



ACTS CONNECTION

ASSOCIATION FOR
CLINICAL AND
TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

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NCATS Advisory Council Convenes

September 10, 2015



On Thursday, September 3rd, the Advisory Council of the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) convened for a joint meeting with the Cures Acceleration Network Review Board. The meeting was led by Chris Austin, M.D., Director of NCATS.

Dr. Austin began the meeting by issuing his Director's Report. He was followed by Lawrence A. Tabak, DDS, PhD, Principal Deputy Director, who presented briefly on the ongoing development of an NIH-wide Strategic Plan. Next, Dorit Zuk, Ph.D., presented on the development of the more-focused NCATS Strategic Planning. Lastly, Petra Kaufmann, MD, MSc., Director of Division of Clinical Innovation at NCATS, presented on "Collaborative Innovation for Translational Research," specifically the CTSA program.

To view the Dr. Austin's Director's Report Slide Deck, please [click here](#).

To view the NIH-wide Strategic Plan Slide Deck, please [click here](#).

To view the NCATS Strategic Plan Slide Deck, please [click here](#).

To view the CTSA Program Slide Deck, please [click here](#).

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Unique NASA Research Opportunity



The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Human Research Program (HRP) is releasing a Cooperative Agreement Notice (CAN) for the Translational Research Institute. On or about September 16, 2015, this Draft CAN will be available electronically through the HRP Translational Research Institute website by selecting Draft Cooperative Agreement Notice.

To read more about this opportunity, please [click here](#). Direct questions specifically regarding this solicitation should be sent to [Lawrence Miller, Contracting Officer](#) ph: 281-483-3916 or [Barbara Corbin, HRP/Deputy Director](#), ph: 281-483-6215.

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

As Congress returns following the August recess, lawmakers face a growing list of legislative priorities that will require some action before the end of the year. Most pressing, with the fiscal year (FY) set to begin on October 1st, legislators will need to move forward with appropriations for FY 2016. The most likely scenario is the passage of a short-term Continuing Resolution that will temporarily level-fund federal programs and buy lawmakers time to work on the spending bills before completing them later this year. It is also possible that a budget deal might be reached in the near future that would allow Congress to increase spending in the appropriations bills. Such action would allow for more generous allocations for public health and medical research programs in FY 2016.

About ACTS

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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As it currently stands, the National Institutes of Health (and the CTSA and IDeA) programs are poised for FY 2016 funding increases while the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality may take a funding cut without additional authorized spending.

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

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ACTS Member Highlight Coming in September 24th Issue

In the next issue of ACTS Connection, read how:

Mark Walter, Ph.D., professor of microbiology in the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine, is seeking a way to detect at the level of individual immune cells — exactly which interferons and which cells provoke the disease. This ability would help develop blood tests to diagnose the disease and also measure the effectiveness of lupus treatments.

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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News from ACTS

[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

[HHS Announces Proposal to Update Rules Governing Research on Study Participants](#)

The Department of Health and Human Services has proposed revisions to regulations meant to protect individuals who participate in research. The Notice of

Proposed Rulemaking, issued on Sept. 2, includes changes such as strengthened informed consent provisions, new data-security and information-protection standards, and requirements for written consent for use of an individual's biological samples. The proposed changes would apply to all clinical trials conducted in a U.S. institution that receives funding for research involving human participants from a Common Rule agency.

From "HHS Announces Proposal to Update Rules Governing Research on Study Participants"

HHS News Release (09/02/15)

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NIH Grants Seek Best Ways to Combine Genomic Information and EHRs

The National Institutes of Health has awarded 12 grants to support research that incorporates DNA sequence information into electronic medical records. Research by the Electronic Medical Records and Genomics (eMERGE) network aims to better understand the genomic basis of disease and to tailor individual medical care based on genetics. The grants were administered by the National Human Genome Research Institute and represent the third phase of the eMERGE program, which includes identifying the potential medical effects of rare genomic variants in about 100 clinically relevant genes.

From "NIH Grants Seek Best Ways to Combine Genomic Information and EHRs"

NIH News (09/01/15)

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Closer Collaboration Among Researchers, Execs Needed

Improvements in health services, patient outcomes, and consumer experiences will need greater collaboration between healthcare leaders and researchers, but there are still barriers to integrating research and practice due to gaps between research approaches and delivery system needs. Many healthcare executives say that integrating research with care delivery could support organizational goals, use data to drive decision-making, and strengthen delivery-system reputation and community connections. Healthcare researchers may consider participating in opportunities such as pragmatic clinical trials and "big data" networks, which may help reduce the disconnect between current healthcare research and delivery system demands, write Dr. Eric Larson, executive director of the Group Health Research Institute, and Karin Johnson, a research associate in the MacColl Center for Health Care Innovation at the institute.

From "Closer Collaboration Among Researchers, Execs Needed"

Modern Healthcare (08/22/15) Larson, Eric; Johnson, Karin

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15-Year-Old 'Transparency' Effort Seems to Curb Dubious Biomedical Findings

A PLoS ONE study suggests that the ClinicalTrials.gov registry, launched in 2000, has had a significant impact on reported trial results. In a sample of 55 large trials testing heart-disease treatments, 57 percent of trials published before 2000 reported positive effects from the treatments, but only 8 percent reported positive effects after 2000. Study author Veronica Irvin, a health scientist at Oregon State University, says the findings suggest that registering clinical studies has made research more rigorous. Irvin and co-author Robert Kaplan, chief science officer at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, note that trial registration appears to be a key factor in the study results, as there was no evidence that the change was caused by fluctuating levels of industry sponsorship or differences in trial methodologies.

From "15-Year-Old 'Transparency' Effort Seems to Curb Dubious Biomedical Findings"

Scientific American (08/20/15) Woolston, Chris

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Grant Opportunities

Research Centers for Cancer Systems Biology Consortium (U54)

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) will fund a new Cancer Systems Biology Consortium (CSBC) that aims to address challenges in basic and translational cancer research. In a funding opportunity announcement, NCI invites U54 cooperative agreement applications for CSBC Research Centers that use systems biology approaches to build predictive models of cancer initiation, progression and metastasis. The centers will consist of interdisciplinary teams of scientists and cancer researchers. The NCI intends to commit up to \$12.6 million each fiscal year through 2018 for new U54 awards, and a total of 8-10 awards is anticipated. Applications are due by Nov. 20, 2015.

From "Research Centers for Cancer Systems Biology Consortium (U54)"
NIH Grants (09/02/15)

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BRAIN Initiative: Short Courses in Computational Neuroscience (R25)

The National Institutes of Health's Research Education Program has issued a funding opportunity announcement (FOA) to accomplish the goals of the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative. This program aims to support educational activities that enhance the training of a workforce to meet biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research needs. This FOA will support creative educational activities, focusing especially on Courses for Skills Development. The BRAIN Initiative intends to commit about \$1 million in the 2016 fiscal year to fund five awards. The application due date is Nov. 6, 2015.

From "BRAIN Initiative: Short Courses in Computational Neuroscience (R25)"
NIH Grants (08/28/15)

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NINDS Advanced Postdoctoral Career Transition Award to Promote Diversity in Neuroscience Research (K22)

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) has announced the NINDS Advanced Postdoctoral Career Transition Award to Promote Diversity. This grant is designed to enhance the participation of highly trained early career investigators from diverse backgrounds that are underrepresented in neuroscience research. The National Institutes of Health will contribute up to \$95,000 commensurate with salary and effort during Phase II. In Phase I, the agency will contribute salary commensurate with the applicant institution's salary structure, up to \$50,000 per year. Individuals are eligible for support under this award if they have doctoral research degrees and two to five years of postdoctoral prior research training. Applications are due by Feb. 12, 2016.

From "NINDS Advanced Postdoctoral Career Transition Award to Promote Diversity in Neuroscience Research (K22)"
NIH Grants (08/25/15)

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