National Cancer Institute

Basic and Biobehavioral Research Branch

The Basic and Biobehavioral Research Branch supports research in cancer prevention and control supporting research in these areas:

- Basic research in social, cognitive, and psychological processes
- Biological mechanisms of psychosocial processes related to cancer control
- Decision processes involved in cancer prevention, detection, treatment AND maintenance of healthy lifestyle behaviors
- Basic and applied research on health-related numeracy
- Methodology and measurement in behavioral science research
- Development and testing of models and theories of health behaviors
- Psychosocial and behavioral consequences of cancer risk assessment
- Understanding processes and mechanisms underlying risk perception
- Genetic and environmental influences on health behaviors related to cancer control
- Mediators and moderators of adaptation and coping

Major Initiatives

Basic and Applied Decision Making in Cancer Control

Advances in cancer prevention, screening, treatment, and end-of-life care, coupled with advances in bioinformatics, have created a wide array of health care options and sources of medical information. Whereas previously the physician was generally accepted as the locus of medical decision making, today this is no longer the case.

More and more, health care decisions have become a collaborative effort among the provider, the patient, and the patient's family. The objective of this research initiative is to enhance understanding of human decision-making processes so that individuals can make more informed and satisfying choices regarding their health, health care, and quality of life.

This initiative encourages

- research that examines the cognitive and affective processes underlying decision making;
- research on basic decision-making processes involved in the initiation and long-term maintenance of healthy lifestyle behaviors that may reduce one's risk of cancer and other chronic diseases;
- basic and applied research that examines health-related numeracy – how people use, process, and attach meaning to health-related numeric information.

Biological Methods of Psychosocial Effects on Disease (BiMPED)

The objective of the BiMPED initiative is to elucidate biological and molecular mechanisms associated with biobehavioral influences on cancer progression. The Basic and Biobehavioral Research Branch (BBRB) seeks to encourage mechanistic studies to identify biological signaling pathways that might inform how behavioral stress and other influences on tumorigenesis are mediated by the central nervous system.

www.cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Our intent is to evaluate and encourage research that explores how neurotransmitters and neuropeptides associated with biobehavioral factors influence tumor processes like angiogenesis, apoptosis, invasion, inflammation, and metastasis.

This initiative encourages transdisciplinary research that bridges basic cancer biology and biobehavioral science to advance our fundamental knowledge of the extent and specificity by which central nervous system-regulated factors like stress, chronic depression, and social support might regulate tumor biology.

Priorities

Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) describe Program research interests.

Request for Applications (RFAs) are issued to stimulate research in specific high priority areas.

FOAs and RFAs are updated weekly in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts:
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/index.html

Decision Making in Cancer: Single Event Decisions
(PA-07-203); expires 1/3/08
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-203.html
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-305.html

Decision Making in Health: Behavior Maintenance
(PA-07-204); expires 1/3/08
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-204.html
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-337.html

Mind-Body Interactions in Health
(PA-07-046); expires 1/3/08
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-046.html

Functional Links Between the Immune System, Brain Function and Behavior
(PA-06-533); expires 9/2/08
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-533.html

Biobehavioral Methods to Improve Outcomes Research
(PA-07-008); expires 9/2/008
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-008.html

R03 Small Grants Program for Behavioral Research in Cancer Control
http://dccps.nci.nih.gov/smallgrants/index.html

R21 Exploratory Grants for Behavioral Research in Cancer Control
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-351.html

Training Opportunities

National Cancer Institute's Cancer Prevention Fellowship
http://cancer.gov/prevention/pob/fellowship

Cancer research training, career development, and education opportunities,
Cancer Training Branch website: http://cancertraining.nci.nih.gov/

For More Information

BBRB Program staff can provide helpful comments and advice regarding the general application and review process.

Applicants are encouraged to contact BBRB staff prior to submitting an application.

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Behavioral Research Program

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