



# Research Administration Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 9

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## **Funding Opportunities**

### **Attention Research-Track or Tenure-Track Assistant Professors**

The Donald E. and Delia B. Baxter Foundation  
2007 Baxter Scholar Program  
Request for Proposals

The Keck School of Medicine is seeking research proposals from junior faculty to provide seed funding to help prepare and support young investigators to embark on their careers and start up their independent laboratories.

Please see attached RFP for eligibility and complete application guidelines

Complete applications are due in the Office of Scientific Affairs, KAM 110 no later than **Thursday, February 1, 2007**

### **The National Academies Research Associateship Programs**

The Resident Research Associateship Programs provide postdoctoral and senior scientists and engineers with opportunities to conduct research on projects, largely of their own choice, which are compatible with the research interests of the sponsoring laboratories, thereby contributing to the overall research efforts of the federal government.

The Research Associateship awards are:

- for doctoral level scientists and engineers (U.S and Foreign Nationals) who can apply their special knowledge and research talents to research areas that are of interest to them and to the [host laboratories and centers](#).
- for Postdoctoral Associates (within 5 years of the doctorate) and for Senior Associates (normally 5 years or more beyond the doctorate).
- for the purpose of conducting research at one of our [host laboratories](#) chosen by the applicant.

Click link for details:  
<http://www7.nationalacademies.org/rap/>

### **Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Predoctoral Fellowships (F31) to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research**

The primary objective of this funding opportunity announcement is to help ensure that diverse pools of highly trained scientists will be available in appropriate research areas to carry out the Nation's biomedical, behavioral, health services, or clinical research agenda. This initiative seeks to improve the diversity of the health-related research workforce by supporting the training of predoctoral students from groups that have been shown to be underrepresented. Such candidates include individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, individuals with disabilities, and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. Detailed eligibility criteria are described in the full announcement.

Click link for details:  
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-106.html>

### **Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSA) for Individual Postdoctoral Fellows (F32)**

The primary objective of this funding opportunity is to help ensure that diverse pools of highly trained scientists will be available in adequate numbers and in appropriate research areas to carry out the Nation's biomedical, behavioral and clinical research agendas. The number of awards and the total amount of funding that the participating NIH Institutes and Centers expect to award through this announcement will depend on the scientific merit of applications received, relevance to the program priorities of the participating NIH Institutes and Centers, and the availability of funds.

Click link for details:  
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-107.html>

### **Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSA) for Individual Senior Fellows (F33)**

The primary objective of this funding opportunity is to help ensure that diverse pools of highly trained

scientists will be available in adequate numbers and in appropriate research areas to carry out the Nation's biomedical, behavioral and clinical research agendas. The number of awards and the total amount of funding that the participating NIH Institutes and Centers expect to award through this announcement will depend on the scientific merit of applications received, relevance to the program priorities of the participating NIH Institutes and Centers, and the availability of funds.

Click link for details:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-172.html>

## Genetic and Genomic Analyses of *Xenopus* (R01)

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) solicits investigator-initiated applications designed to exploit the power of *Xenopus* as a vertebrate model for biomedical research. Applications are welcome proposing to develop new tools or genetic or genomic resources of high priority to the *Xenopus* community that will advance the detection and characterization of genes, pathways, and phenotypes of interest in development, organogenesis, and in cell biological processes, such as cell division, signaling and migration.

Click link for details:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-144.html>

## Interactions Between Stem and Progenitor Cells and the Microenvironment in Vivo (R01)

The objective of this initiative is to promote a thorough exploration and characterization of the bi-directional communication between multipotent cells and the three-dimensional local milieu or niche that they encounter in vivo under normal and compromised states, such as with aging or following injury, disease or drug exposure. Of particular interest is the rigorous characterization of how interactions with localized cues in space and time regulate stem cell survival, migration, replication and 'plasticity' in the nervous system and other parts of the body.

Click link for details:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAS-07-189.html>

## Nanoscience and Nanotechnology in Biology and Medicine (R01)/(R21)

A major challenge facing medicine is to develop novel and more sophisticated approaches for the diagnosis, treatment and management of an array of diseases and traumatic injuries. Nanotechnology and nanoscience have the capacity to drive a new wave of medical innovation through the engineering of bioactive nanoscale structures, processes and

systems based on the advancement of our understanding of biology at the nanoscale.

R01:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-033.html>

R21:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-034.html>

## 2007 NIH Director's Pioneer Award: Call for Applications

The NIH Director's Pioneer Award supports exceptionally creative scientists in a wide range of fields who propose highly innovative—and potentially transformative—approaches to major challenges in biomedical research.

In September 2007, NIH expects to make five to ten new Pioneer awards of \$500,000 each in direct costs per year for five years.

The program is open to scientists at all career levels and in any field of research, provided they are interested in exploring biomedically relevant topics. NIH particularly encourages applications from women, members of groups that are underrepresented in biomedical research and individuals in the early to middle stages of their careers.

The streamlined, electronic application process includes a three- to five-page essay and three letters of reference. The application period opened on December 1, 2006, and closes on January 16, 2007.

Detailed instructions are at the [2007 NIH Director's Pioneer Award Program announcement](#). For more information, see the [Pioneer Award Web site](#) or send questions to [pioneer@nih.gov](mailto:pioneer@nih.gov).

## Articles

### Progress in Retinal and Eye Research

*Most read during 3rd quarter 2006*

#5. Costa RA, Skaf M, Melo LAS, Calucci D, Cardillo JA, Castro JC, **Huang D**, Wojtkowski M. Retinal assessment using optical coherence tomography. *Prog Retin Eye Res*. 2006;25:325-353.

#16 Carelli V, Ross-Cisneros FN, **Sadun AA**. Mitochondrial dysfunction as a cause of optic neuropathies. *Prog Retin Eye Res* 2004;23:53-89.

### Archives of Ophthalmology

*Most read during month of December 2006*

#25 **Narsing A. Rao, Sindhu Saraswathy, Ronald E. Smith**. Tuberculous Uveitis: Distribution of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in the Retinal Pigment

Epithelium Arch Ophthalmol Dec 01, 2006 124: 1777-1779.

## IOVS

Most read during month of December

#2 Chrisandra Shufelt, Samantha Fraser-Bell, Mei Ying-Lai, Mina Torres, **Rohit Varma**, the Los Angeles Latino Eye Study Group. Refractive Error, Ocular Biometry, and Lens Opalescence in an Adult Population: The Los Angeles Latino Eye Study Invest. Ophthalmol. Vis. Sci. Dec 01, 2005; 46: 4450-4460

#41 Piero Barboni, Giacomo Savini, Maria Lucia Valentino, Chiara La Morgia, Costantino Bellusci, Anna Maria De Negri, Federico Sadun, Arturo Carta, Michele Carbonelli, **Alfredo A. Sadun**, Valerio Carelli. Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy with Childhood Onset Invest. Ophthalmol. Vis. Sci. Dec 01, 2006; 47: 5303-5309

Most cited through January 1, 2007

#5 PF Lopez, BD Sippy, HM Lambert, AB Thach, **DR Hinton**. Transdifferentiated retinal pigment epithelial cells are immunoreactive for vascular endothelial growth factor in surgically excised age-related macular degeneration-related choroidal neovascular membranes Invest. Ophthalmol. Vis. Sci. Apr 01, 1996; 37: 855-868

## Publications

1. Barboni P, Savini G, Valentino ML, La Morgia C, Bellusci C, De Negri AM, Sadun F, Carta A, Carbonelli M, **Sadun AA**, Carelli V. Leber's hereditary optic neuropathy with childhood onset. Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci 2006;47:5303-5309.
2. Erb MH, **Uzcategui N**, Dresner SC. Efficacy and complications of the transconjunctival entropion repair for lower eyelid involuntional entropion. *Ophthalmology* 2006;113:2351-2356.
3. Grunberg SM, Weiss MH, Russell CA, Spitz IM, Ahmadi J, **Sadun A**, Sitruk-Ware R. Long-term administration of mifepristone (ru486): Clinical tolerance during extended treatment of meningioma. Cancer Invest 2006;24:727-733.
4. **Kannan R**, Zhang N, Sreekumar PG, Spee CK, Rodriguez A, Barron E, **Hinton DR**. Stimulation of apical and basolateral vegf-a and vegf-c secretion by oxidative stress in polarized retinal pigment epithelial cells. *Mol Vis* 2006;12:1649-1659.
5. Lee JG, **Kay EP**. Fgf-2-mediated signal transduction during endothelial mesenchymal transformation in

corneal endothelial cells. *Exp Eye Res* 2006;83:1309-1316.

6. Ng M, Ciaramitaro VM, Anstis S, Boynton GM, **Fine I**. Selectivity for the configural cues that identify the gender, ethnicity, and identity of faces in human cortex. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 2006;103:19552-19557.
7. **Rao NA**, Saraswathy S, **Smith RE**. Tuberculous uveitis: Distribution of mycobacterium tuberculosis in the retinal pigment epithelium. *Arch Ophthalmol* 2006;124:1777-1779.
8. Sanchez RN, Smith AJ, Carelli V, **Sadun AA**, Keltner JL. Leber hereditary optic neuropathy possibly triggered by exposure to tire fire. *J Neuro-Ophthalmol* 2006;26:268-272.
9. Whalen JJ, Young J, **Weiland JD**, Searson PC. Electrochemical characterization of charge injection at electrodeposited platinum electrodes in phosphate buffered saline. *J Electrochem Soc* 2006;153:C834-C839.
10. Minckler D, Baerveldt G, Ramirez MA, Mosaed S, Wilson R, Shaarawy T, Zack B, Dustin L, **Francis B**. Clinical results with the trabectome, a novel surgical device for treatment of open-angle glaucoma. *Trans Am Ophthalmol Soc* 2006;104:40-50.
11. **Sadun AA**, Salomao S, Berezovsky A, Sadun F, DeNegri AM, **Quiros PA**, Chicani F, Ventura D, Barboni P, Sherman J, Sutter E, Belfort R, Carelli V. Subclinical carriers and conversions in leber hereditary optic neuropathy: A prospective psychophysical study. *Trans Am Ophthalmol Soc* 2006;104:51-61.
12. Chen JY, Shi G, Concepcion FA, Xie GF, Oprian D, **Chen J**. Stable rhodopsin/arrestin complex leads to retinal degeneration in a transgenic mouse model of autosomal dominant retinitis pigmentosa. *J Neurosci* 2006;26:11929-11937.
13. Selvam S, Thomas PB, **Hamm-Alvarez SF**, **Schechter JE**, Stevenson D, **Mircheff AK**, **Trousdale MD**. Current status of gene delivery and gene therapy in lacrimal gland using viral vectors. *Adv Drug Deliv Rev* 2006;58:1243-1257.

## Doheny News

### New Pending Proposals

PI: Srinivas R. Sadda, M.D.

Funding Agency: NIH/NEI Competing Renewal (DEI Subcontract with Univ of Rochester as prime institution)

*Title:* Adaptive Optics Instrumentation for Advanced Ophthalmic Imaging

## NIH Announcements

### **NIH Fiscal Policy for Grant Awards – FY 2007**

Faced with a markedly increased number of applications and applicants for grant support at a time of flat budgets with no inflationary adjustments, NIH is taking immediate proactive steps in FY2007 to manage its portfolio of investments in biomedical research. NIH is committed to buttressing core areas of vulnerability, such as the ability of new investigators to compete for support in these difficult financial times, and protecting our investment in well established investigators with little or no other significant support. In addition, NIH is adjusting the number of competing Research Project Grants (RPG) that will be awarded, with the goal of stabilizing to the extent possible the yearly variation in number of awards that are made.

Click link for details:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-07-030.html>

### **Get Ready for Changes in Peer Review**

A dramatic rise in applications and growing difficulty in recruiting qualified reviewers are challenging NIH peer review. At the same time, the pace of science has increased and NIH needs a review system that can keep up with it. After a year of listening to leaders of the scientific community and colleagues here at NIH, Dr. Antonio Scarpa, Director, Center for Scientific Review (CSR) in collaboration with other NIH senior officials, has developed a collective vision for NIH peer review. In fall 2006, Dr. Scarpa and his colleagues presented this [vision](#) to the NIH Peer Review Advisory Committee (PRAC), which enthusiastically endorsed it. PRAC's support for the key recommended changes, listed below, was particularly strong:

**Shorten the Grant Application:** Applicants and reviewers bear heavy burdens writing and reviewing NIH applications, which run about 25 pages, not counting budgets, bibliographies and appendices. Shorter applications could greatly improve the reviews: each reviewer could read more applications, the study sections could be smaller, and could be more successful in recruiting reviewers. A trans-NIH Committee to Shorten the Application has been established to advance this objective, and will soon conduct analysis of responses to a recently issued Request for Information (RFI) for a [Possible Page Limit Reduction for the Research Plan Section of the Research Project Grant \(R01\) Application](#). Additionally, a [recent change limiting grant application appendix materials](#) will encourage

applicants to be as concise as possible focusing on the information needed for expert scientific review.

**Identify more significant, innovative and high-impact research:** Keith Yamamoto, Executive Vice Dean, University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine, told PRAC that the current review process favors predictable research, experimental detail, extensive preliminary data, and the paradigms of established "experts." He called for NIH to develop a [new review and funding mechanism that fosters both innovative and transformative research](#) that can lead to rapid progress and quantum leaps in science.

**Shorten the review cycle:** Data is being collected and analyzed on the [pilot](#) started in February 2006, when 631 New Investigators were offered shortened review cycles in 40 CSR study sections. Fourteen percent of those researchers took advantage of the shortened cycles to reapply in the next round, saving four months. Since summary statements and scores are posted one to two months earlier, applicants increasingly are resubmitting applications in the next round. The NIH Leadership Forum subsequently endorsed efforts to explore ways to achieve these goals.

**Other efforts to improve peer review:** by reducing burdens on reviewers and improving internal efficiencies are focused on:

- more consistent and efficient reviews
  - shorter meetings
  - electronic referral of applications to review groups
- CSR also announced a series of open house workshops with community and NIH leaders to discuss the organization of review groups and initiatives for 2007. Information on these activities is provided in the fall issue of the [Peer Review Notes](#).

### **Acknowledging NIH Support is Important**

Your help is needed in raising public awareness of the important role NIH plays in providing funding for biomedical research for NIH grant recipients. More than 80 percent of the NIH budget supports research in the extramural environment through grants and cooperative agreements. Making the connection between federal research funding and scientific advances shows the American people that their tax dollars leads to new knowledge and an improvement in health.

As an Investigator, you can help. You are in a position to raise public awareness of the NIH role in your project while satisfying an award requirement and a Congressional directive that grantees "acknowledge NIH's funding contribution when they publicize their research findings." These actions benefit you, American citizens and NIH can work together to improve the health of the Nation.

Acknowledge NIH's full or partial support of your research in journal articles, oral or poster presentations, news releases, interviews with reporters, radio and TV appearances, and other communications. When possible, the citation in scientific publications should include the grant number and the name of the source of support (for example: R01GM012345 from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health). For additional details on journal article citation requirements, see the Rights in Data (Publications and Copyrighting) section of the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#).

Alert the NIH program officer who manages your grant if you have a significant finding accepted for publication, especially if your institution is planning a news release or if you have other reasons to expect media coverage of your work. You can find the program officer's name and contact information on your Notice of Grant Award.

Ask your institution's public information officer to contact the communications director of your NIH Institute or Center to coordinate efforts to publicize important research progress. You can reach the communications director through your NIH program officer or by using the information at [NIH Media Contacts Web page](#).

If reporters ask you to suggest an outside expert to comment on your research, you can refer them to the communications director of your NIH Institute or Center, who will arrange an interview with your program officer or another NIH official.

Every American has a right to know and understand how their tax dollars are used by the NIH to improve health through biomedical research. Your continued acknowledgement of NIH's partnership in this research is essential to this understanding.

## **New Web Tool to be Launched for Finding Funding Information**

The NIH tracks its funding of critical biomedical research and other support at universities, hospitals, small businesses and other organizations, and annually compiles this information and makes it available to the public. Up to now, this funding information was available in the form of tables that showed comparative rankings in terms of dollars received.

However, the NIH no longer will provide these comparative ranking tables on its biomedical research funding. Instead, [NIH has developed a Web-based tool](#) that allows you to determine the dollars awarded to any one organization or department. The tool will allow you to download aggregate data, on a per fiscal year basis, so that you can conduct your own analysis.

This change comes in part from responses received from the grantee community that suggested that the

current ranking tables were used only by a [subset of the community](#) and in part by the establishment of [Multiple Principal Investigator Awards](#), which will make tracking and ranking funds received by individual departments impractical.

The Web tool will allow you to search for organizations by name and download of institutional and department-level data.

The funding information will include: name of organization receiving the award; fiscal year; type or category of the award; number of individual awards in each category; dollar amount awarded in each category; and total dollar amount and number of awards.

The information will be provided as a snapshot in time. Changes in information from events such as institutional reorganizations or post-award budgetary adjustments will not be included until the next scheduled update.

If you would like additional information or have a comment or question, please contact [Dr. Israel Lederhendler](#), Director, Division of Information Services, Office of Research Information Services, Office of Extramural Research.

## **NIH Regional Seminars: Pre-Register Now**

Twice annually, typically once in the eastern U.S. and once in the western U.S., the NIH Office of Extramural Research conducts NIH Regional Seminars on Program Funding and Grants. These seminars help demystify the NIH grant application and review process, clarify Federal regulations and policies, and highlight current areas of special interest or concern. The seminars are appropriate for grants administrators, researchers new to NIH and graduate students.

In 2007, the OER will conduct seminars at the University of Utah at Salt Lake City, March 5-7, and in Research Triangle Park, NC, April 24-26, sponsored by several local higher education and research institutions. Pre-registration for the seminars is available now. For additional information, visit the [NIH Regional Seminars on Program Funding and Grants Web site](#).

Also offered at the seminars is the NIH Electronic Research Administration (eRA) Computer Lab, which will provide institutional grant administrators and principal investigators hands-on-keyboard training on the steps for completing and submitting an application for an NIH grant using the SF424 (R&R) form via Grants.gov, how to register for an eRA Commons account, and how to obtain DUNS and CCR numbers. Trainees will be instructed on how to make use of the eRA Commons, a virtual meeting place where NIH extramural grantee organizations, grantees, and the public can receive and transmit information about the administration of biomedical and behavioral research.

## Updated On-Time Grant Application Submission FAQs

The NIH has received several questions inquiring about what is meant by "on-time grant application submission." In response, the NIH has updated its [Electronic Submission Frequently Asked Questions Web page](#) with a section devoted to the [grant application submission deadline](#).

## Findings of Research Misconduct

**Jennifer Blaisdell**, University of Pennsylvania and Retinal Consultants of Arizona, Ltd.: Based on the report of an investigation conducted by the University of Pennsylvania (UP) and additional analysis conducted by ORI in its oversight review, the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) found that Ms. Jennifer Blaisdell, former Clinical Coordinator for Retinal Consultants of Arizona, Ltd. (RCA), committed research misconduct in a study sponsored by two cooperative agreements funded by the National Eye Institute (NEI), National Institutes of Health (NIH): U10 EY012261, "Age-related Macular Degeneration Prevention Trial," Dr. Stuart Fine, Principal Investigator (P.I.), and U10 EY012279, "Coordinating Center for AMD, Complications of Age-Related Macular Degeneration Prevention Trial" (CAPT), Dr. Maureen McGuire, P.I.

Click link for details:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-07-028.html>

**Nicholas McMaster**, University of Chicago: Based on a College Discipline Hearing report and on additional analysis conducted by ORI in its oversight review, the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) found that Mr. Nicholas McMaster, undergraduate student, Biological Sciences Collegiate Division in the Departments of Psychology and Comparative Human Development at the University of Chicago (UC), engaged in research misconduct supported by National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), National Institutes of Health (NIH), grant P50 ES12382 and National Institute on Aging (NIA), NIH, grant P01 AG018911. Specifically, PHS found that Mr. McMaster fabricated data in recording the score for the lordosis reflex and in recording the cell types present in vaginal epithelium from rats in two experimental psychology protocols.

Click link for details:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-07-029.html>

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