

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

COLUMBIA MAGNETIC RESONANCE RESEARCH CENTER

To: Columbia MR Research Center Investigators  
Re: Human and animal research ramp-down and closure  
Fr: Tommy Vaughan  
Date: 18 March, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

In response to Columbia's instructions for blunting the local virulence of the COVID-19 pandemic, all non-essential human and animal research is now halted. Continuation of essential human research will be determined by the IRB. Essential animal research will be an institutional-level call as well but is being heavily discouraged. Count on most research operations and support from all campuses and facilities of the MR Research Center being closed until further notice.

A skeleton crew will maintain our MR systems, cloud integrity, contracts, and will be available to field any of your questions or concerns. We will be available for technical input into new research planning and grant applications, abstracts and manuscripts, and IRB and IACUC preparations to make this experimentation downtime otherwise productive.

If needed, please contact Kathleen Durkin "kd2649@columbia.edu" at ZI, Steve Dashnaw "smd2008@cumc.columbia.edu" at CUIMC or me. For more information on the MR Research Center: <https://mr.research.columbia.edu/> or Columbia's COVID-19 updates: <https://www.columbia.edu/content/coronavirus>

Sincerely, 

J. Thomas Vaughan Jr., PhD  
Professor and Director of the Columbia MR Research Center  
Professor in Biomedical Engineering  
Professor in Radiology  
PI and MR Platform Director for the Zuckerman Mind, Brain, Behavior Institute  
Director of the Ultra-High Field MR Lab, Nathan Kline Institute