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Summertime, summertime, sum sum summertime...

We've Moved!

Research Administrative Services has moved to its new office!

We are now in Kimball Tower, Rm. #106



(Main floor –adjacent to the ladies' room)

Our new telephone numbers are:

Traci Jackson: 829-2375

Kate Foley: 829-2374

SPHHP Website Updates

We have recently updated the *For Your Information* tab (formally the *Announcements* tab) on the SPHHP website. Select the Research Tab, click on the Administrative Services link, then select *For Your Information* from the menu located on the left side of the page. Here you will find links to:

- ❖ The NIH Standard Due Dates for Competing Applications

- ❖ A Reminder and Clarification of NIH Policies on Similar Identical or Essentially Identical Applications Following RFA Review and Submission of Application with a Changed Activity Code.
- ❖ A Timeline for Challenge Grant Applications
- ❖ NIH's CRISP (Computer Retrieval of Information on Scientific Projects) database
- ❖ The Rates for SPHHP Computer Services
- ❖ The SPHHP IFR policy http://sphhp.buffalo.edu/research/admin/fyi/ifr_policy.php

Are you a New Investigator, an Early Stage Investigator or both? If you meet one or both of the definitions below, it can enhance your chances of getting funded!

Definition of New Investigator: Specifically, a Principal Investigator is identified as a New Investigator if he/she has **not** previously competed successfully for an NIH-supported research project **OTHER THAN** the following small or early stage research awards:

- Pathway to Independence Award-Research Phase (R00)
- Small Grant (R03)
- Academic Research Enhancement Award (R15)
- Exploratory/Developmental Grant (R21)
- Clinical Trial Planning Grant (R34)
- Dissertation Award (R36)
- Small Business Technology Transfer Grant-Phase I (R41)
- Small Business Innovation Research Grant-Phase I (R43)
- Shannon Award (R55)
- NIH High Priority, Short-Term Project Award (R56)
- Competitive Research Pilot Projects (SC2, SC3)

Additionally, the Principal Investigator is **not excluded** from consideration as a "New Investigator" if he/she has received an award from any of the following classes of awards:

Training-Related and Mentored Career Awards

- All Fellowships (F awards)
- All career awards (K awards)
- Loan repayment contracts (L30, L32, L40, L50, L60)

Instrumentation, Construction, Education, Health Disparity Endowment Grants, or Meeting Awards

- G07, G08, G11, G13, G20
- S10, S15, S21, S22

Note regarding grants with Multiple PD/PIs: In the case of a grant application that involves more than one PI, all PD/PIs must meet the definition of New Investigator to check "Yes" in the "New Investigator" box.

Early Stage Investigator Policies: This policy represents a change in NIH New Investigator policies designed to encourage early transition to independence. **Under this policy, New Investigators within ten years of completing their terminal research degree or within ten years of completing their medical residency will be designated Early Stage Investigators (ESIs).** Traditional NIH research grant (R01s) applications from ESIs will be identified and the career stage of the applicant will be considered at the time of review and award.

Regarding Funding: Under these new policies, the NIH intends to support New Investigators and Early State Investigators at success rates comparable to those for established investigators submitting new applications. Where possible, New Investigator and Early Stage Investigator applications will be clustered during review. New Investigators and Early Stage Investigators are advised that these NIH policies are limited to applications for traditional research project grant (R01) support. Accordingly, the NIH strongly encourages New Investigators, particularly Early Stage Investigators, to apply for R01 grants when seeking first-time NIH funding.

Funding Opportunities from the NIH

PAR-09-222- Cutting-Edge Basic Research Awards (CEBRA) (R21)

Research Objectives: Basic science discoveries have consistently been the basis for many major advances in both clinical and applied drug abuse research and have contributed to the development and implementation of successful treatment strategies for drug addiction and pain. Pharmacological, neurobiological, behavioral, cell biological and genetic research has provided insight into questions such as how drugs of abuse exert their actions on the brain and other organs to produce addiction. Systems neurobiological, behavioral and cognitive studies have shown how drugs of abuse affect behavior and information processing in the brain, and they have elucidated the normal behavioral and neurobiological processes that are “hijacked” by drugs of abuse, and helped us understand motivational aspects of drug use and sexual behavior, emotional regulation, and decision-making processes...However, there is still a need to increase our understanding of drug abuse and related disorders through basic research in all these areas in order to develop effective treatment and prevention interventions to alleviate the pain and devastation of addiction. The goal of NIDA's CEBRA program is to accelerate the pace of discoveries that can advance addiction research by encouraging scientifically sound proposals that focus on innovation. The CEBRA seeks to encourage researchers to explore new approaches, test imaginative new ideas, and challenge existing paradigms in drug addiction research in both humans and animal models. The CEBRA program will support high-risk, high impact research that either: (1) tests a highly novel and significant hypothesis for which there is scant precedent or preliminary data and which, if confirmed, would have a substantial impact on current thinking; or (2) develops or adapts innovative techniques or methods for addiction research. **Expiration: 12/22/2011**

PA-09-164 – NIH Exploratory/Development Research Grant Program (General R21)

The evolution and vitality of biomedical sciences requires a constant infusion of new ideas, techniques, and points of view. The NIH encourages use of the R21 mechanism for the submission of applications that describe novel scientific ideas, model systems, tools, agents, targets, and technologies that have the potential to substantially advance biomedical research. These ideas may differ from current thinking and may not as yet be supported by substantial data. The R21 mechanism is intended to encourage new research projects that are exploratory and/or at an early stage of development. These studies should break new ground or extend previous discoveries toward new directions or applications. For example, such projects could assess the unique and innovative use of an existing methodology to explore a new scientific area. These exploratory studies may involve considerable risk but may lead to a breakthrough that could have a major impact on a field of biomedical, behavioral, or clinical research.

The NIH R21 exploratory/developmental grant is a mechanism for supporting novel scientific ideas or new model systems, tools, or technologies that have the potential to significantly advance our knowledge or the status of health-related research. Because the Research Plan is limited to 15 pages, an exploratory/developmental grant application need not have extensive background material or preliminary information as one might normally expect in an R01 application. Accordingly, reviewers will focus their evaluation on the conceptual framework, the level of innovation, and the potential to significantly advance our knowledge or understanding. Reviewers will place less emphasis on methodological details and certain indicators traditionally used in evaluating the scientific merit of R01 applications, including supportive preliminary data. Appropriate justification for the proposed work can be provided through literature citations, data from other sources, or, when available, from investigator-generated data. Preliminary data are not required for R21 applications in response to this FOA; however, they may be included if available.

Expiration: **5/8/2012**

PA-09-131 Secondary Analyses in Obesity, Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (R21)

The specific objectives of this announcement on Secondary Analyses In Obesity, Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Diseases are to support the following: (a) secondary analyses of data related to the epidemiology of disease areas of NIDDK; (b) important and/or innovative hypotheses explored through analysis of existing data sets; (c) secondary analyses designed to inform and support subsequent applications for individual research awards; (d) rapid analyses of new databases and experimental modules to inform the design and content of future studies; (e) the archiving of datasets to be made publicly available for research purposes related to disease areas of NIDDK, including both epidemiological studies and multi-center clinical trials. Research that employs analytic techniques that demonstrate or promote methodological advances in patient oriented and epidemiologic research is also of interest. International comparative analyses are encouraged. Applications that are innovative and high risk with the likelihood for high impact are especially encouraged.

Background Patient oriented and epidemiologic research projects, particularly multi-center projects, typically generate data with potential utility beyond the specific hypotheses and questions for which they were designed. Often data are not fully analyzed, especially when unexpected research questions emerge after the end of the project's funding period. Analyzing such existing data sets can therefore provide a cost-effective means to test specific hypotheses that have not been adequately examined. The further analysis of existing research data may also be of value in confirming new findings or supporting the development of new research questions. Applicants may conduct secondary analyses using data from a variety of sources. These would include investigator-initiated research activities, cooperative agreements, and contracts or from other public or private sources. Sources may be large, nationally representative data sets such as those of the National Center for Health Statistics or smaller, regional or locally based data sets. Also appropriate for secondary analyses are relevant cross-sectional and longitudinal survey data collected by Federal, State, and local government agencies. Secondary data analyses of these data may serve as an economical alternative to expensive and time-consuming new data collection projects. Applicants may also secure access to other data sets that may or may not be in the public domain, such as those collected under research grant funds, sponsored by private entities, or originally collected for purposes other than research, such as health care administrative datasets. **Expiration: 5/8/2012**

PA-07-449 Epidemiology and Prevention in Alcohol Research (R21)

Areas of investigation under this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) could include, but are not limited to studies that:

- Improve measures of patterns of alcohol exposure (acute, recent, and chronic) across the lifespan and their effects on morbidity, mortality, and health-related quality of life.
- Improve estimation of alcohol-attributable fractions of morbidity and mortality by better characterizing the relationship between patterns of drinking and a variety of health outcomes.
- Increase understanding of the role that alcohol plays in the development of chronic diseases and in the management of their treatment.

- Improve measurement of the burden of alcohol-related illness and mortality, including the distribution of burden among different population groups and the composition of burden in terms of health, social, and economic consequences.
- Improve knowledge about the etiology and patterns of comorbidity between alcohol use disorders, other addictive behaviors, and mental health disorders.
- Develop innovative statistical methodologies to analyze data sets from cross-sectional and longitudinal studies of alcohol use and develop efficient software tools for implementing these methodologies.
- Improve the targeting of prevention efforts by identifying individuals at highest risk for alcohol use disorders based on family history, genetic association, or biomarker identification.
- Explore factors that influence transitions in drinking patterns across the lifespan, including individual, social context, and environmental factors.
- Advance the epidemiology of underage drinking and examine the factors that contribute to early initiation of alcohol use and risk for alcohol use disorders.
- Improve understanding of the role of taxes and other factors in affecting the demand for alcohol consumption, how the influence of such factors varies across population groups and over the life course, and how such factors could be manipulated to improve alcohol-related outcomes.
- Determine the efficacy and effectiveness of brief interventions among youth to prevent or delay the initiation of alcohol use or to reduce the risk of developing alcohol use disorders and other alcohol-related problems.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of brief interventions delivered in a wide variety of contexts, such as emergency rooms, primary care visits, employee assistance programs, and criminal justice settings.
- Evaluate strategies to address the problem of college drinking.
- Evaluate strategies to reduce alcohol related problems among military personnel and their families.
- Develop strategies appropriate for the needs and alcohol-related problems experienced by the elderly.
- Investigate risk and protective factors for alcohol-related violence and develop and test interventions to prevent alcohol-related violence.
- Assess the effectiveness of policies, interventions, and sentencing options designed to reduce drinking driving.
- Assess the effectiveness of programs to reduce drinking during pregnancy and the risk of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD).
- Encourage culturally and developmentally appropriate screening, assessment, and intervention, including brief interventions.
- Replicate and generalize evidence-based environmental strategies developed in successful community trials and undertake studies to develop new community prevention strategies.
- Undertake outcome studies of alcohol policies to determine their effects on levels of alcohol-related harms.

Expiration: 2/17/2011

PA-09-046 Testing Tobacco Products Promoted to Reduce Harm (R01)

Purpose This funding opportunity announcement (FOA), issued by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), 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: a) are less either harmful or less addictive; and b) purportedly deliver lower amounts of toxic, carcinogenic, and/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 on the individual and population level. **Expiration: 5/8/2012**

PA-07-448 Epidemiology and Prevention in Alcohol Research (R01) See R21 (PA-07-449) of same title for description. **Expiration: 1/8/2011**

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

The Research Project Grant (R01) is an award to support a discrete, specified, circumscribed project to be performed by named Project Directors/Principal Investigators (PDs/PIs) in areas representing the investigators' specific interests and competencies, based on the mission of the NIH. The R01 is the original and historically the oldest grant mechanism used by the NIH to support health-related research and development. The NIH awards R01 grants to institutions/organizations of all types. This mechanism allows the PDs/PIs to define the scientific focus or objective of the research based on particular areas of interest and competence. Although the PDs/PIs write the grant application and are responsible for conducting and supervising the research, the actual applicant is the research institution/organization.

Research grant applications are assigned to an NIH IC based on receipt and referral guidelines and many applications are assigned to multiple ICs with related research interests. Each IC maintains a Web site with funding opportunities and areas of interest. Contact with an IC representative may help focus the research plan based on an understanding of the mission of the IC. For specific information about the mission of each NIH IC, see <http://www.nih.gov/icd>, which provides a brief summary of the research interests in each IC and access to individual IC home pages. **Expiration: 1/8/2010**

Funding Opportunities from Foundations

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/Pages/home.aspx>

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, they focus on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, they seek to ensure that all people--especially those with the fewest resources--have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life. Based in Seattle, the foundation is led by CEO Jeff Raikes and co-chair Will H. Gates, Sr., under the direction of Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett

Global Health-Funding for Nutrition Grants

The Gates Foundation accepts letters of inquiry (LOI) for grants in their Nutrition initiative. Occasionally, the foundation issues requests for proposals (RFP).

- It only accepts LOI from 501(c)(3) and other tax-exempt organizations.
- **It does not fund grants to individuals.**

Funding Priorities: Poor nutrition is a large and complex issue, and no single action can solve it. To address it, support is offered for the following strategies:

- Close key gaps in the understanding of poor nutrition and how to treat it.
- Accelerate the development and production of fortified foods and provide access to them.
- Promote breastfeeding and provide access to complementary foods.
- Reduce low birth weight.
- Develop crops with higher levels of nutrients.
- Advocate for comprehensive global and country-led nutrition solutions

Global Health Funding for Maternal, Newborn, & Child Health

The Gates Foundation accepts letters of inquiry (LOI) for grants in their Maternal, Newborn, & Child Health initiative. Occasionally, they issue requests for proposals (RFP).

- It only accepts LOIs from 501(c)(3) and other tax-exempt organizations.
- **It does not fund grants to individuals.**

Funding Priorities

Currently the Foundation believes developing strategies in the areas listed below will have the greatest potential to save the lives of mothers and children in the developing world:

- Improve care during pregnancy and delivery
- Improve newborn care
- Improve health care for children under 2
- Research, document, and promote the effects of the work.
- Advocate for more attention to the health of women, babies, and children

The James H. Cumming Foundations, Inc. <http://jameshcummings.com>

By the terms of the will left by the late James H. Cummings, the Foundation was created for the following purpose:

- To advance medical science, research and education
- To provide services for underprivileged boys and girls
- To assist aged and infirm persons

The Foundation is limited geographically to the following three metropolitan areas:

- [Buffalo, New York](#)
- [Hendersonville, North Carolina](#)
- [Toronto, Ontario, Canada](#)

Grant application procedures: Application forms are not used. Applying organizations must be tax exempt.

The Directors of the Foundation meet quarterly, usually in February, May, September and December. To be considered at the next meeting, a completed proposal should be received as soon as possible but no later than 30 days prior to the meeting. Specific meeting dates can be ascertained by calling the Foundation office. Applications, which are not received in time for one meeting, are carried over to the next one. A grant request from any one organization to which payments from a previous grant are outstanding will not be accepted until the previous grant is paid in full. Both the organization's top administrative officer and its board chair must sign the application. It should represent their highest funding priority and include the following:

- Eight copies of a two-page proposal that gives:
 1. A short history and mission of the organization.
 2. The grant purpose and amount requested.
 3. Expected outcomes.
 4. When funds are needed and other essential facts.
- Eight copies of the Board of Directors list.
- Eight copies of the most recent audited financial statements.
- One copy of the tax exemption certificate from the Internal Revenue Service or the Department of National Revenue in Canada.

Applicants wishing to submit further information may send one copy to the attention of the Executive Director.

Note: Grants given: 1,992,328; Other Expenses: 381,571; Total Assets: 38,327,367 -Fiscal year 2008 Data taken from the National Center for Charitable Statistics

Funding Opportunities from the EPA

Exploring Linkages Between Health Outcomes and Environmental Hazards, Exposures, and Interventions for Public Health Tracking and Risk Management

Exploring Linkages between Health Outcomes and Environmental Hazards, Exposures, and Interventions for Public Health Tracking and Risk Management: EPA-G2009-STAR-B1

**Early Career Projects: Exploring Linkages between Health Outcomes and Environmental Hazards, Exposures, and Interventions for Public Health Tracking and Risk Management: EPA-G2009-STAR-B2
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 66.509**

Closing Date: August 5, 2009, 4:00 pm Eastern Time

Eligibility Contact: [William Stelz](mailto:stelz.william@epa.gov) (stelz.william@epa.gov); phone: 202-343-9802

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as part of its Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program, is seeking applications to develop new or improved environmental public health indicators (EPHIs) to build linkages between environmental hazards, human exposures, and public health outcomes. The aim of the research is to develop indicators that can be used for long-term tracking and surveillance of environmental public health, making better informed decisions, and assessing the actual impacts of environmental risk management decisions. Proposed projects should capitalize on existing knowledge bases, data sources, or cohorts to develop EPHIs that reflect a better understanding of the relationships between environmental conditions, human exposure, and/or public health outcomes. Novel application of statistical methods or models may be needed to establish probable relationships between existing datasets or investigate the consequences of environmental actions and policy changes.

Award Information: Anticipated Type of Award: Grant or cooperative agreement

Estimated Number of Awards: Approximately 5 regular awards, 2 early career awards

Anticipated Funding Amount: Approximately \$3 million total for all awards

Potential Funding per Award: For a regular award, up to a total of \$500,000, including direct and indirect costs, with a maximum duration of 3 years. Early career awards are limited to a total of \$250,000, including direct and indirect costs, with duration of 3 years. Cost-sharing is not required. Proposals with budgets exceeding the total award limits will not be considered.

Application Materials: The necessary forms for submitting a STAR application will be found on the National Center for Environmental Research (NCER) web site, <http://www.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/forms/>. Electronic submission of your application must be performed by an authorized representative of your organization.

Applicants must submit the full application in PDF format via electronic mail to 2009-EPHI-APPS@epa.gov with the funding opportunity number (FON) in the subject line.

Words to live by...

"Challenges can be stepping stones or stumbling blocks. It's just a matter of how you view them."

-- Author Unknown

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