

COGR News Digest

COGR

Council On Governmental Relations

April 29, 2020

****Please note, articles may require a subscription to view. Due to copyright considerations, COGR cannot send copies of subscription based articles to our membership.**

[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.**

4/29/20: The Auspicious History — and Future — of Basic Science Research (National Review) *With every crisis, whether a pandemic or manmade or natural disaster, politicians and pundits invariably get around to calling for a Manhattan Project. This powerful imagery of putting “big science” to work to tackle big challenges comes, of course, from the success of that World War II effort and after that its Cold War derivative, the moonshot Apollo program. The legacy of those organized research enterprises is the very idea that government can marshal scientific and financial resources to solve major societal problems..... Yet, policymakers and pundits too often draw the wrong lesson from World War II: namely, that government can simply order up scientific knowledge and direct it to solve practical problems. <https://www.nationalreview.com/2020/04/basic-science-research-important/>*

4/29/20: Harvard Settles for \$1.3M in Grant Fraud Case (Inside Higher Ed) *Harvard University will pay more than \$1.3 million to resolve allegations that a former faculty member overcharged grants from the National Institutes of Health and the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Justice Department [announced](#). Harvard self-disclosed the case, involving Donna Spiegelman, a professor emerita of epidemiologic methods, in 2016. She allegedly overstated the time she and her team spent on statistical analyses in support of other faculty members' grants between 2009 and 2014, and on one grant for which*

she served as key personnel.

<https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2020/04/29/harvard-settles-13m-grant-fraud-case> See also: **Harvard Agrees to Repay \$1.3M for Federal Grant Overcharges (NYTimes)** <https://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2020/04/28/us/ap-us-harvard-grant-overcharges-1st-ld-writethru.html>

4/28/20: EPA's independent science board says 'secret science' proposal may 'reduce scientific integrity' (The Hill) *The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) independent board of science advisers had harsh words for an agency plan to limit the types of studies it considers when crafting regulations, saying the EPA had failed to justify the need for the policy. The policy was first proposed by former EPA Administrator [Scott Pruitt](#) in 2018 to battle "secret science." He argued that in order to increase transparency, the agency should limit consideration of studies that don't share their underlying data. But the agency's own Science Advisory Board (SAB), in [a review](#) of the proposal released Tuesday, said it has "concerns about the scientific and technical challenges of implementing" a rule the EPA has not proved is necessary.* <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/495115-epas-independent-science-board-says-secret-science-proposal-may>

4/28/20: How the Coronavirus Might — or Might Not — Slow Research Universities' Ambitions (The Chronicle) *The coronavirus's financial toll may jeopardize colleges' longstanding campaigns to bolster research, expand operations, and grow national prestige. The pursuit of that vision is a [well-trodden](#) path. Universities who set out to rise in Carnegie Foundation rankings, for example, attempt to add doctoral programs and invest internally in research in an effort to nab larger outside money later. The payoff can be big. Successful campuses could secure big grants, woo corporate partners, and recruit top faculty. Now, with the coronavirus disrupting all elements of campus life, money is tight everywhere.* https://www.chronicle.com/article/How-the-Coronavirus-Might-/248650?cid=wcontentgrid_hp_1b

4/27/20: As the Trump Administration Offers Relief, Pandemic-Stricken Colleges Ponder the Risks of Taking It (The Chronicle) *There was something of a cheer from the White House last week when several selective colleges announced they would decline federal dollars meant to help students and colleges weather the fiscal crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic.... The decision to turn down the*

federal stimulus money was seen largely as a political reaction — an acquiescence to the backlash from conservatives against institutions with hefty endowments. https://www.chronicle.com/article/As-the-Trump-Administration/248645?cid=wcontentgrid_hp_1b

4/27/20: OMB Memorandum M-20-24: Implementing the Presidential Transition Act: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/M-20-24.pdf>

4/27/20: Undermining Bayh-Dole not the way to fight COVID-19 (BioWorld) *Given all the public-private partnerships responding to the need for timely COVID-19 therapies, diagnostics and vaccines, the demands to forgo patents or exclusive licenses for coronavirus products and the clamor that industry shouldn't "profit" from U.S. taxpayer-supported research are growing louder. The trouble is the U.S. has already been there, done that – and it doesn't work, according to experts speaking last week at an Information Technology & Innovation Foundation (ITIF) webinar on Bayh-Dole during the COVID-19 pandemic.* <https://www.bioworld.com/articles/434672-undermining-bayh-dole-not-the-way-to-fight-covid-19>

4/27/20: Trump cuts U.S. research on bat-human virus transmission over China ties (Politico) *The Trump administration abruptly cut off funding for a project studying how coronaviruses spread from bats to people after reports linked the work to a lab in Wuhan, China, at the center of conspiracy theories about the Covid-19 pandemic's origins. The National Institutes of Health on Friday told EcoHealth Alliance, the study's sponsor for the past five years, that all future funding was cut. The agency also demanded that the New York-based research nonprofit stop spending the \$369,819 remaining from its 2020 grant, according to emails obtained by POLITICO.* <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/04/27/trump-cuts-research-bat-human-virus-china-213076> See 4/29 Update: **NIH Ends Funding For U.S. Nonprofit's COVID-19 Research In China (NPR)** <https://www.npr.org/2020/04/29/847731984/nih-ends-funding-for-u-s-nonprofits-covid-19-research-in-china>

4/23/20: COVID-19: IP Strategies for Universities and Nonprofits During the Pandemic – Mitigating Patent Infringement Risks When Making PPE and Other Health-Related Supplies (National Law Review) *The rapid emergence of COVID-19 — and the limited and diminishing supply of healthcare resources needed to treat patients and protect healthcare providers — has many public and private universities and other nonprofit institutions fielding urgent requests to manufacture or otherwise supply critical care medical devices and substances, replacement parts for medical devices, and personal protective equipment (“PPE”) for medical professionals.... The urgent nature of the requests, however, also may deny the institutions the usual time to assess the risk of patent, copyright, or product design infringement.* <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/covid-19-ip-strategies-universities-and-nonprofits-during-pandemic-mitigating-patent>

4/23/20: Thousands of emails, passwords stolen from NIH, WHO, CDC, Gates Foundation (Fox) *SITE's report said the largest number of stolen emails and passwords -- 9,938 -- came from the NIH. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had 6,857 stolen IDs, followed by the World Bank at 5,120 and the WHO at 2,732.* <https://www.foxnews.com/world/emails-passwords-stolen-nih-world-health-organization-cdc-gates-foundation>