

Department of Genetics Townhall Meeting

27 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

State of NC Guidance – 5/20 update

- Phase Two continues May 22 – June 6
- Measuring progress
 - Sustained leveling or decreased trajectory in COVID-like illness surveillance over 14 days ↓
 - Sustained leveling or decreased trajectory of lab-confirmed cases over 14 days ↑
 - Sustained leveling or decreased trajectory of tests returning positive over 14 days →
 - Sustained leveling or decreased trajectory in hospitalizations over 14 days →

Guidance from OVCR for Laboratory Research

- 50% occupancy
- Physical distancing
- Safety practices, including PPE and cleaning
- Reduce number of users in DCM facilities
- Cores must focus on cleaning equipment, surfaces before and after use
- Re-arrange equipment to ensure physical distancing
- Symptoms monitoring – each employee must perform a daily health check for Covid-related symptoms before coming to work

OVCR Guidance – effective 6/1/20

- Critical activities no longer need approval
- CMDE designation no longer required
- Researchers who can work remotely should continue to do so
- Departments will get approval from research deans for ramp-up plans
- GMB 5th floor labs should wait to hear from the chair for final approval of ramp-up timing
- OVCR Zoom call TODAY at 4pm – please attend!

Transportation and Parking

- New guidance is anticipated today or tomorrow regarding buses, park and ride, parking spots, summer and after-hours parking

SOM Guidance – effective 6/1/20

- Guidelines for lab-based research
- Guidelines for human subjects research

- SOM Research Re-opening Zoom Call (hosted by Blossom Damania, Vice Dean for Research) – Thurs., 5/28 at 3pm. Info will be sent to Genetics listserv

Guidelines for Lab-based Research

- I. Overview of SOM guidelines for COVID-19 prevention while performing research
- II. Guidelines for laboratory personnel safety
- III. Guidelines for operating a safe laboratory environment
 - I. Create a work schedule for your lab and adhere to it.
 - II. Create safe spaces to maintain at least 6 feet between researchers at all times
 - III. Create a plan for safe practices in the lab.
 - IV. Create a plan for shared equipment. All shared equipment must be disinfected before and after each use.
 - V. Create a plan for interactions with others outside the lab.
 - VI. Create a plan for a possible or confirmed case of COVID19 among personnel in a lab.

Guidelines for Lab-based Research

IV. Guidelines for research in DCM animal rooms

V. Examples of Lab Space Plans

VI. Enhanced Cleaning for Prevention

Department of Genetics Guidance – effective 6/1/20

- Lab occupancy plan
- Lab safety plan
- Implementation
 - When to return to work?
 - How to return to work?
- Compliance

- Lab occupied
- Remote work
- Department
- Shared use



Lab Name	F + P = T
Berg	0 + 4 = 4
Bultman	1 + 0 = 1
Ferris	0 + 1 = 1
Ideraabdullah	0 + 6 = 6
Kelada	6 + 0 = 6
Koller	5 + 2 = 7
Lynch (core)	0 + 1 = 1
Magnuson	0 + 10 = 10
MMRRC	4 + 2 = 2
Mohlke	4 + 2 = 6
PMV	4 + 0 = 4
Raab	3 + 0 = 3
Sullivan	0 + 6 = 6
Wilhemsen	0 + 1 = 1
Whitmire	5 + 2 = 7
Administration	3 + 2 = 5
Total	35 + 39 = 74

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??