

February 27, 2009

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Obama Administration Budget Proposal for Cancer Research <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/>

“Begin the doubling of funding for Cancer Research. The Budget includes over \$6 billion within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to support cancer research. This funding is central to the President’s sustained, multi-year plan to double cancer research. These resources will be committed strategically to have the greatest impact on developing innovative diagnostics, treatments, and cures for cancer. This initiative will build upon the unprecedented \$10 billion provided in the recovery Act, which will support new NIH research in 2009 and 2010.” *A New Era of Responsibility Renewing American’s Promise, page 68.*

More on the Stimulus Bill and NIH-American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

NCI will immediately receive about \$1.26 billion in direct funding. NCI grantees can also successfully compete for the new NIH Challenge Grants, comparative effectiveness research funds, and other infrastructure monies administered by the NIH Office of the Director and the National Center for Research Resources. NIH has a \$400 million earmark from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality for studies in comparative effectiveness. NIH is also bidding to take part in an HHS \$650 million prevention and outreach initiative.

The NIH spending plan for the ARRA funds has been summarized in a statement on the NIH website. http://www.nih.gov/about/director/02252009statement_arra.htm. As NIH Spend Plans are approved through this process, NIH will post information about these critical projects and their impact on the economy on www.hhs.gov/recovery.

Cancer Center Research Program Meetings

The **Cancer Control and Population Science** Research Program, led by Marian Fitzgibbon, PhD, Interim Associate Director, held its inaugural meeting on Wednesday, February 25. Twenty-seven investigators participated in an engaging discussion about a proposed conceptual research framework for the program and ways to share information leading to increased interactions and collaborations on publications and future grant applications. The CCPS Steering Committee will meet in the next two weeks to revise the conceptual framework and identify common research themes among program members as a way to organize future working meetings.

Tumor Cell Biology

Tuesday, March 3

1:30-2:30 PM (note time change)

Room 5175 COMRB

Research presentations:

Alan McLachlan, Professor, Microbiology and Immunology

Lijun Rong, Associate Professor, Microbiology and Immunology

Bin He, Associate Professor, Microbiology and Immunology

Contact: Pradip Raychaudhuri, PhD, Interim Program Leader

pradip@uic.edu

Experimental Therapeutics and Imaging

Tuesday, March 17

4:00-5:00 PM

COMRB 5175

Dr. Chakrabarty, Distinguished University Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, will present his work on azurin and some azurin peptide fragments. Azurin is a member of the cupredoxin family of copper containing redox proteins that preferentially kills human cancer cells with no apparent activity on normal cells.

Contact: Steve M. Swanson, PhD, Interim Program Leader

sswanson@uic.edu

Carcinogenesis and Chemoprevention

Thursday, March 19

4:00-5:00 PM

COMRB 5175

Research presentations:

Joanne Tobacman, Associate Professor, Medicine

Greg Thatcher, Professor, Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy

Cancer Center Research Seminar Series

Wednesday, March 4

Sponsor: Cancer Control and Population Science Research

Program

4:00-5:00 PM

Room 5175 COMRB

Carol Estwing Ferrans, PhD, RN, FAAN

Professor and Associate Dean for Research, College of Nursing

Deputy Director, UIC Center for Population Health and Health Disparities

"Physician distrust and cancer screening in African Americans"

Wednesday, March 11

Sponsor: Carcinogenesis and Chemoprevention Research

Program

4:00-5:00 PM

Room 5175 COMRB

Maarten Bosland, DVSc, PhD, Professor, Department of Pathology

Title to be announced.

Wednesday, March 18

Sponsor: Tumor Cell Biology Research Program

4:00-5:00 PM

Room 5175 COMRB

Andre Kajdacsy-Balla, MD, PhD, Professor of Pathology and Director of the Cancer Center Tissue Core

“How your basic research findings can be translated into clinical discoveries: The use of tissue banking and novel histology techniques”

Dept. of Biochemistry & Molecular Genetics Research Seminar

Wednesday, March 4

12:00PM

Herman Auditorium, MBRB

Dr. Kieran Harvey, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne, Australia

“Control of organ size and cell transformation by the Hippo pathway”

Funding Opportunities

Testing Tobacco Products Promoted to Reduce Harm (R21)

Deadlines: Jun 16 and Oct 16,

2009; Feb 16, 2010

This FOA invites applications that propose multidisciplinary research on potential reduced-exposure tobacco products, both smoked and smokeless. The multidisciplinary studies can span basic, biological, behavioral, surveillance, and epidemiology research. The tobacco industry is currently promoting several new products with claims that they (1) are less either harmful or less addictive; and (2) purportedly deliver lower amounts of toxic, carcinogenic, or addictive agents to the user compared with conventional products. However, to date, the scientific evidence is insufficient to evaluate whether these new products actually reduce the users' exposure or risk for tobacco-related diseases. The overarching goal of this FOA is to determine whether potential reduced-exposure tobacco products provide a truly, less-harmful alternative to conventional tobacco products, both at the individual and population level.

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-09-047.html>

Correlative Studies with Specimens from Multi-Site Trials (R21)

Deadlines: Jun 16 and Oct 16,

2009; Feb 16, 2010

This FOA is intended to support new correlative laboratory studies using annotated tumor or biospecimens collected from large-scale multi-institutional clinical or prevention trials, respectively. The goal is to gain a better understanding of those characteristics of cancer patients' disease (monitored at the cellular or molecular levels) that are correlated with either disease progression patterns, and may facilitate predictions of clinical outcomes of therapeutic and/or preventive interventions. The factors to be addressed in the search for correlations may include, for example, genetic and/or epigenetic patterns, and other molecular profiles, along with the outcomes of interventional responses. The correlative studies proposed must meet these requirements: (1) Research focus must be on clinically relevant studies that are pertinent to cancer risk assessment, early detection, and/or prognosis as well as on predicting responses to therapy and preventive interventions. (2) These studies should be related to potential clinical applications such as patient monitoring for preventive or therapeutic interventions, development of new therapeutic strategies, and/or testing new biomarkers for the identification of patient subsets for specific prevention or treatment approaches. (3) A clear rationale should be stated for both the experimental design and technical methodologies selected. (4) The laboratory assays must use specimens from patients who are receiving defined treatments in large clinical trials (such as Phase III). (5) Applications must include a statistical section describing the study design and plans for analysis of data designed to test the hypotheses. (6) All investigators are encouraged to work with multi-institutional organizations or form a consortium in order to access sufficient numbers of patient specimens and clinical information. <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-133.html>

American Cancer Society, Inc Deadlines for all grants are Apr 01 and Oct 15, 2009.

Research Scholar Grants in Basic, Preclinical, Clinical, and Epidemiology Research. These grants

provide support for independent, self-directed researchers in the first six years of their independent research careers to conduct basic, preclinical, clinical, and epidemiology research projects. http://www.cancer.org/docroot/RES/content/RES_5_2x_Research_Scholar_Grants_for_Beginning_Investigators.asp?sitearea=RES

Research Scholar Grants in Cancer Control: Psychosocial and Behavioral Research. These grants provide support for investigator-initiated research projects in psychosocial and behavioral research, including epidemiologic approaches to psychosocial and behavioral research. http://www.cancer.org/docroot/RES/content/RES_5_2x_Research_Scholar_Grants_in_Psychological_and_Behavioral_Research_for_Beginning_and_Senior_Investigators.asp?sitearea=RES

Research Scholar Grants in Cancer Control: Health Services and Health Policy Research. These grants provide support for independent, self-directed researchers at any stage of their careers to conduct research projects centered on health services and health policy aspects of cancer control research. http://www.cancer.org/docroot/RES/content/RES_5_2x_Research_Scholar_Grants_For_Health_Services_and_Health_Policy_and_Outcomes_Research.asp?sitearea=RES

Research Scholar Grants in Psychosocial and Behavioral Research. The ACS' special initiative Targeted Grants for Research Directed at Poor and Underserved Populations provides support for research projects that focus on poor or underserved populations and address a variety of clinical, cancer control, behavioral, epidemiologic, health policy, health services, and basic science issues. As part of this special initiative, the ACS offers Research Scholar Grants in Psychosocial and Behavioral Research to support investigator-initiated research projects centered on health policy research, specifically focusing on psychosocial and behavioral research only. http://www.cancer.org/docroot/RES/content/RES_5_2x_Targeted_Grants_for_Research_Directed_at_Poor_and_Underserved_Populations.asp?sitearea=RES

Research Scholar Grants in Health Policy and Health Services Research. The ACS' special initiative Targeted Grants for Research Directed at Poor and Underserved Populations provides support for research projects that focus on poor or underserved populations and address a variety of clinical, cancer control, behavioral, epidemiologic, health policy, health services, and basic science issues. As part of this special initiative, the ACS offers Research Scholar Grants in Health Policy and Health Services Research to support investigator-initiated research projects centered on health services and health policy research.

Mentored Research Scholar Grants in Applied and Clinical Research. The ACS' special initiative Targeted Grants for Research Directed at Poor and Underserved Populations provides support for research projects that focus on poor or underserved populations and address a variety of clinical, cancer control, behavioral, epidemiologic, health policy, health services, and basic science issues. As part of this special initiative, the ACS offers Mentored Research Scholar Grants to provide support for mentored research and training by full-time faculty to junior faculty, typically within the first four years of their first independent appointment. The goal is for these beginning investigators to become independent researchers in clinical research and in cancer control and prevention research. http://www.cancer.org/docroot/RES/content/RES_5_2x_Targeted_Grants_for_Research_Directed_at_Poor_and_Underserved_Populations.asp?sitearea=RES

Postdoctoral Fellowships. The ACS' special initiative Targeted Grants for Research Directed at Poor and Underserved Populations provides support for research projects that focus on poor or underserved populations and address a variety of clinical, cancer control, behavioral, epidemiologic, health policy,

health services, and basic science issues. As part of this special initiative, the ACS offers Postdoctoral Fellowships to provide support for the training of researchers who have received a doctorate, providing initial funding leading to an independent career in cancer research. http://www.cancer.org/docroot/RES/content/RES_5_2x_Targeted_Grants_for_Research_Directed_at_Poor_and_Underserved_Populations.asp?sitearea=RES

Postdoctoral Fellowships. This award is intended to support the training of researchers who have received a doctoral degree to provide initial funding leading to an independent career in cancer research (including basic, preclinical, clinical, cancer control, psychosocial, behavioral, epidemiology, health services, and health policy research). During the second or third year of the award, ACS Postdoctoral Fellows will be invited to attend a Fellows Symposium to present their work, meet with senior leaders in cancer research, and develop additional professional skills important in their transition to independent research careers. http://www.cancer.org/docroot/RES/content/RES_5_2x_Postdoctoral_Fellowships.asp?sitearea=RES

William T. Grant Foundation

Understanding the Acquisition, Interpretation, and Use of Research Evidence in Policy and Practice

Deadline: May 12, 2009

The foundation has a longstanding interest in supporting research that can inform policy and practice. The particular focus is on policies and practices that affect youth ages 8 to 25 in the United States. In this area, there are significant gaps between research and policy, and between research and practice. Relatively little research attention has been devoted to understanding the user side--that is, studying what affects policymakers' and practitioners' acquisition, interpretation, and use of research evidence. The foundation believes studies of this topic will increase the understanding of how to improve the production and subsequent use of research for and in policy and practice. Areas of focus could include health, education, justice, child welfare, family support, employment, and youth programs. http://www.wtgrantfoundation.org/newsletter3039/newsletter_show.htm?doc_id=778632