Hopkins Population Center Announces the Award of COVID-19 Lightning Pilot Grants

The Hopkins Population Center announces the award to four pilot projects doing social science research on the SARS-Cov2 pandemic. The multidisciplinary teams leading the research represent HPC faculty associates from the Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Krieger School of Art and Sciences.

The COVID-19 Lightning Pilot Program is intended to stimulate research that examines population heterogeneity of pandemic trends by spatial patterns, demographics, SES, and locational inequality of healthcare to inform policy in the effort to control the pandemic and alleviate its consequences for population wellbeing.

Projects will make use of and contribute to the HPC Data Hub, a central repository for U.S. county level data on government policy responses, unemployment rates, and baseline co-morbidity mortality rates, tax filing status, taxable income brackets, and demographic population characteristics. The HPC Data Hub is a public resource, available at our GitHub repository.

Response to the RFA in the Hopkins community was substantial, and the awards were selected from a large pool of applications after systematic reviews. The funded projects are:

- **Monitoring Local Responses to COVID-19 Pandemic Using Real-time Big Data**
  (Qingfeng Li, PI)
- **COVID-19 in US Counties: Can Public Health Bend the Curve?**
  (David Bishai and Alison Gemmill, PIs)
- **Explaining Temporal and Spatial Unmet Need in Multiple Waves of COVID-19**
  (Alexandre White, PI)
- **COVID-19 Case Fatality Rates: Curation, Variation, and Homogeneity**
  (Li Liu, PI)