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SPOTLIGHT ON FUNDING: THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WANTS YOU

Recognizing the critical importance of social, behavioral, and lifestyle factors on breast cancer, the Department of Defense (DOD) has challenged the scientific community to focus creative efforts on founding cutting-edge behavioral research centers. The Behavioral Center of Excellence Awards hope to prompt experts to establish multidisciplinary centers of excellence that will advance investigations in behavioral breast cancer research and train future leaders in the field.

"Too often behavioral researchers have had to work in isolation," says Lt. Colonel Stacey Young-McCaughan RN, PhD, Deputy Director of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs. "These awards are designed to provide support for behavioral researchers to work together with the opportunity for core statistical expertise, laboratory facilities, administrative support, and training support. The DOD Breast Cancer Research Program hopes that this will be a catalyst for facilitating important health behavior research that will make a significant impact on the quality of patients' lives."

The Program Announcement calls for the creation of Behavioral Centers that are novel, interactive, multidisciplinary, and integrated around a common theme relevant to behavioral research. These awards are designed to stimulate work that will address new paradigms in behavioral research, challenge existing paradigms, or look at an existing problem from a new perspective. Applicants are encouraged to address interactions among social, psychological, genetic, neuroendocrine, physical, behavioral, immune, and other biological and disease-related factors and outcomes.

Behavioral Center Awards should foster multidisciplinary collaborations among established and promising investigators as well as provide training opportunities for new investigators who want to acquire the necessary experience and skills to develop independent careers in behavioral research.

Approximately \$18 million is available for Behavioral Center Awards. Funding may be requested for an average of \$1 million per year for direct costs for a maximum of \$4 million over a 4 year period.

Proposal deadline is August 2, 2000.

Questions concerning the preparation of proposals can be addressed to the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) at: 301-619-7079 or cdmrp.pa@det.amedd.army.mil

The program announcement and submission forms are available at: <http://cdmrp.army.mil>

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