

COVID-19 Response and Recovery

Wonzie Gardner Jr., Sylvia James, Steve Meacham,
Joanne Tornow, Jim Ulvestad

May 5, 2020

National Science Board Meeting



Outline

- OIRM Response to COVID-19
- Research Recovery Planning
- Major Facility Recovery
- COVID-19 Research

OIRM Response to COVID-19

Wonzie L. Gardner Jr.

Office Head and Chief Human Capital Officer
Office of Information and Resource Management



Employee Safety and Well-being

Initiated move to virtual workforce during the week of March 16.

Began deep cleaning of all floors, continued cleaning efforts while staff work offsite.

Notifying the workforce of confirmed cases related to staff and contractors.

Closed the building for access. No visitors or staff are allowed onsite unless they have permission from OIRM

Work/Life Flexibilities



Telework Flexibilities

- Telework even without an agreement
- Telework with dependents present
- Flexible work hours (6 AM to 10 PM)
- Earn Credit Hours on weekend to make up for leave during the week



Weather & Safety Leave for Dependent Care – up to 20 hrs. per pay period



Continued EAP counseling via phone or virtual tools



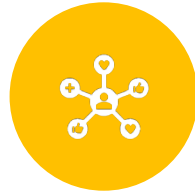
Employee Resources on InsideNSF

- EAP and WorkLife4You
- Mindfulness and resiliency webinars
- Tips for parents

Sustained Support



Support for Working Remotely – Zoom, Teams, more tip sheets



Enhanced Capacity for VPN and NSF Network Access



Virtual Onboarding/Offboarding & Performance Management



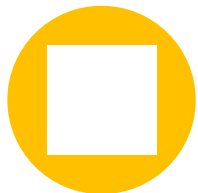
PIV Card Expiration Solution



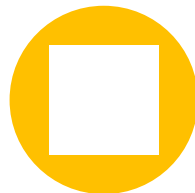
CBA Training & Q/A Session



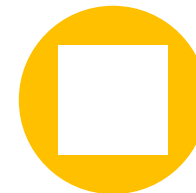
Virtual Director's Awards Announcement



IT Help Central Shift to Support Remote Work

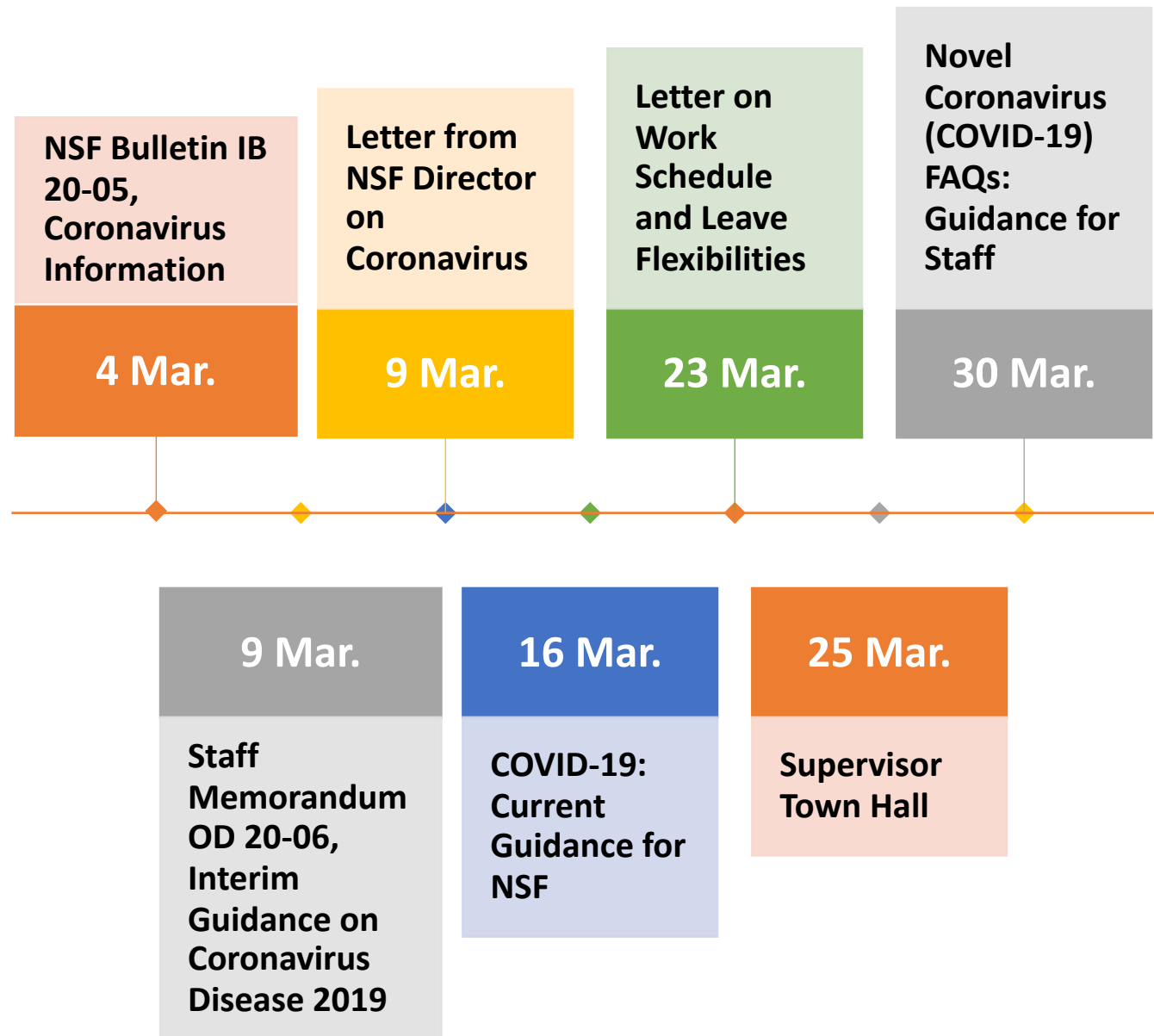


IT Application Updates



Electronic Document Routing

NSF Internal Guidance



NSF External Guidance

OMB Flexibilities and Rapid NSF Implementation

- NSF Important Notice 146 – NSF Letter to the Community Regarding COVID-19
- FAQs for Proposers and Awardees
- FAQs for NSF Panelists

Impact on Existing NSF Deadlines

RAPID Response Research on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

- Dear Colleague Letters to solicit proposals
- FAQs to support DCLs

Research Recovery Planning

Sylvia James, Deputy Assistant Director, Directorate for Education and Human Resources

Steve Meacham, Section Head, Office of Integrative Activities

Co-chairs of Recovery Planning Task Force



Research Recovery Planning

COVID-19 pandemic – a major disruptor

Affects both
researchers and
research organizations

Interrupts laboratory
and field-based science

Impairs operation of
facilities

Adversely affects
undergraduate and
graduate students,
postdoctoral fellows,
and early-career faculty

May disproportionately
affect more vulnerable
groups and
organizations

Disrupts international
collaborations

Potentially impairs
finances of universities
and colleges over the
medium term

Early-career scientists at critical career junctures brace for impact of COVID-19

By [Wudan Yan](#) Apr. 7, 2020 , 2:30 PM



REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque



April 7, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-226, United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-255, United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader McCarthy, and Minority Leader Schumer:

We represent the leading Washington voices for the research universities, medical schools, and teaching hospitals at the forefront of our nation's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. We write today to thank you and the entire Congress for your tireless efforts to mitigate the pandemic's harmful health, economic, and societal consequences. We are grateful for the relief provided in the recently enacted bipartisan CARES Act to students and to the colleges, universities, and academic medical centers that serve them through their educational missions, as well as the measures included in the legislation to strengthen the provision of health care and services for millions of Americans.

Science, April 7, 2020

AAMC, AAU, ACE, APLU letter to Congress, April 7, 2020



Research Recovery Planning

Recovery Planning Task Force

Charged to assist Agency with:

- (i) Developing a strategy and timeline for facilitating a smooth recovery of normal research and education activity by NSF grantees; and
- (ii) Identifying what additional resources might be needed to achieve this.

Approach:

- Identify and summarize medium-term and long-term issues;
- Compile a scalable plan for mitigation activities with the flexibility to respond to different resource scenarios;
- Analyze whether new authorities would be helpful;
- Communicate internally and externally; and
- Use a spiral planning approach.

Broad Themes

PEOPLE

1. Research Recovery: Mitigating Losses and Catalyzing the Recovery of STEM and STEM Education Research Projects

INFRASTRUCTURE

2. Maintaining the STEM Talent Pipeline: Mitigating losses of STEM talent

3. Ensuring NSF Capacity to Implement Recovery

People and Infrastructure

PEOPLE

- **Post-docs**
- **Graduate students**
- **Undergraduate Researchers**
- **Faculty, technicians and other scientific professionals**

INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Instrumentation and mid-scale infrastructure**
- **Major facilities: renovation & replacement; facilities' staff**
- **Longer-term: increased construction costs for major facilities already underway**
- **Inclusion and equity**

Research Recovery Planning Looking ahead

- NSF will continue to address flexibilities that can immediately be implemented in COVID-19 memos
- Will consider internal and external input
- Anticipate preliminary report later in May
 - Align with NSF Strategic Plan

Updated report later in the summer
We welcome your input!

Major Facility Recovery

Jim Ulvestad

Chief Officer for Research Facilities

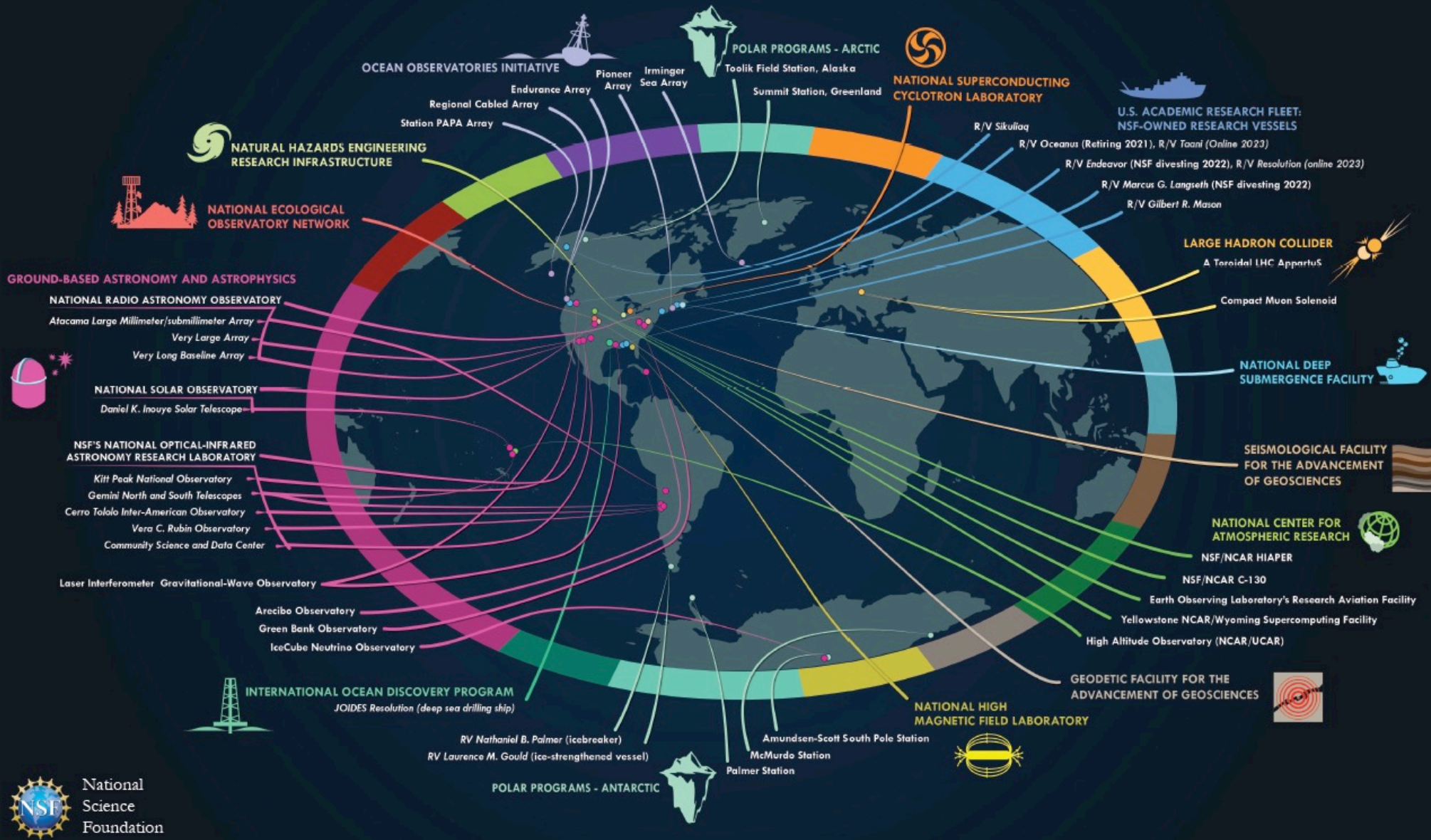
Office of the Director



Major Facilities: COVID-19 Background

- NSF's 20 major facilities are operated by **external managing organizations**.
- Most operating facilities involve **multiple sites and instruments**.
- Initial NSF COVID-19 facility guidance issued on March 9, 2020.
 - **Safety of people comes first, then facility safety and security.**
 - **Managing organizations should make appropriate decisions** under guidance from their health/safety staff and local authorities.
- NSF implementation guidance on OMB M-20-17 (March 19) provided significant flexibility to facilities.

MAJOR MULTIUSER FACILITIES ENABLING BASIC RESEARCH



Major Facilities: COVID-19 Status and Recovery

- Most facilities in operation or under construction progressed to **suspension of science and site-construction operations** by early April, with staff working remotely as feasible.
- Several telescopes and sensor networks continue to operate.
- Winter-over staff remain in Antarctica; South Pole science continues.
- **Restart/recovery decisions will be responsibility of managing organizations, consulting with NSF. Expect many local complexities.**
- Flexibilities under OMB M-20-17 (et seq.) will continue to be important.

COVID-19 Research

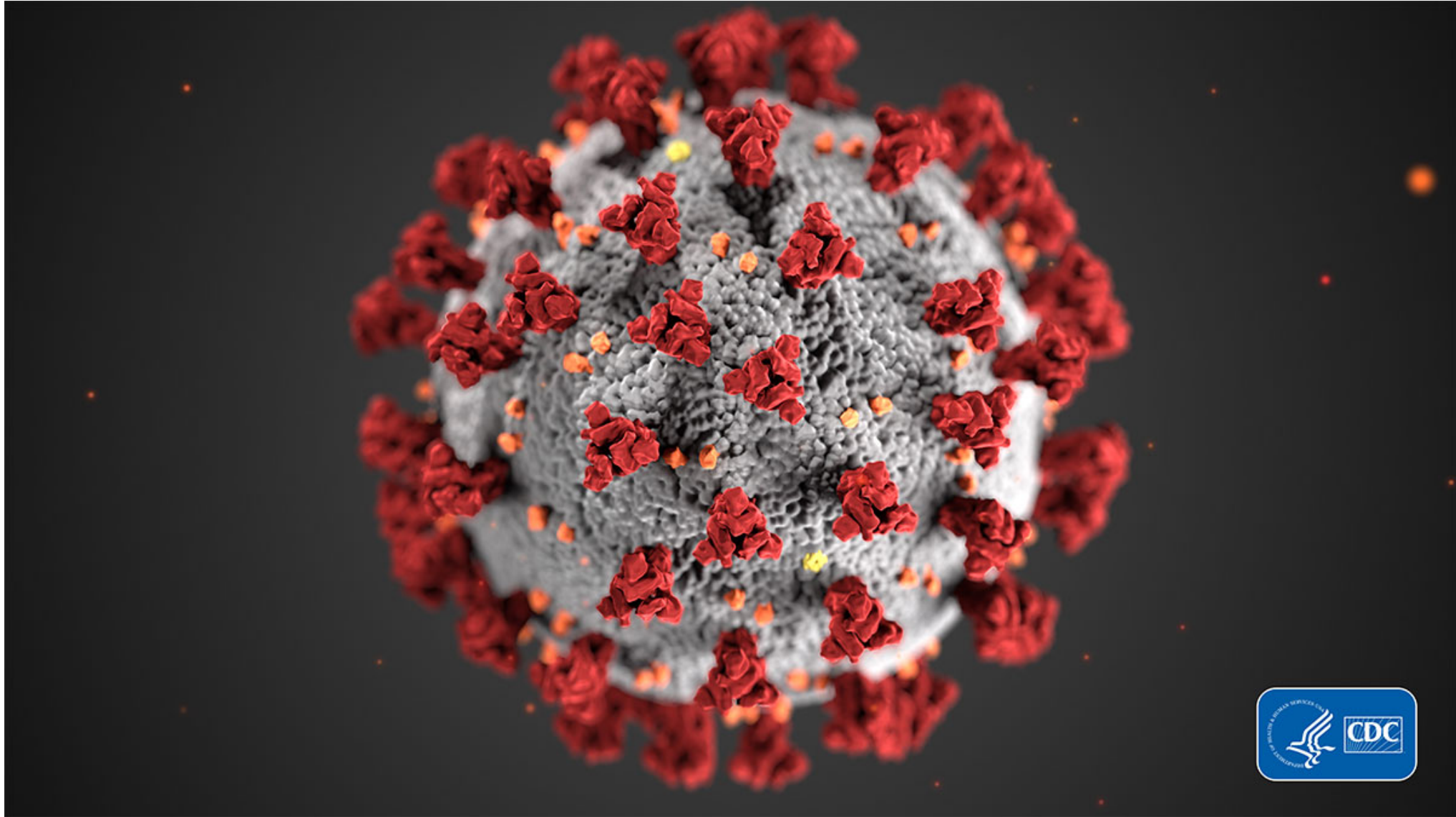
Joanne Tornow

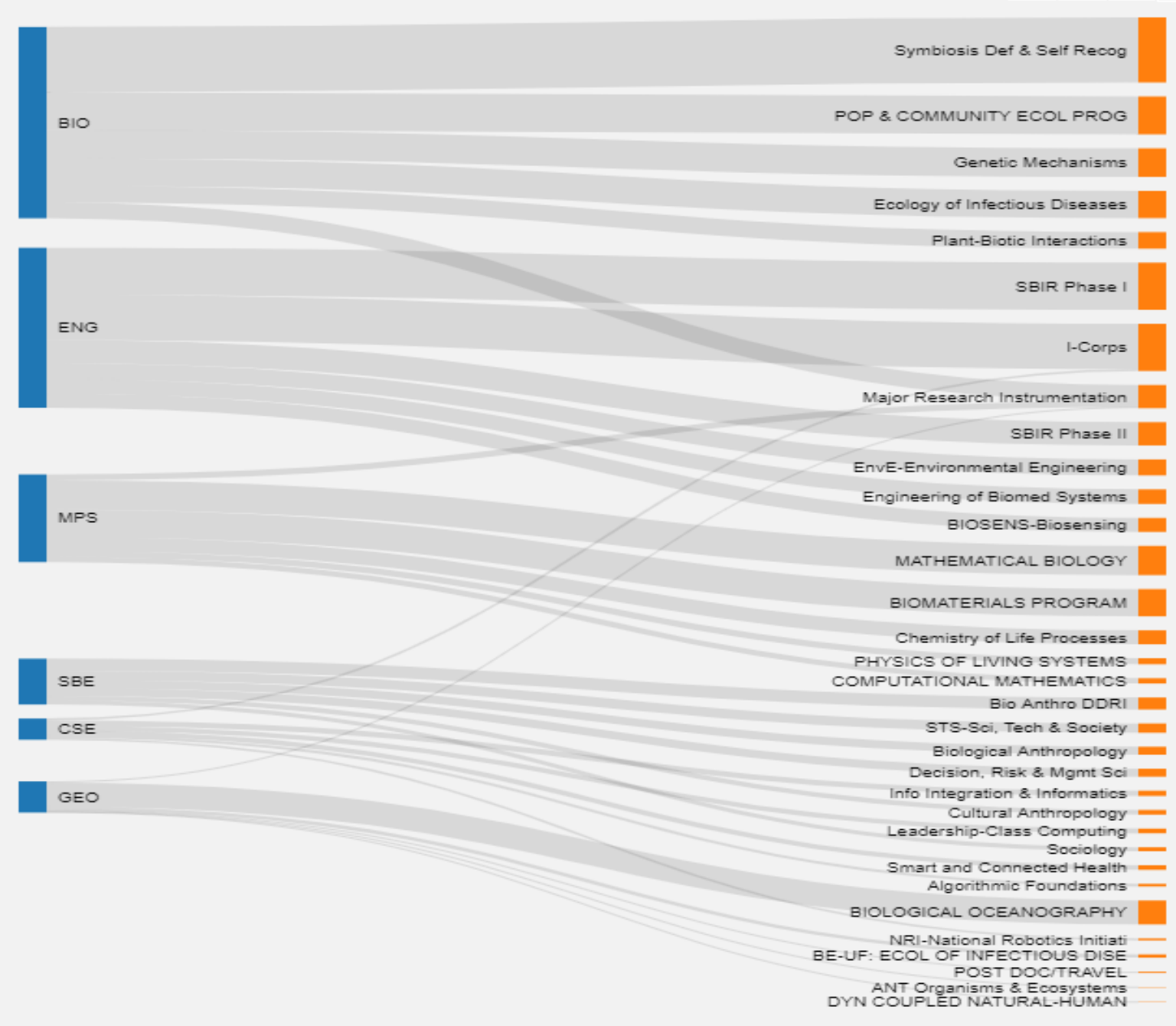
Assistant Director

Directorate for Biological Sciences



SARS-CoV-2 Virus and COVID-19 Disease

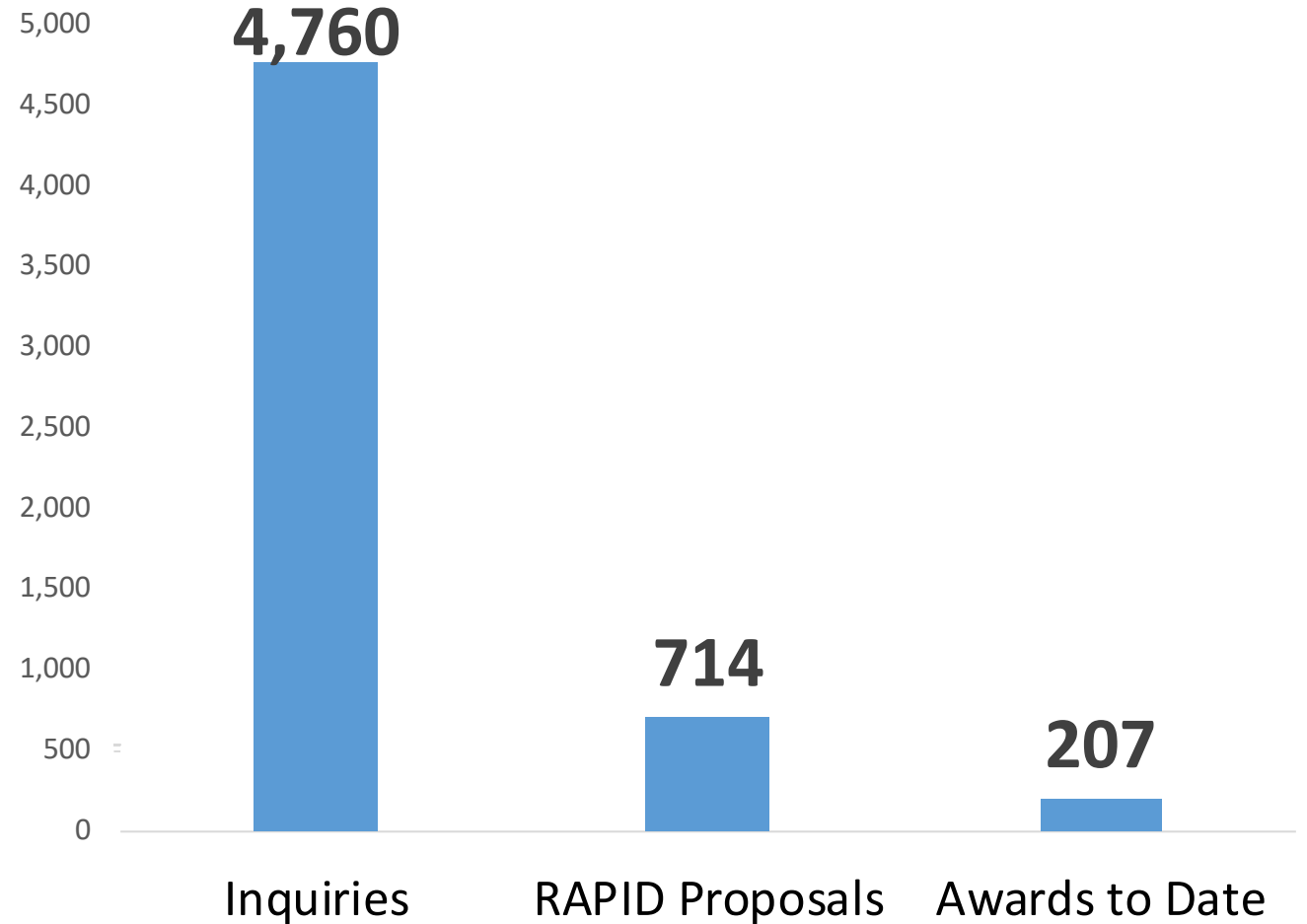




Understanding of Disease Systems – Foundational Funding Programs

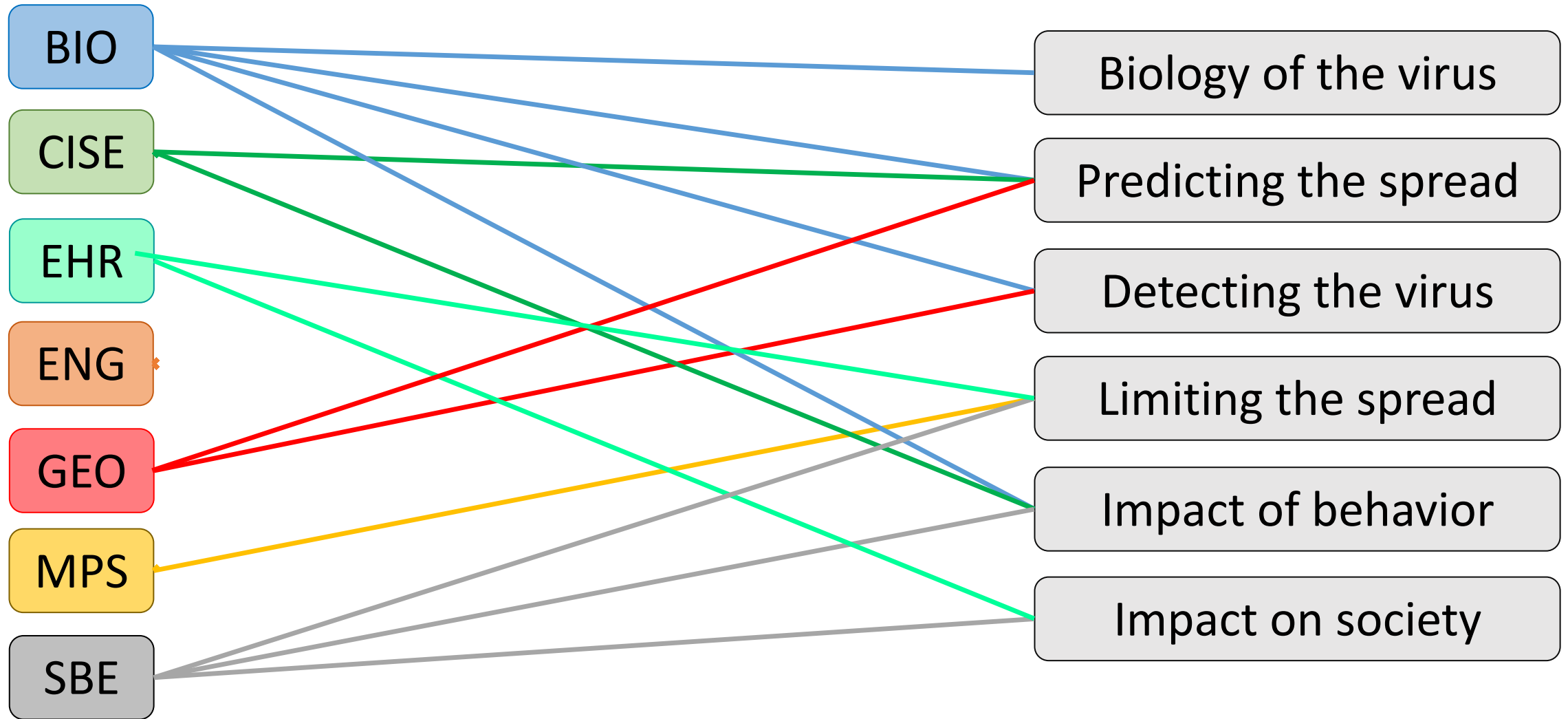
Dear Colleague Letter on COVID-19 (NSF 20-052)

- Model and understand spread
- Inform and educate about transmission and prevention
- Develop process and actions to address global challenge



Data as of April 29, 2020

COVID-19 RAPIDs – Thematic Overview



Data as of April 29, 2020

COVID-19 RAPIDs – Examples

Biophysical Characterization of the Native SARS-CoV-2 Virion by Atomistic Simulations

Coronavirus Persistence, Transmission, and Circulation in the Environment

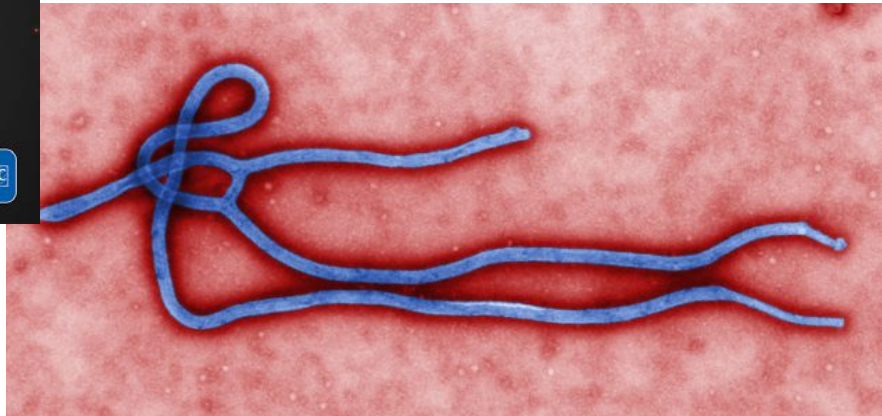
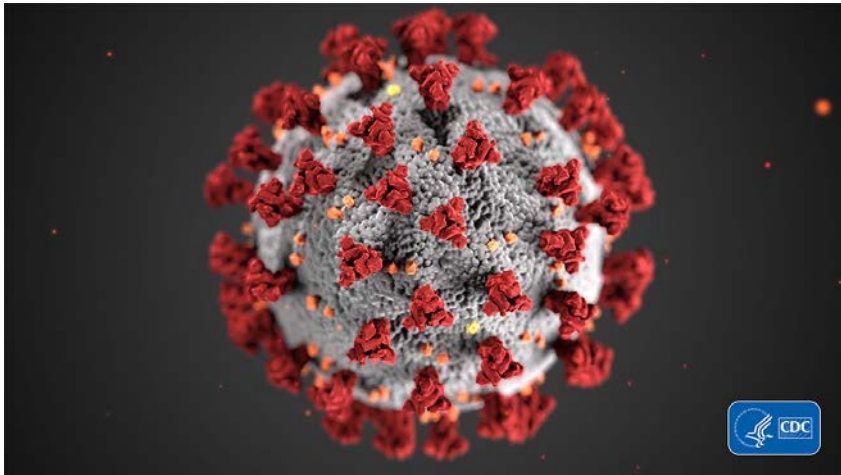
Accelerated Testing for COVID-19 Using Group Testing

On-mask Chemical Modulation of Respiratory Droplets

Uncertain Risk and Stressful Future: A National Study of the COVID-2019 Outbreak in the U.S.



Learnings: Preparing for the Next Pandemic



From reactive to predictive;
segmented to interdisciplinary and coordinated

Questions and Discussion

