



ACTS ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE Connection

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Introducing Translational Science 2016 Program Committee Chair: Janice Gabrilove, M.D.

June 11, 2015



ACTS is excited to announce and warmly welcome our Program Committee Chair for 2015 Translational Science, Dr. Janice Gabrilove, MD. Dr. Gabrilove brings to the meeting comprehensive experience as a scientific educator; she currently serves at Mount Sinai as Director of the Clinical Research Training Program (CRTP), Master of Science in Clinical Research (MSCR), and PhD in Clinical Research in the Graduate School of Biological Sciences. She joined Mount Sinai as Chief of the Division of Medical Oncology.

As a researcher, Dr. Gabrilove is a world-renowned expert on leukemia and the effects of chemotherapy on blood production, especially the role of hematopoietic growth factors in normal and malignant hematopoiesis and the role of these cytokines in ameliorating disease and treatment-related myelosuppression. She holds four patents related to her work and has received numerous awards. Dr. Gabrilove has also worked extensively with FDA and NIH committees as well as serving on the Editorial Boards of the American Society of Hematology's journal Blood, UpToDate, and Clinical Cancer Research and Leukemia.

To read more about Dr. Gabrilove's extensive scientific background, please [click here](#).

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From the Hill--ACTS Advocacy News

The House Energy and Commerce Committee cleared its version of the 21st Century Cures (Cures) legislation by a bipartisan vote of 51-0. One major change in the committee-reported bill is that it no longer requires the \$2 billion annual mandatory Innovation Fund for NIH to be allocated only above and beyond a certain identified budget level (for example the current amount). This fundamental change would allow Congress the option to provide less discretionary spending for NIH and use the \$2 billion to replace what is taken away in discretionary spending. The way the bill is currently written, NIH could end up with the same amount of funding or less than it has now, yet still be required to fulfill the new and added responsibilities required by the Cures legislation.

To read more on this story, [click here](#).

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ACTS Member Highlight

Coming soon in the next issue of the ACTS Newsletter:
Stanford University researchers use Spectrum pilot funding to develop wireless retinal implants to restore vision.

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Save the Date Now for Translational Science 2016

Mark Your Calendars! Translational Science 2016 will take place April 13-15 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. Registration for Translational 2016 is expected to open in December 2015.

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Translational Science News

NCI -MATCH Trial Will Link Targeted Cancer Drugs to Gene Abnormalities

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is launching NCI-MATCH: Molecular Analysis for Therapy Choice, a nationwide trial that aims to determine whether targeted therapies for people whose tumors have specific gene mutations will be effective regardless of their cancer type. The Phase II trial, announced at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology in Chicago, will begin enrolling patients in July. NCI-MATCH will involve more than 20 different study drugs or drug combinations, each targeting a particular gene mutation, to match each participant with a therapy that focuses on the genetic mutation in their tumor. Doug Lowy, NCI acting director, noted "there are no other cancer clinical trials of this size and scope that truly bring the promise of targeted treatment to patients whose cancers have specific genetic abnormalities."

From "NCI-MATCH Trial Will Link Targeted Cancer Drugs to Gene Abnormalities"
NIH News (06/01/15)

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Researchers Turn to Volunteer Readers to Speed Research on Rare Genetic Disorder

A group of scientific researchers is launching a crowdsourcing initiative to help create a searchable database of biomedical literature. Finding unexpected connections between scientific findings can propel biomedical research, but those connections are difficult to find when new research papers are published all the time. Scientists at Scripps Research Institute in San Diego hope to engage volunteers into curating research data in small chunks at a time, with their own computers, to help build a knowledge base for researchers. The campaign, called Mark2Cure, is first reaching out to people affected by the newly discovered genetic disorder NGLY1 deficiency.

From "Researchers Turn to Volunteer Readers to Speed Research on Rare Genetic

Disorder"

*Science Insider (05/21/15) Landhuis, Esther*Share    | [Web Link](#) | [Return to Top](#)

DNDi and 4 Pharmaceutical Companies Announce 'Drug Discovery Booster' Experiment

Four drug makers have teamed up with the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi) to accelerate and reduce the cost of early stage drug discovery for leishmaniasis and Chagas disease. As part of the Neglected Tropical Diseases Drug Discovery Booster consortium, the pharmaceutical companies will simultaneously open up their libraries of chemical compounds, providing DNDi with access to compounds generated over years of research. The partners have agreed that no intellectual property barriers will be imposed on a successful treatment, and any progress or new treatment for leishmaniasis or Chagas disease that results from the consortium will be attributed to the collective effort of all the partners.

From "DNDi and 4 Pharmaceutical Companies Announce 'Drug Discovery Booster' Experiment"

*EurekAlert (06/02/15)*Share    | [Web Link](#) | [Return to Top](#)

Grant Opportunities

CTSA Network - Trial Innovation Centers (TICs) (U24)

National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) and the National Institute on Aging have issued a funding opportunity announcement to invite applications to establish Trial Innovation Centers (TICs) for the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program. The TICs will serve as lead centers of excellence in clinical trials, and they will facilitate the implementation of multi-site clinical studies by the CTSA Network. NCATS and its partner ICs plan to commit about \$12 million in 2016 to fund three awards for this funding opportunity. Applications budgets should be no more than \$2.4 million in direct costs, and the awards will be made for a seven-year period. Letters of intent are due by Aug. 15, 2015, with applications due on Sept. 15, 2015.

From "CTSA Network - Trial Innovation Centers (TICs) (U24)"

*NIH Grants (06/05/15)*Share    | [Web Link](#) | [Return to Top](#)

Career Development Program in Emergency Care Research (K12)

A new funding opportunity announcement from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) seeks applications for institutional research career development (K12) programs from organizations that propose to develop multidisciplinary clinical research training programs in emergency care research that prepare clinician-scientists for academic leadership roles and independent research careers in emergency medicine. The funding announcement aims to establish a well-qualified team of emergency care investigators with an integrated, multidisciplinary mentored research and career development program by providing mentored research training to assist junior faculty in their transition into independent clinician-scientists in areas related to emergency care research. Up to three projects will be funded in all, with project periods not to exceed five years. Letters of intent are due by Sept. 9, 2015, with full applications due by Oct. 9, 2015.

From "Career Development Program in Emergency Care Research (K12)"

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Maximizing Investigators' Research Award for New and Early Stage Investigators (R35)

The National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) has posted a funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for the Maximizing Investigators' Research Award. The FOA will test the feasibility of this grant mechanism for New and Early Stage Investigators through a pilot program. NIGMS intends to commit at least \$26 million in the 2016 fiscal year to fund up to 70 awards, and applications may

request up to \$250,000 direct costs per year. The due date for a letter of intent is Aug. 9, 2015, and the application is due by Sept. 9, 2015.

From "Maximizing Investigators' Research Award for New and Early Stage Investigators (R35)"
NIH Grants (06/02/15)

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NIH Transformative Research Awards (R01)

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has issued a funding opportunity announcement for the Transformative Research Awards, which support collaborative teams or individual scientists who propose transformative research projects that could have a major impact in biomedical or behavioral research. Projects in any area of NIH interest, including basic and translational studies, are encouraged. NIH Common Fund intends to commit \$15 million dollars in fiscal year 2016 for this initiative. Letters of intent are due by Sept. 9, 2015, and the application is due by Oct. 9, 2015.

From "NIH Transformative Research Awards (R01)"
NIH Grants (06/01/15)

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