June OVCR Newsletter Program Announcements

Department of Defense: Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

About the CDMRP:
CDMRP funding comes directly from Congress and is then added to the DOD budget. Congress also specifies the Research Programs to be funded every fiscal year based on constituent and advocacy group input. CDMRP funds “innovative and impactful research” to “transform healthcare for Service Members and the American public.” CDMRP defines its stakeholders as Congress, the American public, and the military. This viewpoint drives their decision-making processes and influences their goal of transparency in all processes.

What’s new at CDMRP?
The FY20 Defense Appropriations Act provides funding to the Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Program (PCRP) to support innovative, high-impact prostate cancer research – Letter of Intent due September 10, 2020

The mission of the FY20 PCRP is to fund research that will lead to the elimination of death from prostate cancer and enhance the well-being of Service members, Veterans, and all the men and their families who are experiencing the impact of the disease. Within this context, the PCRP is interested in supporting research that addresses specific gaps in prostate cancer research and clinical care, with an emphasis on investing in research that will benefit patients diagnosed with lethal prostate cancer or improve quality of life for men diagnosed with this disease. All applications are required to address one or more of the following FY20 PCRP Overarching Challenges:

- Improve the quality of life for survivors of prostate cancer
- Develop treatments that improve outcomes for men with lethal prostate cancer
- Reduce lethal prostate cancer in people of African descent, Veterans, and high-risk or underserved populations
- Define the biology of lethal prostate cancer to reduce death

https://cdmrp.army.mil/funding/pcrp

Defense Health Program
Department of Defense Neurotoxin Exposure Treatment Parkinson’s Program
Funding Opportunities for Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20)

The FY20 Defense Appropriation Act provides $16 million to the Department of Defense Neurotoxin Exposure Treatment Parkinson’s Program (NETP) to support research to better understand and treat the neuro-degenerative effects of Parkinson’s disease (PD) associated with military deployment, environmental, and/or occupational exposures.

If you are a faculty member interested in a personalized fund search, contact Lynette Michael (lynette.michael@ucdenver.edu)
Applications submitted to the FY20 NETP must address at least one of the following Focus Areas:

- Quantifiable gene-environment interactions and the risk for or progression of Parkinson’s disease.
- Basic biology of non-motor symptoms that could lead to the development of new treatments for Parkinson’s disease following neurotoxin exposure.
- System-level mechanism of dopamine refractory motor symptoms in Parkinson’s disease, including postural instability, freezing of gait, and treatment-associated dystonia, that could lead to development of new treatments in patients with neurotoxin exposure.
- Clinical and research application of digital health technology leading to development of new treatments for Parkinson’s disease in those individuals exposed to neurotoxins.

https://cdmrp.army.mil/funding/netp

Investigator-Initiated Research Award – Letter of Intent due August 18, 2020
Assistant Professor level or above (or equivalent)
Supports highly rigorous, multidisciplinary, high-impact research projects that have the potential to make an important contribution to neurotoxin exposure- and treatment-related Parkinson’s research. This award mechanism supports the full spectrum of research from basic science through clinical research.

- Must address at least one of the FY20 NETP Focus Areas.
- Preliminary data to support feasibility are encouraged.
- Submission of a Letter of Intent is required prior to full application submission.
- Clinical trials are not allowed
- Maximum funding of **$1.2 million (M)** for total costs (includes direct and indirect costs)
- Maximum period of performance is **3 years**

Early Investigator Research Award – Letter of Intent due August 18, 2020
Investigator must be a postdoctoral or clinical fellow, instructor, or assistant professor within 10 years of advanced degree or residency training (or equivalent)
Supports neurotoxin exposure- and treatment-related Parkinson’s research opportunities for individuals in the early stages of their careers, under the guidance of a designated Mentor.

- PIs must have a designated mentor who is an experienced Parkinson’s disease researcher.
- Must address at least one of the FY NETP Focus Areas.
- Preliminary data are not required
- Clinical trials are not allowed
- Submission of a Letter of Intent is required prior to full application submission.
- Maximum funding of **$400,000** for total costs (includes direct and indirect costs)
- Maximum period of performance **2 years**

Synergistic Idea Award – Letter of Intent due August 18, 2020
Assistant Professor level or above (or equivalent).

If you are a faculty member interested in a personalized fund search, contact Lynette Michael (lynette.michael@ucdenver.edu)
• Supports new ideas that represent synergistic approaches to neurotoxin exposure- and treatment-related Parkinson’s research involving two to four faculty-level (or equivalent) Principal Investigators (PIs).
• The combined efforts of the PIs should utilize their complementary and synergistic perspectives to address a central problem or question in neurotoxin exposure- and treatment-related Parkinson’s research.
• Designed to support both new and pre-existing partnerships, and encourages participation of PIs from other research fields.
• Must address at least one for the FY20 NETP Focus Areas.
• Preliminary data are not required
• Submission of a Letter of Intent is required prior to full application submissions.
• Clinical trials are not allowed
• Maximum funding of $3 million (M) for total costs (includes direct and indirect costs)
• Maximum period of performance is 4 years

A pre-application is required and must be submitted through the electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal (eBRAP) at https://eBRAP.org prior to the pre-application deadline. All applications must conform to the final Program Announcements and General Application Instructions available for electronic downloading from the Grants.gov website. The application package containing the required forms for each award mechanism will also be found on Grants.gov. A listing of all CDMRP and other USAMRDC extramural funding opportunities can be obtained on the Grants.gov website by performing a basic search using CFDA Number 12.420.

For email notification when Program Announcements are released, subscribe to program-specific news and updates under “Email Subscriptions” on the eBRAP homepage at https://eBRAP.org. For more information about the NETP or other CDMRP-administered programs, please visit the CDMRP website (https://cdmrp.army.mil).

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
About the RWJF:
The Foundation mission is to improve the health and health care of all Americans. The mission is pursued these days through adoption of the Foundation’s vision – building a national culture of health. The concept culture of health is defined by RWJF as “. . . individuals, neighborhoods, communities, businesses, organizations, and decision-makers embracing health as an esteemed American value and expecting it to be a routine part of life” (Source: 2013 RWJF Presidential Letter, p. 6). This vision has informed major changes to RWJF’s organization, purpose, and funding portfolio. A comprehensive review of RWJF’s past work, structure, and priorities has led to new or renewed long-term priorities.

What’s new at RWJF:
Pioneering Ideas: Exploring the Future to Create a Culture of Health Program
Proposals accepted on a rolling basis

If you are a faculty member interested in a personalized fund search, contact Lynette Michael (lynette.michael@ucdenver.edu)
Through this new funding opportunity, RWJF seeks to understand and anticipate what dramatic changes we might see in the next five to 15 years in four areas: 1) Future of Evidence; 2) Future of Social Interaction; 3) Future of Food; and Future of Work.

Additionally, this call for proposals seeks to support unconventional approaches and breakthrough ideas outside of these areas that could improve health equity and well-being for generations to come. We welcome proposals from scientists, anthropologists, artists, urban planners, community leaders—anyone, anywhere who has a cutting edge idea that could alter the trajectory of health and increase opportunities for everyone in the United States to live their healthiest life possible.

Please note, while this CFP is focused on broader and longer-term societal trends and shifts that were evolving prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, we recognize the unique circumstances and learning created by the COVID-19 pandemic may inform your response. It is at your discretion whether you propose a project related to the pandemic directly or indirectly.

National Science Foundation (with NIH)

About the NSF:
NSF funds research across a variety of disciplines – natural, physical, and social/behavioral sciences; computer science; engineering; and education. NSF also supports educational improvement efforts in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. The agency mission “includes support for all fields of fundamental science and engineering, except for medical sciences” (Source: NSF What We Do Website). To meet this mission, NSF supports external research efforts in academia and industry; the agency does not maintain laboratories or perform in-house research.

What’s new at the NSF?
Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases (EEID)
Deadline: November 18, 2020

Program Objectives: The multi-agency Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases program supports research on the ecological, evolutionary, and social drivers that influence the transmission dynamics of infectious diseases. The central theme of submitted projects must be the quantitative or computational understanding of pathogen transmission dynamics. The intent is discovery of principles of infectious disease transmission and testing mathematical or computational models that elucidate infectious disease systems. Projects should be broad, interdisciplinary efforts that go beyond the scope of typical studies. They should focus on the determinants and interactions of transmission among humans, non-human animals, and/or plants. This includes, for example, the spread of pathogens; the influence of environmental factors such as climate; the population dynamics and genetics of reservoir species or hosts; the feedback between ecological transmission and evolutionary dynamics; and the cultural, social, behavioral, and economic dimensions of pathogen transmission. Research may be on zoonotic, environment-borne, vector-borne, or enteric pathogens of either terrestrial or aquatic systems and organisms, including diseases of animals and plants, at any scale from specific pathogens to inclusive environmental systems. Proposals for research on disease systems of public health concern to

If you are a faculty member interested in a personalized fund search, contact Lynette Michael (lynette.michael@ucdenver.edu)
developing countries are strongly encouraged, as are disease systems of concern in agricultural systems. Investigators are encouraged to develop the appropriate multidisciplinary team, including for example, anthropologists, modelers, ecologists, bioinformaticians, genomics researchers, social scientists, economists, oceanographers, mathematical scientists, epidemiologists, evolutionary biologists, entomologists, parasitologists, microbiologists, bacteriologists, virologists, pathologists or veterinarians, with the goal of integrating knowledge across disciplines to enhance our ability to predict and control infectious diseases.

Program URL: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5269

**Merck KGaA**

*About Merck:*
Merck is a global science and technology company, active in healthcare, life science, and performance material. Merck holds an external research grants program.

*What’s new at Merck?*

**Drug Discovery Program**
Deadline Date: 31-Aug-2020

What is the next game-changing molecule or technology to help cure cancer or autoimmune disease? The sponsor is offering research grants for proposals that have the potential to advance the field of drug discovery within Oncology and Autoimmune Diseases. Proposals will be considered a) that help to identify and characterize the next game-changing molecule or technology to help cure cancer or autoimmune disease. b) innovative research on molecular targets or pathophysiological pathways with untapped potential to be the next big therapeutic breakthrough. c) new breakthrough enabling technologies for drug discovery. d) methods that improve translation from and predictivity of preclinical models to the clinical situation.

The sponsor is offering research grants for proposals that have the potential to advance the field of drug discovery within Oncology and Autoimmune Diseases. Proposals will be considered a) that help to identify and characterize the next game-changing molecule or technology to help cure cancer or autoimmune disease. b) innovative research on molecular targets or pathophysiological pathways with untapped potential to be the next big therapeutic breakthrough. c) new breakthrough enabling technologies for drug discovery. d) methods that improve translation from and predictivity of preclinical models to the clinical situation.

Eligibility: The 2020 research grants program is open to scientists in all career stages who are affiliated with any research-based institution, university or company. Submissions are accepted from scientists in all countries all over the world.

Program URL: https://www.emdgroup.com/en/research/open-innovation/2020-research-grants.html

If you are a faculty member interested in a personalized fund search, contact Lynette Michael (lynette.michael@ucdenver.edu)