



Dear Colleagues,

As part of the [COVID-19 research infrastructure announced](#) on March 31st 2020, UCLA Health has created an 11-member **COVID-19 Scientific Prioritization and Feasibility Committee for studies that involve UCLA Health patients, health care workers and/or UCLA Health clinical research infrastructure.**

For details see - <https://medschool.ucla.edu/coronavirus-information/research/governance/spfc>

In our original communication, this committee was called the Biospecimen Taskforce; its scope has now been expanded to include all studies submitted to the IRB that are COVID related that **require any patient or health care worker resources from UCLA Health, and/or UCLA Health clinical research infrastructure**, including: (a) access to UCLA Health patients, (b) access to clinical data from UCLA Health Patients, (c) access to biospecimens, including for research purposes, from UCLA Health patients and/or (d) access to our UCLA healthcare providers.

The work of this committee is critical due to:

- The increasing number of competing and overlapping COVID-19 studies being submitted to the IRB.
- The desire to protect the privacy of our COVID-19 patients, including those who are UCLA employees.
- The limitation on personal protective equipment and prioritization for clinical care.
- Reduced operational resources during this crisis, including clinical research infrastructure.
- Limited bio-specimen availability.

The committee will be supported administratively by the CTSI Office of Clinical Research. Studies that do not require any patient-related resources from UCLA Health (as outlined above) will be quickly exempted and proceed immediately to IRB review. **Please do not contact any of the committee members directly to avoid creating conflicts of interest.**

Please complete the following survey to be added for SP&F committee review: https://uclahs.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eEeedj0KTAGSJcp

All efforts will be made to review studies rapidly since we appreciate that all COVID applications are urgent by definition. Please contact ctsisrc@mednet.ucla.edu if you have questions or concerns.

Thank you for your attention to this process.

John C. Mazziotta, MD, PhD
Vice Chancellor, UCLA Health
Sciences
CEO, UCLA Health

Kelsey C. Martin, MD, PhD
Dean, David Geffen School of
Medicine at UCLA

Johnese Spisso, MPA
President, UCLA Health
CEO, UCLA Hospital System