

# Department of Genetics Townhall Meeting

13 APR 2020

# General Stuff

- Rules for the meeting:
  - All participants will be muted
  - Send questions using the “CHAT” box in zoom
  - If you wish to ask a question, please unmute and introduce yourself
- Pay attention to updates from the university, the state and the CDC
- Practice social distancing
- Pay special attention to avoid infecting those at risk for serious disease: the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions
- Be kind

# New Faculty in Genetics (Mar-Apr)

- Matt Halvorsen, PhD – Assistant Professor
- Christoph Rau, PhD – Assistant Professor (also in Comp Med)
- Alex Rubinsteyn, PhD – Assistant Professor (also in Comp Med)
- Sarah Schoenrock, PhD – Assistant Professor, Assistant Director of Research
- Courtney Thaxton, PhD – Assistant Professor

# PPE – On Campus Mandatory

- UNC Healthcare is now asking all mandatory employees who work onsite to wear surgical masks, regardless of patient contact
- Please follow up with your department or center business managers to get PPE – they are providing one mask and one paper bag (to store the mask) per week to each mandatory employee
- Please reinforce with your staff

# Department Seminars

- The following speakers will give a seminar in April:
  - Yuliya Pylayeva-Gupta – 4/15 (promotion seminar)
  - Daniel Hollern (postdoc in Perou lab) – 4/22
  - Jason Whitmire – 4/29 (promotion seminar)
- PLEASE ATTEND (via Zoom)! Details to be emailed

# Practical R for Scientists

- Zoom meetings start today at 1pm and will meet on MWF until May 1
- First session focus will be: Set up and intro to R and R Studio
- If you would like to join, please email NaEshia at: [ancalade@email.unc.edu](mailto:ancalade@email.unc.edu)
- Links to recordings will be on department website

# Art Competition Reminder

- The Department of Genetics has opened a competition to select an art piece to be located in the newly renovated Emeritus Conference Room (GMB 5094). The format is flexible but the piece should fit in the proposed space. Painting, sculpture, photography, collage, mixed media and other visual arts are welcome. The department seeks a highly original piece and the subject matter has no restrictions, but some connection (formal or subjective) to the mission of the department or its members is welcome. Pieces that are contrary to the values and strategic framework of the UNC School of Medicine (research, education, faculty, diversity-equity-inclusion, service and administration) will be disqualified.
- **ARTIST.** The artist(s) should have a connection to the department. Direct or indirect connections are acceptable (please ask if you qualify). Art pieces with team authorship that includes one or more members of the department will also qualify.
- **DIMENSIONS.** Maximum dimensions for the piece are: 8' tall, 30" wide (including frame if needed) and 14" deep. Size will not impact eligibility for the prize.
- **PRIZE.** A single prize of \$600.00 will be awarded to the winner. The stipulation for the winning piece is that it will be donated to the department for display in the conference room.
- **SUBMISSION PROCESS.** Artists should submit up to three high-quality photographs of the art (suitable for judging) and include the name of the artist, a short paragraph describing the piece, and the dimensions. Please send submissions by email to Cathy Cornett at: [Catherine\\_cornett@med.unc.edu](mailto:Catherine_cornett@med.unc.edu) with the title: Art Competition – “last name”
- **REVIEW AND SELECTION.** Photographs of the submitted pieces will be posted online for review for a period of two weeks. The winner will be selected by popular vote of qualified members of the department using a survey tool that will be provided by email.
- **DATES**
  - Submission Window: May 18-June 1, 2020
  - Review Process: June 1-14, 2020
  - Voting Survey: June 15-19, 2020
  - Award: By June 26, 2020

# Hiring During Reduced Operations - UPDATE

- Hiring is limited to:
  - Critical recruitments needed in the current environment
  - Recruitments needed to fill vacant or soon to be vacant leadership positions that do not have an identified interim leader
  - Difficult to fill positions (i.e. positions that have been vacant for > 12 months)
  - Recruitments needed to fulfill specific requests made by the Dean or Executive Dean
  - Clinicians that provide ambulatory/elective services with a start date of 8/1/20 or later
  - Researchers not engaged in “critical research activities” with a start date of 8/1/20 or later
- Requires more robust justification – please contact Sam/Cara before initiating any new hires



# Changes to Special Pay Provisions (4/10)

- Mandatory Onsite Primary and Secondary (SHRA and EHRA non-faculty) will receive compensatory time only (not 1.5x pay)
- Mandatory employees who worked on Friday 4/10 (spring holiday) would receive holiday premium pay but not compensatory time
- No decision on eligibility of temporary employees for premium pay
- EHRA temps and postdocs should continue to maintain records of administrative absences and mandatory onsite time

# COVID-19 Funding Opportunities

- COVID-19 related funding opportunities of interest to Department of Genetics scientists have been curated and saved to [website intranet folder](#) “COVID-19 Funding Opportunities”. This will be updated on a regular basis so please check back weekly.
- NEW SOM Office of Research Emerging Challenges Pilot Award Program - \$10-50K/one year, VCR-approved research and CDMEs, no significant overlap with aims of existing funding. Due 4/20
- See “Genetics Funding Opportunities” email sent on 4/9/20

# Emergency Resources – New page on website

- For Coronavirus concerns, please visit these resources:
  - [UNC Healthcare Resources for coping with COVID-19](#)
  - [Other UNC Healthcare COVID-19 resources](#)
  - [UNC and SOM COVID-19 consolidated resources – on SOM intranet](#)
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): <https://caps.unc.edu/>