The 20th century witnessed three separate influenza pandemics and the crossover of HIV to humans—a burden still felt today. With the emergence of SARS in 2002, a new H1N1 virus in 2009, a highly deadly outbreak of Ebola in West Africa in 2014, and the COVID-19 pandemic that has swept the globe, the 21st century looks to be anything but quiet on the pandemic front. Worst of all, in none of these cases was the world prepared.

Although we can’t see into the future, we can learn from the past and prepare now for what is to come. This is the vision of the new Center for COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness at Rutgers University, which will develop rapid response preparedness capabilities equipped to address a broad range of future emerging and re-emerging pathogens.

As a center within the national Institute for Infectious and Inflammatory Diseases, the Center for COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness will draw on Rutgers’ internationally recognized expertise to advance rapid diagnostics, conduct critical studies in New Jersey and internationally, and assist with the development of effective treatments and vaccines. The center will leverage new data to support the development of vaccines and advance novel treatments to control viral replication and harmful inflammation, a core contributor to the lung injury and dysfunction associated with COVID-19—thereby helping lead our country and the world to recovery from this pandemic.

With additional investment, Rutgers hopes to expand and further accelerate the center’s impact on the COVID-19 pandemic—contributing to testing, treatment, and prevention—and address related social, behavioral, and economic issues. Support for this idea will increase the center’s capacity to end the COVID-19 epidemic and prepare New Jersey and our world for the next one.
The Center for COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness is one of Rutgers’ Big Ideas, which leverage the innovative potential of our world-class university community to improve the human condition. Bringing these Big Ideas to life will require bold thinking, multidisciplinary collaboration, and philanthropic support.

The team behind the Center for COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness invites your partnership in four key areas:

**CORE FACILITIES**
- Invest in upgrades to Rutgers’ current biocontainment facilities, which are necessary for studying specific viruses and other dangerous pathogens
- Purchase instrumentation for metabolomics, high throughput nucleic acid sequencing, and multi-parameter flow cytometry

**ENDOWED POSITIONS**
- Develop a Named Endowed Chair, Named Endowed Professorship, and Named Endowed Early Career Professorship

**FELLOWSHIPS**
- Create a Named Endowed Fellowship to support exceptional Ph.D. graduate students and postdocs to conduct research on host response, pathogenicity, and diagnostics relevant to research involving COVID-19 and other pandemic pathogens
- Create a named Annual Fellowship to provide an exceptional Ph.D. graduate student or postdoc with research funding and tuition support

**PILOT GRANTS**
- Pilot grants are critical for supporting Rutgers’ COVID-19 research, which will generate preliminary results for large, competitive external grant support

**RESEARCH**
- Establish a named endowment to continuously support a research scientist in molecular and serological diagnostics, who would be the point person in developing rapid tests as soon as the need arises
- Establish a named endowment to enable leading researchers in the study of immunology of infectious disease to develop novel and effective immunotherapies

To learn how you can get involved, please contact:

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