Small Business Opportunities

SBIR and STTR Programs

with NCI's Epidemiology and Genetics Research Program

The Epidemiology and Genetics Research Program (EGRP) manages a comprehensive program of grant-supported, population-based research to increase our understanding of cancer etiology and prevention. EGRP supports epidemiologic research in four areas: (1) methods and technologies for epidemiologic studies; (2) modifiable risk factors (e.g., diet and nutrition, alcohol, physical activity and energy balance, tobacco, infectious diseases, physical and chemical agents, and medical exposures, including medications and treatments); (3) host susceptibility factors (e.g., genetic, epigenetic, immunological, hormonal, and biological pathways; and social, cultural, and race/ethnic factors); and (4) clinical and translational research (e.g., clinical factors that influence development of cancer among persons with underlying diseases and conditions; the progression, recurrence, and mortality from cancer; and new primary cancers). EGRP also offers investigators several research services and resources—facilitation of cancer epidemiology consortia; the Breast and Colon Cancer Family Registries (CFRs); the Cancer Genetics Network (CGN); and the Geographic Information System for Breast Cancer Studies on Long Island (LI GIS), which also can be used for research on other diseases.

Through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs, EGRP is particularly interested in supporting research on the following topics:

Tools for Assessment of Exposures and Biomarkers

- ▼ MicroRNA profiling in epidemiologic studies.
- ▼ Detection of mitochondrial DNA alterations for cancer epidemiologic studies.
- Development of methods for measuring biomarkers of human exposure or susceptibility, and of nutritional status, and methods for monitoring changes in biomarkers for use in cancer epidemiologic studies.
- Development of new or improved devices for quantitative measurement of human exposure to environmental carcinogens for epidemiologic studies.
- Development of methods to evaluate potential cancer clusters for epidemiologic studies.

▼ = New in the 2008 Omnibus Solicitations

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National Institutes of Health
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Tools for Cancer Epidemiology Studies

- Development of tools to model cancer risks from environmental and occupational agents.
- Development of software for electronic capture of risk factor data for cancer epidemiologic studies.
- Development of consumer-friendly risk prediction models from epidemiologic data.
- Development of software for tracking biological specimens for cancer epidemiologic studies.
- Development of software for electronic identification, screening, and recruitment of participants, especially minorities, into epidemiologic studies.
- Development of Web-based data collection or applicable bioinformatics tools for cancer epidemiology.
- Development of software or methods for rapid case ascertainment of cancers.
- Development of geographic information systems with special visualization techniques for the simultaneous assessment of environmental exposures and health outcomes.
- Development of tools using publicly available data to identify population-based controls for epidemiologic studies.
- Development of software for analysis of DNA methylation biomarkers for early detection of prostate or breast cancers through use of specimens from biorepositories.

The above topics are examples representative of EGRP's goals for the SBIR/STTR Programs. EGRP also will consider supporting research on topics of interest to other NCI organizational units that are relevant to epidemiologic research. Learn more about NCI's areas of interest in the "Omnibus Solicitation for SBIR/STTR Grant Applications" for Fiscal Year 2008. For general information on how to apply for support, visit the following SBIR/STTR Web pages:

- EGRP's SBIR/STTR Programs: epi.grants.cancer.gov/ResPort/sbir.html
- NCI's SBIR/STTR Web site: sbir.cancer.gov
- NIH Small Business Research Funding Opportunities Web site: grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/sbir.htm

EGRP Contact:

Investigators with novel ideas are encouraged to discuss their proposals with Jay Choudhry, M.S., Program Director for SBIR/STTR Programs, Epidemiology and Genetics Research Program; Telephone: (301) 435-6613; Fax: (301) 435-6609;
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In the SBIR Program, funding is usually provided for up to 6 months and $100,000 total cost for Phase I feasibility studies, and for up to 2 years and $750,000 for Phase II projects. The STTR Program requires close collaboration between the small business and a partnered research institution. The small business is to conduct at least 40% of the research project, and the single partnering institution conducts at least 30% of the work. Funding is usually provided for up to 1 year and $100,000 total cost for Phase I feasibility studies, and for up to 2 years and $750,000 for Phase II projects. The guidelines offer some flexibility on time and amount of funding. However, exceeding the guidelines requires sufficient justification in the application.