



RESEARCH UPDATE

A WEEKLY COMMUNICATION FROM THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH & SPONSORED PROGRAMS

VOLUME 2: NUMBER 9

March 5, 2021

GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Office of Research General Informational Meeting**
 - The Office of Research & Sponsored Programs will host a General Informational Meeting on March 12, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom. A calendar invite with agenda topics has been sent to all faculty and staff. [Zoom Meeting Link](#)
- **March Distinguished Researcher Seminar Series to Focus on Vaccine Development**
 - Norbert Pardi, Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania will be speaking on the Development of Nucleoside-Modified mRNA Vaccines at the March DRS Seminar. Mark your calendar for March 15 from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. The Department of Biomedical Science is hosting this seminar. We will post access information in advance of the seminar.
- **Finance Office Announces Dates for Year End Ordering**
 - The year end schedule for submission of purchasing requests has been made available by the Controller, Renee Huber-Landrum. [Please review the following dates and plan accordingly for your research related purchases.](#)
 - April 1, 2021: Last Day to Place International Orders
 - June 4, 2021: Last Day to Submit Purchase Requisitions for Domestic Orders
 - June 8, 2021: Last Day that Finance will generate Purchase Orders
 - June 29, 2021: Last Day for Receiving and Expense Reimbursements
 - July 19, 2021: Purchase requisitions resume in workflow
- **Don't Forget to Submit IRB and IBC Protocols for Review**
 - Summer Research will soon be here. We wish to remind all Principal Investigators to submit your protocols for research involving human subjects to the IRB and/or biohazardous agents to the IBC in order to avoid possible delays in beginning your research. For existing protocols, please remember to inform the respective committee of any additions to your research team.
- **Faculty/Staff Scholarly Activity Reporting**

We are compiling a complete list of all scholarly activities for the 2019-2020 Academic year, as part of the reporting requirements of the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs. *The period covered by this report is July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.*

The following information is needed to complete this questionnaire:

 - Citations for publications between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.
 - Citations for poster and oral presentations between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.
 - Information on grants submitted and/or received between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

[CLICK HERE TO ENTER YOUR INFORMATION](#)

MEDICAL STUDENT RESEARCH

- **Loma Linda University 2021 NMPRA Western Regional Conference Poster Competition Call for Abstracts**
 - The Loma Linda University Combined Internal Medicine/Pediatrics Residency Program is calling for submissions to the conference entitled, "Putting the Med Ed into Med Peds" which will occur virtually on **Sunday, April 18, 2021 from 9:45am-2:45pm**. The deadline for abstract submission is **March 22, 2021**. If interested, please [register](#) for the conference and email abstracts to lumedpeds@gmail.com.
- **2019 Medical Student Research Day Speaker Confirmed**
 - We are pleased to announce our keynote speaker for the 4th annual medical student research day. Andrea Amalfitano, Ph.D., D.O., Dean of the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, is an expert in the field of gene transfer vectors for vaccine applications and has a longstanding commitment to the advancement of osteopathic education. Dr. Amalfitano will be joining us on July 15, 2021 to participate in Medical Student Research Day activities and present a lecture on his research.

*Jonathan Kreger, OMS-II
SGA Director of Medical Research*

- ***New Student Research Reporting Policy***

On February 2, 2021 students were notified of a change in the [Student Handbook Section on Research & Scholarly Activity](#). The essence of this new policy centers on students informing the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs of research plans and activities in advance of beginning a research project, submitting an abstract to a conference, or submitting a communication for publication. The reporting involves completion of a short online form to ORSP to ensure that the research is conducted in compliance with institutional policies, as well as any applicable regulations that the College has a responsibility to comply with. Please feel free to [contact us](#) with any questions that you may have regarding this new policy and associated procedures. Additional information and access to the online forms are available on the [ORSP Medical Student Research Starting Your Research](#) web page or Dr. Ontiveros.
- ***Student Research Support Fund***
 - In support of Burrell College medical student research and creative scholarship endeavors, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) is pleased to announce the new 2020-2021 Student Research Support Fund and invites student researchers to submit an application. This funding opportunity provides Burrell College medical students with limited funds to support their research and creative scholarship. Applications are available on the [program website](#).
- ***Distinction in Research***
 - The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) is pleased to announce the [Distinction in Research](#) that will begin accepting applications on **January 15, 2021**. The Distinction is a highly intensive and optional path that provides opportunities for medical students who seek higher levels of mentored research experiences.
Contact: sjontiveros@bcomNM.org or research@bcomNM.org

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RESEARCH LABORATORIES

• *Director's Corner*

So, you're vaccinated? Now what?

With the approval of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine this week, the US added another tool to its arsenal for fighting off the SARS-CoV-2 virus. As more and more New Mexicans and Burrell personnel achieve immunity against the virus, many want to know when our life might return to 'normal', or at least something that resembles that galaxy far, far way we call 2019. Or, as Dark Helmet once asked Colonel Sandurz, "when will then be now?" The answer is of course, "soon". In all seriousness, this is an important question and one that is not easy to answer with any specificity. Some states (looking at you Texas) are taking a swifter approach to reopening but I anticipate Gov. Lujan-Grisham will take a more measured approach based on local conditions and data. COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have steadily fallen since the start of 2021 and New Mexico is second nationally in testing rate, giving us greater confidence in those data. While Doña Ana County still struggles with a test positivity rate hovering around the 5% limit, local efforts to further expand the number of people being tested may help us better characterize the amount of virus circulating in our community. The bottom line is that for the first time in a long time, things are starting to look up and we may be seeing the light at the end of this long tunnel. If vaccinations continue to expand and the Biden administration comes thru on their May target for national vaccine availability for everyone, then it's possible that this summer and certainly by fall we will start to see significant changes in our day-to-day interactions. Face coverings may become less important, concerts and spectator sports may resume, and we might finally get everyone back in the classrooms and laboratories where we want them.



There are unanswered questions related to the emergence of several SARS-CoV-2 variants that threaten to spoil the party. The B.1.1.7 variant, or the UK variant, is now the dominant strain in parts of Europe and was projected to become the dominant strain in the US by March due to increased transmissibility relative to previous variants.¹ Thankfully, existing vaccines protect against this variant. In contrast, the B.1.351 South African variant showed a six-fold reduction in neutralizing antibody titers relative to prior variants in individuals vaccinated with the Moderna vaccine. However, neutralizing titer levels remain above levels that are expected to be protective, according to information released by the vaccine manufacturer.² Furthermore, recent research from scientists at the La Jolla Institute for Immunology in California suggests that patients T cells can still recognize these variants, despite the partial antibody evasion.³ More concerning is the emergence of the P1 variant in the Brazilian city of Manaus, which appears to be driving reinfections in a city that previously had one of the highest infection rates in the world.⁴ While these results are still undergoing peer review, it bears watching as a potential immune escape variant.

The bottom line is that this virus is doing what viruses do. It is mutating, evolving, adapting in a struggle to survive. The good news is that the vaccines we will use to tackle this pandemic are easily modified and adapted to address new variants as needed. Booster doses may become a regular, annual practice just as we do for the flu. Things are getting better and we all have reasons to be optimistic but we should continue to do those easy things that help slow the spread of the virus as more and more of our friends and family are vaccinated; continue to mask up and socially distance when possible and we'll all be together again "soon".

Michael E. Woods, Ph.D.
Director of Research Laboratories

References

1. S.E. Galloway, P. Paul, D.R. MacCannel, et al., "Emergence of SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7 Lineage—United States, December 29, 2020–January 12, 2021," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 22 January 2021, Vol. 70, No. 3, pp. 95–99
2. Moderna, "Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Retains Neutralizing Activity Against Emerging Variants First Identified in the U.K. and the Republic of South Africa," 25 January 2021, available at: <https://investors.modernatx.com/news-releases/news-release-details/moderna-covid-19-vaccine-retains-neutralizing-activity-against>, accessed 5 March 2021
3. A. Tarke et al. Preprint at bioRxiv <https://doi.org/gh6tkp>; 2021
4. N. R. Faria et al. Preprint at https://github.com/CADDE-CENTRE/Novel-SARS-CoV-2-P1-Lineage-in-Brazil/blob/main/manuscript/FINAL_P1_MANUSCRIPT_25-02-2021_combined.pdf; 2021

- **Laboratory Services for Faculty Investigators**
 - The Research Laboratories are pleased to announce a new effort to advance faculty-driven research by offering Laboratory Services in support of college-sponsored research. All you need to do is submit a request using a [Research Services Request Form](#).
- **Bio-Rad BioPlex 200 Installed in Research Laboratories**

The Bio-Rad BioPlex 200 instrument has been installed in the BioScience Research Laboratory. Kalli Martinez will receive training from the vendor on instrument maintenance and operation and will be available to assist investigators with accessing this new capability. Please contact Dr. Woods or Ms. Kalli Martinez if you have any questions about BioPlex multiplexed immunoassays.
- **Research Laboratory Access**
 - We wish to remind laboratory users to contact [Ms. Kalli Martinez](#) before visiting the Research Laboratories. We continue to operate at a reduced capacity and it is important that we maintain awareness of laboratory user access.
- **Human Physiology Laboratory**
 - The IRB and Office of Research are working with Principal Investigators towards a plan for resuming face to face human subjects research in the Human Physiology Laboratory. Each project is being considered on a project-by-project basis from a risk/benefit perspective by the IRB based on information provided by the principal investigators. Assessment of risks and benefits includes those imposed to both subjects and investigators during the current COVID-19 pandemic. Contact the [IRB](#) or [Research Office](#) for more information.

DATES AND DEADLINES

- Institutional Review Board (IRB) – March 26, 2021; 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
 - Last day to submit materials for this meeting: March 15, 2021
 - Email: IRB@bcomnm.org
- Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) – March 15, 2021, 12:00-1:00 p.m.
 - Last day to submit materials for this meeting: March 5, 2021
 - Email: Research@bcomnm.org
 - The Institutional Biosafety Committee voted to move to a schedule of 4 meetings per year at their last meeting. The 2021 IBC meetings will be on March 10, April 14, July 14 and November 10. Principal Investigators needing approval for Summer Research should submit protocols for either March or April review. For more information contact Dr. Woods or the Office of Research.
- Research Advisory Council (RAC) – February 19, 2021, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- [Distinguished Researcher Seminar Series](#)
- The Distinguished Researcher Seminar Series will continue as an online series through the Spring Semester.
 - March 15, 2021: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
 - Development of Nucleoside-Modified mRNA Vaccines. Norbert Pardi, Ph.D., Research Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania.
 - *Invited and Hosted by Department of Biomedical Science*
 - April 2021: Medical Student Body will invite and host the speaker. Date to be announced.

POLICY & REGULATORY UPDATE

- **Burrell College New or Updated Policies and Procedures**
 - The Biosafety Manual has been updated after undergoing IBC review and is available on the Burrell College website. A minor modification has been made to the Blood-borne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan and we are still finalizing an SOP to inform the process by which Burrell Investigators can document Hepatitis B vaccination.
 - [Biological Safety Manual](#)
 - [Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan](#)

- Research Laboratories Services Request, [RSP.018](#)
 - ⑩ This policy defines the procedure whereby a Burrell College faculty may request Laboratory Services in support of College-sponsored research projects.
- **Human Research Protection** ○ [AHRQ Guide Notice on Exception to the Use of the Single IRB Review Requirements During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Public Health Emergency](#)
- **CDC**
 - [Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories \(BMBL\) 6th Edition](#) **New Edition!** *Download your Free Copy.*
- **World Health Organization**
 - [Laboratory Biosafety Manual, 4th Edition](#) (**New Edition**, December 2020)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, MEETINGS, and NOTICES

- **AACOM Osteopathic Health Policy Fellowship**
 - The [Osteopathic Health Policy Fellowship \(OHPF\)](#) is a year-long leadership training program designed to help osteopathic physicians and other associated health professionals develop the skills they need to analyze, formulate, and implement health policy on the local, state, and national levels. The OHPF is primarily sponsored by AACOM. The program is designed for practicing or teaching osteopathic physicians and other individuals with an established connection to the osteopathic profession. OHPF Alumni include non-physician COM faculty and administrators, physician assistants, state osteopathic association and foundation directors, and hospital administrators. **The Application Deadline is March 31, 2021.**
- [NIH Weekly Funding Opportunities and Notices](#) – March 5, 2021
- American Osteopathic Association
 - [AOA Research Grants](#) for DOs, MDs, and PhDs
 - [Research Opportunities](#) for resident physicians, fellows and osteopathic medical students
- [Wells Fargo Philanthropic Services](#) (Search for Opportunities)
- [Experimental Biology 2021](#) will be held April 27-30, 2021 as a virtual meeting.
- [AACOM Educating Leaders 2021](#) will be held April 20-22 as a virtual event.
 - **Registration is Open!** Regular registration is \$395 and registration for students/interns/residents is \$225.
- [American Academy of Osteopathy Convocation](#) will be held March 17-21, 2021 (*Virtual Event*)

CLINICAL TRIALS INFORMATION

• *Clinical Trials Information*

[TrialSite News](#) is a digital media resource dedicated to transparent and open coverage of clinical research trial sites around the globe.

Regeneron is looking for clinical partners in the region to expand ongoing research on monoclonal antibody therapy. Physicians should contact [Dr. Benoit](#) for more information.

INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

• *Case Report Guidance*

- Many of you have informed us of your intent to publish a case report. Please consult our [Case Report Publication Guidance](#) for additional information as you prepare your manuscripts for submission. While IRB approval is generally not required for Case Reports, the College expects that authors have secured permission for medical record access and follow all applicable regulations, policies and procedures. Please feel free to contact the [Office of Research](#) if you need additional guidance.

• *Information on Publishing Venues*

- The Office of Research and the Burrell College Health Sciences Library are available to assist with any questions that you may have regarding appropriate places to publish your research.

- [Cureus Journal of Medical Sciences](#)
 - Cureus is an open access peer reviewed medical journal based in San Francisco, CA that offers free publication for articles that follow their author instructions.
- **Journal of Osteopathic Medicine**
 - The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association (JAOA) is now the Journal of Osteopathic Medicine (JOM).
- [Call for COVID-19 Research Papers](#): The JAOA editors invite researchers to share information and data about their experiences with COVID-19 with the osteopathic community.
- Are you interested in publishing a literature review? The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association has created a video that provides tips for putting together a quality [Systematic Literature Review](#)

RECENT AND FORTHCOMING SCHOLARLY WORK BY BURRELL COLLEGE RESEARCHERS

(Please email us with your news and we will add it to future Updates.)

Dalgleish, A.S., Kania, A.M., Stauss, H.M. and Jelen, A.Z. Occipitoatlantal decompression and noninvasive vagus nerve stimulation slow conduction velocity through the atrioventricular node in healthy participants. J. Osteopath. Med. 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1515/jom-2020-0213>

Martin, S. Drainless Lipoabdominoplasty with Subscarpal Fat Preservation: An Analysis of 390 Patients. Oral Presentation at The Aesthetic Meeting 2021, Miami Beach, FL. April 29-May 3, 2021.