

**June 2021 Newsletter**  
**Prepared by Van Scoyoc Associates**

**NIH COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS AND GRANTEES**

Guidance for various aspects of research and grant application processes, as well as FAQs and COVID-19 funding opportunities can be found [here](#).

**COVID-19 UPDATES HISTORY WEBPAGE**

Relevant updates for applicants and grantees by date can be found [here](#).

**FAQ DOCUMENT ON COVID-19 FLEXIBILITIES**

Policies and programs affecting the grants process can be found [here](#).

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES SPECIFIC TO COVID-19**

A list of active and expired funding opportunities across NIH related to SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 research can be found [here](#).

**HHS COVID-19 AWARDS TRACKING WEBSITE**

The HHS COVID-19 award tracking website, including data on awards made by all HHS awarding agencies with supplemental appropriations, can be found [here](#).

**NIH COVID-19 RESEARCH WEBSITE**

A new website provides a central location for trusted, up-to-date, accurate information about research and the NIH's strategic role in COVID-19 research. Read more [here](#).

**NFL TO FUND CANNABIS RESEARCH**

The NFL will be awarding \$1 million in grants to researchers studying alternatives to opioids, including CBD and medical cannabis. Read more [here](#).

**STUDY: MOST DELTA-8 PRODUCTS AREN'T AS ADVERTISED**

More than half of the Delta-8 THC products tested in a study by Leafreport contained illegal amounts of Delta-9 THC. Read more [here](#).

**NIH LEADERS DETAIL COMMITMENT TO END STRUCTURAL RACISM IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE**

Scientists, administrators, staff and leaders from the NIH recently set forth a framework to end structural racism across the biomedical research enterprise. Read more [here](#).

**DEMOGRAPHICS INFLUENCE STONED DRIVING**

A study found in BMC Research Notes found younger, low-income males are more likely to self-report driving after marijuana use and find such behavior acceptable. Read more [here](#).

**THE FIRST CASE OF CANNABIS WITHDRAWAL SEIZURES**

Healthcare workers at an Israeli hospital documented the first known case of cannabis withdrawal causing seizures in a medical marijuana patient. Read more [here](#).

**IMPORTANCE OF COVID-19 VACCINATION FOR THOSE WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS**

Dr. Nora Volkow discusses the importance of COVID-19 vaccination for people who use drugs or substance use disorders in a recent blog post. Read more [here](#).

### **MIRIAM DELPHIN-RITTMON CONFIRMED**

The June 24, the Senate confirmed Miriam Delphin-Rittmon to be assistant secretary for mental health and substance use at the Department of Health and Human Services. Read more [here](#).

### **CANNABIS USE ASSOCIATED WITH HIGHER RISK OF SUICIDAL IDEATION**

Cannabis use in young adults is associated with higher rates of suicidal thoughts, planning and attempts, researchers found in a study published in JAMA on June 22. Read more [here](#).

### **ADOLESCENT MARIJUANA, ALCOHOL USE HELD STEADY DURING PANDEMIC**

According to a survey of 12th graders in the United States led by University of Michigan researchers, adolescent marijuana use and binge drinking didn't significantly change during the Covid-19 pandemic, despite record decreases in the substances' perceived availability. The study, funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, also found that nicotine vaping declined among adolescents. Read more [here](#).

### **THE HILL HOLDS PANEL ON MENTAL HEALTH, ADDICTION AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

On June 22, The Hill held an event entitled, "Mental Health, Addiction, and the COVID-19 Pandemic," where a panel of policymakers, advocacy group leaders, and medical experts discussed the crises of mental health and addiction during and after the pandemic. Read more [here](#).

### **LAWMAKERS INTRODUCE CURES 2.0**

On June 22, Reps. Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Fred Upton (R-MI) released a discussion draft of the Cures 2.0 Act, legislation aimed at accelerating medical research and patient access to novel therapeutics. Read more [here](#).

### **WHITE HOUSE SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY TASK FORCE SEEKS FEEDBACK**

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) issued a June 28 request for information (RFI) to "inform the [Scientific Integrity] Task Force's recommendations to ensure robust and accurate evidence-based policymaking and to restore public trust in government." The RFI is open to the public and responses are due by July 28. Read more [here](#).