STUDY: CANCER DRUG RESTORES BRAIN Dopamine, REDUCES TOXIC PROTEINS IN PARKINSON, DEMENTIA
Karen Teber | July 11, 2016

A small phase I study provides molecular evidence that an FDA-approved drug for leukemia significantly increased brain dopamine and reduced toxic proteins linked to disease progression in patients with Parkinson’s disease or dementia with Lewy bodies. Dopamine is the brain chemical (neurotransmitter) lost as a result of death of dopamine-producing neurons in these neurodegenerative diseases.

See quotes from the study’s senior investigator, Charbel Moussa, MD, PhD, Scientific and Clinical Research Director of the GUMC Translational Neurotherapeutics Program (pictured left) by reading the full article here.
Journal of Clinical and Translational Science

Reminder: JCTS Submissions Now Open!
Reminder that submissions are now open for Journal of Clinical and Translational Science (JCTS). Submit by following this link: journals.cambridge.org/cts/submit.

Journal of Clinical and Translational Science is an international peer-reviewed journal that will publish papers capturing the spectrum of research from T1 (translation from research lab bench to bedside) through to T4 (translation to populations). JCTS aims to provide a forum for the rapid communication of relevant topics of interest to the large and diverse community of clinical and translational scientists. The ultimate goal of JCTS is to improve the efficiency with which research and new diagnostics, therapies, and preventive measures, informed by health needs, are able to reach the public.

Specifically, JCTS will highlight outstanding work in the following areas:

- Basic Translational Research
- Clinical Research
- Education
- Research Methods
- Implementation
- Policy and Community Engagement
- Translational Research Design and Analysis

UK Searching for New Executive Director

Executive Director/Clin & Trans Science

The Executive Director of the University of Kentucky Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) takes a lead role in developing strategic and tactical plans to build UK’s CTSA Hub with expertise, services and infrastructure that transform the conduct of clinical and translational research.

To see the full job posting, follow this link.

News from The Hill

Dale Dirks & Dane Christiansen

Stay updated on NIH Funding and Translational Science happenings in Washington, DC by visiting the ACTS Advocacy home page.

Grants and Grant News

What Does NIH Look For?

The NIH provides financial support in the form of grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts. This assistance supports the advancement of the NIH mission, of enhancing health, extending longevity, and reducing illness and disability.
All About Grants

Advancement of the NIH mission of enhancing health, extending healthy life, and reducing the burdens of illness and disability. While NIH awards many grants specifically for research, we also provide grant opportunities that support research-related activities, including: fellowship and training, career development, scientific conferences, resource and construction. Learn more about the types of programs NIH supports. See what the NIH encourages by clicking here.

UPenn Orphan Disease Center Announces 2016 Million Dollar Bike Ride Pilot Grant Program for Rare Disease Research

The Orphan Disease Center (ODC) at the University of Pennsylvania invites you to participate in the 2016 Million Dollar Bike Ride Pilot Grant Program for rare disease research. The program is now open and offering 28 different research grant opportunities focusing on 20 different rare diseases. This program provides a one-year grant to support research related to a rare disease represented in the 2016 Million Dollar Bike Ride. Number of awards and dollar amounts vary per disease based on fundraising totals by each disease team. This RFA is open to the entire international community. All individuals holding a faculty-level appointment at an academic institution or a senior scientific position at a non-profit institution or foundation are eligible to respond to this RFA.

Letters of Interest (LOIs) are due no later than Friday, September 16, 2016 by 8pm EST.

Please contact me at scharle@mail.med.upenn.edu, or (215) 573-6822 with any questions.

Download the Million Dollar Bike Ride RFA Guidelines by clicking here.

FAQ

Not sure where you fit in with the NIH New/Early Stage Investigator classifications? Check this out for a basic guide.

New Grant Opportunities

NCI Mentored Research Scientist Development Award to Promote Diversity (K01)

PAR-16-401

K01 Research Scientist Development Award - Research & Training National Cancer Institute (NCI)

The purpose of the NCI Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (K01) is to enhance the diversity of the NCI-funded cancer research workforce by supporting eligible individuals from groups that have been shown to be underrepresented in the biomedical, behavioral, social and clinical sciences. This FOA provides salary and research support for a sustained period of "protected time" for intensive research career development under the guidance of an experienced mentor, or sponsor.

NCI Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award to Promote Diversity (K08)

PAR-16-400

K08 Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant National Cancer Institute (NCI)

The NCI-sponsored K08 award is specifically designed to promote career development of clinical scientists from diverse backgrounds that have been shown to be underrepresented in health-related science and for those who are committed to a career in basic biomedical, health services, behavioral, and social sciences research.
behavioral or translational cancer research, including research on cancer health disparities. The expectation is that through this sustained period of research career development and training, awardees will develop enhanced research capabilities for cancer research careers and be better prepared to compete for research project grants (e.g., R03, R21, or R01) funding.

NCI Outstanding Investigator Award (R35)

PAR-16-411

R35 Outstanding Investigator Award
National Cancer Institute (NCI)

The purpose of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Outstanding Investigator Award is to provide long-term support and increased flexibility for investigators with outstanding records of research productivity to continue or to embark upon a research program of unusual potential in cancer. Candidates for the OIA must be nominated by their applicant organization. Special features of the OIA include 7-year project periods; the expectation that the OIA PD/PI commit at least 6 calendar months effort to the OIA; the expectation of clear and substantial Institutional commitment to the PD/PI, for example, providing 20% of salary support; and that PD/PIs will be expected to renegotiate their time and effort on all other grant support, including NIH grants, in order to accommodate the OIA level of effort.

Kidney Precision Medicine Project - Central Hub (U2C)

RFA-DK-16-028

U2C Resource-Related Research Multi-Component Projects and Centers Cooperative Agreements
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) requests applications for the Kidney Precision Medicine Project (KPMP) Central Hub (CH) to aggregate, analyze and visualize all participant data and samples and to provide scientific, infrastructure and administrative support for the entire KPMP. The CH will collaborate with the KPMP Recruitment Sites and Tissue Interrogation Sites to obtain and evaluate kidney biopsies from participants with acute kidney injury or chronic kidney disease, create a kidney tissue atlas, define disease subgroups, and identify cells, pathways and targets for novel therapies.

Maximizing Investigators’ Research Award for Early Stage Investigators (R35)

NOT-GM-16-111

R35 Outstanding Investigator Award
National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)

The Maximizing Investigators’ Research Award (MIRA) is a grant to provide support for the program of research in an investigator’s laboratory that falls within the mission of NIGMS. For the purpose of this FOA, a program of research is the collection of projects in the investigator’s lab that are relevant to the mission of NIGMS. The goal of MIRA is to increase the efficiency and efficacy of NIGMS funding.

Member Highlight Stories

Do you know someone who deserves to be recognized for outstanding or groundbreaking work? Send ACTS your story to be highlighted in future versions of ACTS Connection. Submit stories to: info@actscience.org

Save the Date: Translational Science 2017

Translational Science 2017 will be held April 18-21, 2017 at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, DC. Registration for TS17 is expected to open in December 2016.