TCOM
Research Notes

Volume 7, Number 1 September 1991

New Changes in the NIH Review Process

The title of Executive Secretary has been used since the Division of Research Grants (DRG) was established in 1946. A new title, **Scientific Review Administrator (SRA)**, is now being used by both NIH and ADAMHA, that more adequately reflects the nature of staff authority and responsibility for this important group of research administrators who manage the operations of scientific review sections. The summary statements on pink paper, better known as the "pink sheet" will change to **white paper.** The rationale behind changing to white paper stems from environmental and efficiency concerns.

Initial Review Groups (IRGs) will make changes in the review process with the 1991 peer review meetings. In the past, reviewer's recommendations centered on three motions: 1) Approval, which meant that based on the relevant review criteria, the application had sufficient merit to be worthy of support and a priority rating was required; or 2) Disapproval, because of a lack of sufficient merit or concerns such as for human subjects or animal welfare, and no priority rating was required; or 3) Deferral, which meant that additional information was needed before a recommendation could be made.

Beginning with the 1991 fall review cycle, reviewer's recommendations will center on two motions: 1) **Deferral,** which means that by majority vote, the review group defers an application because additional information is needed before a recommendation can be made; or 2) **Not Recommended for Further Consideration,** which means that the merit of the proposed research is not significant and not substantial, or that there are human subjects, animal welfare, or other concerns. This decision is made by majority vote. **For all other applications, the IRG discusses the strengths and weaknesses according to the usual criteria, after which each IRG member privately rates the application.** The priority ratings are the ones currently in use.

All applications, whether given a priority rating or not Recommended for Further Consideration, will be included in the calculation of percentiles. IRGs will continue to review direct costs only. However, total costs requested, including indirect costs, will be on the summary statement for all years, and the summary statement will show the estimated total costs for all years recommended by the IRG.

Additional guidance to IRGs on budget review will focus on research costs. IRGs will be asked to scrutinize proposed budgets even more carefully and closely.

To increase the quality and uniformity of such reviews, IRGs will pay particular attention to the following items: 1) percent effort in relation to the scope of work; 2) possible overextension of research staff; 3) justification for equipment and the addition of personnel in future years; and 3) potential overlaps with existing grants. IRGs will be asked to continue to recommend the duration of support that is scientifically justified.

Other changes in the peer review system will occur after the IRG meetings. Applications Not Recommended for Further Consideration will not be reviewed by the Advisory Boards/Councils. Instead, these applicants will be notified immediately of the status of their applications. They will receive a copy of their summary statements.

In addition, applications rated in the bottom third of all applications will not go to council. This is a triage performed by the IRGs. Councils and Institutes, however, will have the flexibility to make special exceptions of certain applications based on program or policy considerations. Because of these new voting procedures, the NIH will no longer refer to an award rate. Instead, the term, **SUCCESS RATE**, will be used to refer to the number of funded applications divided by the number of applications reviewed by IRGs. (Excerpted from NIH Peer Review Notes).

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Recent TCOM Awards

Andras G. Lacko, Ph.D., (Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology), "Travel Grant to the 15th IUB Congress," American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, 08/01/91 - 08/31/91, $1,100.

Thomas Yorio, Ph.D., (Department of Pharmacology), "Vasopressin Receptor Signaling and Cycling of Water Channels in Renal Epithelia," US Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity, 08/01/91 - 07/31/92, $66,202.

Carl E. Jones, Ph.D., (Department of Physiology), "Anti Infarction Effects in the Denervated Heart," National Institutes of Health - National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, 07/19/91 - 06/30/92, $121,390.

Peter B. Raven, Ph.D., (Department of Physiology), "Baroreflexes and Orthstatism: A Fitness Effect," National Institutes of Health - National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, 08/01/91 - 07/31/92, $113,800.

Peter B. Raven, Ph.D., (Department of Physiology), "Education of Scientists in Cardiovascular Regulation," National Institutes of Health - National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, 08/09/91 - 06/30/92, $53,400.

Judy Wilson, Ph.D., (Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine), "Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy," Lou Ann Blaylock, 07/01/91 - 06/30/92, $250.

Judy Wilson, Ph.D., (Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine), "Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy," Tandy Corporation, 07/01/91 - 06/30/92, $500.

Total Funding Awarded: $356,642

Texas Research Enhancement Program State of Texas 09/01/91 - 08/31/92

Funds allocated to TCOM by the Legislature under the Texas Research Enhancement Program are used to support faculty participation in research, especially in areas that serve the needs of TCOM and the State of Texas. There were 21 research applications received and evaluated that requested $122,271.

The Faculty Research Committee made 15 research awards that are listed here for a total of $72,186.

Rafael Alvarez-Gonzalez, Ph.D., (Department of Microbiology and Immunology), "Characterization of the Poly(ADP-Ribose)polymerase Automodification Reaction with 3'-dNAD," $4,800.

Brian H. Foresman, D.O., (Department of Medicine), **Eugene Quist, Ph.D.,** (Department of Pharmacology), **Patricia A. Gwirtz, Ph.D.,** (Department of Physiology), "Training Induced Alteration of Cardiac Autonomic Receptors," $3,955.

Michael J. Forster, Ph.D., (Department of Pharmacology), "Genetic and Dietary Modulation of Age-Related Memory Decline," $3,500.

Stephen Grant, Ph.D., (Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology), "An Oncogenic Phosphorylation Lesion in the Cellular Control of B Cell Proliferation in Hairy Cell Leukemia," $5,000.

John C. Licciardone, D.O., Robert M. Woodworth, D.O., (Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine), "Health Surveillance of Returning International Travelers," $2,284.

Robert R. Luedtke, Ph.D., (Department of Pharmacology), "Characterization of Anti-D3 Receptor Antibodies," $10,000.

Robert T. Mallet, Ph.D., (Department of Physiology), "Pyruvate-Enhanced Sarcoplasmic Reticulum in "Stunned" Heart," $6,860.

Wayne L. Nicholson, Ph.D., (Department of Microbiology and Immunology), "Cloning the *Bacillus subtilis* Spore DNA Repair Gene," $5,000.

Raymond M. Pertusi, D.O., Elaine L. Jacobson, Ph.D., (Department of Medicine), "Defective ADP-ribose Polymer Metabolism as a Correlate of Renal Dysfunction in SLE," $5,000.

Carolyn Quist, D.O., (Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology), "Regulation of Human Chorionic Vascular Tension," $7,478.

Tony Romeo, Ph.D., (Department of Microbiology and Immunology), "Identification of Genes for Growth Phase and Growth Rate Regulation in *E. coli*," $5,000.

Bernard R. Rubin, D.O., (Department of Medicine), "The Effects of Music Vibration on Pain Perception Using the Music Vibration Table," $3,000.

Patrick N. Shaklee, Ph.D., (Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology), "RNA Recombination in RNA Bacteriophage," $4,000.

Paula Sundstrom, Ph.D., (Department of Microbiology and Immunology), "Virulence Genes of *Candida albicans*, an AIDS Opportunist," $2,059.

Robert J. Wordinger, Ph.D., (Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology), "In Situ Hybridization for bFGF in the Mouse Uterus," $4,250.

Total Funds Awarded: $72,186

External Grant Proposals Submitted

Robert W. Gracy, Ph.D., (Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology), "Aging of Human Skin Phase II: In Vivo and In Vitro Studies of Chronological Versus Photo-Aging," Johnson & Johnson Consumer Products, Inc., $117,816.

James L. Caffrey, Ph.D., (Department of Physiology), "Opioid/Autonomic Interaction in the Circulatory System," National Institues of Health - National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, $869,058.

Andras G. Lacko, Ph.D., (Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology), "Alteration of Plasma Components in Alzheimer's Disease," Alzheimer's Association, $26,752.

Brian H. Foresman, D.O., (Department of Medicine), "Cardiac Receptor Responses in Training Induced Bradycardia," American Osteopathic Association, $49,950.

Raymond M. Pertusi, D.O., (Department of Medicine), "The Effect of Manipulation on Measures of Immune Function and Quality of Life in SLE," American Osteopathic Association, $50,000.

Peter B. Raven, Ph.D., (Department of Physiology), "Alterations in Human Baroreceptor-Reflex Function Following Active Detraining," National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, D.C., $197,441.

Peter B. Raven, Ph.D., (Department of Physiology), "Selective Unilateral Carotid Stimulation in Humans," American College of Sports Medicine Foundation, $2,500.

Bernard R. Rubin, D.O., (Department of Medicine), "An Open-Label, Randomized Trial Comparing Nabumetone to Naproxen in the Treatment of Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis or Osteoarthritis," Smithkline Beecham Laboratories, $4,200.

Gary H. Wimbish, Ph.D., (Department of Pharmacology), "The Determination of Testosterone and Epitestosterone in Hair by Chemical Ionization Gas Chromatography/ Mass Spectrometry," National Collegiate Athletic Association, $75,000.

Total Funds Requested: $1,392,717

Poster and Paper Presentations

Rafael Alvarez-Gonzalez, Ph.D., Department of Microbiology and Immunology, attended the American Society of Microbiology Annual Convention in Dallas, Texas, May, 1991 and presented a poster co-authored by Alvarez-Gonzalez, R., Martinez-Cadena, M.G., and Martinez, M. entitled "Bacterial Toxin Catalyzed ADP-ribosylation of G-Proteins with 2'-deoxyNAD;." A poster was presented by Alvarez-Gonzalez, R., and Martinez-Cadena, M.G., entitled "Enzymatic Mono(ADP-ribosyl)ation of Poly(ADP-ribose)polymerase at Arginine Residues" at the 82nd Annual Convention of the American Association for Cancer Research, in Houston, Texas. Posters were presented in June, 1991 at the Paul Mandel International Meeting on Poly(ADP-ribosyl)ation Reactions held in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada: Alvarez-Gonzalez, R., Martinez-Cadena, M.G, Pedraza-Reyes, M., and Alvarez-Gonzalez, R. entitled "Amino Acid Specific (ADP-ribosyl)lation of Poly(ADP-ribose)polymerase;" another poster by Alvarez-Gonzalez, R., Poirier, G.G., and Martinez, M. entittled "Proteolytic Degradation of Poly(ADP-ribose)polymerase with Increasing Concentrations of Commercial DNAse I;" Alvarez-Gonzalez, R., Panzeter, P., Ringer, D.P. and Mendoza-Alvarez, H.O. entitled "Poly(3'-dADP-ribosyl)ation of Proteins in Liver Chromatin Isolated from Rats Fed with Hepatocarcinogens," Martinez, M., Moss, J., and Alvarez-Gonzalez, R. entitled "Arginine-Specific mono(2'-deoxyADP-ribosyl)ation of Poly(ADP-ribose)polymerase by Cholera Toxin."

Members of the **Department of Physiology** faculty, along with postdoctoral fellows and graduate students, recently attended the Annual Meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology held in Atlanta, Georgia. Eleven papers were presented at the meeting which had a total attendance of approximately 18,000.

The **Department of Physiology** recently sponsored a symposium on cardiovascular research at TCOM. This symposium was presented for regional cardiologists, members of the Board of Directors of the Fort Worth Chapter of the American Heart Association, and other invited guests. Russell Fisher, D.O., assistant professor in the Department of Medicine, is the incoming president of the Fort Worth Chapter.

Funding Opportunities

Cousins Fund for Mind-Body Research

This institute supports research in the field of psychoneuroimmunology over the next four to five years.

Psychoneuroimmunology seeks to understand the interactions between the brain, the psyche, and the immune system and the impact of these interactions on health. There are no formal restrictions on the award amounts and most awards will be provided over a 1-2 year time period.

A 2-3 page letter describing the project and the total budgeted amount is requested for initial review.

Fitzer Institute,
9292 West KL Avenue,
Kalamazoo, MI 49009,
telephone (616) 375-2000
No Deadline

Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation

These are project grants with a major interest in education for careers in medicine or medical science. Special programs on preparation of minority groups for health professions and to fund activities in medical education and the medical arts. Grants vary in amount based on the need and nature of the request. No official application forms are used. Interested applicants should submit a brief proposal which contains a description of the proposed project, shows the special qualifications of the person or persons who would undertake to carry it out, indicates the responsibility of the institution or agency sponsoring it, describes the present source of funds available and provides a proposed budget.

CONTACT:
Thomas H. Meikle, Jr., M.D., President,
Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation,
44 East 64th Street,
New York, NY 10021,
telephone, (212) 486-2424
No Deadline

American Health Assistance Foundation

Awards for basic research on the causes or treatment of coronary heart disease. These starter grants are intended to assist young investigators who are beginning independent research careers at the assistant professor level. Applications will be accepted for one year of support and for amounts up to $15,000. Awards are also given to investigators at all stages of their careers proposing basic research on the causes of or treatments for degenerative diseases of aging. Specifically, proposed research seeking to improve the understanding and therapy of the disease process in glaucoma will be accepted for up to two years of support and for amounts up to $25,000 per year. Additionally, grants improving the understanding of Alzheimer's disease are awarded for up to two years for amounts of up to $100,000 per year.

American Health Assistance Foundation,
15825 Shady Grove Road, Suite 140,
Rockville, MD 20850,
telephone (301) 948-3244.
Deadline: October 31, 1991

New Publications in the Research Office

A Plan for Managing the Costs of Biomedical Research, June, 1991, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, National Institutes of Health.

AACOM 1991 Annual Statistical Report

Among the highlights this year are grant and contract awards that hit a record $51.7 million for FY 1990 at the 15 osteopathic schools that make up the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine. This represents an increase of 48 percent over FY 1989 and an average annual rate of growth of almost 16 percent since 1980 before adjusting for inflation, and at 9 percent per year after inflation is taken into account.

NIH Drafts a Strategic Plan

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has undertaken an internal planning process that will result in a long-range strategic plan.

Some of the promising areas of science scheduled to be addressed under this plan include: molecular medicine, aging and chronic diseases, vaccine development, neuroscience and behavior, population-based studies, health of minorities, women and underserved populations, reproductive biology and development, infant mortality, structural biology, biotechnology, and prevention, health education and control.

Recent Publications

Romeo, T. and J. Moore. 1991. Comparison of the 5' Flanking Regions of the *Salmonella typhimurium* and *Escherichia coli glg*C Genes, Encoding ADPglucose Pyrophosphorylases. *Nucleic Acids Research*. 19: 3452.