COVID-19 crisis: Health Research Alliance Members’ Survey Analysis

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Themes

➢ Institutional Activities
➢ Impact on Research and Researchers
➢ Areas for Action
Institutional activities

- **Institution Shutdown**
  Mid-March-June
  ➢ Only essential personnel allowed

- **Institution Re-opening**
  Over June-August
Immediate
Institutional
Impacts

- New hire freeze
- Promotions on hold
- Furloughs
- Reduction in salary
- Reduction in benefits
Trends in Impact on Research

• **Delays**:  
  ➢ 60-70% of researchers indicated delays in the projected timeline  
  ➢ Projects delayed by about 2-6 months

• **Cause of delays**:  
  ➢ Lab shutdowns; shut down of core-facilities; restricted shared resources; loss of mouse colonies; loss of unique cell lines; loss of supplies and reagents; pause/slowed recruitment to clinical trials  
  ➢ More clinical responsibilities for physician-scientists  
  ➢ Pivot to COVID projects  
  ➢ Reduced productivity because of overwhelming family responsibilities because lack of childcare/care for elderly in the household  
  ➢ Reduced productivity because of stress and anxiety
Trends in Impact on Researchers

• Reduced Productivity

• Negative Impact on Career Progression

• Challenges in Sustainability of Research Labs
Requests from researchers

- Extension in reporting timeline
- No-cost extensions to complete the proposed research
- Supplement funds to complete the proposed research
- Accommodate delays in start date for new grants
Areas for Action

❖ Immediate:
  • Flexibility in reporting timeline
  • Flexibility in granting no-cost extension
  • Flexibility in accommodating delays in grant start date

❖ For immediate consideration:
  • Efforts to secure additional funds to offer supplement funds to the researchers most affected
  • Efficient way of awarding the supplemental grants

❖ Potential areas for consideration:
  • Identify other ways to mitigate deleterious affects of the pandemic
  • Re-visit and strategize future grants eligibility and evaluation criteria that would accommodate the setbacks caused because of the pandemic