

Department of Genetics Townhall Meeting

04 MAY 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

Faculty Meeting

- Wednesday, May 6 at 1pm
- Cathy sent the Zoom invite earlier today
- Please plan to attend for important updates
- If you are unable, let Chris know and the slides will be provided

State of NC Guidance - 4/30 update

- Stay at home order through May 8
- To begin lifting restrictions, NC needs to see progress in key metrics:
 - Sustained leveling or decreased trajectory in COVID-like illness surveillance over 14 days – current trend ↗
 - Sustained leveling or decreased trajectory of lab-confirmed cases over 14 days – current trend ↑
 - Sustained leveling or decreased trajectory in percent of tests returning positive over 14 days – current trend ↓
 - Sustained leveling or decreased trajectory in hospitalizations over 14 days – current trend →

PPE – On Campus Mandatory

- UNC Healthcare is now asking all mandatory employees who work onsite to wear surgical masks, regardless of patient contact. Two masks per week
- Please wear masks to and from parking lots
- “Ear Savers” available – please let Cara/Chris know if you need some and how many
- Please follow up with Cara/Chris to pick up your masks each week – new batch provided on Tuesdays
- Department plans to purchase masks for when UNC re-opens (for those who must wear, e.g., in animal facilities)

Mandatory Postdocs and Grad Students

- Admin leave and 1.5x pay has been extended until May 8. Overtime does not qualify for 1.5x pay.
- TIM code available for admin leave for grad students, postdocs and temp employees
- By Wednesday (5/6), CDME graduate students (BCB or GMB), postdocs and temp employees should send Cara a supervisor/PI-approved bi-weekly schedule of hours worked ON CAMPUS during April 1-30
- Lump sum payments will be in May payroll
- PIs should let Cara know if the lump sum needs to come from a different chart field string than what is normally used

Plans for Re-Opening

- When we receive State of NC, system and UNC guidance, department will continue preparations for eventual re-opening.
- Basic Science Chairs and OoR are discussing potential re-opening plans this week
- Department will develop plans focused on reduced density, social distancing, use of PPE, including:
 - Work Schedules
 - Desks
 - Lab Bays
 - Common Areas (kitchens, bathrooms, etc.)
- Your cooperation will be appreciated

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 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

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.

Questions??