



# ACTS ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

# Connection

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## Duke Uses Modified Poliovirus to Fight Prostate Cancer

*October 22, 2015*



**DukeMedicine**

Using a modified poliovirus to fight deadly brain cancer recently received [national media attention](#). Now, with support from Duke University's NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award, researchers are investigating whether this new therapy can be used on incurable metastatic prostate cancer.

To read more, please [click here](#). *Written by Kendall Morgan for the Duke University CTSA.*

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## Translational Science 2016 Announces Awards for Career Achievement and Contributions

The Translational Science 2016 Awards Committee is pleased to recognize investigators and educators who have made outstanding contributions in the field of translational science through four different awards to be given during Translational Science 2016, April 13-15 in Washington, D.C. Nominations are being accepted for the following awards:

- 1. Edward H. Ahrens, Jr Distinguished Investigator Award:** This award is named in honor of Edward H. (Pete) Ahrens, Jr., recognizing a senior investigator whose innovative research has had a major impact on clinical practice and health care for the benefit of the public.
- 2. Clinical and Translational Research Distinguished Educator Award:** This award recognizes an investigator who has distinguished him or herself as a researcher, mentor and academic leader. Students and trainees are also invited to submit nominations.
- 3. Translational Science New Investigator Award:** This Award recognizes an investigator's pathway to excellence in achieving an independent research career in biomedical research. The recipient will be required to present his/her research at the AFMR Henry Christian Dinner.
- 4. Team Science Award:** This award recognizes the importance of interdisciplinary teams to the translation of research discoveries into clinical applications and eventually widespread clinical practice.

**The Deadline to submit is December 14, 2015.** For a full list of requirements and selection criteria for each award, please [click here](#).

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## From the Hill--ACTS Advocacy News Negotiations Continue for Proposed LHHS Appropriations Bill

Congressional leadership is currently working with the White House to negotiate an overarching spending deal that will add funding to the annual appropriations bills, including the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education (LHHS) Appropriations Bills. The current FY 2016 LHHS proposals include additional funding for the National Institutes of Health (and key programs such as CTSA and IDeA), but

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### 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](http://actscience.org)

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those gains are more than offset by cuts to other research and public health programs. If a deal can be reached, funding should be restored to public health programs and meaningful increases for clinical and translational research activities at NIH should be secured. Read more details by [clicking on the ACTS Advocacy page](#).

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**ACTS Member Highlight: Share Your Exciting News Stories with Us!**  
Save the Date Now for Translational Science 2016

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## News from ACTS

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**ACTS Member Highlight: Share Your Exciting News Stories with Us!**

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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**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

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**FDA Nominee Commits to Advancing Translational Medicine**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is working to advance translational medicine, with a focus on the balance between innovation and protecting public health. Speaking at the 10th Annual International Symposium of The University of Pennsylvania's Institute for Translational Medicine and Therapeutics, Dr. Robert M. Califf--President Obama's nominee for FDA commissioner--said that the revised "Common Rule" for clinical trials will help achieve this goal. "We're calling for much more activated patients, and much more proactive involvement with a position of broad consent starting out as people engage with medical care that will make it easier for researchers, if they have the proper credentials and rules, to use data to help people get better and [enable] better healthcare delivery," said Califf, FDA deputy commissioner for medical products and tobacco. FDA also is seeking to advance translational medicine by helping professionals generate more and better evidence that will improve decision-making.

From "FDA Nominee Commits to Advancing Translational Medicine"  
*Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News (10/13/15) Philippidis, Alex*

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### **U.S. and Canada Partner to Invest \$21 Million for Research Hubs in Developing Countries**

The National Institutes of Health is teaming up with other research organizations in the United States and Canada to establish seven regional research and training centers in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The groups will spend more than \$20 million over five years on the Global Environmental and Occupational Health Hubs, in which multidisciplinary teams of researchers and other organizations will collaborate on common research and training topics. These issues include pesticide use, air pollution, and mining hazards, all of which cause a significant burden of disease and death in LMICs. Each GEOHealth hub will be supported by two five-year awards: one for an LMIC lead institution for research and another for a U.S. institution that will oversee research training.

From "U.S. and Canada Partner to Invest \$21 Million for Research Hubs in Developing Countries"  
*NIH News (10/08/15)*

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### **Francis Collins Warns of 'Devastating' Effect of Budget Crisis on NIH-Funded Research**

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Francis Collins has warned Congress that many NIH initiatives could be pushed back or put on hold without additional funding in fiscal year 2016. This could affect threatened research programs that include the Precision Medicine Initiative, the Brain Research through Advancing Innovation Initiative, and efforts related to vaccine development. The 2016 fiscal year began Oct. 1, and Congress may not agree on a full-year budget before the Dec. 11 expiration of a short-term spending bill that recently prevented a government shutdown. Collins said that keeping NIH's budget at 2015 levels could be "devastating," and it may have negative economic consequences as well as effects on healthcare research.

From "Francis Collins Warns of 'Devastating' Effect of Budget Crisis on NIH-Funded Research"  
*GenomeWeb News (10/07/15)*

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### **NIH Common Fund Launches Four Programs Designed to Take Aim at Gaps in Biomedical Research**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Common Fund has awarded more than \$54 million in the 2015 fiscal year to projects in four broad scientific areas. These include the Glycoscience Program, the 4D Nucleome Program, the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Program, and the Science of Behavior Change Program. The Common Fund identifies emerging areas of science and focuses on major challenges that are hindering research progress. "These awards aim to provide catalytic support to areas of research that no one institute or center at NIH would be able to address on its own," said Dr. James M. Anderson, director of the Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives, which oversees the NIH Common Fund.

From "NIH Common Fund Launches Four Programs Designed to Take Aim at Gaps in Biomedical Research"  
*NIH News (10/05/15)*

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## **Grant Opportunities**

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### **Collaborative Activities to Promote Metabolomics Research**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has announced an Administrative Supplement funding opportunity as part of the Common Fund Metabolomics Program. Supplemental funds will be provided to ongoing NIH-funded research projects for new interactive collaborations between researchers and metabolomics

experts to add a metabolomics approach to a project's existing Research Strategy. Collaborative projects must enhance the parent grant by adding metabolomics analyses, and they also must include activities to increase the expertise of the biomedical research group in key aspects of metabolomics study design and analysis. NIH intends to commit about \$2 million in the 2016 fiscal year to fund 12-14 awards. Applications are due by Feb. 15, 2016.

From "Collaborative Activities to Promote Metabolomics Research"  
*NIH Grants (10/09/15)*

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### **Diabetes Research Centers (P30)**

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) has issued a funding opportunity announcement seeking applications for Diabetes Research Centers. The centers--formerly known as Diabetes Endocrinology Research Centers and Diabetes Research and Training Centers--support three key research-related activities: Research Core services, a Pilot and Feasibility program, and an Enrichment program. NIDDK plans to commit about \$5 million in fiscal year 2017 to fund up to three awards. Application budgets are limited to \$1 million annually in direct costs, unless the applicant organization proposes to provide regional or national services, and the maximum project period is five years. Applications are due by June 14, 2016.

From "Diabetes Research Centers (P30)"  
*NIH Grants (10/06/15)*

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### **BRAIN Initiative: Research Opportunities Using Invasive Neural Recording and Stimulating Technologies in the Human Brain (U01)**

The National Institutes of Health has issued a funding opportunity announcement (FOA) seeking applications to assemble integrated, multi-disciplinary teams to overcome fundamental barriers to invasive neural recording and stimulating technologies in the brain. According to the FOA, projects should look at high-impact questions in human neurosciences and disorders of the human nervous system. Successful applicants will become part of a consortium work group, coordinated by NIH, that seeks to identify consensus standards of practice and supplemental opportunities to collect and provide data for ancillary studies. Approximately 10 awards, with a total of up to \$11.5 million, will be funded in fiscal year 2016. Applications are due by Dec. 15, 2015.

From "BRAIN Initiative: Research Opportunities Using Invasive Neural Recording and Stimulating Technologies in the Human Brain (U01)"  
*NIH Grants (10/05/15)*

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