



THE CMBB QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

<http://minorityopportunities.nci.nih.gov>

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CMBB STAFF:

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We hope all of you had a great summer, lots of fun in the sun, and are now back at work and enjoying what you are doing and where you are doing it.

Unfortunately, Dr. Sanya Springfield, our wonderful Branch Chief, did not enjoy her summer too much. In early September, she underwent surgery on her cervical spine. We are happy to report that the surgery went well and she is now recovering at home. The recovery is going very well and hopefully she will be back at the office soon. We miss her smiling face and gracious manner and are looking forward to her speedy return.

A MESSAGE FROM DR. SPRINGFIELD

I want to thank everyone who prayed for me, sent me flowers, fruit baskets, cards, emails, notes, letters, phone calls and their many other expressions and well wishes for a successful surgery and a full and speedy recovery. These, along with my faith in God, have brought me through VICTORIOUSLY. I am getting stronger every day, I am fortunate to have my family with me during my recuperation and nursing me back to good health. Each time I look at them, at

you, your flowers, your cards, or talk to you by phone, I am reminded of how truly blessed I am.

I can't wait to get back in the office, but I know that some of you never really noticed my absence. You see, I am not only blessed with wonderful family and friends but the best staff in all of NIH! Each one, Nelson (Hector), Bobby, Peter, Belinda, and LaShell, has taken on additional responsibilities and has left no email unreturned, no phone call unanswered, no supplement application unpaid.....in short, no request unmet. I can't thank them enough for allowing me to have the peace of mind that was needed in these difficult times. I have been able to go through this knowing that CMBB would remain in good health.

Again, thanks to all.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE REGARDING THE NIH RESTRUCTURING OF SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

Some of you may have already heard about the NIH moving toward a new, centralized administrative structure to support the functions of grants management, peer review

and scientific program management that now take place within the extramural centers and divisions. October 4th marked the official beginning of the new NIH structure responsible for these functions, the Division of Extramural Activities Support (DEAS).

DEAS is now responsible for all extramural-related support staff functions. Some of the tasks that are now handled by DEAS are clerical aspects of grants administration, grants reporting, grants and policy communication, travel for meetings and workshops, contracts management, and arrangements for speakers and experts to travel and be paid. This effort is meant to improve efficiency, consolidate similar activities, introduce best practices, and increase workforce productivity.

Therefore, with any organizational change, there will be some transitional difficulties. DEAS is very different from what we are used to. For one thing, there is a reduced number of clerical and administrative staff that helps out the program directors. Staff may be assigned to our program, but will not be supervised by us. For example, staff formerly assigned to an NCI branch will now be serving a larger group. There have been over 650 staff members across NIH that were required to leave their positions. NCI alone lost over 125 staff members. As a consequence of this, CMBB lost its friend and co-worker, Ms. **LaShell Gaskins**. Although we hate to see her go, because of the restructuring we had no choice. As of October 3, LaShell is no longer part of the CMBB, but she will always be remembered by those of us who worked with her as a special person with whom it has been our pleasure to work with and know. LaShell, we love you and will miss you, and wish you only the best.

We have been told that the CMBB will receive support from DEAS staff, but the fact remains that the loss of LaShell means that we lost a highly trained, experienced, and knowledgeable person who knew our organization and customers.

Unfortunately, this change may have a negative impact on the service that we are used to providing. However, we will make every effort to offer the same high quality service that our customers are used to.

Please bear with us during this time of transition.

DEAS, also referred to as the MEO (Most Efficient Organization) is the product of a competitive cost comparison study that began in 2003 and resulted in the government winning against a contract proposal from the private sector. The study was conducted as part of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-76 Performance of Commercial Activities. This circular has been in place since the 1950s and is sometimes used to determine the most economical means of conducting government functions. These studies are occurring more frequently as part of President Bush's Management Agenda and the efforts of the Department of Health and Human Services to increase efficiency, reduce costs, and consolidate and centralize functions.

CONGRATULATIONS CORNER

Our Career Development grantees and many of our supplement recipients are doing some great things and we so much enjoy letting you all know about them. So, if **YOU** have any news to report about your accomplishments, please let us know and we'll be more than happy to let our readers know what you are doing. So, we would like to acknowledge the following:

Oyajobi Babatunde, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, a recent K01 grantee, has been invited to present at the 10th International Myeloma Workshop in Sydney Australia. The workshop will be held from April 10-14, 2005.

Carlos Moreno, Emory University, Atlanta, has had three papers accepted for publication in addition to his R01 application having received a score of 168 (12.9 percentile).

Julien Moore, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, New York, a minority supplement recipient, has had his manuscript accepted for publication. It will appear in the Nov/Dec 2004 issue of Photochemistry Photobiology.

Thomas Berton, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, has been appointed to Research Instructor, a Non-tenure track Junior Faculty position. Also, in FY2005, he will be receiving his K01 grant.

June M. McKoy, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, has been promoted to Assistant Professor and has co-authored a paper that was published in the September issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

Miguel Berrios, State University of New York, Stony Brook, has had one paper accepted for publication and another one has been submitted.

Carlton Cooper, University of Delaware, a K22 recipient, has been invited to speak at the National Endocrine Society meeting. He has also served on a number of study sections for DoD and NIH.

2005 CMBB MEETING SCHEDULE

MI/CCP Presidential Forum – April 16, 2005, Anaheim, CA

Professional Development and Peer Review Workshop – May 2-3, 2005, Gaithersburg, MD.

MI/CCP Funded Investigators and Technical Assistance Workshop – September 12-13, 2005, Bethesda, MD

The MI/CCP Presidential Forum is being held in conjunction with the annual AACR meeting. It is by invitation only for Cancer Center Directors and Presidents of both majority and minority serving institutions that currently have an ongoing Partnership (U54, U56, P20) grant.

For the Professional Development and Peer Review Workshop, we expect to have our invitation letters ready to go out by the middle of February. If for some reason you do not receive an invitation, and you are the recipient of a minority supplement at the junior faculty, postdoctoral or graduate student level and you have NOT already attended two previous workshops, please contact Ms. Bobby Rosenfeld to let her know (rr63v@nih.gov). It means that we either do not have your e-mail address or I inadvertently left you off the invitation list. All of our Career Development (K) and Predoctoral (F31) grantees will also be invited to attend, along with other selected invitees.

The first day of the MI/CCP Workshop will be a Technical Assistance Workshop for those investigators interested in applying for the first time in response to one of the three new RFAs or have applied and have not been funded. In addition, in a separate session, PIs and selected investigators from already funded Minority Institution/Cancer Center Partnership Program will be in attendance to share their results and establish potential collaborations with other funded partnerships.

The P20 RFA has already been published in the NIH Guide. Look for RFA-CA-05-020. (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-CA-05-020.html>). Letters of Intent are due November 17, 2004; application receipt date is December 17, 2004.

SUMMARY OF CMBB FY 04 FUNDING

October 1, 2004 was the beginning of a new fiscal year, 2005. Our funding for 2004 might be of interest to you. Figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

Supplements to Research Project Grants, Cancer Centers (P30), SPORES (P50), and Cancer Education (R25) (we only had one budget this year to fund all of these mechanisms): \$14,909,000

**Supplements to Institutional Research
Training grants (T32): \$936,000**

**Career Development (K) grants:
\$9,342,000**

**Predocctoral Fellowship (F31) grants:
\$1,869,000**

**MI/CCP Program (P20, U56, U54) grants:
\$17,769,000**

MBRS (S06) Co-funded grants: \$4,012,000

AACR Conference Grants: \$362,000

**Co-funds to SACNAS and BioTech:
\$35,000**

For a total of approximately \$49,234,000.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

University of Kansas Medical Center
Department of Preventive Medicine and
Public Health, is offering multiple positions,
which are shown below.

One faculty and one post-doctoral position
will focus on candidates with experience in
neuroimaging, especially in nicotine addition
or obesity. Candidates should have a
medical degree (MD) or a doctoral degree in
epidemiology, statistics/biostatistics, nutrition,
health education, social/behavioral sciences,
health communications or psychology.
Faculty will have varying teaching and
mentoring responsibilities with MPH and
medical students. A new MS degree begins
in clinical research this fall 2004, and plans
are underway to develop a doctoral program.

Vice-Chair: Associate or Full Professor with
a track record in extramurally funded
research to assist in building active programs

of research and department administration.
Faculty (three positions): Assistant, Associate
or Full Professor with ample protected time to
build strong extramurally funded programs.

Postdoctoral Fellowships (2 positions):
Appointments for 2-3 years with flexible start
dates, competitive salaries, excellent
resources for career development, and
liberal benefits. Fellowships
tailored to individual's career goals including
opportunities for grant writing, teaching,
clinical work, MPH or MS. Clinical Research
degree, and authorship on manuscripts.

Mentoring is available from psychologists,
physicians, epidemiologists and statisticians.

Postdoctoral fellows apply on-line only at
<http://jobs.kumc.edu>. Search for position
#M0202267. Faculty applicants should send
cover letter (specify which position you are
applying for) with summary of research
interests and past work, CV and three letters
of reference to:

Jasjit S. Ahluwalia, MD, MPH, MS
Attn: Le-Thu Erazmus, MSE
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