

***Department of Defense  
Neurofibromatosis  
Research Program***

***1998 Awards Book***

***November 1999***

Headquarters, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command  
MCMR-PLF, 524 Palacky Street  
Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5024

## INTRODUCTION

The Department of Defense (DOD) and the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command is pleased to present the award list and abstracts of funded projects for the Fiscal Year 1998 (FY98) Neurofibromatosis Research Program. On September 30, 1999 award negotiations were completed. The awards listed in this document were selected by a competitive two-tiered review process. Funding decisions were based upon scientific excellence evaluated in the first tier of review followed by programmatic relevance judged in the second tier. These projects represent a diverse portfolio of scientific research directed toward the program's overall goal of promoting studies toward the understanding, diagnosis, and treatment of neurofibromatosis, as well as the enhancement of the quality of life for persons with the disease.

Congressional direction for FY98 specified \$9.8 million for neurofibromatosis research. During the 12 months that followed the receipt of funds, a program strategy was developed, proposals were solicited and evaluated, and award recommendations were made. The FY98 programmatic strategy called for Investigator-Initiated research proposals, with or without nested post-doctoral traineeships. Nine studies were funded.

As the funded scientists embark on these projects, the DOD and the U.S. Army gratefully acknowledge the participation of their scientific advisors, persons with neurofibromatosis, and the neurofibromatosis advocacy community. The expertise, vision, and diversity of perspectives of all members who contributed to this program were vital to developing a sound investment strategy on behalf of all persons living with neurofibromatosis. It is with great anticipation and excitement that we await the outcomes of this research.

**FUNDED  
AWARDS LIST**

## FY98 Neurofibromatosis Research Program Funded Awards List

### Investigator–Initiated Research with a Nested Post-doctoral Traineeship

Log	Principal Investigator Name		Institution	Proposal Title	Award Amount
NF980018	Fieber	Lynne	University of Miami	Electrophysiological Changes in NF1	\$312,984
NF980004	McClatchey	Andrea	Massachusetts General Hospital	Utilization of a NF2-Mutant Mouse Strain to Investigate the Cellular and Molecular Function of the NF2 Tumor Suppressor, Merlin	\$797,625
NF980010	Pulst	Stefan	Cedars Sinai Medical Center	NF2 in Hrs-Mediated Signal Transduction	\$683,090
NF980015	Ramesh	Vijaya	Massachusetts General Hospital	Neurofibromatosis 2 Tumor Suppressor Protein, Merlin, in Cellular Signaling to Actin Cytoskeleton	\$1,175,563
NF980007	Viskochil	David	University of Utah	Genetic Evaluation of Peripheral Nerve Sheath Tumors in Neurofibromatosis Type 1	\$827,825
NF980012	Zhong	Yi	Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory	NF1-Regulated Adenylyl Cyclase/cAMP Pathway	\$727,586

### Investigator–Initiated Research without a Nested Post-doctoral Traineeship

Log	Principal Investigator Name		Institution	Proposal Title	Award Amount
NF980014	Hung	Gene	House Ear Institute	Establish an In Vitro Model for the Study of NF2 Gene Function and Gene Therapy	\$615,324
NF980005	Noll	Robert	Children's Hospital Medical Center of Cincinnati	Social and Emotional Functioning of Children with NF-1 and Their Families: A Case Controlled Study	\$822,904
NF980011	Vogel	Kristine	Louisiana State University Medical Center	Cell Motility and Invasiveness of Neurofibromin-Deficient Neural Crest Cells and Malignant Triton Tumor Lines	\$584,552

# **PEER REVIEWERS**

## FY98 Neurofibromatosis Research Program Peer Reviewers

Peer Reviewer	Degrees	Institution/Affiliation
Black, Franklin	M.D.	Legacy Holladay Park Medical Center
Botkin, Jeffrey	M.D.	Primary Children's Medical Center
Bristow, James	M.D.	Department of Pediatrics, University of California, San Francisco
Duffy, Brenda	M.A.	Consumer
Fehon, Richard	Ph.D.	Department of Zoology/DCMB, Duke University
Getz, Donna		Member of Neurofibromatosis, Inc.
Gobel, Stephen	D.D.S.	Executive Secretary
Gutmann, David	M.D., Ph.D.	Department of Neurology, Washington University
Jacks, Tyler	Ph.D.	MIT Center of Cancer Research
Johnson, Wayne	Ph.D.	Department of Physiology and Biophysics, University of Iowa
Kurtz, Andreas	Ph.D.	Department of Neurosurgery, Georgetown University, Lombardi Cancer Center
Marche-Escola, Susana	M.A.	Susana Marche-Escola - Technical Translations
Mulvihill, John	M.D.	Section of Genetics, Children's Hospital
Papero, Patricia	Ph.D.	Department of Psychology, Children's National Medical Center
Ratner, Nancy	Ph.D.	Department of Cell Biology, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
Scrabble, Heidi	Ph.D.	Department of Neuroscience, University of Virginia
Skuse, Gary	Ph.D.	Department of Biological Sciences, Rochester Institute of Technology
Stern, Michael	Ph.D.	Department of Biochemistry, Rice University
Weissbecker, Karen	Ph.D.	Department of Psychiatry and Neurology, Tulane University School of Medicine
Wolf, Kirstin	J.D.	Consumer
Woolley, Sabra	Ph.D.	Executive Secretary

**INTEGRATION  
PANEL  
MEMBERS**

## FY98 Neurofibromatosis Research Program Integration Panel (IP) Members

IP Members	Institution/Affiliation
James Gusella, Ph.D. (Chair)	Molecular Neurogenetics Unit; Massachusetts General Hospital East
Peter Bellermann	The National Neurofibromatosis Foundation
Robert Murray, Jr., M.D.	College of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics and Child Health, Division of Medical Genetics; Howard University
David Pleasure, M.D.	The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Kenneth Rosenbaum, M.D.	Children's National Medical Center; Department of Medical Genetics
Allan Rubenstein, M.D.	Department of Neurology; Mount Sinai School of Medicine
Lawrence Silverman, Ph.D.	University of North Carolina Hospitals
Judy Small, Ph.D.	National Institutes of Health
Louis-Gilbert Vézina, M.D.	Department of Diagnostic Imaging and Radiology; Children's Hospital
Mary Ann Wilson	Neurofibromatosis, Inc.