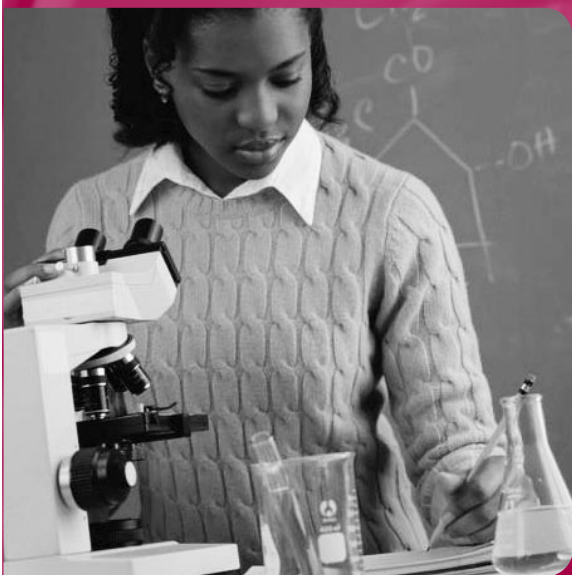


# Division of Special Populations



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

*Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of  
Child Health and Human Development

## What is the Division of Special Populations?

The Division of Special Populations, within the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), serves to strengthen the NICHD's commitment to ensuring the health and well-being of all by addressing and eliminating health disparities through the inclusion of diverse populations in biomedical and biobehavioral research in the United States and abroad.

## What does the Division of Special Populations do?

The mission of the Division of Special Populations is to:

- Inform the public about issues related to health disparities.
- Develop initiatives that encourage, facilitate, and increase participation of diverse populations and developing nations in biomedical and behavioral research endeavors.
- Develop research and scientific leadership in colleges and universities worldwide.

To accomplish its mission, the Division administers a number of programs, including the Extramural Associates (EA) Program, which serves all of the NIH, Academic/Community Partnership Conference Series, and the Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research. These programs are described below.

## Extramural Associates (EA) Program

The EA Program seeks to develop a cadre of scientists who contribute to biomedical and behavioral research and advance understanding of health challenges that significantly impact diverse populations.

The EARDA is designed to facilitate the development of institutional capacity in supporting the technical development of research grant proposals, providing oversight and administrative management of grant awards, and fostering and facilitating ongoing research activities. Capacity development in research administration includes, but is not limited to: recruiting and training staff in research administration; creating databases; establishing collaborative activities with other institutions of higher learning; developing research administration curricula; and sponsoring training courses in regulatory compliance, research methodologies, grantsmanship, and scientific writing.

The following types of institutions are a priority for the EA Program:

- Women's colleges and universities
- Colleges and universities offering undergraduate, graduate, or health professional degrees that have a traditionally high (more than 50 percent) minority student enrollment, such as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), and Tribal Colleges
- Colleges and universities in developing countries



The primary mechanism for the EA Program to accomplish its mission is through the Extramural Associates Research Development Award (EARDA). Two types of EARDA mechanisms are currently available.

### Domestic EARDA

The Domestic EARDA provides training in NIH policies and procedures through an NIH distance-learning component and a two-part, NIH residency program (for first-time applicants) to applicants from women's or minority-serving institutions of higher learning in the United States or its territories. The Domestic EARDA also provides modest support for developing or strengthening offices of research development and/or offices of sponsored projects at these institutions. For example, St. Thomas University in Miami is using the Domestic EARDA to develop a strong research infrastructure that will engage faculty and students in research, and that will provide a wide range of training, communications, development, and outreach activities.

## International EARDA (I-EARDA)

The I-EARDA offers the same distance-learning component and NIH residency program as the Domestic EARDA, but also provides funding to augment or expand upon existing research administrative infrastructure (e.g., Office of Research, Office of Sponsored Projects) at institutions in developing countries. With this expansion, the administrative infrastructure will be able to: provide thorough oversight and administrative management of extramural awards; support faculty who wish to secure external funding; serve as the main organizational unit for the technical development of grant proposals; and foster and facilitate ongoing research activities at the institution. For instance, Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, is using the I-EARDA to establish an Office of Research Development to focus on strengthening grants management skills, creating a grant resource center to provide grant support services, improving finance and accounting systems, and enhancing information technology infrastructure.

## Academic/Community Partnership Conference Series

The Academic/Community Partnership Conference Series grant (U13) allows investigators to conduct meetings, workshops, and symposia related to health disparities and disparity-related topics. The goals of these meetings are to:

- Define a community of interest.
- Establish partnerships between academic institutions and organizations within that community (including but not limited to schools and school communities).
- Identify the community's views of its own health to establish research priorities.

- Develop a long-term research agenda to align the identified health problems and the institution's research priorities.

Areas of focus for these partnerships may include (but are not limited to): infant mortality; violence prevention; childhood, adolescent, or adult obesity; health literacy; uterine fibroids; pediatric and maternal HIV/AIDS prevention; and techniques for outreach and information dissemination.

In a collaborative relationship focused on women's health issues, Spelman College and Atlanta's Center for Black Women's Wellness, Inc., are using this U13 mechanism to host a conference series on the rates of preterm delivery, infant mortality, and low birthweight deliveries among minority populations in Georgia.

## Research Supplements To Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research

The NICHD encourages academic institutions to diversify their student and faculty populations, which in turn increases the participation of individuals currently underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral, and social sciences.

Through this mechanism, managed through the Division of Special Populations, Principal Investigators (PIs) who hold certain research grants (listed below) can apply for additional funds to support and recruit students, postdoctoral students and fellows, and eligible investigators from the following groups:

- Individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups;
- Individuals with disabilities; and
- Individuals from socially, culturally, economically, or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds, which inhibited their ability to pursue a career in health-related research.



PIs at domestic institutions who hold an active R01, R10, R18, R22, R24, R35, R37, R41, R42, R43, R44, P01, P20, P30, P40, P41, P50, P51, P60, U01, U10, U19, U41, U42, U54, or S06 grant may be eligible to submit a request for an administrative supplement to the awarding component of the parent grant.

Those who hold active Small Grant Awards (R03), Academic Research Enhancement Awards (R15), or Exploratory/Developmental Grants (R21) must check with the appropriate awarding component before submitting an application for a supplement because eligibility policies vary.

The supplements are also available to those who hold active P20, P30, and P60 grants, but only if the projects contain research components.

Those who hold active S06 awards are also eligible for supplements, but only to support postdoctoral fellows and faculty.



## How can I get more information about the Division of Special Populations?

- **Regina Smith James, M.D.**  
Acting Director  
*E-mail:* rjames@mail.nih.gov  
*Phone:* (301) 435-2692
- **Jean Flagg-Newton, Ph.D.**  
Health Scientist Administrator  
*E-mail:* FlaggNeJ@mail.nih.gov  
*Phone:* (301) 435-2722
- **Carl V. Hill, Ph.D.**  
Health Scientist Administrator  
*E-mail:* hillcv@mail.nih.gov  
*Phone:* (301) 435-2712
- **Andrea Pfeffer**  
Program Analyst  
*E-mail:* pfeffera@mail.nih.gov  
*Phone:* (301) 435-2723

### **Main Mailing Address:**

Division of Special Populations, NICHD  
6100 Executive Boulevard, Room 5E03  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7510

Please visit the Division of Special Populations Web site, at <http://www.nichd.nih.gov/about/org/dsp/>, to find the latest Funding Opportunity Announcements related to the EA Program, the Academic/Community Partnership Conference Series, and the Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research.



For Administrative Use  
June 2008