

09 April 2020 – inst/ib

Covid-19 (International) Observatory for Research

1. Relevant News and Initiatives

News about Research on COVID-19

An interdisciplinary team of specialists of the Insel Group continuously selects the most important research results as well as relevant medical information and makes them available to medical staff and a wider interested public. The website aims to collect and link the most important studies and guidelines related to COVID-19. The target group are health professionals of all disciplines.

Link: <https://www.update-covid.ch/en/>

Science Business live blog: R&D response on Covid-19

Live blog for the latest updates on how the crisis is affecting research and innovation, and what governments, funders, companies, universities, associations and scientists are doing to stop or cope with the pandemic.

Link: <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/live-blog-rd-response-covid-19-pandemic>

European Commission

Collection of research projects and initiatives to tackle the spread of coronavirus and preparedness for other outbreaks

Link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/research-area/health-research-and-innovation/coronavirus-research_en#infrastructures

Letter of Mariya Gabriel to European Parliament

Provides good overview of all actions taken related to Covid-19

Link:

https://intraweb.snf.ch/org/interco/nat_rel/_layouts/15/DocIdRedir.aspx?ID=TZJ2JDE2EW3U-1748693816-50

ERA Corona Platform

Link: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/covid-19>

European Covid-19 Data Platform

EMBL's European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI) has recognised the urgency to identify and consolidate needs around creating a European COVID-19 Data Platform for data/information exchange, connected to the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC).

The goal is to collect and share rapidly available research data from different sources and of different types to enable synergies, cross-fertilisation and use of diverse data sets with different degrees of aggregation, validation and/or completeness so they can be accessed by the research community.

[Concept and Action Plan](#)

Link: <https://www.ebi.ac.uk/about/news/announcements/embl-ebi-leads-international-collaboration-share-covid-19-research-data>

World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Research on Covid-19

WHO is gathering the latest scientific findings and knowledge on coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and compiling it in a database. We update the database daily from searches of bibliographic databases, hand searches of the table of contents of relevant journals, and the addition of other relevant scientific articles that come to our attention. The entries in the database may not be exhaustive and new research will be added regularly.

Link: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/global-research-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R)

List of downloadable learning resources of funding opportunities, webinars and publications, all of which have been developed by GloPID-R members.

Link: https://www.glopid-r.org/resources/?type=funding_opportunities

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)

Link: <https://cepi.net/>

2. Funding

European Commission Emergency Call

The European Commission is boosting urgently needed research into coronavirus with €10 million from its research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020

Link: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/sc1-phe-coronavirus-2020>

EOSC fast-track co-creation funding for COVID-19 related activities

The EOSC Secretariat responded to this urgent international challenge by introducing a fast-track procedure to apply for co-creation funding, specifically dedicated to activities related to COVID-19.

Link: <https://www.eoscsecretariat.eu/news-opinion/funding-covid-19-activities>

Innovative Medicine Initiative (IMI)

A call for research proposals (deadline 31 March 2020) was announced on 3 March 2020 that aims to support projects that develop treatments and diagnostics to better tackle the COVID-19 outbreak and to increase preparedness for future possible outbreaks.

Link: <https://www.imi.europa.eu/>

Botnar Research Center for Child Health Care (ETHZ + Unibas) Fast Track Call (FTC) for Emergency Response to COVID-19

The Botnar Research Center for Child Health is launching an emergency initiative to help manage the COVID-19 pandemic. CHF 20 million is available for projects by researchers from the four partner institutions.

Link: <https://brc.ch/ftc/>

Frontiers Coronavirus Funding Monitor

Frontiers provides a daily updated curated list of open funding calls and other support for researchers, non-profit organizations and commercial organizations, specifically for COVID-19 and coronavirus-related research.

Link: <https://coronavirus.frontiersin.org/covid-19-research-funding-monitor>

COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator

Backed by 125 US Dollars and coordinated by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Wellcome, and Mastercard. Novartis joined the initiative as well.

Link: <https://www.gatesfoundation.org/Media-Center/Press-Releases/2020/03/COVID-19-Therapeutics-Accelerator>

3. Access to publications and data

Public Health Emergency COVID-19 Initiative

Initiative calling on publishers to make Covid-19 and coronavirus related publications and available data supporting them, immediately accessible in PubMed Central (PMC) and other appropriate public repositories.

Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/about/covid-19/#rel-link>

European Pubmed Central (PMC)

Europe PMC is an open science platform that enables access to a worldwide collection of life science publications and preprints from trusted sources around the globe. It is developed by EMBL-EBI and a partner of PubMed Central and a repository of choice for many international science funders.

Link: https://europepmc.org/search?query=%22COVID-19%22%20OR%20%22SARS-CoV-2%22&page=1&sortBy=FIRST_IDATE_D%2Bdesc

Frontiers Coronavirus Knowledge Hub

The Frontiers Coronavirus Knowledge Hub provides an up-to-date source of trusted information and analysis on COVID-19 and coronaviruses, including the latest research articles, information, and commentary from our world-class scientific community.

Link: <https://coronavirus.frontiersin.org/>

Springer Nature

Encourages early sharing of research submitted to all journals through preprints and urges submitting authors to share underlying datasets relating to the outbreak as rapidly and widely as possible. Springer Nature works to make all relevant research and data immediately available in [one place](#) via Pub Med Central (PMC) and is a signatory of the consensus statement, [Sharing research data and findings relevant to the novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#).

Link: <https://www.springernature.com/gp/researchers/campaigns/coronavirus>

Lit Covid Literature Hub

LitCovid is a curated literature hub for tracking up-to-date scientific information about the 2019 novel Coronavirus. It is the most comprehensive resource on the subject, providing a central access to 2118 (and growing) relevant articles in PubMed. The articles are updated daily and are further categorized by different research topics and geographic locations for improved access.

Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/research/coronavirus/>

Elsevier Novel Coronavirus Information Center

Collection of expert, curated information for the research and health community on SARS-CoV-2 (the novel coronavirus) and COVID-19 (the disease). All resources are free to access and include guidelines for clinicians and patients.

Links: <https://www.elsevier.com/connect/coronavirus-information-center>

Wiley Free Access to Novel Coronavirus Content

All relevant research articles, book chapters and entries in the major references are freely available, in support of the global efforts in diagnosis, treatment, prevention and further research in this disease and similar viral respiratory infections.

Link: <https://novel-coronavirus.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/>

Taylor & Francis Free Access to all Covid-19 related research

Link: <https://www.tandfonline.com/action/doSearch?AllField=%22coronavirus%22>

Figshare Covid-19 Open Research Data

Link: <https://covid19.figshare.com/>

4. Access to Research Infrastructures

PRACE-ICEI Call for Proposal

The EU-backed Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe (PRACE) has launched a fast track call for proposals from academic and industry researchers needing access to high performance computing resources to model COVID-19 and its impact. The scope includes mapping the spread of the coronavirus, tracking mutations and the evolution of the virus, developing therapeutics and vaccines, studying infection mechanisms and analyzing the impact of the pandemic.

Link: <https://prace-ri.eu/prace-support-to-mitigate-impact-of-covid-19-pandemic/>

ESFRI: Services & Resources for Covid-19 Research

ESFRI is aggregating information about dedicated services offered by Research Infrastructures and communicating all relevant actions as broadly as possible. This page will be updated regularly, as more information becomes available from all over Europe. All national & European Research Infrastructures are encouraged to provide any information on their COVID-19 related activities and services in order to be added to this page.

Link: <https://www.esfri.eu/covid-19>

Rapid Access or Specific Services by European Research Infrastructures

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, several European research infrastructures have set up specific services, such as rapid or fast track access, to allow researchers to obtain results as soon as possible. The list is updated regularly.

Link: <https://erf-aisbl.eu/research-infrastructures-offer-for-research-on-covid-19/>

Exscalate4CoV Call for Proposal for Screening of Compounds

Exscalate4CoV, a coalition of three of the most powerful supercomputing centres in Europe with some further partners. The team uses supercomputers in the search of therapies and is matching digital models of SARS-CoV-2 proteins against molecules from existing compound databases.

Link: <https://www.exscalate4cov.eu/login.php>

The COVID-19 High Performance Computing (HPC) Consortium

The COVID-19 High Performance Computing Consortium is a unique private-public effort spearheaded by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, the U.S. Department of Energy and IBM to bring together federal government, industry, and academic leaders who are volunteering free compute time and resources on their world-class machines.

Link: <https://www.ibm.com/covid19/hpc-consortium>

5. Surveys

International Survey on Coronavirus

An international team of researchers from 12 different institutions, including Harvard, Cambridge, IESE, and Warwick University, among others is collecting survey data on how citizens prepare and cope with the spreading coronavirus.

Link: <https://covid19-survey.org/>

STIP Covid-19 Watch

The OECD monitor of science and innovation policy responses to the Covid-19 crisis. The [response from Switzerland](#) on the survey was prepared by SERI and FOPH (BAG).

Link: <https://stip.oecd.org/Covid.html>

6. Research projects

CoronaNet Research Project

Fine-grained and dyadic data on government policies on Covid-19

Link: https://lumesserschmidt.github.io/CoronaNet/about.html#corononet_research_group

University Basel within Exscalate4CoV

Scientists at SIB and the University of Basel, and Chelonia Applied Sciences (Basel), are part of a European effort to find molecules active against COVID-19 - and to accelerate this process in the future. They are part of Exscalate4CoV (E4C), a public-private consortium of 18 EU top organizations - including the European supercomputing platform EXSCALATE - from 7 countries, which received 3 million Euros from the European Commission's Horizon 2020.

Link: <https://www.sib.swiss/about-sib/news/10659-swiss-players-join-european-effort-to-fight-covid-19-and-future-pandemics>

In this running project again the IRB from Bellinzona

The applications of this centre of excellence can be used for on-demand, large-scale virtual screening of potential medical compounds such as small molecule drugs, antibodies etc. The applicability depends on the specific case of pandemic cause. Since 2015 BioExcel has received a total of €12.8 million in EU grants.

Link: <https://bioexcel.eu/about/partners/>

In this running IMI project the CHUV, University Geneva (Stephan Harbarth), University Zurich is a partner

Link: <https://www.combacte.com/partners/>

In this running EU project: PREPARE with three Partner from “Switzerland”

Link: <https://www.prepare-europe.eu/>

ATAC:

Swiss contributors: USI, Institute for Research in Biomedicine (Switzerland, Luca Varani and Davide Robbiani)

Research projects funded by Canadian Government

Through a contribution from Research Manitoba, Research Nova Scotia, and Alberta Innovates, CIHR was able to fund an additional three grants, bringing the total number of funded grants to 99 and a total investment of \$54.2M.

Link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/institutes-health-research/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-funds-49-additional-covid-19-research-projects-details-of-the-funded-projects.html>

7. Crowdsourcing und open source initiatives

Crowdfight Covid-19

An initiative from the scientific community to put all available resources at the service of the fight against COVID-19.

Link: <https://crowdfightcovid19.org/>

Real Time Epidemic Datathon

It is a collective open source real-time forecasting challenge that aims at joining forces to develop real-time and large-scale epidemic forecasting models.

Link: <https://www.epidemicdatathon.com/>

Folding@Home Covid-19 Response

Call to donate computing power to run simulations and open source of analysis.

<https://foldingathome.org/covid19/>

Faster Than Corona

Call to “donate” data about own health

Link: <https://fasterthancorona.org/>

ETH spin-off Memo Therapeutics Hack Corona initiative

Recruitment of recovered Covid-19 patients

Link: <https://www.investiere.ch/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/13-03-2020-Corona-Flyer-E-1.pdf>

HackZurich CodeVsCOVID19

<https://codevscovid19.devpost.com/submissions>

8. Databases of Covid research

European Research Council

List of ERC-funded research projects related to coronavirus

Link: <https://erc.europa.eu/list-erc-funded-research-projects-related-coronavirus>

9. Switzerland

High-level Scientific Advisory Board to advise FOPH/SERI

Chaired by Matthias Egger, Secretariat: Myriam Cevallos (SERI, Epidemiologist by training)

Link: <https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/de/home/das-bag/aktuell/medienmitteilungen.msg-id-78626.html>

Composition: http://www.akademien-schweiz.ch/index/Aktuell/News/mainColumnParagraphs/09/download_website.pdf

Swiss Scientific Covid-19 Task Force of ETH Domain

Secretariat by ETH Board Office: [Michael Käppeli](#) and [Ines Egli](#)

One of priorities: platform to exchange data for epidemiological modelling and decision-making. (Lead: Sebastian Bonhoeffer)

Link: <https://www.ethrat.ch/en/eth-domain-covid-19-task-force>

Swiss Biobanking Platform

Call for relevant resources to coordinate with BBMRI

Link: <https://swissbiobanking.ch/>

University of Bern, Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM) Covid resources

Ongoing and completed relevant projects, scientific publications and links to other resources

Link: https://www.ispm.unibe.ch/research/coronavirus/index_eng.html

CERAH Covid-19 Scientific Resources

The online resource is provided by CERAH, the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID), and aims to inform governments, humanitarian organisations and media representatives on the latest evidence on the COVID-19 virus. This page also refers to online resources from reputable organisations where updated information is published.

Link <https://www.cerahgeneve.ch/resources/covid-19-free-online-scientific-resources/>