NIH GUIDE

For Grants and Contracts

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The NIH Guide announces scientific initiatives and provides policy and administrative information to individuals and organizations who need to be kept informed of opportunities, requirements, and changes in extramural programs administered by the National Institutes of Health.

Vol. 17, No. 31
September 30, 1988

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NOTICES

DATED ANNOUNCEMENTS (RFPs AND RFAs)

ONGOING PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING FOR SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT

P.T. 34; K.W. 1014001

National Institutes of Health

The Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, "Announcement of Development of Regulations Protecting Againt Scientific Fraud or Misconduct," was published in the Federal Register on September 19, 1988, Vol. 53, No. 181, pp 36344-36347. This is a request for public comment on the development of regulations to protect against scientific misconduct.

The Proposed rule, "Responsibilities of PHS Awardee and Applicant Institutions for Dealing With and Reporting Possible Misconduct in Science," was published in the Federal Register on September 19, 1988, Vol. 53, No. 181, pp 36347-36350," This proposed rule would require applicant institutions to have an established policy and procedures for handling scientific misconduct.

You may wish to review these two announcements. Any comments you wish to make must be submitted by November 18, 1988.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS FOR NHLBI PROGRAM PROJECT GRANTS

P.T. 34; K.W. 1014002

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) has been and continues to be firmly committed to the Program Project Grant as a cost-effective means to support multiproject interdisciplinary research. After examination of current review practices and an assessment of the resources devoted to these programs, the NHLBI will institute a significant policy change regarding supplemental applications. Effective as of the October 1, 1988 receipt date, supplemental applications will only be accepted for:

- Continuation of subprojects approved for less than the full project period of the parent Program Project Grant; or
- Expansion of existing projects for very unusual needs which cannot be met by rebudgeting or alternate support mechanisms.

Applications that meet these criteria may be submitted beginning in the second year of a project period, for support to commence in the third or subsequent years. No more than one supplemental application will be accepted per budget period, although multiple requests may be combined in the same application. All budgetary components of the request should meet the criteria for acceptance; otherwise the whole application may be returned. Acceptable applications for continuation or expansion, will be reviewed not only on the basis of scientific merit, but also on the overall progress and cohesiveness of all components in the program. Any rare requests for expansion should be strongly justified, emphasizing special needs which cannot be otherwise met.

Supplemental applications will not be accepted for:

- New subprojects, or
- Restoration of items or components not funded during review of previous applications.

Because new and promising research opportunities often arise, applicants may wish to consider the submission of related new projects as individual (R01) grants while developing mechanisms to foster collaboration and integration with ongoing programs.

The Institute and its advisors believe this change should strengthen the program project grant mechanism. However, if specific problems should arise, applicants should contact the NHLBI program staff member who administers the grant. As in the past, advance notification of all intended Program Project applications should also be sent to:

Chief, Program Project Review Section
DEA, NHLBI
National Institutes of Health
Westwood Building, Room 554
5333 Westbard Avenue
Bethesda, Maryland 20892
Telephone: (301) 496-7265

REMINDERS: PAGE LIMITATIONS AND LEGIBILITY OF GRANT APPLICATIONS

P.T. 34; K.W. 1014002

Division of Research Grants

The page limitations indicated in the instructions to the grant application form (PHS 398, Revised 9/86) are being strictly enforced. Applications that exceed these page limitations will be returned without review.

In addition, applications must be readily legible. In an effort to include as much information as possible within the page limitations, some applicants have compressed the spaces between letters and words and reduced the type size to such a degree that the application is not readily legible. Such applications will also be returned without review. Some guidelines for legibility were explained in an earlier issue of the Guide - Vol. 17, No. 18, May 20, 1988. As noted there, the type must not exceed 15 characters per inch. If the type used varies in the number of characters per inch (i.e, a different spacing for each letter), the range of characters per inch should not exceed 15. In addition, the type should not be reduced in height, but should be the standard size, which is in the 10 to 12 point range (approximately 1/8 inch for capital letters).

DATED ANNOUNCEMENTS (RFPs AND RFAs)

SYNTHESIS AND TESTING OF NON-STEROIDAL MALE CONTRACEPTIVE AGENTS

RFP AVAILABLE: NICHD-CD-89-2

P.T. 34; K.W. 1003006, 0755025, 0750020

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

The Contraceptive Development Branch, Center for Population Research, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, has a requirement for the synthesis and testing of non-steroidal male contraceptive agents. The specific objectives of the project are the design, synthesis, and testing of non-steroidal compounds which inhibit testicular sperm development, post-testicular sperm maturation and epididymal function.

Organizations must have adequate facilities and capabilities to carry out the proposed synthetic chemical program. Specifically excluded from this project are LHRH analogs; gossypol derivatives; steroidal agents; all alkylating agents including chlorohydrin, deoxychlorosugars, nitrogen mustards, ethyleneimines, and sulfonoxyalkanes; nonspecific antimetabolites; antimitotic agents; N-substituted diamines (such as Win. 13,099); and nitroheterocyclic compounds. Proposals to merely collect compounds from various sources and/or only perform biological assays will not be considered.

The NICHD has set aside approximately $2.2 million for this project.

RFP-NICHD-CD-89-2 will be issued on or about October 17, 1988. Proposals will be due approximately 90 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
Contracts Management Section, OGC
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
Executive Plaza North, Room 610
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

PRESOLICITATION: COLLABORATIVE STUDIES ON THE GENETICS OF ALCOHOLISM

RFA: 89-AA-01A & 01B

P.T. 34; K.W. 1002019, 0404003

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

Anticipated RFA Availability Date: December 30, 1988

Anticipated Application Receipt Date: April 3, 1989

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the announcement is to alert the scientific community to the proposed issuance of two companion Requests for Applications (RFAs) for collaborative studies on the genetics of alcoholism. Applications will be sought for a Coordinating Center (RFA 89-AA-01A) and for Extramural Research Groups (RFA 89-AA-01B).

RESEARCH GOALS AND PHASING

The overall objective of this program is to support the research necessary to identify the genes which influence susceptibility to alcoholism. This collaborative study will involve genetic studies of alcoholics and their relatives, the acquisition of immortalized lymphocytes for DNA analysis, and investigations of the association of potential marker phenotypes with the expression of the alcoholic phenotype(s) within the families being studied.

It is envisioned that the study will be conducted in three phases. Collaborative development of the coordinated study plan (Phase I, 1 year), enrollment of subjects, data acquisition, and mapping studies (Phase II, 3 years), and follow up and further data acquisition and analysis (Phase III, 1 year).

MECHANISM OF SUPPORT

The mechanism of support for these RFAs will be the cooperative agreement, an assistance mechanism. Awards made under this mechanism differ from the traditional research grant. While the awardees are primarily responsible for the conduct of the study, NIAAA anticipates substantial involvement in both planning and coordination during performance of the research.

Responsibilities of the Coordinating Center will be outlined in more detail in RFA 89-AA-01A. They will include activities such as: organizing the meetings required to develop the definitive study plan, training personnel from all sites for common diagnostic protocols if required, provision of a cell repository for immortalized lymphocytes from study subjects, and provision of a centralized database for the study. The responsibilities of the Extramural Research Groups will be outlined in more detail in RFA 89-AA-01B. They will include recruiting subjects and carrying out all other aspects of the collaborative study. Applicants may submit proposals in response to one or both RFAs. Applications submitted in response to either RFA may involve a single institution or a multi-institution collaboration.

Issuance of the Requests for Applications is contingent on administrative approval of the use of the cooperative agreement for this program and on the availability of funds. It is anticipated that approximately $2 million will be available for this purpose in FY 1989 and that awards will be made for a single Coordinating Center and for from two to five Extramural Research Groups. The expected duration of the awards is 5 years.

INQUIRIES

To receive a copy of one or both RFAs when available, please send two self-addressed mailing labels to the address below. For further information contact:

Dr. W. Sue Badman Shafer
Deputy Director, Division of Basic Research, NIAAA
Parklawn Building, Room 14-C-10
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20857
Telephone: (301) 443-2530

PUBLIC-ACADEMIC LIAISON (PAL) FOR RESEARCH ON SERIOUS MENTAL DISORDERS

P.T. 34; K.W. 0785185, 0745060

National Institute of Mental Health

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) announces a new initiative to solicit applications for funding of clinical and research services on the particular problems of severely ill psychiatric patients through a collaboration between the public sector, e.g., State hospital, community mental health center, or ambulatory program, and centers of research excellence, e.g., university medical centers or research institutes. Public Academic Liaison (PAL) plans may include treatment research units, shared use of sophisticated equipment or technology, or the establishment of research on treatment systems. For regular research grants under this award, applicants are encouraged to apply for 5 years of support. NIMH will accept applications in response to this announcement under the usual Public Health Service receipt dates for new applications, beginning February 1, 1989. Potential applicants interested in obtaining further information should contact:

S. Charles Schulz, M.D.
Chief
Pharmacologic and Somatic Treatments Research Program
Schizophrenia Research Branch
Division of Clinical Research
Room 10C-06, Parklawn Building
Telephone: (301) 443-3524

or

Thomas Lalley, M.A.
Chief
Biometric and Clinical Applications Branch
Division of Biometry and Applied Sciences
Room 18C-105, Parklawn Building
Telephone: (301) 443-3364

The mailing address for both of the above is: 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

MATHEMATICAL/COMPUTATIONAL/THEORETICAL NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH AWARDS

P.T. 34; K.W. 0715020, 1002030

National Institute of Mental Health

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke (NINCDS) invite research and research training grant applications (individual and institutional) for studies using mathematical, computational, or theoretical approaches to understanding the fundamental mechanisms underlying behavior and for research training in these approaches. The purpose of this program is to place additional emphasis on the use of quantitative tools in solving basic problems in the neurosciences. Applicants may request support for a period of up to 5 years. NIMH will accept applications in response to this announcement under the usual Public Health Service receipt dates for new applications, beginning February 1, 1989. Potential applicants interested in obtaining further information, please contact one of the following:

Richard Nakamura, Ph.D.
Chief, Behavioral Program
Neurosciences Research Branch
Division of Basic Sciences
National Institute of Mental Health
Parklawn Building, Room 11105
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20857
Telephone: (301) 443-1504

or

Herbert Lansdell, Ph.D.
Head, Neuropsychology
Division of Fundamental Neurosciences
National Institute of Neurological and
Communicative Disorders and Stroke
Federal Building, Room 916
Bethesda, Maryland 20892
Telephone: (301) 496-5745

BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH TRAINING

P.T. 44; K.W. 0710035

National Institute of General Medical Sciences

Application Receipt Dates: January 10, May 10, September 10

The National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) announces new predoctoral and postdoctoral research training programs in the area of biotechnology. These programs differ from existing NIGMS research training programs primarily in their emphasis on engineering, mathematical and physical research methods, and approaches to the analysis of biological processes. Consistent with the Office of Technology Assessment's definition of biotechnology as "any technique that uses living organisms (or parts of organisms) to make or modify products, to improve plants or animals, or to develop microorganisms for specific uses," these research training programs are designed to enhance technological explorations leading to the development of new or improved biotechnology products and services. Research training to be supported under this announcement include predoctoral (T32) institutional training grants, individual postdoctoral (F32) fellowships, and senior (F33) fellowships.

The NIGMS currently supports predoctoral research training through the National Research Service Award (NRSA) institutional training grants in five major programs: Cellular and Molecular Biology, Genetics, Molecular Biophysics, Pharmacological Sciences, and Systems and Integrative Biology. In addition, postdoctoral fellowship awards support interdisciplinary research training in several areas. These awards have a strong emphasis on multidisciplinary training in basic research. The Institute's goal in these programs is to provide trainees with broad access to research opportunities across disciplinary and departmental lines, while not sacrificing the standards of depth and creativity characteristic of the best Ph.D. programs of individual departments. Cooperative involvement of faculty members from several departments as research mentors is considered evidence of such breadth.

The intention of the new biotechnology programs is to provide research training which focuses on the applications of engineering, physics, chemistry, mathematics, and biology to those areas of biomedical research related to biotechnology. This program is initiated in response to the enormous growth of the biotechnology industry that has resulted in critical shortages of experts in biochemical engineering, biocomputation, macromolecular structure, protein engineering, immunogenetics, protein chemistry, separation technologies, and other areas that coincide with the major biotechnology research needs. There is also an increasing demand for bioscientists trained in more classical areas such as biological chemistry, cell biology, enzymology, microbial ecology, microbial physiology, molecular genetics, pharmacology/toxicology, physiology and virology, who are needed to assure that the numerous potentially beneficial products developed commercially are safe, effective and appropriately used as they are brought to market. The relative absence of coordinated research training programs in such areas occurs at a time when the demand for these capabilities is growing in the academic, industrial and governmental sectors.

PREDOCTORAL RESEARCH TRAINING GRANTS

Applications requesting support of PREDOCTORAL RESEARCH TRAINING in biotechnology should accommodate the following considerations:

- Biotechnology research training should be an interdisciplinary enterprise targeted toward the production of a new cadre of scientists with facility and orientation to combine basic and applied research. However, such interdisciplinary training must follow fundamentally sound undergraduate preparation in biology, computer science, chemical engineering, applied mathematics, chemistry, or physics.

- Because students entering the program will have different backgrounds, biotechnology training programs should have sufficient flexibility to accommodate a variety of candidates, with backgrounds, in, for example, chemical engineering, biology, applied mathematics, chemistry, computer science, and physics.

- Biotechnology research training should provide for a significant amount of laboratory experience based on state-of-the-art common methodologies (e.g., bioprocess engineering, plant and animal cell culture technologies, biocomputing, macromolecular structure analyses, hybridoma technology, molecular genetics, cell fractionation, and separation technologies).

- To ensure formal mechanisms for multidepartmental organization and truly inter- (or cross-) disciplinary training, and to make provision for academic and industrial collaborations in research training, it is desirable that these training programs be established at academic institutions with viable biotechnology research programs (centers, institutes, or consortia). Scientists from both the industrial and academic sectors should participate in such research training programs. Also, it is expected that trainees will participate in internships in biotechnology industries, in order to ensure an appropriate balance of basic and applied biotechnology research experiences and perspectives.

- It is expected that the Federal resources committed to the support of biotechnology research training programs will be further augmented by explicit cost-sharing mechanisms, employing the university or state's resources, as well as those of industries collaborating with these biotechnology research and research training institutions.

The stipend level for predoctoral trainees is $8,500 per annum. In addition, the applicant institution may request up to $1,500 per year for each predoctoral trainee for essential direct support costs to the training program. Tuition support for each trainee may be requested in accordance with amounts charged to other graduate students. Indirect costs will be paid at 8 percent of total allowable direct costs or actual rate, whichever is less.

Institutional training grants are made for project periods of up to 5 years and are renewable. However, no single predoctoral trainee may receive more than 5 years of support unless a special waiver is obtained.

INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIPS

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS in biotechnology are welcomed from applicants trained in engineering, mathematical or physical sciences who desire to bring such approaches to biotechnology research or from biologists who wish to acquire research training in biocomputation, protein engineering, macromolecular analyses, or other areas related to biotechnology. Applications from candidates seeking postdoctoral training in biotechnology industrial settings are especially encouraged.

The stipend level for the individual postdoctoral fellowship ranges from $17,000 to $31,500 depending on years of relevant experience subsequent to the award of the doctorate degree. In addition, the applicant's institution/organization may request an institutional allowance up to $3,000 per year for support of supplies, equipment, travel, tuition, fees, insurance and other training related costs.

Individual postdoctoral fellowships are made for project periods of up to 3 years.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIPS will be supported for experienced investigators in the biological, engineering, mathematical, or physical sciences who desire to acquire experiences/training in areas more directly related to biotechnology. The stipend level is currently $30,000 per annum for project periods of up to 2 years. The applicant's institution/organization may request an institutional allowance up to $3,000 per year for support of supplies, equipment, travel, tuition, fees, insurance and other training related costs.

More detail on the policies governing the institutional predoctoral training grant, the postdoctoral fellowships, and the senior fellowship awards can be found in the National Research Service Awards Guidelines published in the NIH Guide to Grants and Contracts, Vol. 13, No. 1, January 6, 1984.

Application materials are available from the university business office or from:

Office of Grants Inquiries
Division of Research Grants
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Deadlines for receipt of all types of applications included in this announcement are January 10, May 10, and September 10.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss the proposed applications prior to submission. In addition, The National Institute of General Medical Sciences will host a meeting with prospective applicants to these research training programs on October 20, 1988, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; location to be announced; contact Dr. Williams for further information. to be held in Bethesda, Maryland.

Please contact:

Dr. Luther S. Williams
Special Assistant to the Director
National Institute of General Medical Sciences
Westwood Bldg., Room 922
5333 Westbard Avenue
Bethesda, Maryland 20892
Telephone: (301) 496-0186

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