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NINDS Notes

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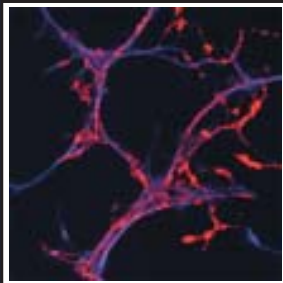
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NINDS Notes is published 3 times a year and consists of summaries of NINDS's current funding announcements and requests for volunteers for clinical trials. *Notes* is of primary importance to scientists, physicians, and research directors with an interest in neuroscience.



Human Neuroblasts by
Dr. Riccardo Cassiani-Ingoni
NINDS

News & Notes

Funding

NIH Launches New RePORTER Tool

Comprehensive funding information for NIH grants and contracts is now available online through the NIH Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tool Expenditures and Results, or RePORTER.

Like its predecessor CRISP—NIH's now retired database of funded projects—RePORTER allows users to locate and view NIH awards using their own search criteria. RePORTER combines NIH project databases and funding

records, PubMed abstracts, full-text articles from PubMed Central, and information from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office with a robust search engine—giving users access to detailed budget information, as well as research results and products, including patents and publications.

Data from 1985 through to the present—including the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009—are available and searchable according to user interest. User-defined searches allow the public to refine, export, and analyze results and provide insights into NIH spending, as well as research results across NIH-funded projects, institutions, investigators or scientific concepts.

RePORTER is the newest tool on the RePORT website (www.report.nih.gov), NIH's comprehensive online repository of reports, data and analyses of research-related funding. RePORTER complements RePORT data with visual tools including maps, charts, and refined searches that show the geographic distribution of NIH funds, illustrate federal investment across scientific concepts, and highlight emerging trends and techniques for individual projects or investigators funded by NIH. RePORTER is available at ProjectRePORTER.nih.gov.

NIH plans to improve RePORTER to provide users the ability to save favorite searches, set alerts for new grants, publications and patents, and even export the entire RePORTER database.^{NIH}

FederalReporting.gov Now Open

FederalReporting.gov is now open. Institutions that have received funding from the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) must register in order to be able to meet the quarterly reporting requirements. Reports are due no later than 10 calendar days after the end of each quarter (January 10, April 10, July 10, and October 10).

Remember, NIH awards grants to institutions, so institutional officials have the primary responsibility for reporting. Principal investigators who have ARRA grants should check with their institution's Sponsored Research Office to learn how to comply with this reporting requirement.^{NIH}



Ancillary Studies in Clinical Trials

NINDS encourages applications for ancillary studies in clinical trials of central nervous system and/or peripheral nervous system disorders.

There are a multitude of obstacles in the development of drugs for neurological disorders. To name a few, disease cause and pathogenesis are usually not well known, animal models of disease are of limited predictive value, and drug delivery across the blood-brain-barrier can be a challenge. The study of most of these issues requires the same logistics and statistical rigor as do clinical trials; however, inclusion of such ancillary issues in an initial clinical trial may appear to detract from the trial's main aim. This announcement encourages ancillary studies which will be reviewed independently but in a timely fashion, allowing them to be tied to an ongoing or newly-funded clinical trial. Ancillary studies address scientific questions relevant to the parent study and require access to data or records from the parent study and/or involve collection of additional data, specimens, or records from participants in the parent study.

Potential applicants should contact Dr. Claudia Moy, program director, Office of Clinical Research, NINDS; telephone: 301-496-9135; email: moyc@ninds.nih.gov. For more information visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-09-263.html>.^{NIH}

Cerebrospinal Fluid Shunts

NINDS encourages small business grant applications to develop advanced tools and technologies for cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) shunts. This announcement is supported by 2 funding mechanisms: R41/R42 and R43/R44.

CSF shunts have been successfully used to treat hydrocephalus for more than 50 years and are the most common treatment option for this disorder. While CSF shunts have enhanced the quality of life for many individuals, shunt obstruction and malfunction continue to be issues for a significant number of people. The purpose of this initiative is to encourage the development of: 1) monitoring and diagnostic tools for determining and/or controlling CSF shunt function, and 2) improving CSF shunt design and materials to decrease shunt failure rates.

Potential applicants should contact Stephanie Fertig, program analyst, Repair and Plasticity Cluster, NINDS; telephone: 301-496-1447; email: fertigs@ninds.nih.gov. For more information visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-09-205.html> and <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-09-206.html>.^{NIH}

Genetic and Genomic Analysis of Xenopus

NINDS invites grant applications for genetic and genomic analysis of *Xenopus*. This announcement is made together with 8 other NIH components and is supported by 3 funding mechanisms: R01, R03, and R21.

For the past few years, the international research community has been generating genetic and genomic data and reagents for the model systems, *X. tropicalis* and *X. laevis*. These diverse data and reagents are being generated by investigators from several different research communities (including geneticists, gene sequencers, gene mappers, cell biologists, developmental biologists, and bioinformatics experts) and can now be used to enhance *Xenopus*' role as a model system. The purpose of this announcement is to encourage investigators to combine these data, reagents, and methodologies to find the genetic basis of cell biological events, including embryonic development and organogenesis.

Letters of Intent Receipt Date: August 31, 2010

Application Receipt Date: September 30, 2010

Potential applicants should contact Dr. James Coulombe, Developmental Biology, Genetics, and Teratology Branch, NICHD; telephone: 301-451-1390; email: coulombej@mail.nih.gov. For more information visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-240.html>, <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-241.html>, and <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-242.html>.^{..N}

EUREKA Program

NINDS requests grant applications for exceptional, unconventional research enabling knowledge acceleration (EUREKA). This announcement is made together with 8 other NIH components.

The EUREKA initiative fosters exceptionally innovative research that, if successful, will have an unusually high impact on the areas of science that are germane to the mission of the participating NIH Institutes. EUREKA is for new projects, not for continuation of existing projects. EUREKA does not support pilot projects. This announcement encourages applications from investigators who want to test novel, unconventional hypotheses or pursue major methodological or technical challenges. The potential impact of the proposed research must be substantial, in terms of both the size of the scientific community affected and the magnitude of its impact on that community.

Application Receipt Date is November 24, 2009.

Potential applicants should contact Dr. Edmund Talley, program director, Channels, Synapses, and Circuits Cluster, NINDS; telephone: 301-496-1917; email: talleye@ninds.nih.gov. For more information visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-GM-10-009.html>.^{..N}

HLA Region Genomics in Immune-Mediated Diseases

NINDS and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) request applications to participate in the HLA Region Genomics in Immune-Mediated Diseases Consortium.

The consortium is a cooperative research group whose goals are to define and catalog the association between variations in human leukocyte antigen (HLA) and natural killer cell immunoglobulin-like receptor (KIR) genetic regions and immune-mediated diseases, including risk and severity of disease, and organ, tissue, and cell transplantation outcomes. Identifying and defining the role of specific HLA-region and KIR-region gene variations in disease susceptibility or protection, progression, and severity will allow clinicians to predict disease risk and to develop targeted treatments and/or preemptive strategies.

Application Receipt Date: November 19, 2009

Potential applicants should contact Dr. Ursula Utz, program director, Neural Environment Cluster, NINDS; telephone: 301-496-1431; email: utzu@ninds.nih.gov. For more information visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AI-09-030.html>.^{..N}

Human Connectome Project

NINDS requests applications for the human connectome project. This announcement is made together with 16 other NIH components.

Neural connectivity is a basic feature of brain organization and is also a major organizing principle of neuroscience knowledge. For human brains, however, no connectivity data exist in any comprehensive, systematic, or modern sense. The overall purpose of this project is to develop and share knowledge about the structural and functional connectivity of the human brain.

Application Receipt Date: November 24, 2009

Potential applicants should contact Dr. Michael Huerta, NIMH; telephone: 301-443-1815; email: mhuert1@mail.nih.gov. For more information visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-MH-10-020.html>.^{..N}

Innovations in Biomedical Computational Science and Technology

NINDS invites applications for innovations in biomedical computational science and technology. This announcement is made together with 13 other NIH components and is supported by 4 funding mechanisms: R01, R21, R41/R42, and R43/R44.

Biomedical informatics and computational biology includes database design, graphical interfaces, querying approaches, data retrieval, data visualization and manipulation, data integration through the development of integrated analytical tools, and tools for electronic collaboration, as well as computational and mathematical research which includes the development of structural, functional, integrative, and analytical computational models and simulations. This announcement supports biomedical informatics and computational biology research, including exploratory innovations. Investigators may target one or multiple areas of biomedical computing that will enable progress in biomedical research. For exploratory innovations, applications should be innovative, with high risk/high impact in new areas that are lacking preliminary data or development.

Potential applicants should contact Dr. Peter Lyster, Center for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, NIGMS; telephone: 301-451-6446; email: lysterp@mail.nih.gov. For more information visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-219.html>, <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-218.html>, <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-220.html>, and <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-221.html>.^{NN}

Institutional Clinical and Translational Science Award

NIH invites applications for the Institutional Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA).

This announcement is an NIH Roadmap initiative. The NIH Roadmap is an innovative approach to accelerate fundamental discovery and translate that knowledge into effective prevention strategies and new treatments.

Clinical and translational science is critical to the success of the NIH mission. The opportunities for translational and clinical research continue to expand. Safe and cost-effective research draws extensively on collaborative approaches with resources being shared both nationally and internationally. The CTSA supports the discipline of clinical and translational science and the needs, including resources and training, of its researchers.

Letters of Intent Receipt Date: May 3, 2010

Application Receipt Date: June 1, 2010

Potential applicants should contact Dr. Anthony Hayward, Division for Clinical Research Resources, NCR; telephone: 301-435-0790; email: haywarda@mail.nih.gov. For more information visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-09-019.html>.^{NN}

Notice of Intent to Publish a Request for Applications

NIH Blueprint: New Drugs for Diseases and Disorders of the Nervous System

NIH intends to issue a request for applications (RFA) to solicit projects for the Blueprint Grand Challenge for New Drugs for Diseases and Disorders of the Nervous System. This announcement is affiliated with the NIH Blueprint for Neuroscience Research.

The Blueprint is a framework to enhance cooperative activities among the 16 NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices that support research on the nervous system.

The goal of this RFA will be to support the development of new small molecule drugs that will transform the treatment of neurological, psychiatric, or other nervous system diseases or conditions. The awards will provide funding to support biological testing of compounds during development; and access to technical, infrastructure, and advisory resources to enable investigators to translate promising lead small molecule compounds into drugs that have completed phase 1 clinical trials.

The purpose of this early notice is to allow potential applicants sufficient time to develop responsive projects and necessary collaborations. The RFA is expected to be published in April 2010 with a receipt date in August 2010.

Potential applicants should contact Dr. Jill Heemskerk, program director, Office of Translational Research, NINDS; telephone: 301-496-1779; email: jill_heemskerk@nih.gov. For more information visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-NS-10-002.html>.^{NN}

NIH Blueprint: Studies to Promote Collaborative Pain Research

NIH encourages applications for research studies of neuropathic pain or neural plasticity to promote collaborative pain research. This announcement is affiliated with the NIH Blueprint for Neuroscience Research.

The Blueprint is a framework to enhance cooperative activities among the 16 NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices that support research on the nervous system.

Pain conditions are a major health problem in the United States. These conditions lead to a reduced quality of life for millions of Americans. Chronic neuropathic pain conditions are especially difficult to treat. The goal of this initiative is to partner pain scientists with non-pain neuroscientists to capture insights and expertise from disciplines where transitions from health to disease have been extensively examined. An expected outcome is the development of new collaborations focused on understanding the maladaptive neuroplastic changes that occur during the transition from acute to chronic neuropathic pain.

Application Receipt Date is November 23, 2009.

Potential applicants should contact Dr. John Kusiak, Division of Extramural Research, NIDCR; telephone: 301-594-7984; email: kusiakj@mail.nih.gov. For more information visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-264.html>.^{NN}

**Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards—
Individual Postdoctoral Fellows**

NINDS invites applications for Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Postdoctoral Fellows. This announcement is made together with 21 other NIH components.

The postdoctoral fellowship award supports promising postdoctoral applicants who have the potential to become productive and successful independent researchers. The proposed postdoctoral training must offer an opportunity to enhance the applicant's understanding of the health-related sciences, and must be within the broad scope of biomedical, behavioral, or clinical research. The overall purpose of the award is to help ensure that diverse pools of highly trained scientists will be available in adequate numbers to address the Nation's research needs.

Potential applicants should contact Dr. Stephen Korn, director, Training and Career Development, NINDS; telephone: 301-496-4188; email: korns@ninds.nih.gov. For more information visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-09-210.html>.^{MM}

**Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards—
Individual Predoctoral Fellows**

NINDS invites applications for Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Predoctoral Fellows. This announcement is made together with 8 other NIH components.

The predoctoral fellowship supports promising doctoral candidates who will be performing dissertation research and training in scientific health-related fields during the tenure of the award. The award provides up to five years of support for research training which leads to the PhD or equivalent research degree, the combined MD/PhD degree, or another formally combined professional degree and research doctoral degree in the biomedical, behavioral, or clinical sciences. The overall purpose of the award is to help ensure that diverse pools of highly trained scientists will be available in adequate numbers to address the Nation's research needs.

Potential applicants should contact Dr. Stephen Korn, director, Training and Career Development, NINDS; telephone: 301-496-4188; email: korns@ninds.nih.gov. For more information visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-09-208.html>.^{MM}

**Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards—
Individual Predoctoral Fellowships to Promote Diversity
in Health-Related Research**

NINDS encourages applications for Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Predoctoral Fellows to promote diversity in health-related research. This announcement is made together with 21 other NIH components.

The purpose of this fellowship is to enhance the diversity of the biomedical, behavioral, health services, and clinical research labor force in the United States by providing opportunities for academic institutions to identify and recruit students from diverse populations to seek graduate degrees in health-related research. The goal is to increase the number of scientists pursuing careers in biomedical, behavioral, social, clinical, or health services research. This fellowship provides up to five years of support for research training leading to the PhD or equivalent research degree, the combined MD/PhD degree, or another formally combined professional degree and research doctoral degree in biomedical, behavioral, health services, or clinical sciences.

Potential applicants should contact Dr. Michelle Jones-London, program director, Office of Minority Health and Research, NINDS; telephone: 301-451-7966; email: jonesmiche@ninds.nih.gov. For more information visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-09-209.html>.^{MM}

**Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards—
Individual Predoctoral MD/PhD and Other Dual Degree
Fellows**

NINDS encourages applications for Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Predoctoral MD/PhD and other Dual Degree Fellows. This announcement is made together with 9 other NIH components.

The enormous complexity of biomedical, behavioral, and clinical science today prevents the standard course of study at most medical and health professional schools from providing the experience necessary to develop researchers. Integrated curricula that combine training with extensive research experience leading to a second advanced degree have been developed because individuals who are both physicians/clinicians and trained scientists play a vital role in research. There is a critical need for physician and clinician scientists to study human disease through rigorous research. This award supports individual predoctoral MD/PhD and other dual doctoral degree students with the expectation that these training opportunities will increase the number of future physician and clinician investigators in basic, translational, or clinical research.

Potential applicants should contact Dr. Stephen Korn, director, Training and Career Development, NINDS; telephone: 301-496-4188; email: korns@ninds.nih.gov. For more information visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-09-207.html>.^{MM}

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards—Individual Senior Fellows

NINDS invites applications for Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Senior Fellows. This announcement is made together with 15 other NIH components.

This award supports experienced scientists who wish to make major changes in their research careers or who wish to broaden their scientific backgrounds by acquiring new research capabilities as independent investigators in scientific health-related fields. These awards enable individuals with at least seven years of research experience beyond the doctorate, and who have progressed to the stage of independent investigator, to take time from regular professional responsibilities to receive training to increase their scientific capabilities. In most cases, this award is used to support sabbatical experiences for established independent scientists seeking support for retraining or additional career development.

Potential applicants should contact Dr. Stephen Korn, director, Training and Career Development, NINDS; telephone: 301-496-4188; email: korns@ninds.nih.gov. For more information visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-09-211.html>.^{NIH}

Small Molecule Probes for the Nervous System

NINDS invites grant applications to optimize small molecule probes for the nervous system. This announcement is made together with 5 other NIH components and is supported by 3 funding mechanisms: R21, R41/R42, and R43/R44.

This initiative encourages institutions, organizations, and small businesses to develop new small molecule probes to investigate biological function in the nervous system using advanced medicinal chemistry and the biological testing of compounds. Eligible investigators will have identified probe candidates via screening of small molecule collections, using in vitro assays of biological activity developed to interrogate these collections, and be able to show that the structural features of these small molecules are related to their biological activity.

Potential applicants should contact Dr. Mark Scheideler, senior scientific officer, Molecular Libraries Technology Development, NINDS; telephone: 301-496-1779; email: scheideler@ninds.nih.gov. For more information visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-09-251.html>.^{NIH}

SPOREs in Human Cancer

NINDS encourages applications for specialized programs of research excellence (SPOREs) in Human Cancer. This announcement is made together with 2 other NIH components.

The program supports 5-year state-of-the-art investigator-initiated research that will contribute to improved detection, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of an organ-specific cancer or a related group of cancers. SPOREs are expected not only to conduct a wide spectrum of research activities, but also to contribute significantly to the development of specialized research COREs (centers of research excellence), improved research model systems, and collaborative research projects with other institutions. The research supported through this program must be translational in nature and must be based upon knowledge of human biology stemming from research using cellular, molecular, structural, biochemical, and/or genetic experimental approaches.

Potential applicants should contact Dr. Jane Fountain, program director, Neural Environment Cluster, NINDS; telephone: 301-496-1431; email: fountain@ninds.nih.gov. For more information visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-10-003.html>.^{NIH}

Udall Centers of Excellence for Parkinson's Disease Research

NINDS invites new and competing renewal applications for the Morris K. Udall Centers of Excellence for Parkinson's Disease Research program.

Parkinson's disease (PD) is a chronic, progressive movement disorder that affects the lives of at least one million people in the United States. Although significant research advances have been made, a clear cause and definitive cure for PD have remained elusive. The NINDS Centers of Excellence for Parkinson's Disease program was developed in honor of former Congressman Morris K. Udall of Utah. Udall Centers use a multidisciplinary research approach to elucidate the fundamental causes of PD as well as to improve the diagnosis and treatment of people with PD and related neurodegenerative disorders.

This announcement solicits applications that concentrate on an identified area of need: the translation of basic and clinical research into clinical practice. Each proposed Center must include at least one, early stage pre-clinical and/or clinical translational project designed to bridge the gap between research and treatment.

Letters of Intent Receipt Date: November 10, 2009

Application Receipt Date: December 10, 2009

Potential applicants should contact Dr. Beth-Anne Sieber, program director, Neurodegeneration Cluster, NINDS; telephone: 301-496-5680; email: sieber@ninds.nih.gov. For more information visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-NS-10-001.html>.^{NIH}