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Spread the News of your Accomplishments!

Lois Baker, UB Communications, has requested that SPHHP investigators contact her when they receive grant awards and when their research manuscripts are about to be published (prior to when the publication comes out if possible). Such notification will provide Lois with an opportunity to write a press release or article about findings or projects that she thinks are of broad interest (see the recent article about Heather Ochs-Balcom in the UB Reporter, http://www.buffalo.edu/ubreporter/2009_10_07/breast_cancer).

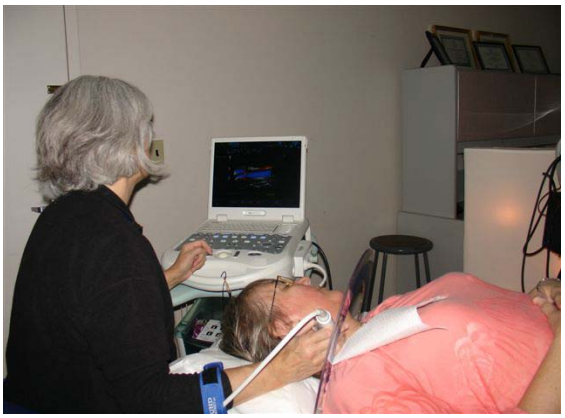
Media coverage is good for the School in a number of ways, so it is important to keep Lois well supplied with material. Her contact information is: Lois J. Baker
Senior Health Sciences Editor
University Communications
645-4606
ljbaker@buffalo.edu

In the Spotlight: Center for Health Research (CHR)

The CHR is a clinical facility of the SPHHP that is available for conducting research on a first come, first served basis. Funded research projects are given priority. At the CHR, participants can be examined and interviewed. The CHR includes: a reception/waiting area; a phlebotomy (blood drawing) room; six interview rooms, four of which are ventilated (e.g., for use in smoking research) and equipped with one-way observational windows; two large multi-purpose rooms; and one meeting/kitchen area (e.g., for dietary intervention studies). There is also ultrasound equipment and certified technicians for testing carotid IMT and brachial reactivity. Readings of ultrasound tests are done at the CHR.

A core group of employees (including nurses) are available to perform the following: coordination of a study; screening of study participants; interviewing; obtaining physical measurements (e.g., weight, height, blood pressure, ankle brachial index); phlebotomy/lab work; coding and data entry.

Please mark your calendars for Thursday, November 5th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. and plan to attend the CHR Open House! Meet the CHR staff and view the facilities!



Pictures of CHR staff and facilities taken by Kate Foley.

Start Planning Now for Shorter Page Limits and Restructured NIH Applications

The NIH is entering into the final phase of the Enhancing Peer Review initiative, implementing two major changes: **Restructured/Shortened Applications** and **New Forms and Instructions**. These changes affect the majority of competing applications and resubmissions for January 25, 2010 due dates and beyond.

The new research application forms contain changes to the Research Plan, Resources, and Biographical Sketch sections: The **Research Plan** has new language added to Specific Aims and has a new section titled **Research Strategy** (which is a combination of 3 current sections - Background and Significance, Preliminary Studies/Progress Report, and Research Design and Methods). Two examples are provided below:

NEW: Specific Aims

State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved.

List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed, e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology.

Specific Aims are limited to one page.

OLD: Specific Aims

List the broad, long-term objectives and the goal of the specific research proposed, e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology.

One page is recommended.

NEW: (a) Significance

* Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.

* Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.

* Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.

(b) Innovation

*Explain how the application challenges And seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.

* Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or intervention(s) to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation or intervention(s).

*Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions

OLD: Background and Significance

Briefly sketch the background leading to the present application, critically evaluate existing knowledge, and specifically identify the gaps that the project is intended to fill. State concisely the importance and health relevance of the research described in this application by relating the specific aims to the broad, long-term objectives. If the aims of the application are achieved, state how scientific knowledge or clinical practice will be advanced. Describe the effect of these studies on the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services or preventative interventions that drive this field.

Two to three pages are recommended.

For more information: http://nexus.od.nih.gov/nexus/nexus.aspx?ID=310&Month=10&Year=2009

NIH CRISP database is being phased out on October 31, 2009

Many researchers have used the NIH CRISP data base to gather information about funded NIH grants. As of October 31, 2009, CRISP will no longer be available. The CRISP system has been replaced by the RePORT Expenditures and Results (RePORTER) query tool. The new tool retains all of the features of CRISP while providing additional query fields, hit lists that can be sorted and downloaded to Excel, NIH funding for each project (expenditures), and the publications and patents that have acknowledged support from each project (results). RePORTER also provides links to PubMed Central, PubMed, and the US Patent & Trademark Office Patent Full Text and Image Database for more information on research results. New features will be added to RePORTER in several releases throughout fiscal year 2010.
The link to the new NIH RePORTER is: http://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter.cfm

Funding Opportunities from the NIH

Request for Applications (RFAs)

RFA-HD-09-033 (R21)
Epigenetic Processes in Development
Due date: 11/18/09
Expiration date: 11/19/09

RFA-HD-09-031 (R01)
The Role of Human-Animal Interaction in Child Health and Development
Due date: 11/19/09
Expiration date: 11/20/09

RFA-DK-09-012 (R01)
Pilot Studies for Studying the Mechanisms of Improvement in Type 2 Diabetes and Cardiovascular Risk Factors or in Cardiovascular, Lung or Sleep Diseases after Bariatric Surgery
Due date: 11/19/09
Expiration date: 11/20/09

Program Announcements Reviewed in an Institute (PARs)

PAR-09-224 (R01)
Improving Diet and Physical Activity Assessment
Due dates: 6/5/10, 2/5/11, 10/5/11
(alternating standard R01 receipt dates)
Expiration date: 7/6/12

PAR-07-018 (R21)
Understanding and Promoting Health Literacy
Due date: 1/25/10
Expiration date: 1/26/10

PAR-09-222 (R21)
Cutting-Edge Basic Research Award (NIDA)
Due dates: 12/21/09, 8/20/10, 12/21/10, 8/19/11, 12/21/11
Expiration date: 12/22/11

PAR-09-003 (R03)
Small Grants for Behavioral Research in Cancer Control
Due dates: 12/21/09, 4/20/10, 8/20/10, 12/20/10, 4/20/11, 8/22/11, 12/20/11
Expiration date: 12/21/11

Program Announcements (PAs - R01s)

PA-09-262 (R01)
Health Disparities in NIDDK Diseases
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 9/8/12

PA-09-234 (R01)
Diet, Epigenetic Events and Cancer
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 9/8/12

PA-09-243 (R01)
Nutrition and Physical Activity Research
To Promote Cardiovascular and
Pulmonary Health
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 9/8/12

PA-09-009 (R01)
Mechanisms of Alcohol and Nicotine
Co-Dependence
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration: 5/8/12

PA-08-217 (R01)
Drug Abuse Intervention Research
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 9/8/11

PA-08-127 (R01)
Prescription Drug Misuse
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 5/8/11

PA-07-448 (R01)
Epidemiology and Prevention in Alcohol Research
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 1/8/11

PA-07-403 (R01)
Nutrition and Alcohol-Related Health Outcomes
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date 9/8/10

PA-08-161 (R01)
Transdisciplinary Research on Fatigue and Fatigability
In Aging
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 5/8/11

PA-09-122 (R01)
Research on Clinical Decision Making in People with or
At Risk for Life-Threatening Illness
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 5/8/12

PA-07-225 (R01)
Oral Health Promotion Research across the Lifespan
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 5/8/10

PA-10-006 (R01)
Mechanisms, Models, Measurement & Management
in Pain Research
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 1/8/13

PA-10-006 (R01)
Mechanisms, Models, Measurement & Management
in Pain Research
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 1/8/13

PA-09-046 (R01)
Testing Tobacco Products Promoted to Reduce Harm
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 5/8/12

PA-08-239 (R01)
Impact of Heath Communication Strategies on
Dietary Behavior
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 9/8/11

PA-08-174 (R01)
Economics of Treatment and Prevention Services for
Drug & Alcohol Abuse
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 9/8/11

PA-08-124 (R01)
Epidemiology of Drug Abuse (R01)
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 5/8/11

PA-07-409 (R01)
Health Research with Diverse Populations
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 9/8/10

PA-07-218 (R01)
Diet Composition and Energy Balance
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 3/6/10

PA-07-422 (R01)
Health Promotion among Racial and Ethnic Minority Males
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 9/8/10

PA-07-013 (R01)
Research on Improving Health Care for Obese Patients
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 3/6/10

Program Announcements (PAs - R21s)

PA-10-007 (R21)
Mechanisms, Models, Measurement & Management in Pain Research
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 1/8/13

PA-09-235 (R21)
Diet, Epigenetic Events, and Cancer Prevention
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 9/8/12

PA-09-164 (R21)
NIH Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Program
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 5/8/12

PA-09-047 (R21)
Testing Tobacco Products Promoted to Reduce Harm
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 5/8/12

PA-08-240 (R21)
Impact of Health Communication Strategies on Dietary Behaviors
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 9/8/11

PA-08-128 (R21)
Prescription Drug Misuse
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 5/8/11

PA-08-077 (R21)
Research on the Economics of Diet, Activity and Energy Balance
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 11/6/11

PA-07-421 (R21)
Health Promotion among Racial and Ethnic Minority Males
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 9/8/10

PA-07-223 (R21)
Pilot and Feasibility Studies on Oral Health Promotion Research across the Life Span
Due dates: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 3/16/10

PA-09-244 (R21)
Nutrition and Physical Activity Research to Promote Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Health
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 9/8/12

PA-09-191 (R21)
Bioenergetics, Fatigability and Activity Limitations in Aging
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 9/8/12

PA-09-131 (R21)
Secondary Analyses in Obesity, Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 5/8/12

PA-08-264 (R21)
Health Services Research on the Prevention and Treatment of Drug and Alcohol Abuse
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 1/8/12

PA-08-168 (R21)
Secondary Analysis of Existing Alcohol Epidemiology Data
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 9/8/11

PA-08-125 (R21)
Epidemiology of Drug Abuse
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 5/8/11

PA-08-008 (R21)
Alcohol Use Disorders: Treatment Services Research, and Recovery
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 1/8/11

PA-08-162 (R21)
Transdisciplinary Research on Fatigue and Fatigability in Aging
Due date: Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 5/8/11

PA-08-218 (R21)
Drug Abuse Prevention Intervention Research
Due dates; Standard dates apply
Expiration date: 9/8/11

NIH LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAMS

Researchers Should Apply Online Now for Possible Awards of Up to $35,000 Annually

The application cycle for the NIH extramural Loan Repayment Programs (LRPs) is underway and **ends on December 1, 2009, at 8:00 p.m**. Eastern time. Highly-qualified health professionals who are or will be engaged in biomedical or behavioral research and who have started an online application should complete it now; those who have not yet started should visit www.lrp.nih.gov to learn more about the programs and apply. Members of the SPHHP faculty have been successful in receiving funds from this program, so if you think you meet the eligibility criteria, it definitely is worth exploring.

The extramural LRPs often allow scientific investigators to remain in the research workforce, achieve research independence, and focus their efforts on advancing the health of the nation without having to worry about their student loan debt. The extramural LRPs include Clinical Research, Pediatric Research, Health Disparities Research, Contraception and Infertility Research, and Clinical Research for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds.

BENEFITS: New LRP contracts are awarded for a two-year period and repay up to $35,000 of qualified educational debt each year. Tax offsets also are provided as an additional benefit. Participants may apply for competitive renewals, which are issued for one or two years. Undergraduate, graduate, medical school, and other health professional school loans qualify for repayment. ***An NIH grant or other NIH funding is not required to apply for or participate in the LRPs.***

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants must possess a doctoral-level degree (with the exception of the Contraception and Infertility Research LRP); be a U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident; devote 20 hours or more per week to conducting qualified research funded by a university, nonprofit organization, or federal, state, or local government entity; and have qualified educational loan debt equal to or exceeding 20 percent of their institutional base salary.

QUESTIONS? Visit the LRP website at www.lrp.nih.gov for more information and to access the online application. For additional assistance, call or e-mail the LRP Information Center at (866) 849-4047 or lrp@nih.gov.

Funding Opportunities: Foundations

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: http://www.gatesfoundation.org/Pages/home.aspx

Current Opportunities – Request for Proposals: Grand Challenges Explorations. **On-line submission deadline: 12:00 noon (PST) on 11/2/09.**

The grant program is open to anyone from any discipline, from student to tenured professor, and from any organization – colleges and universities, government laboratories, research institutions, non-profit organizations and for-profit companies

Key features of the Grand Challenges Explorations initiative are:
A short application. Two-page applications are accepted online at www.grandchallenges.org/explorations. Rapid turnaround time. Grants are awarded within approximately 3 months from the proposal submission deadline. The Gates Foundation reviews proposal for novel ideas that show great promise. Their review process is based on reviewers with a track record in identifying innovative ideas and championing them, not on consensus or peer review. Your proposal will be reviewed by a panel with broad expertise and a track record in identifying innovations – these reviewers may not be deep domain experts in your field. You must describe your idea in clear language without the use of jargon unique to your field.

Applications are sent to reviewers without personal or organizational information. Do not include this in the body of your proposal. Your proposal must represent an innovative approach that is responsive to the topic.

- Create New Ways to Protect Against Infectious Disease
- Create Low-Cost Diagnostics for Priority Global Health Conditions
- Create New Ways to Induce and Measure Mucosal Immunity
- Create New Technologies for Contraception

The work proposed in your application must include a clear set of key experiments or activities that test your idea in a way that could provide sufficient evidence to motivate Phase II funding. Proposals with vague descriptions or vague testing methodologies will not be funded.

In order of importance, the criteria for these reviews are:
Topic Responsiveness – How well does the proposal address a key need illustrated in the topic description?
Innovative Approach – Does the idea offer an unconventional, creative approach to the problem outlined in the topic?
Execution Plan – Is the work described feasible within the budget and time allocated for a Phase I GCE award and if successful, would it be sufficient to show a clear path to further support?

Phase I grants of $100,000 USD are awarded initially; successful projects have an opportunity to receive a follow-on **Phase II grant of up to $1,000,000 USD**. For more information:
http://www.grandchallenges.org/Explorations/Pages/TopicsOverview.aspx

Muscular Dystrophy Association: http://www.mda.org/research/guidelines.html

Letter of Intent deadline: 11/1/09 Proposal deadline: 12/15/09

MDA supports research aimed at developing treatments for the muscular dystrophies and related diseases of the neuromuscular system. These are the muscular dystrophies (among which are Duchenne and Becker); motor neuron diseases (including ALS and SMA); the peripheral nerve disorders (CMT and Friedreich's ataxia); inflammatory myopathies; disorders of the neuromuscular junction; metabolic diseases of muscle as well as other myopathies. Please refer to MDA website for complete list of diseases.

RESEARCH GRANT

To be eligible to apply for an MDA research grant, an applicant must:

1. Hold a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.), Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) or equivalent degree (i.e. D.O.);
2. Be a professional or faculty member (Professor, Associate Professor or Assistant Professor) at an appropriate educational, medical or research institution;
3. Be qualified to conduct and mentor a program of original research within their own laboratory;
4. Assume both administrative and financial responsibility for the grant; and
5. Have access to institutional resources necessary to conduct the proposed research project.

NOTE: To apply for a Research Grant, you must be an independent investigator, i.e., not a trainee, not a post-doctoral fellow, not a research assistant, not a research associate and not under the supervision of another person (Principal Investigator/Independent Investigator) who is directing the research.

Awards are for either one, two or three years for all grant types. Funding levels for primary Research Grants are unlimited. Development grants are a maximum of $60,000 per year. Overhead is limited to a maximum of 10% percent of direct costs to be included in the total amount of the grant request.

A pre-proposal form must be submitted through proposalCENTRAL® to formally request an application for an MDA research grant. Requests for applications can be submitted any time prior to the applicable deadline date.

UB 2020 Interdisciplinary Research Development Fund (IRDF)
Submission deadline: Friday, October 30, 2009 –close of business day

Call for Proposals: The objective of the Interdisciplinary Research Development Fund (IRDF) is to provide resources to stimulate interdisciplinary research at UB that will lead to securing external research funds. IRDF will provide funding on a competitive basis. The intent of this program is to catalyze collaborations between faculty in different disciplines that will lead to new research and scholarly projects. The IRDF is expected to help increase the probability of getting competitive external grant funding for new collaborative initiatives. IRDF proposals must be aligned with the strength areas that have been identified in the UB 2020 strategic plan (http://www.buffalo.edu/ub2020/academic Dlanninglstrategic.php).

Eligibility: All faculty and staff whose appointments allow them to submit external proposals through the UB Sponsored Programs office are eligible to apply. A minimum of two faculty from different disciplines must apply and their roles on the project must be clear. Proposed projects must be NEW research thrusts at UB and not a continuation of current research activities.

Submit applications to: Dr. Kenneth Tramposch, Associate Vice President for Research, 516 Capen Hall. Written reviews of declined projects will not be provided. However, applicants can request a meeting to discuss the reviewer's comments so that a revised application may be submitted in a future call for proposals.

Terms of Awards: Applicants can request funding for up to $40,000 for one year projects. Budgets must be consistent with the scope of the proposed project. Applicants must commit to submitting an external funding proposal for the project within 18 months of the award.

Budget Restrictions: Funds may not be used for faculty/administrative salaries or tuition. Travel to conferences to present project data related to the IRDF funded project is allowed. For more information: http://sphhp.buffalo.edu/research/admin/fyi/

UB 2020 Strategic Strength: Civic Engagement Fellowship Program.
Application deadline: Monday, October 26th, 2:00 p.m.

The central premise of this strategic strength is that for research and scholarship to raise to the level of civic engagement it must be **public** in nature. Civically engaged scholarship: 1) addresses issues of pressing or persistent concern, 2) seeks to advance knowledge that is both academically sound and advances disciplinary knowledge but is useful to constituencies outside the academy, 3) strives to produce and disseminate knowledge as a public resource beyond the academy, 4) extends throughout the entire university, 5) provides citizens and civic leaders with dependable knowledge, 6) enriches public discourse, and 7) partners with community groups and entities outside the university from the local to the global.

Application Criteria: *Key criteria in the selection process for Civic Engagement Fellows will be*:

- Academic rigor and potential for published scholarship
- Contribution and significance of the research to public policy and the potential of the research to make a difference in the lives of constituencies (local to global) outside the university
- Evidence of community partnership
- Potential for external funding
- Academic record or promise of the applicant
- Dissemination plan back to community partner

Application submissions: Submit completed proposals together to Laura Mangan at lmangan@buffalo.edu Please include: Application; current CV, which should indicate in detail previous and upcoming research support (grants, fellowships, leaves, etc.); signed form from the applicant's department chair that indicates the chair's agreement to free the applicant from one course in return for course replacement funds at up to $3,500 per course adjunct rate. For more information, please visit our website: http://sphhp.buffalo.edu/research/admin/fyi/

The Origin of Halloween

While there are many versions of the origins and old customs of Halloween, some remain consistent by all accounts. Different cultures view Halloween somewhat differently but traditional Halloween practices remain the same.

Halloween culture can be traced back to the Druids, a Celtic culture in Ireland, Britain and Northern Europe. Roots lay in the feast of Samhain, which was annually on October 31st to honor the dead.

Samhain signifies "summers end" or November. Samhain was a harvest festival with huge sacred bonfires, marking the end of the Celtic year and beginning of a new one. Many of the practices involved in this celebration were fed on superstition.

The Celts believed the souls of the dead roamed the streets and villages at night. Since not all spirits were thought to be friendly, gifts and treats were left out to pacify the evil and ensure next years' crops would be plentiful. This custom evolved into trick-or-treating. (Information taken from Halloween website)

Words to live by: "If you can find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere."-- Frank A. Clark

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