

ORWH-SUPPORTED CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS FY 05

TITLE: Health Disparities in Infertility

NICHD

Award: \$5,000

Contact: Joan Davis

This conference addressed infertility, which is a major public health problem affecting up to 10% of Reproductive Age Americans based on reports from the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM). However, very few studies have looked at the prevalence and the receipt of infertility services by minority and low-income populations. This conference pulled together clinicians from the RS portfolio and demographers from the DBSB portfolio to the extent that these scientists could contribute knowledge for this report. The NICHD also anticipated pulling in scientists from beyond these portfolios to assess the state of the science on this topic. The audience was both demographers and clinicians. The NICHD encourages future interdisciplinary collaborations.

TITLE: Advances in Uterine Leiomyoma Research

ORWH

Award: \$5,000

Contact: Susan Meikle

Uterine leiomyoma (fibroids) are the most common gynecologic neoplasm in women of reproductive age. As the number one cause of hysterectomy, they have a profound negative impact on women's health. Uterine leiomyoma are hormonally dependent and as such are a potential target for endocrine active compounds in the environment. The goal of this conference is to bring together researchers working in the fields of biomedicine, epidemiology, basic research, therapeutics and translational medicine to foster an exchange of scientific information among members of the uterine leiomyoma research and health care communities. Participants will be drawn from academia, medicine, government, and industry. Topics covered included Clinical Experience and Therapeutic Strategies, Epidemiology, Clinical Trials, Pathogenesis of Smooth Muscle Tumors, and Molecular and Genetic Characteristics

This conference provided a forum to update the scientific agenda on leiomyoma research. Planned presentations included scientific investigators from AHRQ, the presentation of registry data involved in the treatment of fibroids, and study designs currently underway.

TITLE: Sjogren's Syndrome

NIDCR

Award: \$5,000

Contact: Sven-Ulrik Gorr, Ph. D.

The conference was a Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation basic scientific workshop scheduled for September 23-25, 2005 and was designed to foster the exchange of scientific data and catalyze rigorous discussion about potential triggers in the transition from autoimmunity to lymphoma. One of the purposes of the workshop was to generate fresh and novel concepts by bringing in speakers from a variety of related fields,

including researchers in immunology, autoimmunity, and oncology. A clinical overview of the current treatment and knowledge about the close link between Sjogren's and lymphoma set the stage for subsequent discussions about basic scientific questions surrounding that link. To inspire young investigators to undertake basic research related to the lymphoma-autoimmune transition, each speaker was invited to select a particularly talented investigator from his or her laboratory to attend and participate in workshop discussion and present posters during a special session.

TITLE: International Conference on Cervical Cancer

NCI

Award: \$5,000

Contact: Ted Trimble

The goal of this conference was to provide an update on research in cervical cancer by bringing together leaders from the multiple disciplines involved with all aspects of cervical cancer causation, prevention, and screening. Objectives included ensuring that participants are able to:

- Describe the molecular epidemiology of cervical cancer
- Discuss optical techniques for screening and detection of cervical cancer
- Describe and discuss chemoradiation for cervical cancer
- List and discuss behavioral intervention for cervical cancer

TITLE: Addressing Health, Educational, and Socioeconomic Disparities of Children in Immigrant Families

NICHHD

Award: \$5,000

Contact: Rebecca Clark, Ph. D.

The purpose of this workshop was to encourage interdisciplinary research on children in immigrant families. Strengths of social scientists include understanding of legal and policy constraints on access to health care, important ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and economic differences within broad racial/ethnic groups; patterns of transitional and with-U.S. migration and population distribution that affect children's access to health care, education and co-ethnic communities. Strengths of developmental scientists include understanding of children's developmental trajectories, including insights into individual variations, and age-specific language skills. Research on children from immigrant families will be enhanced if the strengths of both social scientists and behavioral scientists are included.

TITLE: Sixth International Symposium on Osteoporosis

NIAMS

Award: \$2,500

Contact: William Sharrock

This meeting took place in Washington D.C. from April 6th-10th. The main goal of this conference was to gather individuals interested in osteoporosis treatment, research and public health. These individuals shared their latest results and discussed important and current issues relating to future treatments and public health directions for osteoporosis.

TITLE: 4th Intraductal Approach to Breast Cancer

NCI

Award: \$5,000

Contact: Doris Browne, M.D., M.P.H.

This conference was designed to encourage experts from a variety of relevant fields to bring their knowledge to bear on issues related to those abnormalities of the intraductal cell which apparently are the precursors of invasive cancer. The Susan Love Foundation is making an effort to reduce the impact of breast cancer by facilitating the dissemination of research findings and by supporting innovative research responsive to the breast cancer constituency at-large. Thus, this particular symposium was highly significant. The three previous meetings have been considered to be most successful.

TITLE: North American Integrative Medicine Conference

NCCAM

Award: \$3,000

Contact: Richard Nahin

The intent of this conference was to present the highest quality, peer-reviewed, original research in the field of complementary and integrative medicine. It was considered a major forum for complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) researchers in North America to gather and exchange ideas and data. Given that it has been four years since the last major meeting, the conference was considered extremely timely. The qualifications of the Principal Investigator, Dr. David Eisenberg, Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division for Research and Education in Complementary and Integrative Medical Therapies, are stellar, as are those of the members of the Organizing, Program, and other Committees. The two prior conferences conducted by Dr. Eisenberg have been highly successful.

TITLE: Neuro-Immune Mechanisms and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

ORWH

Award: N/A

Contact: N/A

The impetus for this workshop was the need to attempt an explanation for the diverse and often conflicting research literature on Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS). Although research to date has led only to the conclusion that there is neither an identifiable cause

nor a cure for CFS, there is a body of evidence that suggests alterations in both the immune and neurological systems. Thus, scientists of diverse disciplines from within the NIH intramural research community as well as distinguished extramural experts were convened to explore the mechanisms by which hormones, cytokines, and other mediators act as intermediaries between the brain and other body systems. These scientists also explored how new methodologies developed for the neurosciences, e.g. imagine, genomics, could be used to study the central peripheral actions of these mediators to better understand CFS and other multisystemic illnesses of unknown origin, many of which overlap, that are studied at the NIH and are important to women's health and gender studies.

TITLE: Gordon Research Conference on Calcium Signaling
Award: \$36,795
Contact: John Kusiak, Ph. D.

NIDCR

This conference takes place biennially (interleaved with the complementary FASEB meeting) and alternates between Europe and the USA. It provides the premier forum for scientists with diverse interests in the many facets of calcium signaling to review exciting developments in this active area. The program was selected to include those most active in the field without replicating recent GRC or FASEB meetings. The small size of the meeting (limited to 140 and invariably over-subscribed) and emphasis on interactive discussion ensured lively debate. There were 8 sessions, with chairs selected to promote active discussion, and a plenary. Posters were a key feature (most attendees presented); they were presented each afternoon and each session chair selected a poster (8 in total) for presentation as a talk. Throughout the program the aim was to establish the continuity between the structure and function of proteins involved in calcium signaling and how that leads to an understanding of disease states. Sessions were devoted to the spatial organization of calcium signaling, the structure and function of intracellular and plasma membrane calcium channels, the roles of TRP proteins in normal and disease states, the roles of calcium in secretion and vascular function, and a session on decoding calcium signals. These topics are of fundamental importance, widespread interest and immediate relevance to many disease states including neurodegenerative and cardiovascular disease, aging, cancer, sensory disorders, and immunological diseases.

TITLE: TMJ Conference on "Advancing Diagnostic Approaches for TMJ Disorders"
Award: \$54,878
Contact: Allen W. Cowley, Ph. D.

This is the next meeting in a series of conferences, sponsored by the TMJ Association, that were established to increase the understanding of temporomandibular diseases and disorders by defining the state of current knowledge and developing research goals. Strengths of the meeting include: addresses an important and timely area of research with strong clinical applicability, TMJ diagnosis; sponsored by an association committed to advancing the understanding of TMJD; follows previously successful meetings organized by the TMJ association; and is organized by excellent researchers who are well qualified and experienced in organizing meetings of this type. Weaknesses of the application

include: some of the topics as planned may not be thoroughly addressed; does not describe processes for the inclusion of women, minorities or persons with disabilities, dissemination may be too conservative to attract a wide audience, does not include adequate international representation; and the application does not describe processes for participation of junior researchers or specific plans for choosing and including students. While some aspects of the application tempered enthusiasm, overall, this meeting has excellent potential to directly impact diagnostic approaches to TMJD.

TITLE: The 10th Annual John W. Diggs Lecture

NIH/OD

Award: \$500

Contact: Sharon Jackson