative NSF proposals from multiple organizations in Research.gov**. Click here to read more about the Proposal Creation Wizard, linking proposals, the new "submission pending" status and other relevant information. Please note: These new features are for Research.gov, not necessarily those proposals submitted through Fastlane.

Projecting the outcomes of people's lives with AI isn't so simple

Brian J. Goode, a research scientist from Virginia Tech's Fralin Life Sciences Institute, was one of 112 data and social scientists tasked with building statistical and machine-learning models. Read more...