Strengthening the Disaster Resilience of Academic Biomedical Research Communities

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The National Academies
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With Much Gratitude
to the Sponsors of this Study

• Doris Duke Charitable Trust
• HHMI
• Sloan Foundation
• NIH
  – Office of the NIH Director
  – National Institute on Aging
  – National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
  – National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research
  – National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
  – National Library of Medicine
Rock Talk

Helping connect you with the NIH perspective

Posted on November 2, 2012 by Sally Rockey

When Disaster Strikes

My thoughts are with everyone affected by Hurricane Sandy, and I am deeply sympathetic to the struggles of those who continue to feel the aftermath of this destructive storm. The immediate and long term economic and emotional costs of natural disasters such as Sandy can be overwhelming.

Among the many groups affected by these types of events are the people and animals supported by NIH funding. Undoubtedly the loss of lives is of greatest concern, but the loss of years of research materials and data can be devastating and severely set back research progress.

NIH leadership understands that no amount of planning can fully prepare researchers for losses due to natural disasters, and we are committed to doing what we can to help the research community pick up the pieces after catastrophic events. We regularly work with other divisions at NIH and with outside organizations to ensure that research can continue despite the challenges posed by disasters.
“I’ve spoken to many scientists affected by this disaster, and their determination and perseverance is truly commendable. I’m hoping that while our grantees and their families work to get their lives on track, we can support them in getting their research back on track as well.”

– Sally Rockey, former NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research, on researchers affected by Hurricane Sandy
In emergency situations, the NIH’s immediate concern is for the health and safety of people and animals in the programs we oversee. We are also deeply concerned about the health of the biomedical enterprise in the affected area, and we are committed to working with researchers and institutions to do all that we can to ensure that NIH-funded research continues.

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/natural_disasters.htm
Possible Actions that NIH May Take to Assist the Research Community following a Disaster

• Permitting the limited expenditure of award funds, in accordance with grantees policy, to continue paying salaries and fringe benefits to researchers under unexpected or extraordinary circumstances

• Assisting with animal welfare issues

• Providing extensions for financial reports, progress reports, etc.

• Publishing funding opportunities that are targeted to institutions in affected areas
Hurricane Sandy Legislation

• Disaster Relief Appropriations Act (DRAA) of 2013 (P.L. 113-2)
  – Awards were restricted to the FEMA declared major disaster states: Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.
  – Funds had to be obligated and expended within 24 months of issuance of the initial Notice of Award. No-Cost Extensions were prohibited.
NIH Funding Opportunity Announcements following Hurricane Sandy

- **RFA-OD-13-199**: NIH Administrative Supplements to Recover Losses Due to Hurricane Sandy Under the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act - Non-Construction (Admin Supp)

- **RFA-OD-13-005**: Limited Competition: Restoration of New Investigator Pilot Projects Adversely Affected by Hurricane Sandy (R21)

- **RFA-OD-13-008**: Limited Competition: Restoring Research Resources Lost Due to Hurricane Sandy (R24)

- **RFA-OD-13-006**: Limited Competition: Shared Instrumentation for Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief (S10)

- **RFA-OD-13-007**: Limited Competition: Extramural Research Facilities Restoration Program: Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief (C06)

- **RFA-ES-13-008**: Hazardous Materials Worker Health and Safety Training Administrative Supplements for Hurricane Sandy Response and Recovery (U45)

- **NOT-OD-13-013**: Notice of Assistance Available to Institutions Impacted by Super Storm Sandy
## Funding Summary

- **Research Restoration**: $75.9M
- **Construction/Renovation**: $49.2M
- **Safety Training**: $1.7M

**Total**: $126.8M
Ensuring Proper Stewardship of Disaster Recovery Funds

- NIH Funding Opportunity Announcements were cleared by HHS and OMB
- NIH developed internal controls for additional levels of review and increased monitoring/oversight of grant recipients
- Awardees filed quarterly reports with NIH
  - Programmatic
  - Financial
Statement of Task

- Describe the extent of the impact of prior disasters on the biomedical academic research community
- Provide practical recommendations, guidance, tools, and other resources for individual researchers, research institutions, and sponsors regarding potential actions to mitigate the impact of future disasters on research facilities, equipment, reagents, biospecimens, animals, data assets, and other resources.
Statement of Task

• Review challenges that researchers, institutions, and sponsors have had in minimizing the impact of disasters

• Identify potential hazards and emergency contingency plans

• Develop resources that can be used by stakeholders, including:
  – Guidance for individual researchers to employ to minimize the impact of disaster
  – Templates for research institutions to use to develop hazard-based mitigation plans, including itemized checklists and examples of drills that institutions could run to self-evaluate their disaster preparedness
  – Potential policies that could be established by sponsors to ensure that appropriate mitigation practices are implemented by researchers and research institutions
Additional Thoughts

• What strategies might we employ to protect not only physical resources, but the continuity of an entire program of research?

• How might disaster-related losses affect members of the research community differently? (e.g., early career investigators vs. established investigators)
Thank you for your work on this important study.
Appendix
NIH Extramural Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies

In emergency situations, the NIH’s immediate concern is for the health and safety of people and animals in the programs we oversee. We are also deeply concerned about the health of the biomedical enterprise in the affected area, and we are committed to working with researchers and institutions to do all that we can to ensure that NIH-funded research continues.

This website is intended to be a resource for the entire biomedical research community. Look here for NIH Guide Notices and other information of particular relevance to investigators and their institutions, links to web pages listing NIH’s response to certain major events (past and present); and links to similar web sites from other Federal agencies.

Potential NIH Responses to Natural Disasters

Assistance to the NIH community during natural disasters is handled on a case-by-case basis in a manner appropriate to the circumstances.

A primary concern of NIH applicants is how to handle when an institution is closed due to natural disaster or other emergency situation. In these cases it is not necessary to get permission in advance for delays in grant application submissions. Instead, electronic and paper applications submitted late must include a cover letter indicating the reasons for the delay. The delay should not exceed the time period that the applicant organization is closed. Although NIH will often issue a Guide Notice reminding applicants of this policy during times of major emergencies, this policy will also apply to emergencies of a more limited or local nature not discussed in a separate NIH Guide Notice.
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare - Disaster Planning and Response Resources

The following resources are available to assist PHS awardee institutions with animal care and use programs in planning and responding to natural and other disasters.

Disaster Planning

- **Disaster Planning** (PDF), *Animal Lab News* 2007; 6 (3):21-24: Points to consider when developing a disaster plan for your animal facility.
- **Disaster Planning**, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA): Provides animal emergency and disaster planning information.
- **NIH-OACU: Disaster Response**, NIH Office of Animal Care and Use (OACU) animal program disaster response resources. Although specific to NIH facilities, these resources provide multiple references and templates that may be useful to other research animal facilities when developing contingency plans for natural and other disasters.
- **OLAW Webinar: Disaster Planning**, March 7, 2013: Stephen Durkee provides best practice insights into developing a disaster plan compliant with the Guide.

Government

- **Emergency Preparedness and Response**, is CDC's (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) primary source of information and resources for preparing for and responding to public health emergencies.
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency** (FEMA): FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. Often FEMA works in partnership with other organizations that are part of the nation's emergency management system. These partners include community emergency response teams, other federal agencies, and the American Red Cross.
Disaster Information Management Research Center
IMPROVING ACCESS TO DISASTER HEALTH INFORMATION

Disaster Types and Topics
Emergency Response Tools
Disaster Health Literature
Disaster Information Specialist
Librarians & Disasters
NLM Projects & Research
Search TOXNET® Databases
Disaster Information Training

Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders (WISER)

Search Our Web Pages
Search

A to Z Index of Resources
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Announcements
UPDATED: Zika Virus Health Information Resources

Lead in the Flint, Michigan Water System (PDF, 300 KB)

Disaster Information Specialist Webinar
Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 1:30 pm, ET
Topic to be Announced
More about this meeting and recordings of previous meetings...

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Disaster Medicine and Public Health Literature
Disaster LitCM: The Resource Guide for Disaster Medicine

In the Spotlight
- Zika Virus Health Information Resources
- Tornadoes: Health Information Resources
- Children in Disasters: Health Resources
- NIH Disaster Research Response Project (DR2)
- Disaster Apps and Mobile Web Sites

New Documents from Disaster Lit™
- Psychosocial Support for Pregnant Women and for Families with Microcephaly and Other Neurological Complications in the Context of Zika Virus: Interim Guidance for Health-Care Providers
- More...

New in PubMed
- More...
Finding Funded Research: http://RePORT.NIH.Gov

- Quick access to “Frequently Requested Reports” (e.g. Funding by State, Funding by Award Mechanism, etc.)
- Efficient search tools for locating data and reports
- Links to funding estimates for certain research areas, conditions, & diseases.