Research Continuity During COVID-19 Email (April 15, 2020)

Colleagues,

I hope you are all remaining safe and healthy. I understand the challenges we are all facing as we have had to adjust to working remotely and implementing social distancing in some of the critical research and scholarship activities on campus. It is inspiring to witness the compassion exhibited across campus as everyone pitches in to help one another work through the challenges of project disruptions and delays. It is also heartening to witness the dedication of the CSU Ramily to continuing research and scholarship in the service of our students, community, and nation.

I write to the CSU community of researchers and creative scholars today with a few updates. To continue to protect our community all non-critical research labs and other non-critical research facilities will continue to operate virtually at least until the end of the spring semester. We have started to plan an exit strategy from our current status that considers the safety of personnel as well as the security of returning to our familiar roles and routines.

To provide some answers to the myriad questions that have come in through our email and other avenues, the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) will host a Research Continuity Virtual Open Forum on Wednesday, April 22 from 2-4 p.m. on Microsoft Teams to answer research continuity questions. The open forum will include brief presentations from OVPR leadership followed by a Q&A session for questions submitted before the event. Please email questions to VPR_ResearchContinuity@colostate.edu by 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 21 to be answered in this open forum. Questions submitted after the deadline will be answered in the Research Continuity FAQ posted on the VPR Research Continuity webpage.

The OVPR will continue to keep CSU researchers updated on research continuity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please continue to check in with your college’s Associate Research Dean and visit our Research Continuity Webpage for updates. Additionally, the Council on Governmental Relations (COGR) is maintaining a web page on Institutional and Agency Responses and FAQs to COVID-19. A link to the COGR updates, along with other agency-specific information, resides on the Office of Sponsored Programs website.

To streamline information and ensure timely responses, several units have established email inboxes for your questions. For regulatory compliance questions and issues, use the email addresses listed on the RICRO website:

- Conflict of Interest
- Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee
- Institutional Biosafety Committee
- Institutional Review Board
- Responsible Conduct of Research
- Quality Assurance
For research continuity questions, we created an email inbox (VPR_ResearchContinuity@colostate.edu). We will be using your questions to add an FAQ section to our website and guide the open forum planning.

For the main CSU COVID-19 resource webpage, please visit the CSU Safety website.

For questions on the impacts of COVID-19 on leave, work arrangements, and other HR concerns, visit the COVID-19: Human Resources FAQs page.

These are unprecedented times and keeping everyone safe is our top priority. Please don’t hesitate to reach out with questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Take care,
Alan

Alan S. Rudolph, PhD, MBA
Vice President for Research
Colorado State University
203 Admin, Fort Collins, CO 80523-2001