



NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH CLINICAL CENTER

Public Health Service

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TO: NIH Intramural Investigators

FROM: Deputy Director for Intramural Research
Director, NIH Clinical Center

SUBJECT: FY 2008 Bench-to-Bedside Awards

We are pleased to announce the call for proposals for the FY 2008 bench-to-bedside program. The process is similar to the FY 2006 and 2007 pilot bench-to-bedside program which incorporated new categories of projects and opportunities for extramural collaborations with intramural investigators. With contributions last year from the Office of AIDS Research (OAR), the Office of Rare Diseases (ORD), the Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH), the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD), and the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) and matching IC funds to intramural investigators for some awards, over \$3.8M was awarded to intramural and extramural PIs.

Based upon this success, our same contributors as last year will provide support and ICs will match funds in 3 categories. We encourage intramural investigators to identify extramural researchers as partners. Thus, if the clinical investigator is from the intramural program, the basic science investigator could be from extramural NIH (or vice versa). The extramural partner must have a current NIH grant related closely to the general subject of the bench-to-bedside proposal. Projects with intramural and extramural partners will receive priority. For FY 2008, proposals once again may be submitted within the following five categories.

(1) Rare Diseases: The ORD will provide co-funding with institutes for two years. Projects in this category must focus on an area of science/research directly related to a rare disease. An orphan or rare disease is generally considered to have a prevalence of less than 200,000 affected individuals in the United States. Certain diseases with more than 200,000 affected individuals are included but subpopulations of these conditions may be less than the prevalence standard for a rare disease. A comprehensive list of rare diseases, updated regularly, is available at <http://ord.aspensys.com/asp/diseases/diseases.asp>.

(2) AIDS: The OAR will fully fund exemplary AIDS-related projects for two years.

(3) Minority Health & Health Disparities: The NCMHD will co-fund with institutes projects that improve outreach, recruitment, and retention of minorities, women, and persons with disabilities. These projects must focus on an area of science/research that promotes minority health and supports the NIH effort to reduce and ultimately eliminate health disparities.

(4) Women's Health: The ORWH will fully fund one project for two years that focuses on efforts to improve the health of women through biomedical and behavioral research on the roles of sex and gender in health and disease.

(5) General: As in the past, additional meritorious projects will be awarded in the 'general' category to be funded by the sponsoring institutes. Extramural funds for the general category will be provided by the NCRR.

