



## Uniformed Services University

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## Media Advisory

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### USU professor awarded NIH research grant

**Bethesda, Md.** – A Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) professor was awarded a five-year grant totaling more than 1.6 million dollars.

The National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) awarded Brian C. Schaefer, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, the grant for his research project on Protein Redistribution in TCR-Directed NF-KappaBeta Activation

The money will be used to support the major research project currently underway in Dr. Schaefer's laboratory, investigating the molecular mechanisms of T cell activation.

The grant also provides a primary source of funding to pay staff, so that they can continue pursuing their research goals. For USU, this grant provides overhead funds that are crucial for the operation of the university and associated entities like the Henry M. Jackson Foundation.

T cells are critical mediators of the adaptive immune response to infection. The immediate goals are to better define the molecular details of the process whereby T cells

become activated in response to encounter with infectious agents. The long term goals are to identify potential targets for development of novel drugs to treat diseases of the immune system such as autoimmunity and certain types of cancer.

Working on the project with Dr. Schaefer are two graduate students, Jeremy Rossman, emerging infectious diseases program and Maj. Felicia Langel, molecular and cell biology program. This funding from NIH will also allow him to hire additional personnel, including postdoctoral fellows and a technician.

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