

WHY SUPPORT RESEARCH AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH?



SO YOU CAN HELP RESEARCHERS ASSIST IMMIGRANT POPULATIONS STRUGGLING WITH DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE, BETTER UNDERSTAND “LONG COVID,” AND DEVELOP MORE COMPREHENSIVE REMEDIES FOR CHILDHOOD ASTHMA.

And that’s just for starters. Through \$273.3 million in research grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in FY2022, Boston University has been helping improve human health and even save lives.

■ WIDENING THE LENS ON CHILDHOOD ASTHMA

Children in urban areas, particularly from low-income households, face increased risk for asthma simply because of their zip code. Yet studies often consider only single factors when developing intervention strategies. With the help of an NIH grant and data from the Massachusetts Healthcare Disparities Repository, Boston University Associate Professor of Environmental Health and Associate Director of the Institute for Global Sustainability Patricia Fabian plans to take a more comprehensive look and develop models showing how allergens, medication, and poor air quality in the built environment can exacerbate asthma outcomes, in both the current and future climate.

■ IS LONG COVID ALL IN OUR HEAD?

Could the fatigue common with long-haul COVID be linked to changes in the brain? The National Institutes of Health has awarded a \$468,000 grant to Boston University Assistant Professor of Engineering Laura Lewis to find out. While heart and lung damage can explain exhaustion in many COVID patients, a number of people without noticeable damage experience persistent symptoms. Lewis is pioneering new uses of functional magnetic resonance imaging to test whether such patients exhibit neuro-vascular functional disruption, providing a unique view of the condition, and with it the potential of relief for hundreds of thousands of people.

■ EMBEDDING CULTURAL AWARENESS IN ADDICTION TREATMENT

The challenges that immigrant groups face lead to disproportionate health and social consequences related to drug and alcohol use. Stigma, distrust, or discomfort around healthcare providers and authorities can create roadblocks to better health. A Boston University psychologist wants to change that by testing a novel treatment method with the help of a \$3.3 million NIH grant. Focusing on the Latinx community, School of Social Work Associate Professor Christina Lee has developed a clinical approach based on Motivational Interviewing that accounts for social stressors and cultural influences. Her five-year study is a first in testing the integration of culturally responsive addiction treatment into primary care.

We hope you’ll give strong consideration to supporting research funding for the NIH. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the role that NIH research plays in our daily lives, please visit bu.edu/federal.



BOSTON UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS ARE PEERING INTO THE BRAIN FOR ANSWERS ABOUT COVID-19.

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