Table of Contents

In this issue:

Federal Funding Opportunities..............................pp. 2-3

The New NIH scoring system: a sneak peek........pp. 3-4

Funding Opportunities from Foundations..................pp. 5-7

Words to live by..............................................................p. 7
Federal Funding Opportunities

Community-Based Partnerships for Childhood Obesity Prevention and Control: Research to Inform Policy (R21) (PA-09-141)
Application Receipt Date(s) Standard dates apply

Diet, Epigenetic Events, and Cancer Prevention (R21) (PA-06-413)
Application Receipt Date(s) Standard dates apply

Pilot and Feasibility Clinical Research Studies in Digestive Diseases and Nutrition (R21) (PA-07-405)
Application Receipt Date(s) Standard dates apply

Secondary Analyses in Obesity, Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (R21) (PA-09-131)
Application Receipt Date(s) Standard dates apply

Exploratory Grants for Behavioral Research in Cancer Control (R21) (PA-09-130)
Application Receipt Date(s) Standard dates apply

Note: Using the NIH Exploratory/Developmental Grant (R21) funding mechanism, this FOA focuses on early and conceptual stages of research projects. Specific Research Objectives Research areas may include: a) health and risk communication in the cancer arena; b) enhancing cancer survivorship; c) promoting healthy diet and physical activity; d) prevention and control of tobacco use; e) interaction between psychosocial and biological mechanisms; f) cancer screening behaviors; and g) palliative and end-of-life care. The research may occur in a variety of settings away from a more traditional laboratory (e.g., research conducted within hospitals and medical clinics, neighborhood libraries, and other community gathering places) and may employ a wide range of methodologies, including both qualitative and quantitative approaches.

NIH Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Program (Parent R21) (PA-09-164)
Application Receipt Date(s) Standard dates apply

Purpose. The Exploratory/Developmental Grant (R21) mechanism is intended to encourage exploratory and developmental research projects by providing support for the early and conceptual stages of these projects. These studies may involve considerable risk but may lead to a breakthrough in a particular area, or to the development of novel techniques, agents,
methodologies, models, or applications that could have a major impact on a field of biomedical, behavioral, or clinical research. All investigator-initiated exploratory/developmental grant applications described in this announcement will be assigned to NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) according to standard Public Health Service (PHS) referral guidelines and specific program interests.

Research Project Grant (Parent R01)
(PA-07-070)

Note: Purpose. The Research Project Grant (R01) is an award made to an institution/organization to support a discrete, specified, circumscribed project to be performed by the named investigator(s) in areas representing the specific interests and competencies of the investigator(s). The R01 research plan proposed by the applicant institution/organization must be related to the stated program interests of one or more of the NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) based on descriptions of their programs. All research project grant applications described in this announcement will be assigned to NIH ICs according to standard Public Health Service (PHS) referral guidelines and specific program interests.

Expiration date: 1/8/10

***************************************************************************************************************************** **********

New NIH Scoring System

The new scoring system will be effective for all applications for research grants and cooperative agreements that are submitted for funding consideration for fiscal year 2010 (FY2010) and thereafter. The first standing due date for FY2010 is January 25, 2009; the new scoring system will be used for applications submitted in response to Parent Announcements and Program Announcements, including PARs and PASs published before or after this Guide Notice. An important aspect of the implementation of the new scoring system is to use it in a consistent manner for applications considered in a given fiscal year. Therefore, some RFAs and PARs for funding consideration in FY2010 have due dates before January 25, 2009, and responses to those will be evaluated using the new scoring system. Likewise some RFAs and PARs for FY2009 have due dates after January 25, 2009, and responses to those will be evaluated using the present scoring system.

The NIH scoring system uses a 9-point rating scale from 1 = Exceptional to 9 = Poor for the overall impact/priority score as well as the individual review criteria. Ratings are provided only in whole numbers, not decimals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Additional Guidance on Strengths/Weaknesses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Exceptional</td>
<td>Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td>Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Very strong with only some minor weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>Strong but with numerous minor weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Strong but with at least one moderate weakness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>Some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Some strengths but with at least one major weakness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>A few strengths and a few major weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Minor Weakness: An easily addressable weakness that does not substantially lessen impact
Moderate Weakness: A weakness that lessens impact
Major Weakness: A weakness that severely limits impact
• For the impact/priority score, the far left column provides guidance for assigning scores to applications based on the project’s likelihood to have a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved:

1 to 3 = high impact  
4 to 6 = moderate impact  
7 to 9 = low impact

• For the impact/priority score and for the individual criterion scores, the far right column provides a graphical guide of how strengths and weaknesses are considered in assigning a rating. A score of 1 indicates an exceptionally strong application (or exceptionally strong significance, investigators, innovation, approach, environment) with essentially no weaknesses. A score of 9 indicates serious and substantive weaknesses with very few strengths. For the impact/priority score rating, strengths and weaknesses across all of the review criteria should be considered. For each criterion rating, the strengths and weaknesses within that review criterion should be considered. In considering strengths and weaknesses, reviewers should consider the relative importance of the strengths and weaknesses noted, not simply the number of strengths and weaknesses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Strengths/Weaknesses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Impact</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Exceptional</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate Impact</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Impact</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Non-numeric score options:** NR = Not Recommended for Further Consideration, DF = Deferred, AB = Abstention, CF = Conflict, NP = Not Present, ND = Not Discussed

Funding Opportunities from Foundations

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Purpose
Active Living Research and Healthy Eating Research are national programs of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) that support research to identify promising policy and environmental strategies for increasing physical activity, promoting healthy eating and preventing obesity. This call for proposals (CFP) supports time-sensitive, opportunistic studies to evaluate changes in policies or environments with the potential to reach children who are at highest risk for obesity, including African-American, Latino, Native American, Asian-American and Pacific Islander children (ages 3 to 18) who live in low-income communities or communities with limited access to affordable healthy foods and/or safe opportunities for physical activity.

Research studies may focus on one or both sides of the energy balance equation—on physical activity (including sedentary behavior), healthy eating or both. Studies funded under this CFP are expected to advance RWJF’s efforts to reverse the childhood obesity epidemic by 2015.

Eligibility Criteria
Eligibility requirements include the following:
Preference will be given to applicants who may be either public entities or nonprofit organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
Applicant organizations must be based in the United States or its territories at the time of application.
The timing of the program, event or policy change to be studied must justify the rapid-review process in order to answer the proposed research questions.

Total Awards
Up to $1.675 million total will be awarded for rapid-response research grants, with the majority of funds in this CFP focused on physical activity studies. The maximum amount for a single grant is $150,000, with a maximum funding period of 12 months.

Deadlines
Grants are awarded on a rolling basis. Letters of intent may be submitted at any time until July 17, 2009, at 5 p.m. ET. Deadlines for receipt of invited full proposals are May 14, 2009, at 5 p.m. ET or August 14, 2009, at 5 p.m. ET, and funding may be initiated as early as October 1, 2009, or January 15, 2010, respectively.

How to Apply (page 9)
All letters of intent must be submitted via e-mail directly to either the Active Living Research or Healthy Eating Research national program office. Detailed instructions and application materials for the letter of intent are available online at www.activelivingresearch.org and www.healthyeatingresearch.org. Full proposals must be submitted through the RWJF Grantmaking Online system.

******************************************************************************
National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE)

APPLYING FOR FUNDING http://www.nocsae.org/research/funding.html
In its effort to commission research, NOCSAE solicits grant proposal from any and all qualified investigators. The scope of the grants considered for funding include basic and/or applied research bearing a rational relationship towards increasing our understanding of sports injury mechanisms. Traditionally, successful proposals have had an emphasis on brain/spinal injuries and protective equipment. Priority is given to
proposals focusing on recurring injury where the injury is either "catastrophic," "serious," and/or "costly". Awards are based upon scientific merit as ranked by a study section of national experts and upon the priorities of the NOCSAE Board of Directors. Since the program's inception in 1994, NOCSAE has awarded over one million dollars towards research. Follow this link to view the successful proposals.

Due to the diversity and complexity of potential research proposals, NOCSAE has instituted a two-phase application procedure. Those interested in seeking funding are required to first submit a Preliminary Grant Application. These brief, one page proposals are reviewed by the NOCSAE Board of Directors. The Board votes to invite Full Grant Applications from these preliminary proposals after consideration of the current goals and the available funds. The invited full proposals are assigned and reviewed by an external scientific study section. Their critiques are presented to the NOCSAE Board and the final decision for funding is made by the NOCSAE Board of Directors.

FULL GRANT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
APPLICATION PROCEDURES
A. Full grant applications are considered only by invitation from the NOCSAE Board after submission of a Preliminary Proposal.
B. Due date: October 1, 2009.

************************************************
American Heart Association
National Scientist Development Grant Program Description and Eligibility Criteria
http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3059907
Last Update: May 2009
Application Deadline: July 22, 2009 (11:59 p.m. Central Time)
Award Activation: Jan. 1, 2010

Contact Information
(214) 360-6104, -6106, -6113
E-mail: ncrp@heart.org
Fax: (214) 360-6124

Science Focus
The American Heart Association funds research broadly related to cardiovascular disease and stroke. We support research in clinical and basic sciences, bioengineering, biotechnology and public health. Applications related to obesity, women and heart disease, and resuscitation are particularly encouraged.

Objective
To support highly promising beginning scientists in their progress toward independence by encouraging and adequately funding research projects that can bridge the gap between completion of research training and readiness for successful competition as an independent investigator.

Disciplines
All basic disciplines, including multidisciplinary efforts, as well as epidemiological, community and clinical investigations that bear on cardiovascular and stroke problems.

Target Audience
- M.D., Ph.D., D.O., D.V.M. or equivalent doctoral degree at time of application
- Applicants should be faculty/staff member initiating independent research careers, usually at the rank of instructor or assistant professor (or their equivalents).
- Must have faculty/staff appointment at activation.
At the time of award activation, no more than four years will have elapsed since an applicant's first faculty/staff appointment (after receipt of doctoral degree) at the assistant professor level or its equivalent (including, but not limited to, research assistant professor, research scientist, staff scientist, etc.).

Applications may be submitted for review in the final year of a postdoctoral research fellowship or in the initial years of the first faculty/staff appointment.

Must meet institutional requirements for grant submission at time of application.

Individuals are ineligible for the Scientist Development Grant if they have been or are currently funded (extramurally) for more than one year at a level greater than $95,000 per year in direct costs.

SDG and an NIH mentored K-series award cannot be held concurrently.

Citizenship

At time of application, must have one of the following designations:

- U.S. citizen
- Permanent resident
- Pending permanent resident. Applicants must have applied for permanent residency and have filed form I-485 with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and have received authorization to legally remain in the United States (having filed an Application for Employment Form I-765).
- E-3 -- specialty occupation worker
- H1-B Visa -- temporary worker in a specialty occupation
- J-1 Visa. Note: You must have an H-1B or equivalent by the award activation date. If the H-1B or equivalent is not received by the award activation date, the award must be relinquished.
- O-1 Visa -- temporary worker with extraordinary abilities in the sciences
- TN Visa -- NAFTA professional

Awardee must meet American Heart Association citizenship criteria throughout duration of the award.

Budget/Annual Award Amount

- PI Salary/Fringe: Yes, up to $35,000/yr may be requested for salary/fringe of the PI, collaborating investigator(s), and other participants with faculty appointments.
- Project Support: Yes, at least $35,000 per year (all of award may be budgeted for project support and 10 percent indirect costs if PI, collaborators, and/or other faculty salaries/fringe are not requested).
- Travel costs not to exceed $3,000/yr.
- Indirect Costs: Yes, not to exceed 10 percent ($7,000/yr)
- Maximum Annual Amount: $77,000 ($70,000 direct + 10 percent indirect costs)

Award Duration: 4 years

Location of Work

Awards are limited to nonprofit institutions such as medical, osteopathic and dental schools, veterinary schools, schools of public health, pharmacy schools, nursing schools, universities and colleges, public and voluntary hospitals and other nonprofit institutions that can demonstrate the ability to conduct the proposed research.

Words to live by: “Do or do not. There is no try”. - Yoda

Please email your comments and suggestions to Traci Jackson, Director, Research Administrative Services jacksont@buffalo.edu