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Translational Science 2016 Awards for Career Achievement and Contributions Submissions Now Open through January 4

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 January 4, 2016. For a full list of requirements and selection criteria for each award, please click here.

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Translational Science 2016 Call for Abstracts & Meeting Registration Opening December 21

The Call for Abstracts for Translational Science 2016 and Registration for Translational Science 2016 will open **Monday, December 21st**. The Call for Abstracts will remain open through **Friday, January 29**. Start preparing your abstract for submission today! You must register to attend Translational Science 2016 in order to have your poster accepted.

The Translational Science 2016 abstract requirements will be:

1. Title
2. Objectives
3. Methods/Study Population
4. Results/Anticipated Results
5. Discussion/Significance of Impact
6. If funded, list grant numbers or other funding source

December 10, 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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For more information about Translational Science 2016, please [click here](#).

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Nominations Close December 14 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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From the Hill: ACTS Advocacy News NCATS Collecting Feedback for Strategic Plan

The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) is leading the effort at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to better-support the full spectrum of medical research. NCATS is a critical partner of the Coalition for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) that administers the Clinical and Translational Science Awards, the Rare Disease Clinical Research Networks, and other clinical and translational research activities.

NCATS is currently in the process of crafting a strategic plan to lay out an overall vision and key research activities for the next five years. 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. This is a collaborative process with the community and NCATS is actively soliciting stakeholder feedback. Please send all comments to info@actscience.org by **December 15, 2015**. ACTS will compile one response to NCATS through our CCTS.

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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ACTS New Website Coming Soon!

Look for updates next week from ACTS on our new website coming live next week!

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NIH Releases Grant Opportunities for IDeA Program

NIH released grant notices for IDeA programs, posted as of December 7, 2015.. For more information on the Clinical Sites for the IDeA States Pediatric Clinical Trials Network (UG1) Grant, please [click here](#). For more information on the Data Coordinating and Operations Center for the IDeA States Pediatric Clinical Trials Network (U24) Grant, please [click here](#).

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Translational Science News

Law for Rare Disease Drugs Needs Revamping, Researchers Say

Some researchers are calling for changes to the Orphan Drug Act, which encourages pharmaceutical companies to develop medicines for rare diseases. Writing in the *American Journal of Clinical Oncology*, a research team argues that drugmakers are exploiting loopholes that allow them to expand the market for orphan drugs, going against the law's original intention. In an interview, Martin Makary, MD, professor of health policy at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and one of the paper's authors, points out that 7 out of 10 blockbuster drugs approved in the United States in 2014 were approved as orphan drugs, but they are also used off-label for other diseases. "The problem is that some of these drugs may actually have been submitted [for FDA approval] with the ultimate intention for being used more broadly than if they were designed only for the rare disease populations," Makary says.

From "Law for Rare Disease Drugs Needs Revamping, Researchers Say"
STAT News (11/30/15) Silverman, Ed

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Sanofi, AstraZeneca Swap Compounds in New Twist on Open Drug R&D

Pharmaceutical companies Sanofi and AstraZeneca announced in November that they had agreed to a direct exchange of 210,000 chemical compounds from their respective libraries as part of an effort to encourage open innovation. To save time and money and encourage new drug research, drug companies are trying new ways to share early-stage research. Under the new Sanofi-AstraZeneca partnership, the companies will not exchange money but will be free to use the shared chemical compounds with no restrictions. This process could take several years, after which promising chemicals will be identified as "lead compounds" to be moved into preclinical and clinical development.

From "Sanofi, AstraZeneca Swap Compounds in New Twist on Open Drug R&D"
Reuters (11/20/15) Hirschler, Ben

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NIH Ends Era of U.S. Medical Research on Chimpanzees

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Francis Collins announced on Nov. 18 that 50 chimpanzees held by the government for medical research will be sent to sanctuaries. The decision came a little more than two years after NIH decided to release more than 300 chimps at research facilities across the country and resettle them in more-humane conditions. "It is time to acknowledge that there is no further justification for the 50 chimpanzees to continue to be kept available for invasive biomedical research," Collins wrote to NIH administrators. The decision leaves about 400 chimpanzees available for research at private facilities.

From "NIH Ends Era of U.S. Medical Research on Chimpanzees"
Washington Post (11/19/15) Fears, Darryl

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Grant Opportunities

Limited Competition: Pediatric Heart Network for the Data Coordinating Center (U24)

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) has announced a limited competition funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for the Data Coordinating Center (DCC) for the Pediatric Heart Network (PHN). Only the current PHN Data Coordinating Center awardee may apply in response to the FOA. The DCC and the Clinical Research Centers will support and conduct research to help further the health and quality of life for people with congenital heart disease and children with acquired heart disease, through multicenter collaborative clinical research. Application budgets should not exceed \$4.73 million in direct costs for fiscal year 2017. The maximum project period is seven years. Applications are due by March 2, 2016.

From "Limited Competition: Pediatric Heart Network for the Data Coordinating Center (U24)"
Grants.gov (12/02/15)

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Pediatric Heart Network Clinical Research Centers (UG1)

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute has issued a funding opportunity announcement seeking applications from institutions that would like to participate with it in the Pediatric Heart Network (PHN) as Clinical Research Centers. The centers will support and conduct research to improve the health and quality of life for individuals with congenital heart disease, as well as children with acquired heart disease, through multi-center collaborative clinical research. Up to nine awards will be funded in fiscal year 2017, and application budgets must include no more than \$220,000 in direct costs in fiscal years 2017 through 2023. Applications are due by March 2, 2016.

From "Pediatric Heart Network Clinical Research Centers (UG1)"
Grants.gov (12/02/15)

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NIDCR Award for Sustaining Outstanding Achievement in Research (SOAR) (R35)

A funding opportunity announcement from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) seeks to provide longer-term support to experienced NIDCR-funded investigators who have outstanding records of research productivity entering their mid-career stage. The NIDCR Award for Sustaining Outstanding Achievement in Research (SOAR) is expected to further the investigator along this career path and embark on ambitious longer-term projects of extraordinary potential within the mission of NIDCR. The funding award supports research projects for up to eight years. NIDCR plans to commit up to \$3 million in fiscal year 2017 for two to four awards. Application budgets must not exceed \$650,000 in direct costs each year. Applications are due by March 8, 2016.

From "NIDCR Award for Sustaining Outstanding Achievement in Research (SOAR) (R35)"
Grants.gov (11/27/15)

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