

# The Cleveland Digestive Diseases Research Core Center

Status of Services during COVID-19 Pandemic  
03.30.20

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## Summary

The Cleveland Digestive Diseases Research Core Center (CDDRCC) has made changes to all of its Core operations to accommodate limited on-site staffing, appropriate social distancing practices, and relevant changes to affiliated hospitals where some of our cores are housed.

The purpose of this document is to clarify, effective March 30, 2020, what the operating status of each CDDRCC core is. This document will continue to be updated as changes occur.

## Administrative Core

Director: Fabio Cominelli, MD, PhD // [fxc90@case.edu](mailto:fxc90@case.edu)

Administrative Contact: Alicia DePlatchett, MBA // [aed76@case.edu](mailto:aed76@case.edu)

In sum, **the Administrative Core of the CDDRCC is open for business & providing a subset of services** comparative to full operation. Further detail is provided below for each Program/Element that make up the Administrative Core.

## Pilot & Feasibility Program

Director: Amitabh Chak, MD

At this time, **the P&F Program of the CDDRCC is open for business & providing all services offered**. Letter of Intent are due for pilot funding at the end of April. Full proposals are due mid-June, and the next award cycle does not start until 02/01/21. Investigators that currently hold a Cleveland DDRCC pilot will be awarded a no cost extension, upon request, as necessary, due to any delayed experimental work caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Enrichment Program

Director: Theresa Pizarro, PhD

At this time, **the Enrichment Program of the CDDRCC is primarily closed and rescheduling all related activities**. As such, no new Visiting Professors, Conferences, or Symposium will be held. It is important to note that these activities *will not* be held remotely via WebEx for the time being.

## Clinical Element

Director: Gregory Cooper, MD

At this time, **the Clinical Element of the Administrative Core of the CDDRCC is open for business & providing all services offered**; however, these will be provided via telephone/WebEx, or other means of remote communication.

Core Offering	Status
Biostatistical Support	Open for remote service
Bioinformatic Support	Open for remote service
Protocol Development	Open for remote service
Reporting & Graphics	Open for remote service

## Biorepository Core

Director: Claudio Fiocchi, MD // [fiocchc@ccf.org](mailto:fiocchc@ccf.org) (CCF LRI Contact)

Administrative Contact: Alicia DePlatchett, MBA // [aed76@case.edu](mailto:aed76@case.edu)

CWRU Biorepository Contact: Minh Lam, PhD // [mxl28@case.edu](mailto:mxl28@case.edu)

The Biorepository Core maintains two separate facilities, one at the CCF LRI and one at CWRU, for collection, processing, storage of tissue, cells, serum, DNA, and stool samples.

At this time, **both the CCF LRI Biorepository Core and the CWRU biorepository are primarily closed** – completing on-going projects and taking on no new ones;

Core Offering	Status
Procurement & Distribution of Clinical Samples	Primarily Closed <sup>1</sup>
Clinical & demographic classification of stored samples	Primarily Closed
Isolation of immune, inflammatory, epithelial, endothelial and mesenchymal cells	Primarily Closed
Consultation, training & education	Remote sessions available, per request.

<sup>1</sup>Please note, the Biorepository Core at CWRU is still able to distribute clinical samples upon request and with pick-up conditions agreed to by both parties. Please contact Minh Lam directly for additional information.

## Histology/Imaging Core

Director: Theresa T. Pizarro, PhD // [pizarrocom@aol.com](mailto:pizarrocom@aol.com)

Technical Director: Carlo De Salvo, PhD // [cx198@case.edu](mailto:cx198@case.edu)

At this time, **the Histology/Imaging Core is primarily closed** – completing on-going projects and taking on no new ones. It is important to note that any samples that are waiting to be evaluated by the Pathologist have been put on hold while his effort has been shifted to primarily clinical responsibilities at this moment.

Core Offering	Status
Histological analysis and scoring of GI & liver diseases	Primarily Closed
Immunohistochemistry/immunofluorescence	Primarily Closed
Small animal imaging	Primarily Closed
Digital pathology, image analysis, & photodocumentation	Primarily Closed
Consultation, education, training & provision of archival tissues	Remote sessions available, per request, for consultation and education; provision of archival tissues Primarily Closed.

## Mouse Models Core

Director: Fabio Cominelli, MD, PhD // [fxc90@case.edu](mailto:fxc90@case.edu)

Administrative Contact: Alicia DePlatchett, MBA // [aed76@case.edu](mailto:aed76@case.edu)

At this time, **the Mouse Models Core is primarily closed** – completing on-going projects and taking on no new ones. It is important to note that all animal husbandry activities necessary to maintain DDRCC colonies are fully functional.

Core Offering	Status
Breeding & provision of SAMP1Yit/Fc and TNFΔARE mice	Primarily Closed
High-definition murine endoscopy with NBI capability	Primarily Closed
Stereomicroscopy with assessment of MPO activity	Primarily Closed
Consultation, education, & training in mouse modeling methods	Remote sessions available, per request.