

## NIDA's Opportunities for Special Populations

### **Goals**

NIDA's Special Populations Office (SPO) has two goals: (1) to ensure that issues related to racial/ethnic minority health disparities are adequately and appropriately represented in the extramural research programs; and (2) to increase the number of underrepresented racial/ethnic minority individuals and other health disparity groups participating in drug abuse research. SPO's programs for achieving these goals follow.

### **Special Populations Research Seminar Series**

This series provides drug abuse technical assistance on drug abuse research grants development to racial/ethnic minority and other health disparity researchers, in intensive one-on-one and small group sessions.

### **Diversity Supplements**

These supplements are research awards made to individuals from groups that are underrepresented in the sciences, specifically individuals from racial/ethnic minority populations, individuals with disabilities, and individuals from certain disadvantaged backgrounds. Support is

provided for them to gain research experiences by working with current NIDA grantees.

### **Minority Institutions' Drug Abuse Research Program (MIDARP)**

This program provides support to eligible minority and minority-serving institutions to increase their capacity to conduct drug abuse research. Faculty, student, and research development plans are major components of the program.

### **National Hispanic Science Network on Drug Abuse**

This network is dedicated to improving the health of Hispanics by (1) increasing the amount and quality of interdisciplinary translational research on drug abuse and (2) fostering the development of Hispanic scientists in drug abuse research. For details on this program, visit [www.nhsn.med.miami.edu](http://www.nhsn.med.miami.edu).

### **Summer Research with NIDA**

Summer Research with NIDA introduces high school and undergraduate students from underrepresented groups to drug abuse research through research place-

ments with NIDA grantees. Students work with the grantees for 8–10 weeks over the summer. The experience may include formal courses, participation in meetings, data collection activities, data analysis, laboratory experiments, manuscript preparation, and library research. Applicants must be at least 15 years old, citizens of the United States or a permanent resident, currently enrolled in high school or college, and in good academic standing. Applicants under 18 years old can only be placed at research sites within daily commuting distance of their home. Additional information about the Summer Research with NIDA program can be obtained from Flair Lindsey at 301-443-0441 or [flindsey@nida.nih.gov](mailto:flindsey@nida.nih.gov).

### **Summer Internship Program at the Intramural Program Facility**

The National Institute on Drug Abuse offers summer research training opportunities that focus on the scientific basis of

drug abuse. The Summer Internship Program is held at NIDA's intramural program facility in Baltimore, Maryland, and the goal is to expose students to the realities of research, from experimental design to data analysis, interpretation, and presentation. In this program, students gain basic science and/or clinical laboratory experience, attend student seminars, and participate in a summer poster presentation. The program supports students who are 16 years of age or older who are enrolled at least half-time in high school, have finished high school, or are attending an accredited U.S. college or university. To be eligible, candidates must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. NIDA is particularly interested in recruiting students who are from disadvantaged backgrounds and from racial/ethnic groups whose participation in science has been traditionally limited. Additional information about the Summer Internship Program at IRP can be obtained from Christie Brannock at 410-550-2953 ext. 372 or [cbrann@intra.nida.nih.gov](mailto:cbrann@intra.nida.nih.gov).