



ACTS ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

Connection

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Clinical and Translational Science Award FOA Released by NIH/NCATS

August 13, 2015



National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) invites applications to participate in the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) program which supports high quality translational and clinical research locally, regionally and nationally and fosters innovation in research methods, training, and career development. Standard NIH submission deadlines apply for this opportunity.

For more information, please [click here](#) for details on this grant opportunity.

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New From the Hill--ACTS Advocacy News Senate and House Produce FY 2016 LHHS Appropriations Bills

Members of Congress adjourned for the August congressional recess after advancing a number of legislative priorities. Most notably, both the House and Senate have produced FY 2016 appropriations bills, including Labor-Health and Human Services-Education (LHHS) appropriations bills. While the House and Senate FY 2016 LHHS spending proposals both recommend meaningful funding increases for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) these allocations are offset by deep funding cuts to other federal research and public health programs, such as the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. A silver lining to these proposals is that they both voice strong support for clinical and translational research activities and an interest in the full spectrum of research at NIH.

Read more details by [clicking on the ACTS Advocacy page](#).

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August: ACTS Member Highlight Coming in August 27th Issue

Coming soon in the August 27th issue of ACTS Connection:

A team of researchers from the Keck School of Medicine of USC, Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) and the USC Viterbi School of Engineering have developed a tiny pacemaker for unborn babies with a potentially fatal heart problem. Learn more about this story in the next issue of ACTS Connection!

Share Your Exciting News Stories With Us! Does your institution have news you want to share with the *ACTS Connection* readership? Do you have an investigator doing something innovative? Let us know! From innovative projects, star scholars and trainees, to award winning faculty, help us share the news that is important to you by submitting it through our [online form](#).

Your news may be shared on the ACTS website, and other ACTS social media sources!

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The ACTS mission is to advance research and education in clinical and translational science to improve human health. For more information, visit actscience.org

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Planning for Translational Science 2016 Has Started! Are the 2016 Conference Dates on Your Calendar?

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

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Translational Science News

Advancing Precision Medicine by Enabling a Collaborative Informatics Community

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced on August 5 the launch of an informatics community and supporting platform called precisionFDA. The open-source platform, planned for beta release in December 2015, is aimed at helping researchers evaluate next-generation sequencing (NGS) technologies used in diagnostic tests. In addition, the crowd-sourced, cloud-based platform will help further the necessary standards, allowing those in the community to test, pilot, and validate new approaches. In announcing precisionFDA, Taha A. Kass-Hout, MD, FDA's Chief Health Informatics Officer and Director of FDA's Office of Health Informatics, and David Litwack, PhD, Policy Advisor, Office of In Vitro Diagnostics and Radiological Health, at FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health, said: "We believe precisionFDA will help us advance the science around the accuracy and reproducibility of NGS-based tests, and in doing so, will advance consumer safety."

From "Advancing Precision Medicine by Enabling a Collaborative Informatics Community"

FDA Voice blog (08/05/15) Kass-Hout, Taha A.; Litwack, David

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'Big Data for Patients' Training Aims to Help Patient Advocates

The Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently unveiled the Big Data for Patients (BD4P) training program. The goal is to give patients and advocates a working understanding of big data, and to help them understand potential benefits and important cautions. Patient advocates who complete the BD4P program's training will be prepared to share meaningful input on large-scale big data initiatives, such as the National Institutes of Health's Big Data to Knowledge program, FDA's Sentinel initiative, and PCORnet. A pilot program is tentatively scheduled for mid-summer 2016.

From "'Big Data for Patients' Training Aims to Help Patient Advocates"

Health Data Management (08/15) Goth, Greg

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Software Turns Smartphones Into Tools for Medical Research

Tech developers and scientists are turning smartphones into new research tools, and already more than 75,000 participants have enrolled in health studies that use specialized iPhone apps. Scientists involved in the studies say the apps could advance medical research by helping them collect data more frequently, more accurately, and from more people. In addition, some researchers say that a

smartphone's microphone, motion sensors, and touchscreen can take readings that may be more reliable than those taken under a doctor's observations. Issues associated with the use of these devices in studies include maintaining data privacy and keeping the participants diverse and engaged.

From "Software Turns Smartphones Into Tools for Medical Research"
New York Times (07/27/15)

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Grant Opportunities

Pilot and Feasibility Clinical and Translational Research Studies in Digestive Diseases and Nutrition (R21)

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases has issued a funding opportunity announcement to encourage pilot and feasibility clinical and translational research studies of digestive and liver diseases. The goal is to provide flexibility for initiating preliminary, short-term clinical or translational studies that could lead to significant scientific advances in digestive disease and nutrition research. Proposals should involve direct clinical studies in humans or identifiable specimens from human subjects such as tissues, organoids, or biospecimens. The number of awards depends on National Institutes of Health appropriations and the number of applications, but direct costs are limited to \$275,000 over an R21 two-year period, with no more than \$200,000 in direct costs exclusive of any consortium F&A costs permitted in a single year. The application deadline for the next cycle of funding is Nov. 16, 2015.

From "Pilot and Feasibility Clinical and Translational Research Studies in Digestive Diseases and Nutrition (R21)"
NIH Grants (07/31/15)

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Alzheimer's Disease Translational Center for Disease Model Resources (U54)

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) has issued a funding opportunity announcement calling for applications for a U54 Cooperative Agreement that aims to establish an Alzheimer's Disease Translational Center for Disease Model Resources. This center will help develop new rodent animal models of Alzheimer's disease (AD), conduct extensive staging of AD animal models, develop translatable biomarkers for therapeutic targets, develop and implement guidelines for standardized best practices for preclinical testing of AD candidates, and conduct preclinical testing of candidate AD therapeutics and transparent reporting. NIA intends to commit up to \$5 million in fiscal year 2016 to fund one award. The application deadline is Jan. 11, 2016, and the earliest start date is October 2016.

From "Alzheimer's Disease Translational Center for Disease Model Resources (U54)"
NIH Grants (07/29/15)

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Translational Research on Adducts in Cancer Risk Identification and Prevention (U01)

The National Cancer Institute is offering funding to support translational/epidemiological projects to study adducts to cellular macromolecules as indicators of exposures to cancer risk factors in human populations. The grant is focused on advancing cancer detection, cancer prevention, and assessing cancer risks in human populations and subgroups. The number of awards depends on National Institutes of Health appropriations and the number of eligible applications. The project period may not exceed five years. The application due date for the next cycle of funding is Nov. 23, 2015.

From "Translational Research on Adducts in Cancer Risk Identification and Prevention (U01)"
NIH Grants (07/24/15)

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