



THE CMBB QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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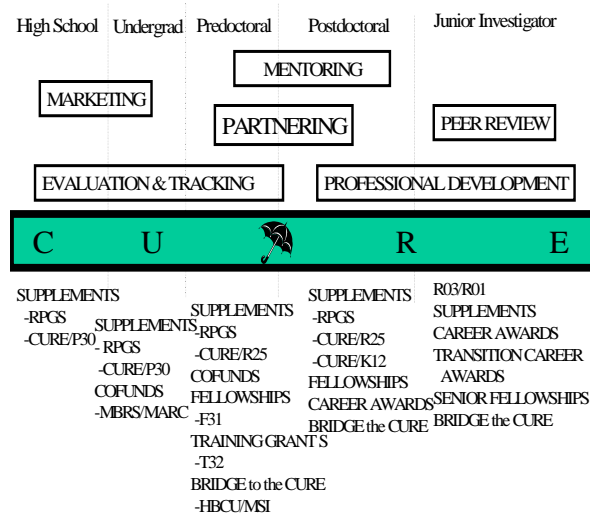
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With the start of a new year, the Comprehensive Minority Biomedical Branch (CMBB) of The National Cancer Institute is pleased to initiate its first quarterly newsletter. We plan to distribute this newsletter to all of our supplement recipients and career development grant awardees in an effort to keep you apprised of what we are doing, new strategies and initiatives that we are planning, and, we hope, to get your feedback as to how your research is progressing and any other comments you may have for us. If we hear from enough of you, we may even decide to start a LETTERS TO THE EDITOR column. We sincerely hope that we do.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CMBB:

We are very excited about the implementation of a new strategy, the development and establishment of the **CURE Program (Continuing Umbrella of Research Experience for Underrepresented Minorities Program)**. This initiative begins by exposing promising minorities at the high school and undergraduate levels to cancer research and then provides a **continuum of competitive opportunities** through the successful established independent cancer investigator. This Program is actively being initiated nationwide.

Another new initiative being implemented by the



CMBP as a part of THE **CURE PROGRAM FOR UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITIES** is **NCI CANCER CENTER SUPPLEMENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH EXPERIENCES**. This initiative will take advantage of the community outreach and research capabilities of NCI-supported cancer centers to engage the scientific curiosity and promote the potential cancer research careers of promising young high school and undergraduate students. Letters and guidelines have been sent to all the Cancer Center Directors advising them of this new supplement initiative.

Continuing with our efforts to promote the **CURE Program**, the CMBP is initiating a supplement program for R25 (Cancer Education Grants) and K12 (Physician Scientist Awards). Any active R25 or K12 grantee focused on the training and career development of prevention, control and population scientists (clinical scientists) is eligible to apply. Letters and guidelines are in the process of being mailed to all K12 and R25 grantees.

Please note: The **Mentored Career Development Award** has now been changed from an RFA to a Program Announcement, published in the NIH Guide on September 18, 1998 as PAR-98-103. This means that it has become an ongoing initiative with the usual three receipt dates, October 1, February 1, and June 1. Because there was not much time between the publication of the announcement and the first receipt date, only two applications were received this time around. We hope to get many more applications

in February.

Our second **Mentoring and Peer Review Workshop** was held from June 1-3, 1998. It was attended by postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty members who have held Minority Supplements and recipients of our Mentored Career Development Awards. The workshop presented an opportunity for the attendees to interact with NCI intramural scientists, learn about research interests of the NCI, and NIH peer review process and engage in discussions with NCI staff about career development opportunities. The Mentored Career Development Award recipients also had the unique opportunity to sit as reviewers in a Mock Study Section. All in all, the workshop was considered a rousing success.

We are also in the early planning stages for the **3rd annual Mentoring and Peer Review Workshop**. However, the name has been changed to better reflect what we are all about. The **Professional Development and Peer Review Workshop** will be held from May 3-5, 1999. The format for the workshop will follow the two previous ones; opening remarks from NIH and NCI staff, talks by previous attendees, a session on grantsmanship, the grant review process, funding sources, and a breakout session so attendees may have a chance to speak with representatives from the various NCI divisions close up and personal. We also hope to unveil our booklet, **"Mentoring Young Scientists."** For those attendees who are recipients of a Mentored Career Development Award there will also be a "mock study section" review session.

The first of two workshops of the **Recruitment and Retention of Minorities and Women into Cancer Clinical Trials**, co-sponsored by the CMBB, the Early Detection Branch (EDB) of the Division of Cancer Prevention and the Office of Special Populations Research (OSPR), was held at the Turf Valley Resort and Conference Center, Ellicott City, Maryland from July 13-14, 1998. Attendees included R03 grantees of the EDB, R13 grantees of the CMBB and OSPR special population representatives. The goals of the workshop were to formulate recommendations to the NCI regarding the participation of women and minority groups in clinical cancer research that are specific to practice, research, education and outreach; present and discuss individual EDB and CMBB projects that are focused on women and minorities in clinical cancer research; and to identify common themes within these projects that may be used to help organize a monograph and identify other project dissemination tools. The second workshop is scheduled for February 26-27, 1999, at which time the monograph chapters will be

reviewed, discussed and, hopefully, the monograph will begin to take shape. Concurrent with the publication of the monograph, hopefully in November 1999, we plan to hold a national meeting to disseminate copies of the monograph to attendees and further discuss the recruitment and retention of women and minorities in cancer clinical trials, with a focus on prevention and screening trials.

Stay tuned for updates.

Remember, your comments and/or suggestions are important to us. To get in touch, e-mail either Dr. Sanya Springfield, ss165i@nih.gov or Ms. Bobby Rosenfeld, rr63v@nih.gov.