Meet Your New ACTS Board Members

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Translational Science Today
The promise of robotic exoskeletons has long offered the hope that motorized suits could one day restore movement to the disabled or grant soldiers and workers superhuman strength. But despite decades of hype, the fabled “exosuit” remains largely the stuff of Iron Man and science fiction, with most real-life prototypes quietly flopping or struggling to find a market. But the concept refuses to fade. Instead, researchers at Carnegie Mellon University and elsewhere are rethinking the design process, literally from the ground up.

The Carnegie Mellon team is pursuing a new approach that improves endurance by lowering the wearer’s energy exertion—a long-standing challenge for the field. Rather than attempting to build a conventional full-body or even a lower-body augmentation suit, they created a software-controlled ankle brace with the straightforward goal of reducing the effort needed to walk, making the motion less exhausting for people with physical impairments. Such simple devices—targeted, low-profile, even soft—could finally sidestep previous pitfalls to deliver practical and affordable exoskeletons, the researchers reported in a study last month in Science.

See the full article here.
News from The Hill

News from The Hill: July 27, 2017

Recently, the House Appropriations Committee approved its Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education (L-HHS) Appropriations Bill. The House bill and accompanying committee report reject many of the draconian funding cuts and troublesome policy proposals advanced in the administration’s FY 2018 budget request.

For example, the committee provides an increase of $1.1 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) rather than a $7 billion cut proposed by the administration; rejects the administration’s proposal to dramatically reduce indirect costs at NIH; and provides categorical funding for many chronic disease programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention slated by the administration to be rolled into a block grant.

There are significant cuts to some programs contained in the bill...

See the full update on the ACTS Advocacy Page.

Grants & Grant News
UR awarded $19 million grant to coordinate a nationwide network of researchers

CAITLIN WHYTE | WEEKEND EDITION HOST
July 26, 2017 | WXXI News

An award granted to the University of Rochester will help coordinate and connect researchers around the nation.

The $19 million federal grant comes from the National Institute of Health, and is for the Clinical and Translational Science Institute, which works to help biomedical scientists move their research forward. The money will help fund a new networking initiative called the Center for Leading Innovation and Collaboration, or CLIC, at the university. It will help researchers communicate better within in the nationwide clinical and translational network.

See the full article here.

NIAID Physician-Scientist Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00)

K99R00 Career Transition Award/Research Transition Award
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

The purpose of the NIAID Physician-Scientist Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00) program is to increase and maintain a strong cohort of new and talented independent physician-scientists. This program is designed to facilitate a timely transition of outstanding postdoctoral researchers with a clinical doctorate degree from mentored, postdoctoral research positions to independent, tenure-track or equivalent faculty positions. The program will provide independent NIAID research support during this transition to help awardees launch competitive, independent research careers in biomedical fields and thereby help to address the national physician-scientist workforce shortage.

Small Grants on Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases (R03)

R03 Small Grant Program
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) will support small grants on primary immunodeficiency diseases focusing on ex vivo studies with human specimens and on studies with current or new animal models including novel clinical strategies for detecting, identifying the molecular basis of, or developing innovative therapies for primary immunodeficiency diseases. In addition, this FOA aims to encourage analyses of clinical data and samples maintained in primary immunodeficiency registries, consortium databases and repositories to address questions relevant to primary immunodeficiency research. The R03 grant supports different types of projects including pilot and feasibility studies; secondary analysis of existing data; small, self-contained research projects; development of research methodology; and development of new research technology. The R03 is intended to support small research projects that can be carried out in a short period of time with limited resources. Investigators who have not received independent NIH funding or independent NIH funding in this field are encouraged to apply to this FOA.

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.