

Research in the time of COVID-19

A resource guide for a challenging time. Brought to you by the Equity Advisors.

Updated May 6, 2020

To access this Resource online:

<https://sites.uci.edu/cohsdiversity/resources/>

How to stay connected:

Zoom -

The university has enabled Zoom teleconferencing access for all faculty. You can use this link to log in to your account and determine whether you currently have a “Basic” or “Licensed” account. Meetings for those with Basic accounts are limited to 40 minutes, so if you’d like to have longer meetings please contact a department administrator to sign up for a “Licensed” account, which are free for UCI faculty.

<https://ucihealth.zoom.us/>

Once you’ve logged into your Zoom account, you can check the settings at <https://ucihealth.zoom.us/profile>. For example, you may want to allow anyone on the call to share screens if you’d like to look at files with your students or colleagues while on Zoom. Only use this feature with trusted entities, otherwise utilize security measures suggested by OIT.

<https://techprep.oit.uci.edu/2020/04/01/keep-zoom-meetings-secure/>

How can I prevent Zoombombing? And when did that even become a word?:

See the guidance from OIT -

<https://techprep.oit.uci.edu/zoom/zoombombing/>

<https://techprep.oit.uci.edu/2020/04/01/keep-zoom-meetings-secure/>

If you experience Zoombombing, please report it to techprep@uci.edu.

VPN (Virtual Private Network) -

You can use the UCI VPN if you need to access scientific papers online or use other resources that are available through the UCI network. If you use the Web VPN option be sure to select “WebVPN” as the Group before you log in.

<https://www.lib.uci.edu/connect>

You can also download the Software VPN app to enable VPN for all connections - not just those via web browser.

<https://www.oit.uci.edu/help/vpn/?target=software-vpn>

But my home internet is unstable! See the suggestions from OIT -

<https://files.constantcontact.com/f118d924601/1dd8e2ec-c2f4-4812-8ac0-71ec1fadf24d.pdf>

What about my research lab?:

All non-essential research is on hold. You can submit a form to request approval to carry on essential, critical research using this form from the School of Medicine Office of Research:

<https://som.uci.edu/research/covid-19-related-research-issues.asp>

You can submit this form at any time or update as needed if your research needs change.

Research need not be COVID-19 related to be deemed as essential, critical research.

General information about continuing research is available through the UCI Office of Research:

<https://news.research.uci.edu/research-continuity/>

<https://news.research.uci.edu/researcher-resources/>

Information about animal studies from the UCI Office of Research includes important topics such as “Social distancing while conducting critical research with animals”:
<https://news.research.uci.edu/research-continuity/animal-care-and-research/>

If you need help with animal breeding or genotyping contact ULAR. They have technicians trained in collecting tissue samples from mice for genotyping, and also in managing breeding colonies (setting up breeding pairs, weaning offspring etc.). These are not included in the standard per diem recharge rate, so there is an extra charge for ULAR techs to do these services.
<https://www.research.uci.edu/facilities-services/ular/index.html>

Deliveries of orders are now being routed to North Campus:
<https://procurement.uci.edu/covid-19/>

The link provides information on how to set up the delivery address and how to pick up packages at North Campus.

Note that deliveries through the US Postal Service, which might include Amazon packages, may also be routed to North Campus.

What about my human research studies or clinical trials?:

Important updates on human studies from the UCI Office of Research:
<https://news.research.uci.edu/research-continuity/irb-human-research-protection/>

Please contact Dr. Daniela Bota (dbota@uci.edu) or Dr. Beverly Alger (balger@uci.edu) at the Center for Clinical Research (CCR) for guidance on clinical trials.

What about my funding?:

NIH has released several Notices:

NOT-OD-20-083 - General FAQs for proposal submission and award management

NOT-OD-20-086 - Flexibilities for applicants and recipients of federal financial assistance

NOT-OD-20-087 - Guidance for clinical trials and human subject studies

For more NIH information, please see:

<https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm>

<https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus.htm>

<https://www.nih.gov/health-information/coronavirus>

<https://www.nih.gov/grants-funding>

NSF is continuing to accept applications and review them on a rolling basis (no deadline)

https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19faqs_proposerandawardee.pdf

https://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/coronavirus/

UCI Sponsored Projects Administration (SPA) has curated resources from a wide array of organizations and agencies for easy reference, including **NIH, NSF, Foundations, NASA, and DOE**:

<https://news.research.uci.edu/research-continuity/sponsored-projects-administration/>

I'd like to study the virus or its impact:

Learn more about SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19:

<https://som.uci.edu/research/covid-19-research/covid-19-experts.asp>

NIH resource - The COVID-19 Open Research Dataset is a free resource of over 52,000 scholarly articles, including over 41,000 with full text, about COVID-19 and the coronavirus family of viruses for use by the global research community.

<https://pages.semanticscholar.org/coronavirus-research>

Tools for studying viruses:

The School of Medicine Office of Research has created a hub of COVID-19 related resources, including a research project inventory.

<https://www.som.uci.edu/research/covid-19-research/>

The UCI Office of Research has a collection of links to resources specific to UCI researchers working on or planning to work on projects related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://news.research.uci.edu/research-continuity/>

<https://news.research.uci.edu/researcher-resources/>

UCI Center for Virus Research

<https://cvr.bio.uci.edu/>

<https://cvr.bio.uci.edu/covid-19/> - this link shows resources available to the UCI community for studying the virus

Center director: Bert Semler (blsemler@uci.edu)

UCI ICTS COVID-19 Research Biobank

<https://www1.icts.uci.edu/covid/>

The UCI SOM Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Center for Clinical Research, and Institute for Clinical and Translational Science are developing a comprehensive COVID-19 research biobank available for COVID-19 related research projects. Initial collections include whole blood, plasma, and serum from participants being tested for COVID-19 and remnant nasal swab samples.

Contact: Rob Edwards (redwards@uci.edu)

UC BRAID (Biomedical Research, Acceleration, Integration, and Development) COVID-19

Clinical Data Sets for Research:

<https://www.ucbraid.org/cords>

Funding:

Various grant agencies, as well as UC Irvine, are soliciting proposals for research projects that advance our understanding of the virus (natural history and pathogenicity) and transmission, as well as projects to develop medical countermeasures.

UCI internal funding to study COVID-19:

Applications accepted on a rolling basis

<https://fundopp.uci.edu/opp/covid-19-basic-translational-and-clinical-research-funding-opportunity/>

UC-wide funding opportunity for COVID-19:

University of California Research Grants Program Office

<https://ucop.smartsimple.com>

UCI School of Medicine list of funding opportunities, including COVID-19

https://som.uci.edu/research/research_opportunities.asp

<https://som.uci.edu/research/covid-19-research/funding-opportunities.asp>

ICTS COVID-19-related community engaged research; due June 1

<https://icts.uci.edu/funding/pilots%20and%20grants/ccri%20updated.php>

UCI curated list of COVID-19 funding opportunities:

<https://fundopp.uci.edu/opps/covid-19-funding-opportunities/>

NIH funding options:

<https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus.htm>

NSF funding options:

<https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20052/nsf20052.jsp>

CIRM (California Institute for Regenerative Medicine) funding options:

<https://www.cirm.ca.gov/our-funding/covid-19>

What about the students involved in my research?:

Undergraduate students:

- Bio 199 - All instruction and student interaction is through remote learning this quarter

- UROP - The Symposium is postponed to early fall quarter. The deadline for Journal submission is shifted to September 21, 2020.

UROP Spring call for proposals - Students are encouraged to attend a Proposal Writing Workshop on Wednesday, May 6, 3:00-5:00 PM (via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/99488185191>).

For more information, faculty and students may contact the UROP Office by E-mail:

urop@uci.edu.

Complete proposals must be submitted online at the UROP Web site (<http://www.urop.uci.edu/grants.html>), by Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

- SURP - The Summer Undergraduate Research Program is accepting applications. Students are encouraged to attend a SURP Proposal Writing Workshop on Wednesday, May 6, 3:00-5:00 PM (via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/99488185191>). For more information, faculty and students may contact the UROP Office by E-mail: urop@uci.edu.

Complete proposals must be submitted online at the UROP Web site (<http://www.urop.uci.edu/surp.html>), by Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

Graduate students:

Ensure students are prepared for Zoom and VPN access, and that data is accessible. Access to specialized software should be considered.

Graduate student exams such as advancement to candidacy and thesis defense will be in online format. There must be appropriate use of the online format; a graduate exam must provide the same level of communication and opportunity for discussion as an in person exam. The chair of the exam committee will be charged with ensuring that academic quality is maintained and University policy met. For doctoral thesis defenses, the public research presentation must be available with open access to the academic community. The ensuing final examination by the thesis committee should be held as a separate online meeting.

Following UCI Graduate Division guidelines, the School of Medicine will accept scanned documents and digital signatures for all forms related to enrolled services and exceptions until further notice.

Please see the updates from UCI Graduate Division:

<https://grad.uci.edu/services/CampusHealthUpdates.php>

Grad students needing financial support can request help from Grad Division by filling out a form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfGhJIIVS9JhtSVqfWM2NJosvHJ9UjSMWHpKfJOh-hbj9lgJQ/viewform>

UCI Inclusive Excellence Ambassador Fellowship (**DUE May 13, 2020**):

Provides a \$5,000 summer stipend to support the research of Ph.D. students who have shown a commitment to inclusive excellence.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfORWuOxh9zLzUOsngtbjvV_VueyqgGEh_rRGjvqaqwBJNW4g/viewform)

[1FAIpQLSfORWuOxh9zLzUOsngtbjvV_VueyqgGEh_rRGjvqaqwBJNW4g/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfORWuOxh9zLzUOsngtbjvV_VueyqgGEh_rRGjvqaqwBJNW4g/viewform)

Graduate student lab rotations: Since Spring 2020 rotations were disrupted, the CMB and INP programs have offered students the option of completing a summer rotation once labs are open again. Student stipends will be covered by the schools during the summer rotations if needed.

Contact:

INP - Karina Cramer (cramerk@uci.edu), Gary Roman (gary.roman@uci.edu)

CMB - Peter Donovan (pdonovan@uci.edu), Gary Roman (gary.roman@uci.edu)

UCI School of Biological Sciences has created a web site containing information for faculty and students:

<https://remote.bio.uci.edu/>

Is there support for post-doctoral fellows?:

UCI's Grad Division also supports post-doctoral fellows. See their web site at:

<https://grad.uci.edu/services/CampusHealthUpdates.php>

NIH has a website with FAQs, including item IX: Training, Fellowship, and Career Development Awards

<https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm>

How to effectively mentor in the current situation:

Every mentoring interaction is slightly different, so don't be afraid to try different approaches as needed to identify the optimal strategy for this situation. Consider increasing the frequency of lab meetings to keep everyone connected and suggesting that mentees create fairly rigid daily routines to maintain focus.

Some suggestions for students, post-docs, and fellows:

1. working on data analysis and design of experiments
2. reading scientific literature
3. attending journal clubs by Zoom or another platform
4. attending lab meetings by Zoom or another platform
5. writing drafts of manuscripts
6. preparing grant/fellowship applications
7. starting dissertation chapters, i.e., literature review for those not at that stage, or completing dissertations by those more advanced
8. seeking journals for unsolicited reviews
9. preparing research seminars, and/or posters for meetings
10. taking online courses to enhance skillsets for experimental work (e.g., bioinformatics, bioengineering techniques, Python, as examples)
11. perform computational modeling
12. review SOP techniques
13. search sequence data
14. secondary analysis
15. work collaboratively to outline an experimental plan for a study
16. work on figures for a collaborative manuscript
17. enhancing career development, for example through NIH Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE)

The NIH has collected resources for dealing with stress, developing resilience, and supporting trainees during the pandemic:

https://www.training.nih.gov/virtual_nih_activities_for_trainees_outside_the_nih

Crowd-sourced suggestions for working from home can be found at the link below, including online tutorials to learn more about bioinformatics, statistics, and image analysis to name a few.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1oF27RMnql7TomSwzZLyZyHKOAgzIJ1sflegd--521KE/edit#gid=861673151>

The list comes from New PI Slack, a community of Assistant Professors from around the world.

<https://newpislack.wordpress.com/>

How will this impact my merit, promotion, tenure, etc?:

Attend the pre-tenure faculty information session with CAP and Academic Personnel

May 19 from 8:30-10:30 am

Zoom ID: 919 4396 1117

Password: 006373

This workshop will cover the review process and is specifically targeted to Assistant Professors.

“Stop the Clock” options are available for research delays due to COVID-19. CAP will treat COVID-19 as it does other “Stop the Clocks”. The accomplishments will be evaluated as if they had occurred in a time period without the stopped year (i.e., a three year review period that with “Stop the Clock” took four years will be evaluated for three years of accomplishments). If the pandemic slowed a faculty member’s career progression beyond a single year then this should be explained in their review file. This will be considered by all levels of review.

COVID-19 “Stop the Clock” form (AP-92):

<https://ap.uci.edu/wp-content/uploads/UCI-AP-92.pdf>

“Stop the Clock” requests cover a period of one year for each event. Total “Stop the Clock” requests for an individual cannot total more than two years without filing for an exception. Thus, a third year request would require UCOP approval via Office of Academic Personnel.

Timing for submitting AP-92 for a COVID-19-related “Stop the Clock”: If the proposed action (i.e., Mid-Career Assessment or Tenure review) is to occur during the 2020-2021 review cycle, the form must be submitted by June 30, 2020. For later actions the form must be submitted by June 30, 2021. You can “Stop the Clock” by submitting the AP-92 form then still put forward your action at the normal time without penalty if you do not need the extension. So if you suspect that the delays due to COVID-19 may cause a problem, it may be best to submit the form by the June 30, 2021 deadline in case the extra time is needed.

Disruptions due to COVID-19 will be taken into account for all merits and promotions moving forward (<https://ap.uci.edu/addtlguidancecovid19/>).

Merits and promotions for this academic year (2019-2020) will proceed as normally as possible.

The UCI Office of Academic Personnel has several useful web pages:

<https://ap.uci.edu/covid19/covid-19-academic-review-fags/>

<https://ap.uci.edu/covid19/>

<https://ap.uci.edu/apreviewcovid19/>

<https://ap.uci.edu/addtlguidancecovid19/>

<https://ap.uci.edu/apreviewcovid19nonsenate/>

How can I balance child care and work?:

(1) If you have been identified as essential onsite staff or faculty you can request help with childcare by completing the survey at:

<https://ucichildcare.questionpro.com/>

Note: lab personnel engaged in essential onsite activities could fall under this category.

There are two childcare sites through this option - one in Irvine (Newkirk Alumni Center) and one in Orange (Doubletree Hotel).

(2) If you are a graduate student or faculty member teaching a course remotely this quarter or a clinician providing telemedicine you can request help with childcare by completing the survey at: <https://ucichildcare.questionpro.com/>

There are two childcare sites through this option - one in Irvine (Newkirk Alumni Center) and one in Orange (Doubletree Hotel).

The information will be updated at: <https://hr.uci.edu/disaster-relief/child-elder-care.php>

	Onsite YMCA	KinderKare
When implemented	April 1	Imminent
Locations	Irvine - Newkirk Alumni Center Orange - Doubletree	Locations will vary
Expected to end	thru May, will extend thru June if needed	thru May, June if needed
Eligible children	Ages 3-14	newborn-2
Process	HR website survey listed in 1 and 2 above: https://ucichildcare.questionpro.com/	Survey at: https://uci.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aaUUj08GpFTEJ3D

(3) If you need help with childcare but are not in the categories in 1 or 2, you can check the link below for resources:

<https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/compensation-and-benefits/other-benefits/family-care-resources.html>

Early Childhood OC is maintaining a list of child care centers that are open during the COVID-19 crisis that is sorted by zip code (click "Find Child Care"):

<https://sites.google.com/view/ecoc-covid-19/home>

Continuing Education offers a featured series on homeschooling:

These discussions will provide parents with actionable items that they can use immediately to make distance learning easier for working parents at home. Presentations are focused on children from pre-K - 5th grade, but can be valuable for children in older grades by making a few minor adjustments.

- Emotional Health Tips for You and Your Family

<https://ce.uci.edu/resources/events/event.aspx?id=00637>

Thursday, May 7, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

- How to Incorporate Teaching into Everyday Life

<https://ce.uci.edu/resources/events/event.aspx?id=00638>

Thursday, May 14, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

What about my planned travel?:

See the UCI Travel Guidance -

https://som.uci.edu/docs/COVID19_UCI_Local_Amendment_UC_G28_Policy.pdf

What about my current or planned faculty recruitment?:

See the Guidance from Academic Personnel -

<https://ap.uci.edu/2020facultysearches/>

Is there a trusted local source for information on COVID-19, including how it might impact my health?:

See the new website created by UCI Health for the latest information from expert voices on your health and wellness, testing, clinical trials, policy, technology, education, social issues, as well as insights and analysis on the real-life implications of these developments.

<https://oc-covid19.org/>

Wondering how to cope?:

Susan Samuelli Integrative Health is offering free virtual well-being services for UCI employees, including Sleep 101, What is Stress?, Mindfulness and Meditation, Guided Acupressure, Guided Massage, Yoga, Stress Management Strategies (all non-contact).

Request an appointment: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf52WSBa_NzkgwGaPSDdlwaEYY4hsfr_aG3Flymowm0Y3iREw/viewform
<https://ssih.uci.edu/tip/free-live-stream-practice-sessions/>
<https://ssih.uci.edu/stay-home-stay-well/>

UCI Psychiatry Department offers a Faculty and Staff Support Line with supportive therapy, techniques to manage anxiety, and other resources to provide emotional help during this difficult time. Sign up for a FREE 30 minute support session (links below). You will receive an email confirming your appointment. A counselor will call you at the designated time.

For Faculty:

<https://forms.gle/pAYUE7XCNBCjn98s8>

For Staff:

<https://forms.gle/i5yAK6ZoQtuCokyJ6>

If you would like access to free, confidential counseling services for you or your family, contact ComPsych Guidance Resources, your Employee Assistance Program (EAP), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at:

Phone: (844) 824-3273

<http://www.wellness.uci.edu/facultystaff/eap/introduction.html>

The Center for Student Wellness & Health Promotion invites you to join them each week to virtually interact with therapy dogs and cute pets! Say hello and introduce your pet to our participants. No pets? No problem! All are welcome to join to see the animals and enjoy some lighthearted fun.

Sign up at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfsT6LJisz211A4PKzFbtKIMxsV_6vs0LMf0TwEkusP3XZ1yw/viewform

Please note: If you are feeling suicidal, go to the nearest Emergency Room or call the National Suicide hotline at [1-800-273-8255](tel:1-800-273-8255).

Who are the Equity Advisors?:

The Equity Advisors work with the Deans, Terrance Mayes (the Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion in the College of Health Sciences), and the UCI Office of Inclusive Excellence to support UCI's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion.

An Equity Advisor is a senior faculty member, appointed as Faculty Assistant to the Dean in their respective schools. Equity Advisors participate in faculty recruiting by approving search strategies and raising awareness of best practices. Additionally, they organize faculty development programs, with both formal and informal mentoring, and address individual issues raised by women and underrepresented minority faculty.

UCI College of Health Sciences Office of Diversity and Inclusion -

<https://sites.uci.edu/cohsdiversity/>

UCI Office of Inclusive Excellence -
<https://inclusion.uci.edu/>

Equity Advisors:

Lisa Flanagan (lisa.flanagan@uci.edu), School of Medicine
Brian Cummings (cummings@uci.edu), School of Medicine
Cris Kenney (mkenney@hs.uci.edu), School of Medicine
Andrej Luptak (aluptak@uci.edu), College of Health Sciences

Please send any updates or additions to this resource to Lisa Flanagan (lisa.flanagan@uci.edu).