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Nominations Open for ACTS Board Officer Director-at-Large

Do you know an individual that is dedicated to advancing the field of Clinical and Translational Science? The new director will join a group of 16 actively engaged board members to steer ACTS leadership roles in advancing the disciplines of Translational Science.

Eligibility & Expectations:

- Must be a member of ACTS in good standing
- Serve a three year term
- Participate on monthly calls
- Participate on ACTS committees as needed

All nominations are due by December 14, 2015.

Please click [here](#) to learn more and to submit a nomination.

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Translational Science 2016 Accepting 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. AFMR Outstanding 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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November 12, 2015

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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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NCATS Seeks Input for Strategic Plan

NCATS seeks input on the scientific and operational challenges, opportunities and research needs in translational science to help set the Center's strategic priorities and inform the development of a five-year strategic plan. Details about how to provide feedback are outlined in the Request for Information (RFI): Soliciting Input for the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) Strategic Planning Process.

The deadline for comments is Jan. 8, 2016.

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Clinical Research Forum Top 10 Clinical Research Achievement Awards Call for Nominations

The Clinical Research Forum announces the opening of the call for nominations for its signature program, the annual Top 10 Clinical Research Achievement Awards. The Top 10 Awards honor outstanding accomplishments in clinical research that identify major advances resulting from the nation's investment in research to benefit the health and welfare of its citizens.

Nominations for outstanding research projects should:

- Represent innovation, creativity and scientific advancement
- Contribute to the understanding of human disease and/or human physiology
- Demonstrate impact on the prevention, diagnosis and/or treatment or increased understanding of the disease state

Nominations are due by January 11, 2016. To submit a nomination, please [click here](#).

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From the Hill: ACTS Advocacy News Congress passes a comprehensive budget deal

At the end of October, Congress passed a comprehensive deal to avert sequestration, raise budget caps, and add about \$80 billion in discretionary spending during fiscal year (FY) 2016 and FY 2017. Negotiating and then ushering this comprehensive deal through the House of Representatives was the last act of the outgoing Speaker of the House, former-Congressman John Boehner (R-OH).

With newly increased budget authority, legislators in the House and Senate are currently working together to update the twelve annual appropriations bill and craft an overarching omnibus appropriations package for FY 2016. Medical research and public health advocates expect the budget agreement to translate into between \$1 and \$2 billion in additional funding for the National Institutes of Health and related activities and restored funding (or a greatly mitigated cut) for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and other programs that suffered under the previously low spending allocations.

To learn more, [click here](#).

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To learn more, click here.

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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

Industry Seeks More Specifics on FDA's Flexibility With Orphan Drug Guidance

The National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD), Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), and Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) are calling on the Food and Drug Administration to clarify its "regulatory flexibility" regarding orphan drug reviews. A draft guidance released by FDA earlier this year was meant to address common issues among drugmakers developing treatments for rare diseases. The three organizations have praised the guidance, while emphasizing the importance of flexibility in evaluating orphan drugs. PhRMA and BIO have asked FDA to be more specific on the use of natural history studies, innovative trial designs, and

endpoint development, while NORD asked for additional guidance on specific rare diseases.

From "Industry Seeks More Specifics on FDA's Flexibility With Orphan Drug Guidance" *Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society (11/04/2015) Mezher, Michael*

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FDA Wants Input on Use of Technology in Clinical Research

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently published a notice in the Federal Register asking for comments about the use of technology in clinical research. The agency is seeking comments on four key issues: the technologies and innovative methods used for clinical investigations; how FDA could encourage adoption of such technologies; perceived barriers to the use of technology in clinical investigations; and participant acceptance and privacy concerns related to the technologies. The agency is accepting comments until Dec. 28.

From "FDA Wants Input on Use of Technology in Clinical Research" *iHealth Beat (11/04/15)*

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Regional Big Data Hubs Target Healthcare Research

The National Science Foundation is encouraging Big Data with grants, totaling more than \$5 million, to help establish four regional hubs for data science innovation, with a focus on healthcare. The awards build on the National Big Data Research and Development Initiative announced in 2012, and they are being made through the Big Data Regional Innovation Hubs program. The regional hubs will focus on priority areas and key issues, such as new technologies for big data and data-driven discovery. The consortia will be coordinated by scientists at Columbia University (Northeast Hub), Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of North Carolina (South Hub), the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Midwest Hub), and the University of California, San Diego, UC Berkeley, and the University of Washington (West Hub).

From "Regional Big Data Hubs Target Healthcare Research" *Healthcare Informatics (11/03/15) Rath, David*

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Political and Industry Leaders Make a Case for Basic Research

Industry leaders and U.S. lawmakers met recently at the "Innovation: An American Imperative" symposium in Washington, D.C., to discuss federal support for basic research and development. The attendees gathered to support goals and policies described in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences' recent report, "Restoring the Foundation: The Vital Role of Research in Preserving the American Dream." Speaking at the event, Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.) noted the importance of investing in research to "achieve our national potential now and in the future."

From "Political and Industry Leaders Make a Case for Basic Research" *Scientific American (10/24/15) Mirsky, Steve*

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Grant Opportunities

IGNITE: Development and Validation of Model Systems and/or Pharmacodynamic Markers to Facilitate the Discovery of Neurotherapeutics (R21/R33)

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) and the National Institute on Drug Abuse have announced grants to encourage the translational relevance of animal models, ex vivo systems, testing paradigms, and endpoints in the development of neurotherapeutics. The funding opportunity announcement is part of a suite of Innovation Grants to Nurture Initial Translational Efforts, which focus on aiding the exploratory and early stages of drug discovery. NINDS intends to commit up to \$750,000 per year to fund up to three new awards in each of the fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018. Direct costs are limited to \$250,000 per year, and the project period

is limited to three years. The application deadline for the next round of funding is Feb. 18, 2016.

From "IGNITE: Development and Validation of Model Systems and/or Pharmacodynamic Markers to Facilitate the Discovery of Neurotherapeutics (R21/R33)"
NIH Grants (11/03/15)

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Proteogenomic Translational Research Centers for Clinical Proteomic Tumor Analysis Consortium (U01)

The National Cancer Institute has issued a funding opportunity announcement (FOA) as part of the NCI Clinical Proteomic Tumor Analysis Consortium. This program will support efforts to study cancer proteomes and their connections to abnormalities in cancer genomes, and examine the potential of proteomic and proteogenomic approaches in translational research. The FOA is soliciting applications for multidisciplinary Proteogenomic Translational Research Centers, which focus on applying proteomic and genomic approaches to clinically relevant research projects. NCI plans to commit \$4.5 million in the 2016 fiscal year to fund up to three awards; applicants may request up to five years of support. Applications are due by Jan. 27, 2016.

From "Proteogenomic Translational Research Centers for Clinical Proteomic Tumor Analysis Consortium (U01)"
NIH Grants (11/02/15)

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Metabolomics Data Analysis (R03)

The National Institutes of Health has issued a small research grant funding opportunity announcement for metabolomics data analysis in biomedical research. The grants--which seek to encourage collaboration among bioinformaticians, metabolomics experts, and biomedical researchers--are expected to complement the efforts of the Common Fund Metabolomics Program. The Common Fund plans to commit \$1 million in fiscal year 2016 for 6-7 awards. Application budgets may not exceed \$100,000 in direct costs, and the maximum project period is one year. Applications are due by Feb. 11, 2016.

From "Metabolomics Data Analysis (R03)"
Grants.gov (10/30/15)

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