The Impact of COVID-19 on University’s Research Environment and Management

• Challenges • Best Practices • Opportunities •
Research Support in China in the Time of COVID-19

Jing BAI
Associate Director, Office of Research Support and Technology Transfer
Duke Kunshan University
Duke Kunshan University

A joint-venture liberal arts university based in Kunshan, China
Established in September 2013 as a U.S.-China partnership between Duke University and Wuhan University.

Jing BAI
- Leads the central office at Duke Kunshan University
- Sponsored programs at the pre- and post-award stages
- Research contracts and agreements
- Public policy consultation
- IRB, IACUC, FCOI, IP management, patents licensing and venture, export control
- Ex officio on the Research Policy Committee at Duke Kunshan
Support Procedure Changes

*Convert office procedures to online alternatives (China)*

**Peking University**
- Avoid personal contact
- Cloud office – internal ERP system, wechat group, Tencent conference, webinar
- Hardcopies – will catch up after the pandemic
- Distribute messages via websites, wechat public accounts, wechat group messages

**Wuhan University**
- Ensure livelihood support – first priority
- Closed campus; lock up buildings; avoid personal contact
- Cloud office – internal ERP, wechat group, QQ group, text messages, Tencent conference, webinar etc.
- Hardcopies – will catch up after the pandemic
- Distribute messages via websites, wechat public accounts, wechat group messages

**Duke Kunshan University**
- Close campus, avoid personal contact
- Cloud office – emails, wechat and wechat groups, Zoom, Tencent Meeting, etc.
- E-signatures
- Distribute messages via emails and wechat group messages

*Procedures at Peking University and Wuhan University extracted from interviews and conversations*
Impacts on Research Management

• ICT infrastructure and software are bottlenecks

• Time lapse affects communication and productivity

• Synergy within team is loosened
Impact on Research Environment

- Research on COVID-19 is **priority** – research task force on fast diagnosis, vaccine, treatment.

- Reflection on the purpose of research and development
  
  Publish/Perish vs Public good

- Reflection on KPI criteria for research and faculty
  
  Publication (numbers, citation number, SCI/El rating)/# patents, # invention

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**Social impact of research result**
Jing Bai
+86-512-3665 7024
Jing.bai@dukekunshan.edu.cn
Duke Kunshan University