

# COGR News Digest



Council On Governmental Relations

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## **COGR's Web Page on Institutional and Agency Responses to COVID-19 and Additional Resources (Including COGR's FAQs)**

**\*\*Institutional policy links and COVID19 questions can be sent to [COVID19@cogr.edu](mailto:COVID19@cogr.edu).**

### **4/27/20: What the Coronavirus Crisis Reveals About American Medicine**

**(The New Yorker)** *Medicine is a system for delivering care and support; it's also a system of information, quality control, and lab science. All need fixing. The plot of federal grants awarded for coronavirus research in the past few decades looks like a bell-shaped curve. In the nineteen-nineties and early two-thousands, there were typically between twenty and thirty such grants a year; these were the lean decades that Weiss had referred to. Predictably, the number surged after 2003, when sars arrived, reaching its peak of a hundred and three in 2008. And then came the decline. This year, no doubt, the line will rise again.* <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/05/04/what-the-coronavirus-crisis-reveals-about-american-medicine>

### **4/26/20: Commentary: Michigan's research universities involved in COVID-19 fight (Crains Detroit Business)**

*Michigan needs its great public research universities more now than ever. And we are bringing all of our resources to this fight. It is imperative that the three major state universities that make up Michigan's University Research Corridor — Michigan State University, the University of Michigan and Wayne State University — are at the front lines and in the laboratories battling the COVID-19 pandemic. URC researchers have joined forces to develop tests, treat the virus and create vaccines.* <https://www.crainsdetroit.com/other-voices/commentary-michigans-research-universities-involved-covid-19-fight>

**4/23/20: Increasing Access to FDA Inspection Reports on Irregularities and Misconduct in Clinical Trials (JAMA)** *Transparency related to clinical trial protocols and data has become the expected standard over the past 2 decades, with broad support from patients, the scientific community, and regulatory agencies. Requirements for trial disclosures are codified in US statute and, since 2017, regulation requires timely submission of trial results to ClinicalTrials.gov. However, meaningful clinical trial transparency extends beyond prospective registration and reporting results. The public, for example, must know whether trials were conducted according to international standards for research integrity and must have access to reports investigating departures from good clinical practice guidelines.* <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2765251>

**4/21/20: Coronavirus Is Forcing Medical Research to Speed Up (New York Times)** *As scientists race to understand the coronavirus, the process of designing experiments, collecting data and submitting studies to journals for expert review is being compressed drastically. What typically takes many months is happening in weeks, even as some journals are receiving double their normal number of submissions. Science, one of the world's most selective research outlets, [published](#) the structure of the spiky protein that the virus uses to enter host cells — crucial knowledge for designing a vaccine and antiviral drugs — nine days after receiving it, according to Holden Thorp, the journal's editor in chief. "It's the same process going extremely fast," he says. Is there precedent in Science's 140-year history? "Not that anybody can remember."* <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/21/magazine/coronavirus-scientific-journals-research.html>

**4/21/20: U.S. Senators Urge Cybersecurity Officials to Defend Health Sector (New York Times)** *A handful of U.S. senators have called on top cybersecurity officials to aggressively protect health and research organizations from potential hacking and other attacks as the country battles the coronavirus pandemic. Reuters has recently documented attempts by state-backed groups to hack into the World Health Organization. Last week, a senior FBI official warned that advanced hackers were also targeting U.S. research institutions working on coronavirus treatments.* <https://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2020/04/21/us/politics/21reuters-health-coronavirus-cyber.html>