Overview

• Research Continuity - Phase 2
• Face-to-Face Human Subjects Research
• Integrative Safety Committee / International Human Subject Research
• OVPR Action Plan to Promote Racial Diversity
• COVID-19 Updates
• Postdoctoral Mentoring
• University Winter Break
Welcome! William (Bill) Shaw, Senior Director of Technology Transfer and Industry Collaboration

- Massachusetts General Hospital
- Founder and Board member
  - Eikonizo Therapeutics
  - 149 Medical Inc.
  - BlinkAI Technologies
- Expertise in international collaboration with a focus on China and Japan
- Member of Commonwealth of Massachusetts Bar
- Registered patent attorney at the USPTO
COVID-19 - Massachusetts

Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard - Thursday, December 10, 2020

Testing by Date - Molecular (Percent Positive)

7-Day Weighted Average of Percent of Tests by Molecular Method that are Positive by Test Date

- MA Statewide (metric on p.2)
- MA Higher Education Only
- MA with Higher Education Tests Removed

Graph showing the 7-day weighted average of percent tests by molecular method that are positive by test date. The graph displays data from June 2020 to December 2020, with a peak of 8.15% in early June and a trough of 0.2% in late October. The data fluctuates throughout, with some peaks reaching 7.75% in December and some troughs as low as 0.42% in late November.
Boston- Area Universities’ Cumulative and Surge (11/08-12/09) Test Positivity (%)
FACE-TO-FACE HUMAN SUBJECTS RESEARCH
CURRENT STATUS: LOW RISK

Heather Gipson-Cosier
Current Status of Face-to-Face Human Subject Research: Low Risk

- Research Ramp Down
- State Issued Stay-at-Home Policy
- March

- Remote and Lab-Based Animal Research Ramp Up (Low Density)
- June

- Human Subject Research Ramp Up (Low Risk)
- August

March June August
Factors Determining Status of Human Subjects Research

- COVID-19 Status of Participant
- Risk Level of Target Population
- Research Location
- Duration and Type of Face-to-Face Contact
- Frequency of Contact and Number of People
- Research Setting
- Research Equipment
- Research Activities
Public Health Regulations vs Research Restrictions
Face-to-Face Human Subject Research

- HSR ramp up precautions are **not** directly related research, but to public health guidance and university requirements.

- OVPR will announce decisions about when face-to-face human subjects research can resume.

- PIs will **not** be required to obtain re-approval from IRB to resume research activities other than modifications to minimize risks of COVID-19 exposure to participants or study staff.

- Approval from the IRB does **not** indicate approval to ramp-up face-to-face human subjects research.

- PIs are responsible for obtaining required approval of study-specific ramp up plans from their School and the OVPR’s ISC.
Face-to-face Health Sciences and Social-Behavioral Human Subjects Research Policy and Planning Resources

1. OVPR Policies
2. General Guidelines – “living” guidelines linked to other Tufts offices
3. Planning Guidelines in Context:
   • International Research
   • Clinical-Research Interface
   • On-campus Research
   • Community-based Research

OVPR’s Research Recovery Toolkit

Tufts Learning Center Mini-Course:
Ramping Up Face-to-Face Human Subjects Research at Tufts University

All ramp-up related documents are located on the OVPR website
INTEGRATIVE SAFETY COMMITTEE
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN SUBJECT RESEARCH

Phil Hinds
Integrative Safety Committee (ISC)

• Charge - Provides safety recommendations to the Vice Provost for Research

• Reviews - Research ramp down exceptions and close-proximity work, school research ramp up plans, COVID-19 research projects, HSR ramp up and international hiring

• Members are Regulatory Committee members (IACUC, IBC, etc.) and OVPR research compliance and safety directors or managers

• Synthesizes policies and procedures from each regulatory area and integrates them with infection control considerations

• When evaluating requests for exceptions to Tufts’ COVID-19 policies and procedures, works co-operatively with the existing regulatory structure at the Institution

ISC New Members

• Gillian Beamer, TCSVM (infectious disease; vice-chair, IACUC)
• Dyan Mazurana, Fletcher/Friedman (international studies; IRB member)
• Britta Magnuson, TUSDM (dental research; vice chair, HS IRB)

https://viceprovost.tufts.edu/about-isc
International Human Subject Research

• International HSR ramp up requests are reviewed by the ISC following approval by the PI’s research dean.

• Requests should be on the HSR ramp up request form (https://tufts.app.box.com/s/ml47jtt8vvvisj4i4w0bmawd3or1udsp) and Dean’s approval indicated by signature on the last page.
UPDATES ON OVPR ACTION PLAN TO PROMOTE RACIAL DIVERSITY

Caroline Genco & Zoya Davis-Hamilton
OVPR Funding Efforts To Promote Racial Diversity in the Research Workforce

• Working with Lewis-Burke Associates to identify federal funding
  • Identify funding targeted to increase diversity of faculty, post-docs, and students

• Partnering with the Research Council to develop an action plan to promote diversity in research workforce
  • Coordinated, cross-institutional planning

• Direct OVPR support
  • Funds for administrative supplements to existing internal programs for racial diversity in the research workforce
  • Support for proposal development focused on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity

• Other ideas: ovpr@tufts.edu
Diversity, Inclusion, & Racial Equity Funding

• NIH Faculty Institutional Recruitment for Sustainable Transformation (FIRST) Program funding opportunity released on December 8th
  • Promotes diversity and inclusion in the biomedical research workforce
  • Hiring of at least 10 tenure-track research faculty
  • Tufts can submit one application. Given eligibility criteria, Health Science campus must lead

• Kellogg Foundation Racial Equity 2030
  • Solutions must center on lived experience and include communities most affected by racial inequity
  • Program supports projects at the scaling-up stage
  • Solutions that impact inequality on a global scale are encouraged

• OVPR is coordinating limited submission process

• Contact limitedsubmissions@tufts.edu for additional information
COVID-19 UPDATES

Zoya Davis-Hamilton & Augusta Rohrbach
COVID-19 Federal Funding Updates

- Congress is working to pass FY2021 appropriations and a COVID-19 relief package

- Current government funding is under continuing resolution - expires on December 11
  - Congress may pass an extension to avoid a government shutdown

- Allowability of charging idle salaries to federal awards due to COVID (OMB memo M-20-17) expired September 30, 2020
  - Notify your local research administrator who will work with Pre-Award to request sponsor prior approval if necessary
Four Things Experts Have Learned From the Pandemic

Germs, disinformation, and inequities are easily spread, say COVID-19 researchers

https://now.tufts.edu/articles/four-things-experts-have-learned-pandemic
Tufts Medical Center / Tufts University COVID-19 Seed Funding Program - Phase 2 Awards

Goal
• To support critical, high-impact transdisciplinary research on both immediate and long-term effects and implications of the pandemic on overall human health and well-being

Priority
• Projects that make equity and/or social impact a central focus of the inquiry and/or outcome
• Teams that leverage the diverse expertise and research capacity of TMC and TU, and faculty and staff, and researchers from the Wellforce partner hospitals

Key Dates
• Applications due: January 15, 2021
• Award announcement: February 2021
• Anticipated start date: February/March 2021

Program guidelines and RFA: https://viceprovost.tufts.edu/covid-19-rapid-response-seed-funding-program-phase-2-awards - Questions? Email: covid19research@tufts.edu
POSTDOCTORAL MENTORING

Andrew Bohm
UNIVERSITY WINTER BREAK

Caroline Genco
Winter Break Research Activities for Faculty, Students, and Staff

• Encouraging minimal onsite presence
• Limit work to research continuity
• Testing for on-campus:
  • Limited hours
  • Updates on Healthy@tufts.edu
• OVPR services will be limited to emergencies with the exception of CMS
• CMS will be in operation

Regulatory Deadlines for January Meetings

• IACUC
  • Pre-review due: 12/16
  • Final due: 12/23
• IBC: 1/4/21
• SBER IRB: Continue to report new information per standard operating procedure
University Winter Break - OVPR Emergency Contacts

**Biosafety:** Biosafety Manager at 617-201-2479

**Chemical Safety:** University Police at 617-627-6911 (Boston/Medford/Somerville campuses) or 508-839-5303 (Grafton campus)

**Environmental Health & Safety (EHS):** University Police at 617-627-6911 (Boston/Medford/Somerville campuses) or 508-839-5303 (Grafton campus)

**Radiation & Laser Safety:** Radiation Safety Officer at 617-308-3781

Once the situation is under control, complete the [Accident/Incident Reporting Form](#) and email it to Debopom.Mitra@tufts.edu. More information on accident/incident reporting and emergency response can be found [here](#).
A total lockdown isn’t necessary — but we need to do more now to weather the latest COVID-19 storm

A partial rollback and pausing of business and social activities that are known to be high-risk could reduce financial pain while reducing new infections, hospitalizations, and deaths.

By Shan See-Lin and Robert Hecht  Updated December 10, 2020, 3:00 a.m.
Questions?