E-Newsletter: November 14, 2008

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NIDCR NEWS
Dr. Harold Varmus to Deliver 2008 David E. Barmes Global Health Lecture

Dr. Harold Varmus, president of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, will deliver the 2008 David E. Barmes Global Health Lecture on Tuesday, December 16 at 11:30 a.m. on the NIH campus. Former director of the National Institutes of Health and co-recipient of a Nobel Prize for studies of the genetic basis of cancer, Dr. Varmus has served as the president and chief executive officer of Memorial Sloan-Kettering since January 2000.

The annual lecture series honors the late David E. Barmes, a longstanding World Health Organization employee, special expert for international health at NIDCR,
and ardent spokesman for global health. The lecture, which is jointly sponsored by the NIDCR and the Fogarty International Center, will be videocast at: http://videocast.nih.gov/

NIDCR Now Accepting Applications for 2009 Summer Dental Student Award Program
To expose future dentists to careers in research, NIDCR offers an outstanding summer training opportunity for dental students. The NIDCR Summer Dental Student Award is designed to give talented dental students hands-on research experience and exposure to the latest advances in oral health research. Selected candidates are assigned to mentors who conduct research in the students’ areas of interest. Participation in the program may result in presentation of research findings at a scientific meeting or co-authorship of scientific publications.

NIDCR provides a competitive stipend for all summer researchers. Acceptance of this award requires a minimum eight-week commitment. The nominating dental school must agree to support air or ground transportation for their students.

Online applications for the Summer Dental Student Award will be accepted from November 15, 2008 – January 15, 2009. Additional Summer Dental Student Award information is available at:
http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/CareersAndTraining/Fellowships/DentalMedicalStudents/

or contact Dr. Deborah Philp, Program Director, dphilp@dir.nidcr.nih.gov
<dphilp@dir.nidcr.nih.htm> , (301) 594-8449

Dr. Lawrence Tabak Appointed Acting Principal Deputy Director of NIH
With the departure of Dr. Elias Zerhouni in October, his principal deputy, Dr. Raynard Kington, was appointed Acting Director of NIH. On November 12, Dr. Kington appointed Dr. Lawrence Tabak as Acting Principal Deputy Director of NIH. While serving in this temporary role, Dr. Tabak will continue to direct the NIDCR.

NIDCR Director on the Future of Dentistry
NIDCR Director Lawrence Tabak recently spoke to the Canadian Dental
Association about how research will influence the future of dentistry. Here is what he had to say:

http://www.cda-adc.ca/editor/tabak.html

Job Openings
The following positions are available at the NIDCR:

Health Scientist Administrator, Division of Extramural Research, Translational Genomics Research Branch

Health Scientist Administrator, Division of Extramural Activities, Scientific Review Branch

Health Scientist Administrator, Division of Extramural Research, Integrative Biology and Infectious Diseases Branch, Salivary Biology and Immunology Program

Clinical Director, Division of Intramural Research

Chief, Dental Consult Services (Staff Clinician)

Oral-Maxillofacial Surgeon, Division of Intramural Research

For additional details and to apply, see:
http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/CareersAndTraining/JobOpenings/PermanentPositions/

NIH NEWS

NIH Announces Initial Implementation Timeline for Enhancing Peer Review

On September 30, NIH announced that it will begin implementing changes to enhance its peer review system, after an extensive year-long review. External and internal working groups--co-chaired by NIDCR Director Lawrence Tabak--deliberated on challenges and recommendations regarding enhancements to the review system. The resulting set of recommendations led to changes in four core priority areas:

• Continue to Engage the Best Reviewers Improve the Quality and Transparency of Review
• Ensure Balanced and Fair Reviews across Scientific Fields and Career Stages, and Reduce Administrative Burden
• Continuous Review of Peer Review

For additional information see:

Also see the peer review website:
http://enhancing-peer-review.nih.gov/
New NIH Policy to Fund Meritorious Science Earlier
NIH has announced a new policy to ensure earlier funding of high quality applications and improve efficiency in the NIH peer review system. Beginning January 25, 2009, NIH will decrease the number of times an amended grant application may be resubmitted from two to one. The new policy applies both to new applications and competing renewal applications. Failure to receive funding after two submissions (the original and the single amendment) will mean that the applicant should substantially redesign the project rather than simply change the application in response to previous reviews.

See the news release about the new resubmission policy:
and the Notices:

New NIH Policy Establishes Goals to Support Scientists Early in Their Careers
NIH has issued a policy establishing goals to encourage funding for scientists new to NIH and those who are at an early stage in their careers. The aim is to allow new investigators to achieve success rates comparable to those of established scientists submitting grant applications. NIH hopes to support 1,650 or more new investigators across all Institutes and Centers in FY 2009.

As a first step, NIH has created a new "Early Stage Investigator" category to accelerate the early transition of new scientists to research independence. Early stage investigators are defined as new or first-time investigators who are within 10 years of completing their last research degree or are within 10 years of completing their medical residency (or equivalent). See the related Notice:

Early stage investigators seeking NIH funding for the first time are encouraged to apply for research project grants (R01s), rather than small grants (R03s) or exploratory/developmental grants (R21s) that are limited in scope and period of
NIH Seeks Proposals for 2009 Director's Pioneer and New Innovator Awards

NIH welcomes proposals for 2009 NIH Director's Pioneer Awards and New Innovator Awards. Both programs are part of the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research and support exceptionally creative scientists who take highly innovative, potentially high-impact approaches to major challenges in biomedical or behavioral research.

Pioneer Awards provide up to $2.5 million in direct costs over 5 years and are open to scientists at any career stage. New Innovator Awards provide up to $1.5 million in direct costs over the same period and are for early career investigators who have not received a research project grant (R01) or similar NIH grant.

NIH expects to make 5 to 10 Pioneer Awards and up to 24 New Innovator Awards in September 2009. To continue its strong record of diversity in these programs, NIH especially encourages women and members of groups that are underrepresented in NIH research to apply.

Starting this year, both the Pioneer Award and the New Innovator Award competitions will begin with a pre-application phase. The Pioneer Award competition will have a proposal submission period from November 17 to December 17, 2008. For further instructions see:

Also see the Request for Applications:

Additional program information:
http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/pioneer

The New Innovator Award competition begins with a proposal submission period from December 15, 2008 to January 15, 2009. Details about the new application process are found at:
New Transformative R01 Program
NIH's new Transformative R01 Program (T-R01s) will allow highly creative, "out-of-the-box" projects to be supported. The T-R01 represents a High Risk/High Reward Demonstration Project in which novel approaches to peer review and program management are to be piloted.

The application submission period is from December 29, 2008 to January 29, 2009.

For more information see:
http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/T-R01/

Human Microbiome Project Awards

NIH has announced the first awards for its Human Microbiome Project, which will lay a foundation for efforts to explore how complex communities of microbes interact with the human body to influence health and disease. The funding, estimated to be up to approximately $21.2 million for 2- and 3-year projects, will support the development of innovative technologies and computational tools, coordination of data analysis, and an examination of some of the ethical, legal and social implications of human microbiome research.


The Human Microbiome Project is part of the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research and is managed by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, NIDCR, the National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Diseases and the National Human Genome Research Institute. The Roadmap is a series of initiatives designed to pursue major opportunities and gaps in biomedical research that no single NIH institute could tackle alone. See additional information about the NIH
NIH Announces Funding for New Epigenomics Initiative
NIH has announced funding for the new NIH Roadmap Epigenomics Program. Epigenetic processes control normal growth and development, and epigenomics is a study of epigenetic processes at a genome-wide scale. The NIH will invest more than $190 million over the next five years to accelerate this emerging field of biomedical research. The first grants will total approximately $18 million in 2008.

The overall hypothesis of the NIH Roadmap Epigenomics Program is that the origins of health and susceptibility to disease, are, in part, the result of epigenetic regulation of the genetic blueprint. Researchers believe that understanding how and when epigenetic processes control genes during different stages of development and throughout life will lead to more effective ways to prevent and treat disease. More information about the epigenomics initiative is found at:

NIH's Genes Environment and Health Initiative Adds Six Studies
The NIH Genes, Environment and Health Initiative (GEI) has awarded grants estimated to be up to $5.5 million over two years for six studies aimed at finding genetic factors that influence the risks for stroke, glaucoma, high blood pressure, prostate cancer and other common disorders. The grantees will use a genome-wide association study to rapidly scan markers across the complete sets of DNA, or genomes, of large groups of people to find genetic variants associated with a particular disease, condition or trait.

GEI is a collaboration between genetic researchers and environmental scientists. Six GEI-supported genome-wide association studies, overseen by the National Human Genome Research Institute, are already under way. Two additional GEI studies, supported and managed by the NIDCR, have also begun. Additional information about the Genes Environment and Health Initiative is found at:

NIH to Hold Health Disparities Summit
On December 16-18, an NIH summit on "The Science of Eliminating Health Disparities" will take place at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in
National Harbor, MD. The event will showcase NIH's collective contribution to developing new knowledge in the science of eliminating health disparities. The summit will feature: plenary sessions highlighting the intersections of science, practice, and policy in health disparity research; interactive breakout sessions organized into five tracks to examine health disparities from multiple disciplines; an awards banquet to recognize individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary contributions towards the elimination of health disparities; and a town hall meeting to gather input from audience members. Registration for the summit is free and available online: http://www.blsmeetings.net/2008healthdisparitiessummit/

NIH Grantees Win 2008 Nobel Prizes
The 2008 Nobel Prize in chemistry is shared by two NIH grantees, Martin Chalfie, Ph.D. of Columbia University and Roger Y. Tsien, Ph.D., of the University of California at San Diego. The two researchers share the award with a former NIH grantee, Osamu Shimomura, Ph.D., of the Marine Biology Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA. The three researchers are honored for discovering a fluorescent protein, GFP, in a colorful jellyfish and developing it into a key tool for observing previously invisible processes, such as the development of nerve cells in the brain or how cancer cells spread. By using DNA technology, researchers can now connect GFP to other interesting, but otherwise invisible proteins. The glowing marker allows them to watch the movements, positions, and interactions of the targeted proteins. See additional information at: http://www.nih.gov/news/health/oct2008/od-08a.htm

From asthma and cancer treatments to vaccines, research in children saves lives and improves their health and well-being. A new web site from NIH, "Children and Clinical Studies," offers parents and health care providers an insider's guide to children's medical research. The web site combines information about how clinical studies in youth are conducted with award-winning video of children, parents, and healthcare providers discussing the rewards and challenges of participating in research. See the new web site at: http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/childrenandclinicalstudies/index.php
Dr. Li Steps Down as NIAAA Director
Ting-Kai Li, M.D., director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) since 2002, retired at the end of October. Kenneth R. Warren, Ph.D., the NIAAA Deputy Director since February 2008, is serving as acting director of the Institute while a search for a new Director is initiated. See additional details:


FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

NIH Roadmap

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<td>Pre-Application for the 2009 NIH Director's Pioneer Award Program (X02)</td>
<td>Alicia Dombroski</td>
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<td>Pre-Application for the 2009 NIH Director's New Innovator Award Program (X02)</td>
<td>Alicia Dombroski</td>
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REQUESTS FOR APPLICATIONS

Gene Studies

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The FaceBase Consortium: Functional Genomics of Craniofacial Development and Disease (U01) > 10/30/08  RFA-DE-09-003  Lillian Shum  > 301-594-0618  1/30/09

Replication and Fine-Mapping Studies for the Genes Environment and Health Initiative (GEI) (R01) > 9/30/08  RFA-CA-09-008  Emily Harris  > 301-594-4846  12/01/08

Neurobiology/Pain

Central Nervous System Intersections of Drug Addiction, Chronic Pain and Analgesia (R01) > 10/24/08  RFA-DA-09-017  John Kusiak

<mailto:kusiakj@mail.nih.gov> 301-594-7984  1/28/09

Central Nervous System Intersections of Drug Addiction, Chronic Pain and Analgesia (R21) > 10/24/08  RFA-DA-09-018  John Kusiak

<mailto:kusiakj@mail.nih.gov> 301-594-7984  1/28/09

Central Nervous System Intersections of Drug Addiction, Chronic Pain and
Analgesia (R03) [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DA-09-019.html] > 10/24/08 RFA-DA-09-019
John Kusiak

<mailto:kusiakj@mail.nih.gov> 301-594-7984 1/28/09

NIH Roadmap

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<td>2009 NIH Director's Pioneer Award Program (DP1)</td>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>RFA-RM-09-001</td>
<td>Alicia Dombroski <a href="mailto:adrombroski@mail.nih.gov">mailto:adrombroski@mail.nih.gov</a> 301-594-4805</td>
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<td>2009 NIH Director's New Innovator Award Program (DP2)</td>
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<td>RFA-RM-09-003</td>
<td>Alicia Dombroski <a href="mailto:adrombroski@mail.nih.gov">mailto:adrombroski@mail.nih.gov</a> 301-594-4805</td>
<td>5/27/09</td>
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<td>Patient-Reported Outcomes Management Information System™ (PROMIS)</td>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>RFA-RM-08-022</td>
<td>Jane Atkinson <a href="mailto:jatkinso@mail.nih.gov">mailto:jatkinso@mail.nih.gov</a> 301-435-7908</td>
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<td>RFA-RM-08-023</td>
<td>Jane Atkinson <a href="mailto:jatkinso@mail.nih.gov">mailto:jatkinso@mail.nih.gov</a> 301-435-7908</td>
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<td>Research Sites (U01)</td>
<td>NIH</td>
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<td>Jane Atkinson <a href="mailto:jatkinso@mail.nih.gov">mailto:jatkinso@mail.nih.gov</a> 301-435-7908</td>
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<td>Technology Center (U54)</td>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>RFA-RM-08-024</td>
<td>Jane Atkinson <a href="mailto:jatkinso@mail.nih.gov">mailto:jatkinso@mail.nih.gov</a> 301-435-7908</td>
<td>3/03/09</td>
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New Concept Clearance

Concepts represent early planning stages for initiatives in which NIDCR seeks to support research in an understudied and significant area of science. Council approval does not guarantee that a concept will become a program announcement (PA), request for applications (RFA), or request for proposals (RFP). NIDCR bases this determination on scientific and programmatic priorities balanced with the amount of funds available.

A concept clearance on "Support for an NIDCR Salivary Gland Tumor Biorepository" was presented at the September meeting of the National Advisory Dental and Craniofacial Council. To read more about it, click on the "Concept Clearances" link found at: http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/AboutUs/Councils/NADCRC/

NOTICES

Title  NIH
Guide  Notice Number


Revised PHS 416-9 Progress Report for Continuation Support (For the Individual Fellowship Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award) Now Available <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-005.html> > 10/14/08 NOT-OD-09-005


Updates and Reminders on NIH Policy Pertaining to Grants to Foreign Institutions, International Organizations and Domestic Grants with Foreign Components <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-010.html> > 10/08/08 NOT-OD-09-010

Non-Competing Grant Awards under the Current Continuing Resolution <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-002.html> > 10/02/08 NOT-OD-09-002


SCIENCE ADVANCES

Periodontal Disease: Engineering the Future of Care
Read the latest online interviews with an NIDCR grantee and intramural scientist to get their perspective on research challenges and opportunities in the 21st Century: http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/Research/facingthefuture/periodontal.htm

Scientists Identify Gene Variant Involved in Isolated Cleft Lip
About 20 percent of isolated cleft lip, one of the world’s most common birth defects, may be due to a one-letter difference in the DNA sequence of a gene involved in facial development, researchers supported by the NIDCR and several NIH institutes report. The scientists say the discovery, published in the journal Nature Genetics, could lead to DNA tests to help couples better gauge their risk of having a child with an isolated cleft. To read more about this finding, see the October 5, 2008 news release:
http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/Research/ResearchResults/NewsReleases/

Science News in Brief
See the following summaries of recent oral health research findings:
NIDCR Scientists Find Pain Receptor Enhancer
Researchers Assemble Panel of Salivary Biomarkers
New Automated Approach Analyzes Protein Structure

We encourage you to distribute this newsletter to any colleagues whom you think may be interested. If someone forwarded this issue to you and you would like to receive future copies, please click here:
http://list.nih.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=nidcr-newsletter&A=1

Thank you.

This message is sent to you on behalf of Dr. Steffensen, Associate Dean for Research at the UTHSCSA Dental School. If you wish to be removed from this distribution list or know of someone who would like to be added to the list, please contact Gloria Abdin at abdin@uthscsa.edu. We welcome suggestions that you may have to enhance our research communications.