



Council On Governmental Relations

## COGR News Digest

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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).**

**6/19/20: Senate Approves Panchanathan as National Science Foundation Chief (Inside Higher Ed)** *The U.S. Senate on Thursday confirmed Sethuraman Panchanathan, a senior administrator at Arizona State University, as the new director of the National Science Foundation, a leading funder of academic research. <https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2020/06/19/senate-approves-panchanathan-national-science-foundation-chief>*

**6/19/20: NIH requires disclosure about sexual harassment by grantees (Science)** *The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is tightening grant rules to demand institutions tell it about sexual harassment by researchers that the agency supports. Starting 12 June for new awards, NIH will expect institutions to report when an investigator is removed from a grant because of harassment findings or allegations. NIH also wants to know when an investigator moves their grant to another institution because of sexual misconduct issues. Together, the requirements will close two gaps in the agency's policies, NIH officials say. The changes align NIH's policies more closely with those of the National Science Foundation, although differences remain. <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/368/6497/1301>*

**6/19/20: U.S. academic research funding stays healthy despite pandemic (Science)** *The coronavirus pandemic has put U.S. higher education in a deep*

*financial hole, triggering hiring freezes, benefit cuts, and a slew of other cost-cutting measures designed to offset huge projected revenue losses. Yet amid the uncertainty about state aid, the supply of foreign students, and other intangibles, one revenue stream has remained healthy: the money universities receive from others—especially the federal government—to carry out research. That fact looms large in any effort to forecast the long-term impact of COVID-19 on U.S. academic research.* <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/368/6497/1298>

**6/18/20: U.S. science groups wary of new Senate bills to curb foreign influences (Science)** *A bipartisan group of U.S. senators today proposed sweeping—and controversial—changes in how the federal government manages academic research in the face of threats from other countries. The authors of the [legislation](#), more than 1 year in the making, tout it as a way to stop China and other countries from stealing the fruits of federally funded research and using the information to damage U.S. economic and national security. But research advocates worry that if enacted, the bill could damage the U.S. academic research enterprise by restricting the flow of talent and ideas.* <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/06/us-science-groups-wary-new-senate-bills-curb-foreign-influences> See also: **Senators take aim at universities' 'lax' foreign gifts reporting (Politico)** <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/morning-education/2020/06/18/senators-take-aim-at-universities-lax-foreign-gifts-reporting-788614>

**6/18/20: OMB M-20-26: Extension of Administrative Relief for Recipients and Applicants of Federal Financial Assistance Directly Impacted by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) due to Loss of Operations** <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/M-20-26.pdf> See also: **White House Extends Salary Flexibility for Sidelined Scientists (Bloomberg Law)** *Universities and other federal grant recipients can continue to pay researchers who cannot work while the Covid-19 pandemic keeps laboratories closed, under a Trump administration directive issued Thursday.* <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/pharma-and-life-sciences/white-house-extends-salary-flexibility-for-sidelined-scientists?context=search&index=4>

**6/18/20: Protests Prompt Re-Examination of Inequality in Medical Research (Bloomberg Law)** *Scientists are grappling with historic inequities in medical research in light of racial justice protests gripping the U.S.*

*Breaking through decades of mistrust from the Black community to ensure medical research adequately reflects the U.S. population means scientists need to think more about how they engage with minority groups. With more than \$16.5 billion pegged for clinical research in fiscal 2020, the National Institutes of Health could use its deep pockets to encourage researchers to improve their outreach to minority populations when readying studies, bioethicists said.* <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/pharma-and-life-sciences/protests-prompt-re-examination-of-inequality-in-medical-research?context=search&index=12>

**6/18/20: More support needed at US universities to stop minorities leaving science (Chemistry World)** *With just 10% of science, technology, engineering and maths (Stem) faculty at US universities coming from under-represented backgrounds, the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) is [sounding the alarm](#). The organisation says that too many members of minority groups are leaving science at pivotal stages along the road to becoming a professor.* <https://www.chemistryworld.com/news/more-support-needed-at-us-universities-to-stop-minorities-leaving-science/4012006.article#/>

**6/18/20: Doctoral Dysfunction (Inside Higher Ed)** *Many doctoral students today are tending to fall into one of two disturbing categories: academic technician or justice warrior, writes David F. Labaree....One tendency is the urge to become a hard-core academic technician; the other is the urge to become a hard-core justice warrior. Although, on one level, they represent opposite orientations toward research, on another level, they have in common the proclivity to serve as social engineers intent on fixing social problems. The antidotes to these two tendencies, I suggest, are to take a dose of humility every day and to approach educational research as a form of play.* <https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2020/06/18/growing-and-disturbing-tendency-grad-students-fall-one-two-categories-academic>

**6/18/20: Science Isn't Meant To Be Followed (Forbes)** *Unfortunately, that belief reveals a deep misunderstanding of the proper role of science in guiding public policy-making. Science cannot lead us out of the pandemic. Whatever paths we take to navigate COVID-19 need to be chosen through political processes. The true role of science is to illuminate these pathways, guiding our policy choices by showing us what's at stake.* <https://www.forbes.com/sites/peterubel/2020/06/18/science-isnt-meant-to-be-followed/#7707d19a25e5>

**6/17/20: How the US lost its way on innovation (MIT Technology Review)** *In early March I started getting calls from people trying to respond to what was clearly turning into a global pandemic. A government agency that funds R&D wanted help connecting its research teams with experts on scale-up and manufacturing....What they were all really asking me was, how can we get our research out of the lab and on to the front lines in the fight against covid-19? It was clear nobody was really prepared for this.* <https://www.technologyreview.com/2020/06/17/1003322/how-the-us-lost-its-way-on-innovation/>