Notes from NIH Town Hall, March 16
Drs. Larry Tabak and Mike Lauer

Q&A addressed in the Town Hall:

- **Will NIH provide additional funding for impacted projects?** The NIH will be as flexible and accommodating as possible. They recognize there will be unanticipated costs and are working to put together a plan for institutions to apply for administrative supplements to cover costs. NIH understands that each circumstance will be unique.

- **What information should be provided in an application cover letter requesting approval for a late submission?** The language in the recent guidance provided in NIH Notice NOT-OD-20-082 is deliberately broad, it is not tied to a specific number of days the institution is closed for example. Applicants need to include a cover letter with a late application, describing circumstances for the delay, specifying COVID-19’s impact. We expect 99% of these requests will be approved.

- **Do you expect delays with issuance of Notice of Awards?** NIH will continue to issue Notice of Awards. Most NIH staff are telecommuting and open for business. They are facing the same challenges that academic institutions are facing and there may be some delays and we ask for patience.

- **As subject activities are delayed how do we get extensions?** NIH anticipates this will happen. Contact your Program Official

- **For grants that are cooperative agreements, if there is a delay in milestones, how do we inform NIH?** All cooperative studies work closely with NIH, they are well aware of any delays

- **What if a project requires an immediate change that affects the outcomes or trajectory of the project, do the changes need to be approved by the Program Officer?** If you need to make changes because of safety, that’s top priority. The first administrative authority would be IRB. Do what you need to do. Then please get in contact with your Program Official. Please don’t let administrative concerns with the agency get in the way of public health or patient safety.

- **How can we help NIH in light of this emergency?** What ‘s most important to NIH is patients and researcher’s safety. Administrative requirements and money should take second place to safety. Follow the guidance of public health authorities and institutional leaders. We are well aware of what a number of institutions are doing around the country and are very impressed with the institutional response – thoughtful and comprehensive manner. Only going to be through scientific research is how we’ll get on top of this problem. This is a time for science to shine. Must deal with disruptions, but opportunities for scientific research are important. Only through science will progress be made against COVID-19.

**Town Hall Closing Remarks:** This is a time for science to shine. We must deal with disruptions, but opportunities for scientific research are important. Only through science will progress be made against COVID-19.

**FOR CONTINUED INFORMATION**

See NIH website: [Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Information for NIH Applicants and Recipients](#)

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