Guiding Questions for Postdocs and Faculty Advisors During COVID-19

Based on input and recommendations from members of our advisory committees for postdocs, the goal of this document is to help postdocs and their faculty advisors determine and communicate priorities as they adjust to different working arrangements impacted by COVID-19 safety measures. We strongly encourage you to use the following guiding questions to facilitate the development of a written work plan and/or to aid in conversations about future research and professional development priorities that will be performed in the upcoming weeks/months.

- Describe accommodations and protocols being employed to give **highest priority to the postdoc's health and safety**.

- If experiments are still ongoing, what is the timeline for their completion?

- What are the anticipated changes in projects or timetables given that there will be no/limited active research in the coming weeks/months?

- What telecommuting tasks will be performed in the upcoming weeks/months? * See list below for some ideas.

- How frequently will the mentor and postdoc meet remotely (daily, weekly)?

- What platform(s) will you use to meet remotely (e.g. phone, WebEx, Zoom, FaceTime)?

- Who is responsible for scheduling the meetings?

- How will you access needed resources (e.g. lab supplies, primary data, PubMed)?

- What challenges cannot readily be addressed at this time?

- Which mentoring and professional development opportunities can postdocs take advantage of during this time?

*Some ideas of research related activities that postdocs can do from home:

- working on data analysis and design of experiments

- reading scientific literature

- attending virtual journal clubs

- attending virtual lab meetings

- writing drafts of manuscripts

- preparing grant applications

- assisting in the development of COVID-19 research proposals

- seeking journals for unsolicited reviews

- preparing research seminars, and/or posters for meetings

- taking online courses to enhance skillsets for experimental work

- performing computational modeling

- reviewing Standard Operating Procedure techniques

- searching sequence data

- performing secondary analysis

- working collaboratively to outline an experimental plan for a study

- working on figures for a collaborative manuscript

- enhancing career development through the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, including upcoming webinars and virtual career advising sessions, and through additional platform like iJOBS and NIH OITE.