

UAB THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

Research Matters

March 31, 2021

\$2.39 Million Grant will Establish Program to Research Financial Consequences of Disease, Emotional Well-Being of Patients

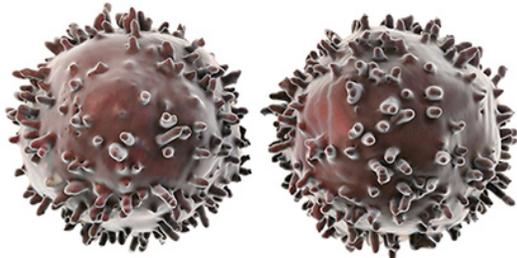
The University of Alabama at Birmingham's Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Center and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center have received a \$2.39 million grant to create the Emotional Well-being and Economic Burden Research Network.

The award is from the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health and the National Institutes of Health Office of the Director. Many patients suffering from the effects of COVID-19 have been left struggling with ways to pay for their treatment. Those concerns also affect patients seeking cancer treatment, emergency care, surgery and more. Little attention has been given to how the financial consequences of a disease affect a person's emotional well-being. This is due partly to the lack of dedicated researchers in this field.

“We not only need more researchers, but need researchers from different fields of study to truly understand this topic in depth,” said Maria Pisu, Ph.D., professor in the Division of Preventive Medicine at UAB. Pisu, along with Michelle Martin, Ph.D., director of the Center for Innovation in Health Equity Research at UTHSC and professor in the UTHSC Department of Preventive Medicine, will collaborate to understand the relationships between financial burden, emotional well-being and broader health outcomes.

[Read more...](#)

TOP STORIES



A T-cell Stimulatory Protein and Interleukin-10 Synergize to Prevent Gut Inflammation

Researchers have found an unexpected synergy between a T-cell stimulatory protein — the ICOS ligand — and interleukin-10, an immunoregulatory cytokine, to prevent inflammatory bowel disease in mice.

The study will aid the understanding of, and future research into, this immune disorder, which includes Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis. About 1.6 million Americans have inflammatory bowel disease.

Interleukin-10, or IL-10, was already known as a major player to prevent gut inflammation by establishing and maintaining immune homeostasis in the gut, where it is vital for the host to have a peaceful coexistence with normal intestinal microbes, while the immune system still stands guard against pathogens. IL-10 is produced by CD4+ T-regulatory cells in the gut.

The research, published in the Proceedings of the National Academies of Science, was led by Craig Maynard, Ph.D., assistant professor in the University of Alabama at Birmingham Department of Pathology.

[Read more...](#)

Important Update Regarding



Resumption of Research Operations

Previously published guidance on the resumption of laboratory, non-Human Subjects Research is now suspended.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to present complex challenges and events

may transpire that could require a return to more restrictive guidance.

Effective March 24, 2021 the following guidance will be in effect:

- Masks are required at all times in the laboratory, research spaces, and elsewhere on campus. Some laboratories may require gloves or other protective equipment as well.
- Efforts should be made to keep laboratory personnel density as low as practical, and social distancing should be practiced when possible.
- Hand hygiene and disinfecting workspaces are strongly encouraged at all times.
- Those who work in shared space or use shared equipment must jointly develop and implement a plan for hygiene maintenance.

Guidance for Human Subjects Research dated 3/17/2021 is current and the recommendations should be followed.

[Read more...](#)



Medicine Without Mileage

Telehealth visits through UAB eMedicine saved patients approximately 263,000 hours of travel and \$5.68 million in time saved based on the 2019 Alabama median hourly wage. Those statistics are a few of the highlights from a remarkable year for telehealth at UAB, as explored in [UAB eMedicine's new annual report](#).

As of Dec. 31, 2020, UAB eMedicine had completed 280,668 telehealth appointments, and 91% of UAB providers are using telehealth. Patients saved an average of 58.1 miles of driving per telehealth visit, which totaled approximately 13.7 million driving miles and 5.7 million kilograms of carbon

dioxide emissions saved — the equivalent of taking 1,231 passenger vehicles off the road for a year.

"My eMedicine video call saved me about half a day, taking off work and driving 30-45 minutes to go sit in a crowded waiting room for an hour," according to one patient quoted in the report.

[Read more...](#)

For more news please visit [UAB News - Research & Innovation](#).

FEATURED



Coronary Artery Calcium Score May Help Personalize Blood Pressure Treatment, Guide Cardiovascular Risk Reduction Approaches

In a recent study published in Hypertension, University of Alabama at Birmingham researchers found that coronary artery calcium score is an excellent predictor of potential

cardiovascular events like heart failure, stroke and heart attacks. The researchers found that individuals who are not recommended treatment as per the current guidelines may still have a high risk of cardiovascular events, which is captured by their high CAC score.

Vibhu Parcha, M.D., a clinical research fellow in the Division of Cardiovascular Disease and the first author of this study, explained that the current high blood pressure treatment guidelines by the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology define normal blood pressure as clinic blood pressure of less than 120/80 mmHg. The guidelines recommend treatment for those with stage I hypertension and high cardiovascular risk and those with stage II hypertension.

[Read more...](#)

Revisions to IRB Smart Forms

Based on survey feedback received by



the Office of the IRB, revisions are in process for the IRB ePortfolio, Continuing Review eForm, Revision/Amendment eForm, SIRB Site Addition Amendment eForm, and Personnel eForm. Changes are projected to be completed before the end of March.

Highlights of form revisions include:

- Enhanced formatting capabilities on several free text questions in the ePortfolio
- Revised instructions for submitting amendments within the ePortfolio
- Addition of an inclusion/exclusion criteria question in the ePortfolio
- Clarification of several questions across all revised forms

[Read more...](#)



Now Available in Research.gov: Three New Proposal Types and Proposal Withdrawal Functionality

Effective March 22, the National Science Foundation (NSF) enabled three new proposal types in the Research.gov Proposal Submission System and in the recently launched [Research.gov Proposal Preparation Demo Site](#).

These are the Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASSED), Equipment, and Travel proposal types. New automated compliance checks and associated error and warning messages for these proposal types were also implemented. In addition, proposal withdrawal functionality was added for both single submission (with or without subawards) and separately submitted collaborative proposals from multiple organizations. New training resources have also been added to the [Research.gov About Proposal Preparation and Submission page](#).

[Read more...](#)

For more news please visit [UAB News - Research & Innovation](#).

INFORMATION



NIH Announces Changes to Other Support and Biosketch Formats

NIH has updated its application forms and instructions to support the need for applicants and recipients to provide full transparency and disclosure of all research activities, foreign and domestic.

The updated forms and instructions will be required for use for applications and Research

Performance Progress Reports (RPPR) submitted for due dates on or after **May 25, 2021**.

The revisions serve as updates to the Biosketch and Other Support format page templates used as attachments in the current Forms-F application packages and RPPRs. The forms updates do not change the policies for Biosketch or Other Support.

Updated Biosketch resources, including FAQs and sample Biosketch format pages can be found [here](#). Updated Other Support resources, including FAQs and sample Other Support format pages can be found [here](#).

- [Biosketch Resources](#)
- [Other Support Resources](#)
- [NIH Notice NOT-OD-21-073](#)

UAB Proposed Composite Fringe Benefit Rates for FY 2021/2022

All employees have certain fringe benefits that are associated with their employment appointments. The composite benefits rates represent the



percentage of benefits that will be applied to the employee salary and they are applied to all employees who are eligible for the benefits.

UAB Financial Affairs has released the Proposed Composite Benefit Rates for Fiscal Year 2021/2022. These proposed rates can now be used for computing fringe benefits for all proposal submissions except for Federal Contract submissions. Once the rates have been approved by the Department of Health and Human Services they will be incorporated into the F&A Rate Agreement.

- [Composite Fringe Benefits Main Page](#)
- [FY 2021/2022 CFB Proposed Rates](#) (PDF)
- [FY 2020/2021 CFB Approved Rates](#) (PDF)



30 Day Notification of Intent to Submit an SBIR/STTR Grant Application with a Small Business Concern (SBC)

In order to help faculty navigate the complex processes and optimize efficient processing, Principal Investigators who anticipate participating as a subrecipient in an SBIR or STTR proposal must submit a Notification of Intent to Submit an SBIR/STTR Grant Application with a Small Business Concern (SBC) form at least 30-days prior to the

submission due date of the proposal. The e-form is found at <https://go.uab.edu/notice-intent-sbir-sttr-sbc>.

Submission of this short, e-form allows UAB central administrative units to be on notice of an anticipated proposal, to perform any due diligence in regard to the proposed SBC partner and to make sure the appropriate agreements are in place relating to UAB IP. The form asks for basic information about the proposed award and completion time should be less than 10 minutes. The

working draft proposal, along with the other required documents remain due 5-business days prior to the SBC's anticipated submission date.

The next NIH SBIR/STTR deadline is April 5th, 2021. PI's anticipating partnering on a submission for this deadline should complete the 30-day Notification of Intent to Submit form by Friday, March 5th.

[Read more...](#)

NIH Notice(s) - March 26, 2021

- [Updated Reporting Requirements for RADx-rad Grant Recipients](#)
(NOT-OD-21-084)
National Institutes of Health
- [Continued Extension of Certain Flexibilities for Prospective Basic Experimental Studies With Human Participants](#)
(NOT-OD-21-088)
National Institutes of Health

[Read more...](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



Funding Opportunities & Pilot Project Research Funding

Information about research funding opportunities and federal agency notices can be found at the [Office of Research Development Funding Opportunities](#) page. Information concerning UAB Pilot Project can be found at the [Pilot Project Research Funding](#) page.

Twitter: [@UABResearchDev](#)

DID YOU KNOW?



Optional digital COVID vaccination card is available to UAB community

Members of the UAB community vaccinated through UAB can obtain an optional digital COVID vaccination card created by UAB Information Technology through the [UAB mobile app](#) or the [my.uab.edu portal](#).

A secure system verifies vaccination status through UAB's HIPAA-compliant records and adds the digital card to the user's smartphone in Apple Wallet or via WalletPasses on Android devices. Individuals who did not receive their vaccine at UAB cannot access this digital card yet, although that may change as the system evolves.

[Read more...](#)

If you are interested in reading about other fun facts, surprising figures or other distinctions at UAB, please see [UAB Office of Research - Did You Know?](#)

EVENTS

Informatics Institute PowerTalk Seminar Series - Clinical Informatics with Dr. Eneida A. Mendonca

Date: April 2, 2021

Time: 10:00am - 11:00am

Zoom: [Register](#)

Please join us for the [Informatics Institute PowerTalk Seminar Series - Clinical Informatics](#).

"Facilitating Collaborative Research: Data Harmonization and Pooling"

Molecular Mechanisms Underlying Cutaneous Chemical Burns Caused by Arsenical Exposure

Date: April 15, 2021

Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Zoom: [Register](#)

This seminar is part of the UAB Research Center of Excellence in Arsenicals Grand Rounds. Dr. Mohammad Athar is the Director of the UAB Research Center of Excellence in Arsenicals and he will speak on molecular mechanisms underlying cutaneous chemical burns caused by arsenical exposure while highlighting

[Eneida A. Mendonca, MD, PhD, FAPP](#)
Vice President for Research
Development and
Interim Director, Center for Biomedical
Informatics, Regenstrief Institute
Professor of Pediatrics and Biostatistics
Indiana University School of Medicine

the work of the UAB Research Center
of Excellence in Arsenicals.
[Registration is required.](#)

**Informatics Institute PowerTalk
Seminar Series - Clinical
Informatics with Dr. Yuan Luo**

Date: April 16, 2021
Time: 10:00am - 11:00am
Zoom: [Register](#)

Please join us for the [Informatics
Institute PowerTalk Seminar Series -
Clinical Informatics](#).

"A Multidimensional Precision Medicine
Approach Identifies an Autism Subtype
Characterized by Dyslipidemia"

[Yuan Luo, PhD](#)
Associate Professor of Preventive
Medicine
Chief AI Officer, Northwestern
University Clinical and Translational
Sciences Institute (NUCATS) and
Institute of Augmented Intelligence in
Medicine (IAIM)
Northwestern University Feinberg
School of Medicine

**5th Annual Translational and
Transformative Informatics
Symposium (ATTIS)**

Date: April 23, 2021
Time: 8:00am - 5:00pm
Zoom: [Register](#)

The [UAB Informatics
Institute](#) and [Center for Clinical and
Translational Science](#) invites you to
attend the [5th Annual Translational
and Transformative Informatics
Symposium](#) (ATTIS). This year's
symposium will be held virtually on
Zoom. ATTIS 2021 offers faculty,
postdoc trainees, and graduate
students an opportunity to report
progress on the latest informatics
research and applications in
biomedical sciences at UAB. Keynote
presentation, scientific talks, flash
informatics tool presentation,
educational panel, single-cell analysis
and data science toolkit tutorials,
poster presentations, and informatics
gateways will be offered.

The themes of this year's symposium
are bioinformatics methods, genomics,
cancer genomics, single-cell genomics,
clinical genomics, epigenomics, cloud
computing, bioinformatics education
and relevant applications.

2021 NSF CAREER Award Training

Date: April 23, 2021

Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Zoom: [Register by Email](#)

Campus-wide training offered to junior faculty planning to apply for an NSF CAREER Award. Two sessions will be held online on April 23 and April 30; the second session builds off the first, so attendance at both sessions is recommended.

To register, please contact Veronica Speight at vspeight@uab.edu by **April 16**. The Zoom meeting link will be provided after registration.

Training will be led by NSF CAREER awardees Dr. Ragib Hasan (Department of Computer Science), and Dr. Amber Genau (School of Engineering), with support from current and previous awardees in multiple College of Arts and Sciences departments. The two-session training program will walk applicants through the process of applying for and winning prestigious CAREER Awards from the NSF. All UAB faculty members are invited to attend.

Do you have an event that you would like to publish in Research Matters? Submit your event using the [publicity request](#) web form!

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