Special Call for Graduate/Postdoctoral Research Awards (2020):
Psychological Research related to COVID-19

P&N has received generous support from the Charles Lafitte Foundation to support innovative research that engages P&N faculty, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and undergraduate students. In response to our changed research climate, we are redirecting funds previously designated for (now-prohibited) travel to support small research projects related to the COVID-19 pandemic (up to $2,500 apiece). The pandemic raises questions about public health messaging, misinformation spread, loneliness and resilience, stigma and prejudice, and remote learning, among many other psychological topics. Already many behavioral scientists are registering research ideas related to the pandemic (see https://github.com/natematias/covid-19-social-science-research/) and so in this spirit we seek to support P&N graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who wish to do innovative research in this difficult time.

Support for Research Projects
We anticipate funding approximately 10 research grants, up to $2500 apiece. We will be adopting the following guidelines for grant applications:

- Projects can be led by a single student / fellow or by a team, but at least one of the students/fellows needs to have a primary appointment in P&N (see eligibility criteria below).
- Grants can be used for most types of expenses associated with online research. For example, funds can be requested for expenses associated with running research subjects, for software or for research materials, etc. However, personal laptops will not be supported. Any grant rebudgets will require prior approval.
- Grants cannot be used to support graduate/postdoctoral stipends or summer funding. They also cannot be used to support travel.
- Projects that have a role for undergraduates (e.g., creating stimulus materials, programming) will be given priority, although we realize this is a challenge in the current climate. Applications should include a brief statement describing either virtual undergraduate participation (and if so, a description of the plan for communicating with your undergraduates) or a role for undergraduates once they are (presumably) back on campus for the Fall 2020 semester.
- Projects may start any time before May 1, 2020.
- A funded grant will last until December 31st, 2020 and is not renewable. We recognize the short time frame, but the point of the call is to support research that can be done quickly while the pandemic is ongoing.
- Multiple applications per student (as PI of the award) are discouraged. However, already having a 19-20 research award does not disqualify one from winning a special topics award. Note that any student with a completed Lafitte grant must have filed their final report to be eligible.

Submission Information
Applications should be submitted by April 15th, 2020, for full consideration. A completed application should be emailed to pn-grad-grants@duke.edu as a single PDF file that includes:

- Project Description (up to 2 pages). The project description should be scholarly but also broadly accessible to other psychological/neuroscience researchers. It should include a project title and a lay-language abstract that would be appropriate for publication on the departmental website (<100 words). It should also include a statement explicitly describing why the question is best investigated during the COVID-19 pandemic. The remainder of the project description can be
March 25th, 2020

organized/formatted however you see fit (i.e., single spacing is fine). Include a plan for engagement of undergraduates, if appropriate. References do not count in the page limit.

- **Narrative Budget** (up to 1 page). Provide an annotated summary of how funds will be allocated. Request the funds you need, up to $2500.
- **Approval of the Mentor.** Include a page with the mentor’s signature or a copy of an email indicating the mentor’s approval. You do not need to include a formal letter of support or anything extensive.

A. **Eligibility**
All graduate students and postdoctoral fellows with primary appointment in P&N can apply for these grants. Postdoctoral fellows appointed through an interdisciplinary unit (e.g., DIBS) are eligible if their main research mentor has a primary appointment in P&N. Students/fellows whose primary appointments are in another department are eligible to apply as part of a research team that includes another student/fellow with primary appointment in P&N. (Note that CNAP students who have not yet declared for P&N are eligible to apply for the research grants if they intend to declare for P&N.)

B. **Review Criteria and Process**
Applications will be reviewed by a committee of P&N faculty members. Key criteria for the grants program will include overall scholarly merit, innovativeness, anticipated impact upon undergraduates, and feasibility for completion during 2020. Final funding decisions will be made by an ad hoc committee comprising representatives from the leadership of P&N and its graduate program.

C. **Reporting Requirements**
To provide evidence of our stewardship of this philanthropic gift, we will ask the following of recipients:

- Some recipients will be contacted by Staff Assistant and Events Coordinator Cara Brunello for brief email or interview testimonials about their project (which will be incorporated into an annual report to be distributed to the donors and Duke leadership).
- Each grantee should also submit a one-page final report after its completion. A box folder will be created where awardees can upload this report as well as photos and other deliverables (e.g., a pdf of a conference poster or publication resulting from the grant).
- All publications resulting from Grant funding should acknowledge the support of the “Charles Lafitte Foundation Program in Psychological Research at Duke University.”

Note that all Grant funds are intended to be expended during the period of support and cannot carry over to future years. So, we encourage people to request the funds they need for their project and to use those funds responsibly during the year of the grant – not reserving any funds for carry-over. Unused funds will need to be returned to the Grant pool at the end of the funding period.

D. **Questions/Inquiries**
Given the short timeline, Elizabeth Marsh will host a zoom meeting on about the 2020 Special Call for COVID-19 Research Grants to answer any questions about the call, research topics, and budget items. The meeting will be on Wednesday April 1st at 3:00 EST and accessible via zoom (meeting id 132 422 039). If you are unable to attend, please email questions in advance so that they may be addressed if possible. The call will be recorded and made available upon request. If you have specific questions about the logistics of applying, please contact Staff Assistant Brooke Shaw at brooke.shaw@duke.edu