

# Research Resilience in the Age of COVID-19: Insights from Sponsors and Investigators

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Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

# Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Medical Research Program

Mission: to advance the prevention,  
diagnosis, and treatment of human disease  
by strengthening and supporting clinical  
research



# Goals: Focus on some of the gaps in the biomedical research enterprise

- Retention of early career physicians conducting seminal clinical research
- Research focused on diseases that affect underserved populations
- Racial and gender equity and inclusion in the biomedical research workforce



# Current main programs

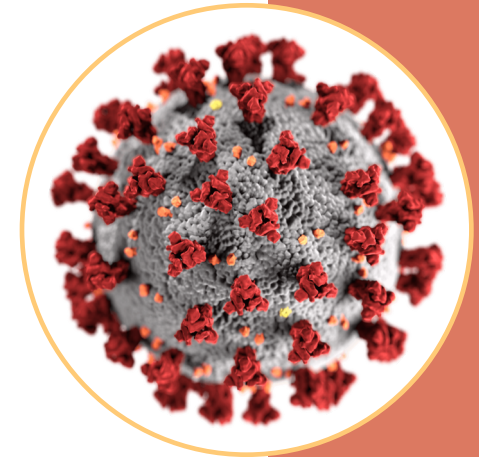
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- Clinical Scientist Development Award
- Fund to Retain Clinical Scientists
- Physician Scientist Fellowships
- Clinical Research Continuum: High School to College
- Sickle Cell Disease/Advancing Cures



# Impact of COVID-19 on existing programs

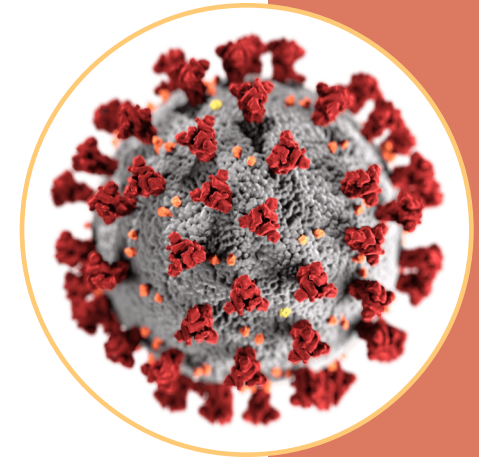
- Charges for salaries and stipends allowed during slowdowns
- Extended reporting deadlines
- Longer no-cost extensions
- Redirection of funds if justified
- Temporary decrease in percent effort to research for physician scientists
- Start date deferral for new 2020 grants
- Deadline extension for applications



# Impact of COVID-19 on existing programs

Research supplements for active CSDA grantees to cover expenses that were not anticipated when budget originally submitted, such as

- Spending on compensation during COVID-19 shutdown
- Extra costs required to ramp up



# Future funding priorities

- 2021 Clinical Scientist Development Awards
- Renewal of Fund to Retain Clinical Scientists (in review)
- Other programs TBD
- Possible new initiatives focused on inequities amplified by COVID-19



# Questions and considerations

- Grant applications
  - Preliminary data in a grant application
  - Eligibility windows
- Funded projects
  - Delays in progress
  - Clinical trial recruitment
- Impact of COVID on foundation funding overall
- Recommendation: Keep your funding agency in the loop





# R&D expenditures at universities by source of funds, 2018

