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NOTICES

RESOURCE FOR MAPPING OF DNA PROBES

P.T. 34; K.W. 1002058, 0780010

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
Department of Energy, Office of Health and Environmental
Research/Los Alamos National Laboratory

BACKGROUND AND SCOPE

The Metabolic Diseases Research Program, DDEMD, NIDDK and the Division of Life Sciences, LANL, have developed a resource for mapping of DNA probes by hybridizing 32-P labelled DNA probes to dot-blot of separated and purified human chromosomes on nitro cellulose filters. Los Alamos staff will provide the laboratory services required to map a minimum of twenty probes during the first year of the service without charge to the applicant. Mapping of two DNA probes per month is anticipated.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Researchers who are principal investigators on at least one NIDDK supported grant at a domestic institution, will have highest priority. Researchers supported by other NIH institutes and the Division of Research Resources will also be given consideration. Researchers with no active NIH support will be considered only if resources are available.

Eligible applicants should have at least three years of research experience in genetics with a publication in a peer reviewed journal relevant to genetics.

PROBE ELIGIBILITY

In order to qualify for mapping, a human genomic cloned DNA probe, or a synthesized DNA probe, or a mouse DNA probe must meet the following requirements:

- o be single copy
- o be free of repetitive sequences
- o have a documented clean Southern blot
- o be ready for labeling with P-32 (150 million counts)

Only one probe per applicant will be considered.

APPLICATION

- o description of the probe (including a reproduction of a recent Southern blot of the probe to be mapped)
- o any additional useful data and your expectations
- o documentation on your eligibility for the service (description of grant support and one peer reviewed scientific publication or preprint in related research areas)
- o when will you need the service

A letter providing this information should be sent to NIDDK program staff listed below. The information will be evaluated by program staff with the assistance of expert consultants.

SERVICE

Service will commence on September 1, 1987. We expect to map two probes per month: one on the first and one on the 15th of each month. Applications must be received by program staff at least one month before the requested date for service. Applicants will be advised at least two weeks prior to the requested date whether they are accepted for the service. The applicant will ship the labeled probe to the Life Sciences Division, Los Alamos National Laboratory where expert staff will map the probe. Probes that map to chromosomes 9-12 will require a second shipment in order to complete the mapping process.

NIDDK PROGRAM STAFF

Please send your application for the mapping of your DNA probe as soon as possible to:

Robert Katz, Ph.D.
Director
Metabolic Diseases Research Program, NIDDK
Westwood Building, Room 607
Bethesda, Maryland 20892
Telephone: (301) 496-7997

PRIM&R CONFERENCE - IRBs: NEW CHALLENGES AND PROBLEMS

P.T. 42; K.W. 0783005, 0783010

Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R)

Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R), a national organization concerned with ethical issues in research and medicine, is sponsoring a meeting, "IRBs: New Challenges and Problems," on November 12-13, at the Park Plaza in Boston. Issues to be examined include AIDS, the Model NIH Policy, the new FDA regulations, fraud and misconduct, monitoring, reviewing innovative therapies, imposing limits on confidentiality, the use of cell lines and tissues, as well as many other aspects of IRB operation and review. The conference will include two specially designed educational series, one for committee administrators and the other for new members.

On November 11, the second annual Applied Research Ethics National Association (ARENA) program will be held. This year's program will include both lectures and hands on demonstrations of computer software available to IRBs and other hospital committees to help improve efficiency and effectiveness.

For further information, contact:

Joan Rachlin
Executive Director

or

Nadine Dolby
Assistant to the Director
PRIM&R
132 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116
Telephone: (617) 423-4112 or
(617) 423-1099

AVAILABILITY OF ANIMAL MODELS FOR NEURAL TUBE DEFECTS

P.T. 34; K.W. 0755020, 1002019, 1002059

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

A dominant gene at the *t* locus in the mouse, *T*^{superscript Cu} produces homozygotes that provide a model of extreme failure of neural tube and axial development. *T*^{superscript Cu}/*T*^{superscript Cu} embryos are dramatically abnormal by 10 days of gestation with the neural tube completely open from the cervical through the sacral region, and die by the next day. These embryos are morphologically identifiable by 8 days gestation and occur at a frequency of 25 percent.

Mice that are heterozygous for *T*^{superscript Cu} and the recessive *t* complex "tail interaction factor" *tct* are tailless and consistently (100 percent) show small sacral meningoceles or myelomeningoceles at birth. Such mice usually have some degree of hind-limb paralysis, urinary retention and fecal impaction, and most die within three days to two weeks after birth. They can be identified morphologically as early as 12 days gestation, and their incidence in litters from *T*^{superscript Cu}/+ X *tct/tct* parents is 50 percent.

These models thus provide material for shedding light on some of the major classifications of neural tube defects in man since the processes involved in neural tube formation in mouse and man are extremely similar. They should be useful in studying the etiology of neural tube defects, and also (in the case of T^(superscript Cu)/tct animals) in getting information on secondary effects. The detailed characterization of these models should enable better understanding of abnormalities in the process of neurulation; mechanisms of cell shape change; mechanisms of cell movement; roles of cell surface and extra cellular matrix; contributing effects of other tissues; processes of cell proliferation and death; expression of cell phenotypes; and genetic and environmental factors.

Breeding nuclei of T^(superscript Cu)/+ and tct/tct animals were produced as part of contract N01 HD 6 2925. Requests for the animals can be made to:

Dr. Delbert Dayton
Chief, Genetics and Teratology Branch
National Institute of Child Health
and Human Development
Landow Building, Room 7C08
Bethesda, Maryland 20892
Telephone: (301) 496-5541

or

Dr. Dorothea Bennett
Department of Zoology
University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Texas 78712-1054
Telephone: (512) 471-7131

DATED ANNOUNCEMENTS (RFPs AND RFAs AVAILABLE)

PRIMATE TESTING FACILITY

RFP AVAILABLE: NICHD-CD-87-7

P.T. 36; K.W. 1002002, 0750020, 0755010, 0710100

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

The Contraceptive Development Branch (CDB) of the Center for Population Research, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health, currently maintains a primate testing facility under Contract N01-HD-3-2810 with Hazelton Laboratories America, Inc. The current contract expires on March 31, 1988. This facility comprises approximately 150 cynomolgus monkeys (*Macaca fascicularis*) for the evaluation of contraceptive drugs, devices and delivery systems in both male and female animals. In addition to the general maintenance of these animals in good health and the establishment of menstrual histories of all females, the facility administers drugs, devices and delivery systems in conventional ways, undertakes a broad spectrum of hormonal and biochemical assays including rapid turnover assays for sex steroids, electroejaculates males for assessment of sperm density, motility and abnormal forms, analyzes and prepares concise reports of complex data and interacts with CDB staff on a continuing basis. Future activities will include breeding studies for the evaluation of contraceptive drugs in both sexes and on-destructive toxicological studies. The Contractor must be prepared to undertake any or all studies according to the Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) requirements.

RFP-NICHD-CD-87-7 will be issued on or about September 1, 1987. Proposals will be due approximately 60 days thereafter. Copies of the RFP may be obtained by sending written requests to the following address. Please enclose a self-addressed label.

Paul J. Duska, Contracting Officer
Contract Management Section, OGC
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
Landow Building, Room 6C25
7910 Woodmont Avenue

STRUCTURE-ACTIVITY RELATIONSHIPS (SAR) OF THE BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL DATA
BASES OF THE ANTICONVULSANT SCREENING PROJECT, ANTIEPILEPTIC DRUG DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM

SOURCES SOUGHT ANNOUNCEMENT NINCDS 87-001

P.T. 34; K.W. 0740010, 0715060, 1004008, 0755025

National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke

The National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke (NINCDS), National Institutes of Health (NIH), is seeking to identify sources who may be qualified and interested in conducting structure-activity relationships (SAR) for the molecular and biological databases of the Anticonvulsant Screening Project (ASP) of the Epilepsy Branch, NINCDS. The knowledge gained from these SAR studies is part of a long-range goal to improve therapeutics used in controlling seizures through structure modification of potential new anticonvulsants. An intermediate requirement necessary for the performance of SAR studies will be development of an integrated data management system which will combine all molecular, biological, and textual data of the ASP. This requirement is imperative for the successful completion of SAR studies.

This is not an announcement of the availability of a Request for Proposals. At this time, the NINCDS is only requesting a brief statement of qualifications from interested concerns which have all of the capabilities and resources outlined below.

Currently, the biological data of the ASP is generated as results of eight distinct biological tests performed to evaluate the anticonvulsant, neurotoxic, metabolic effects of a large variety of chemical entities. The database presently consists of over 12,000 compounds, with approximately 1,200 accessioned yearly. The majority of the biological database is currently maintained on a Microvax located at the NIH and written using the software supplied by Digital Corporation, known as Datatrieve. The remaining data is not machine coded and will have to be entered into the database manually. The entry of this portion of the database will be required. The molecular structure database currently resides on PROPHET, a national computer resource supported by the Biomedical Research Technology Program of the Division of Research Resources, National Institutes of Health. It is in the form of connection tables supplied to the Epilepsy Branch under a contractual agreement with Chemical Abstract Services, Columbus, Ohio.

The textual data representing the compound tracking component of the ASP is currently handled manually. Computerization of the textual database will be required for the structure-activity studies in order to simplify the administrative operation and avoid delays in the testing process.

An offeror will be required to furnish all necessary hardware and software for developing an integrated data management system as a tool for performance of the SAR studies. An offeror must document prior experience and expertise in determining SAR evaluations as well as the capability of merging chemical, biological, and textual databases.

It is also anticipated that the offeror may be required to perform work on site at the NIH for establishing and integrated system data management and conducting SAR studies. The amount of time will vary; part-time effort of personnel during the developmental phase, and full-time effort for an individual with SAR experience and expertise for the SAR studies themselves.

Statement of capabilities and qualifications should not exceed 15 typewritten pages. The Government does not intend to award a contract on the basis of responses from this announcement, nor to make payment for preparation of any information which may be submitted. The intent of this synopsis is to determine if there are sufficient numbers of interested and qualified sources for the Government to consider the feasibility of issuing a solicitation for such an acquisition. Acknowledgement will not be made by the Government of receipt of responses, nor will respondents be notified of the Government's

evaluation of the information submitted. Responses should be identified with NINCDS Sources Sought Synopsis No. 87-001, and be received by September 15, 1987. Please submit three (3) copies of your response to:

Mr. Kirkland Davis
Contracting Officer, Contracts Management Branch
National Institute of Neurological and
Communicative Disorders and Stroke
Federal Building, Room 901
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

BEHAVIORAL ASPECTS OF NUTRITION

RFA AVAILABLE: 87-HDDK-09

P.T. 34; K.W. 0710095, 0404000

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney
Diseases

Application Receipt Date: November 23, 1987

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) invite research grant applications for studies on the interactions of behavior and nutrition.

BACKGROUND

Both Institutes wish to encourage interdisciplinary research on the relationships between nutrition and behavior.

Little is known currently about the behavioral and cultural factors that determine food choices and aversions during pregnancy, infancy, and childhood. However, foods are rarely consumed strictly for their nutritive value alone; instead, social, cultural, and religious values of food may predominate in determining ingestive behavior. Pregnant women and young children who subsist on extreme vegetarian or macrobiotic diets may become severely malnourished. These behavioral aspects of nutrition should be amenable to study by using the methodologies of disciplines such as psychology, sociology, economics, and anthropology.

OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

The objective of this announcement is to encourage research on the interactions among behavior, culture, and nutrition. Interdisciplinary studies developed by behavioral and biomedical scientists are particularly encouraged.

Of special interest are studies on the determinants of food selection and aversion and studies on the determinants and controls of food intake at critical stages of the life cycle, including studies of obesity and eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa and anorexia-bulimia.

Some areas of research interest are listed below. They serve as examples only and are not presented in order of priority, nor do they represent the full extent of research sought under this RFA.

- o Pregnancy, including identification of the behavioral, cultural, social and nutritional factors that underlie differences in maternal and fetal weight gain and nutritional status.
- o Infancy, including behavioral, psychological, and cerebral mechanisms that initiate and control infant feeding and weaning.
- o Childhood, including the effect of nutrient deficiencies on behavior as well as the social, behavioral, and physiological factors that influence food preference, choice, and nutritional status.
- o Adolescence, including the cognitive and emotional process involved in choices of food and the nutritional consequences of these behaviors.
- o Behavioral modification of deleterious food habits.

- o Cerebral control of food intake, including studies of the neurochemistry of hunger and satiety that determines ingestive behavior.
- o Animal models, including the development of new animal models in which to study disorders of appetite, maintenance of caloric homeostasis, suckling and weaning behavior, strong food preferences or rejections, and food intolerances; and the deficits in behavior produced by nutritional insults early in life.

MECHANISMS OF SUPPORT

Support for this program will be through the traditional research grant. Policies that govern grant-in-aid award programs of the Public Health Service will prevail.

The support of grants pursuant to this RFA is contingent upon ultimate receipt of appropriated funds for this purpose. The number of awards will be influenced by the amount of funds available to the Institutes, by the overall merit of proposals, and by their relevance to program goals. It is anticipated that seven to eight meritorious applications will be funded under this program by the NICHD and two to three by the NIDDK.

TIMETABLE

Application receipt date	November 23, 1987
Initial review date	January/February 1988
Review by Advisory Councils	May/June 1988
Anticipated award date	July 1, 1988

INQUIRIES

Requests for copies of the complete RFA describing the research goals and scope, the review criteria, and the method of applying should be addressed to:

Gilman D. Grave, M.D.
 Chief, Endocrinology, Nutrition and Growth Branch
 National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
 Room 7C-17, Landow Building
 Bethesda, Maryland 20892
 Telephone: (301) 496-5593

or

Norman A. Krasnegor, Ph.D.
 Chief, Human Learning and Behavior Branch
 National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
 Room 7C-18, Landow Building
 Bethesda, Maryland 20892
 Telephone: (301) 496-6591

or

Van S. Hubbard, M.D., Ph.D.
 Director, Nutrient Metabolism; Obesity, Eating Disorders
 and Energy Regulation Programs
 National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney
 Diseases
 Room 3A18B, Westwood Building
 Bethesda, Maryland 20892
 Telephone: (301) 496-7823

Applications must be submitted using Form 398 (Rev. 9/86). The RFA label contained in the application kit must be affixed to the bottom of the face page of the original copy of the application. Failure to use this label could result in delayed processing and review of your application.