The NIH Guide announces scientific initiatives and provides policy and administrative information to individuals and organizations who need to be kept informed of opportunities, requirements, and changes in extramural programs administered by the National Institutes of Health.

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NOTICES OF AVAILABILITY (RFPs AND RFAs)

MAINTENANCE OF A REPOSITORY AND DISTRIBUTION CENTER FOR CRYOPRESERVED MOUSE EMBRYOS

RFP AVAILABLE: RFP-NIH-NIAID-DAIT-92-09

P.T. 34; K.W. 0780005, 1002002

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institutes of Health (NIH), has a requirement for the acquisition of: Maintenance of a Repository and Distribution Center for Cryopreserved Mouse Embryos. This NIAID sponsored project shall take approximately five years to complete. This shall be a cost reimbursement type contract. The proposed project will require a high level of expertise in: 1) mouse immunogenetics 2) sophisticated cryopreservation techniques, 3) maintenance of an inbred animal facility, 4) superovulation techniques 5) collection of embryos 6) embryo freezing and 7) embryo transfer. It is mandatory that the offeror's have 1) an ALAC certified animal breeding or equivalent facility, 2) a central alarm system for the refrigerators and freezers and security for the facilities to be used on this project and 3) an adequate, technically and logistically sound plan to transfer the current inventory of cryopreserved embryos from the Jackson Laboratories, Bar Harbor, Maine to the new site without any deleterious effect on the ability to reconstitute the current inventory.

Any contract awarded will be subject to DHHS regulations regarding the animal subjects in research. It is anticipated that one (1) award will be made. Any responsible offeror may submit a proposal to be considered by the Government. The issuance date of the Request for Proposals (RFP) will be on October 11, 1991 and proposals will be due by the close of business on December 5, 1991.

Requests for the RFP should be directed to:

Ms. Merilee Rahe-Stoline
Contract Specialist, Contract Management Branch
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Control Data Building, Room 326P
6003 Executive Boulevard
Bethesda, MD 20892

To receive a copy of the RFP, please supply this office with two self-addressed mailing labels. Telephone inquiries will not be honored and all inquiries must be in writing and addressed to the office listed above.

This announcement does not commit the Government to award a contract.
AIDS COOPERATIVE ADJUVANT GROUP FOR INVESTIGATIONS ON AIDS VACCINE ADJUVANTS

RFA AVAILABLE: AI-92-01

P.T. 34; K.W. 0715008, 0740075, 0740023

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

Letter of Intent Receipt Date: October 10, 1991
Application Receipt Date: December 10, 1991

The National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases (NIAID) announces the availability of a Request for Applications (RFA) for recompetition of the AIDS Cooperative Adjuvant Group for Investigations on AIDS Vaccine Adjuvants. Existing Groups and new applicants are invited to apply.

BACKGROUND

Although great strides have been made in our understanding of HIV and the immunologic responses it elicits, the development of a safe and effective vaccine against HIV remains a formidable challenge. Among the varied research initiatives launched to achieve this goal, extensive efforts have been directed toward understanding the mechanism of protection. Current studies indicate that a potent, efficacious AIDS vaccine should elicit both a comprehensive and a long-lasting immune response to HIV. Immunostimulating compounds, adjuvants, have been used to enhance the immunogenicity of a variety of vaccines against infectious pathogens. They have been sought to increase the speed, intensity, and duration of an immune response. At the present time, alum is the only adjuvant licensed for human use. The identification of other adjuvants that maximize the quality and quantity of an immune response to HIV continues to be a critical component of the AIDS vaccine development strategy.

PURPOSE

NIAID has undertaken a leading role in organizing adjuvant investigations and has organized researchers into the AIDS Cooperative Adjuvant Group for Investigations on AIDS Vaccine Adjuvants. Through this effort a number of new and novel adjuvant formulations have been identified. NIAID now wishes to re-direct the research currently being funded in this area. The RFA focuses studies on adjuvant-vaccine formulations that combine SIV or HIV immunogens with potent adjuvants. Emphasis will be placed on the identification of those adjuvanted formulations that stimulate the varied immune reactivity of B cells, T cells, and antigen-presenting cells, and that generate long lasting immunity, immunologic memory, and mucosal immunity. For example, studies aimed at defining adjuvant formulations that generate humoral immunity, especially the induction of neutralizing antibodies and/or antibody mediated cell cytotoxicity (ADCC) are desired. Furthermore, investigations that examine the ability of adjuvanted-vaccines to enhance cell mediated immunity, such as cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTL) and T helper cell activity will be considered responsive to this RFA. Moreover, adjuvanted-vaccines that enhance antigen presentation through induction of cytokines, increase duration of protection and/or augment memory will be sought.

HEALTHY PEOPLE 2000

The Public Health Service (PHS) is committing to achieving the health promotion and disease prevention objectives of "Healthy People 2000," a PHS-led national activity for setting priority areas. This Request for Applications (RFA), AIDS COOPERATIVE ADJUVANT GROUP FOR INVESTIGATIONS ON AIDS VACCINE ADJUVANTS, is related to the priority area of HIV infection. Potential applicants may obtain a copy of "Healthy People 2000" (Full Report: Stock No. 017-001-00474-0) or "Healthy People 2000" (Summary Report: Stock No. 017-001-00473-1) through the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402-9325 (telephone 202-783-3238).

OBJECTIVES

The RFA invites applications that seek to evaluate adjuvanted-vaccines that effectively stimulate comprehensive and long-lasting immune responses to SIV or HIV antigens. These studies, that will be conducted in small animals, will be developed to evaluate a number of immunologic questions. Approaches to these questions may include, but are not limited to:

- B Cell Reactivity: Determine the effectiveness of varied adjuvants to induce the production of neutralizing antibodies and/or that elicit ADCC to SIV or HIV antigens. Evaluate adjuvant formulations for their effect on the development of enhancing antibodies. Define other characteristics that may enhance protective immunity, such as isotype and avidity of antibodies, and cytokine modulation of antibody.

- T Cell Reactivity: Determine the effectiveness of varied adjuvants to induce the stimulation of T helper cell reactivity. Define adjuvant formulations which induce specific SIV or HIV CTLs. Define other characteristics, e.g., induction of cytokines, that may augment T cell reactivity.

- Antigen Presentation: Determine the effectiveness of varied adjuvants to augment antigen presentation of selected SIV or HIV antigens.

- Duration of Immunity & Memory: Define adjuvant formulations and immunization schedules that enhance duration of immunity and augment immunologic memory to SIV or HIV antigens.

- Mucosal Immunity: Define adjuvants that induce mucosal immunity. Studies may include, but are not limited to, secretory IgA antibodies.
Applicants responding to the RFA need not attempt to address all of these research questions. Each approach will be assessed on its effectiveness to identify potent adjuvanted-vaccines that induce appropriate immune responses to SIV and HIV antigens. Since SIV or HIV proteins are the immunogens to be used in these studies, NIAID, through its Scientific Coordinator, will provide information and resources for investigators who may not have access to SIV or HIV subunit or peptide immunogens. In the event that the research of the awardee produces a product that merits further testing for immunogenicity in primates, NIAID staff may provide resources through the Vaccine Research and Development Branch.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR INCLUSION OF WOMEN AND MINORITIES IN CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDIES

For projects involving clinical research, NIH requires applicants to give special attention to the inclusion of women and minorities in study populations. If women or minorities are not included in the study populations for clinical studies, a specific justification for this exclusion must be provided. Applications without such documentation will not be accepted for review.

MECHANISM OF SUPPORT

Awards will be made as Cooperative Agreements (UO1). The NIAID has allocated $1.18 million for the initial year of funding applications received in response to this RFA. Awards will be made for a three year period. The earliest award date is June 1, 1992.

ELIGIBILITY

Any domestic or foreign institution, university, medical school, college, hospital, laboratory or other public or for-profit institution is eligible.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Letter of Intent: Prospective applicants are asked to submit by October 10, 1991 a letter of Intent that includes a descriptive title and description (not to exceed one page) of the proposed research. Since applications that do not address areas of program relevance will be considered nonresponsive, potential applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their research plans with program staff before completing their applications. The letter of intent should be sent to:

Dr. Barbara Detrick
Vaccine Research and Development Branch
DAIDS
National Institutes of Health
6003 Executive Blvd., Room 236P
Bethesda, MD 20892

The regular research application form PHS-398 (Rev.10/88) must be used in applying. These forms are available at most institutional business offices and from the Office of Grant Inquiries, Division of Research Grants, NIH, Westwood Building, Room 449, 5333 Westbard Ave., Bethesda, MD 20892. To identify responses to this announcement, check "yes" and put "Investigations On AIDS Vaccine Adjuvants (RFA AI-92-01)" under Item two on page one of the grant application. The RFA label provided with the instructions must be affixed to the bottom of the face page. Failure to use this label could result in delayed processing of the application such that it may not reach the review committee in time for review. The completed original application and six exact, single-sided photocopies must be mailed to:

Division of Research Grants
National Institutes of Health
Westwood Building, Room 240
Bethesda, MD 20892

Submit 17 exact, single-sided photocopies of the application to:

Dr. Allen Stoolmiller
AIDS Review Section
NIAID/DEA/PPRB
Control Data Building, Room 406S
6003 Executive Blvd.
Bethesda, MD 20982

INQUIRIES

The RFA contains important information for applicants and may be obtained from:

Dr. Barbara Detrick
Vaccine Research & Development Branch
Division of AIDS, NIAID, NIH
6003 Executive Blvd., Room 236P
Bethesda, MD 20892
Telephone: (301) 496-8200
This program is described in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, 93.856 - Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Research and 93.855 - Immunology, Allergic and Immunologic Diseases Research. Grants are awarded under the authority of the Public Health Service Act, Section 301 (42 USC 241) and administered under PHS grant policies and Federal Regulations, most specifically at 42 CFR Part 52 and 45 CFR Part 74. This program is not subject to the intergovernmental review requirements of Executive Order 12572 or Health Systems Agency Review.

ONGOING PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL ISSUES IN WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH OVER THE LIFE CYCLE

PA AVAILABLE: PA-91-100
P.T. 34, II; K.W. 0715095, 0785055, 0710030
National Institute of Mental Health

PURPOSE

This announces the availability of a new Program Announcement (PA) under authority of Sections 301, 487, and 518 of the Public Health Service Act (42 USC 241, 288, and 290cc-11), as amended, and subject to availability of funds, by National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to expand the full spectrum of research (basic, clinical, and epidemiological studies) on issues pertinent to women's mental health. Multidisciplinary research projects are encouraged. Studies are encouraged in basic science issues, premenstrual syndrome and late luteal phase dysphoric disorder, reproductive behavior and mental health, postpartum mental disorders, mood and behavior changes associated with mental health aspects of the menopause, and gender differences in the etiology, treatment, and prevention of mental disorders.

HEALTHY PEOPLE 2000

The Public Health Service (PHS) is committed to achieving the health promotion and disease prevention objectives of "Healthy People 2000," a PHS-led national activity for setting priority areas. Potential applicants may obtain a copy of "Healthy People 2000" (Full Report: Stock No. 017-001-00474-0) or "Healthy People 2000" (Summary Report: Stock No. 017-001-00473-1) through the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402-9325 (telephone 202-783-3238).

FUNDING MECHANISMS

Support mechanisms for research programs include the individual research project grant (RO1), the First Independent Research Support and Transition (FIRST) Award (R29), Program Projects (P01) and Small Grants (R03). In addition to encouraging research, NIMH seeks to expand scientific capability to conduct research on women's mental health concerns by increasing the number of well-trained investigators through institutional research training grants (T32), research career awards (K02, K05, K07, K20, K21), and individual fellowships (pre- and postdoctoral) (F30, F31, F32). In fiscal year 1992, it is estimated that approximately $3 million will be available from NIMH to support 22 new and continuation grants on mental health aspects of reproductive function in women. Grants focusing on specific mental disorders more prevalent in women or that examine gender differences in the etiology, course, and treatment of mental illness represent an additional source of funding, although the amount depends on appropriated funds and program priorities at the time of the award.

ELIGIBILITY

Applications may be submitted by public or private, nonprofit or for-profit, organizations such as universities, colleges, hospitals, laboratories, research institutions, units of State or local government, and eligible agencies of the Federal Government. Nonprofit private or public institutions, including a Federal laboratory, are eligible for research fellowship awards (F series). Women and minority investigators are encouraged to apply.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF NIH POLICIES CONCERNING INCLUSION OF WOMEN AND MINORITIES IN CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDY POPULATIONS

Applications for ADAMHA grants and cooperative agreements are required to include both women and minorities in study populations for clinical research, unless compelling scientific or other justification for not including either women or minorities is provided. This requirement is intended to ensure that research findings will be of benefit to all persons at risk of the disease, disorder, or condition under study. For the purpose of these policies, clinical research involves human studies of etiology, treatment, diagnosis, prevention, or epidemiology of diseases, disorders, or conditions, including but not limited to clinical trials; and minorities include U.S. racial/ethnic minority populations (specifically American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asian/Pacific Islanders, Blacks, and Hispanics).

ADAMHA recognizes that it may not be feasible or appropriate in all clinical research projects to include representation of the full array of U.S. racial/ethnic minority populations. However, applicants are urged to assess carefully the feasibility of including the broadest possible representation of minority groups.

Applications should include a description of the composition of the proposed study population by gender and racial/ethnic group, and the rationale for the numbers and kinds of people selected to participate. This
information should be included in the PHS form 398 in Section 2, A-D of the Research Plan and summarized in Section 2, E, Human Subjects.

Applications should incorporate in their study design gender and/or minority representation appropriate to the scientific objectives of the work proposed. If representation of women or minorities in sufficient numbers to permit assessment of differential effects is not feasible or appropriate, the reasons for this must be explained and justified. The rationale may relate to the purpose of the research, the health of the subjects, or other compelling circumstances (e.g., if in the only study population available there is a disproportionate representation in terms of age distribution, risk factors, incidence/prevalence, etc., of one gender or minority/majority group).

If the required information is not contained within the application, the review will be deferred until it is complete. Peer reviewers will address specifically whether the research plan in the application conforms to these policies. If gender and/or minority representation/justification are judged to be inadequate, the reviewers will consider this as a deficiency in assigning the priority score to the application.

All applications for clinical research submitted to ADAMHA/NIH are required to address these policies. ADAMHA/NIH funding components will not award grants that do not comply with these policies.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

All research applicants must use the current version of the grant application form PHS 398 (rev. 10/88). Support may be requested for a period of up to 5 years except for Small Grants which are limited to 2 years and fellowships which are limited to 3 years. Annual awards will be made subject to continued availability of funds and progress achieved. A competing supplemental application for some funding mechanisms may be submitted during an approved period of support to expand the scope or protocol of a project during the approved period. A competing continuation (i.e., renewal) application may be submitted before the end of an approved period of support to continue a project, with the exception of the FIRST Award and Small Grant which are not renewable. Applicants are advised to obtain additional information regarding funding mechanism(s) of interest.

REVIEW

Applications will be received under the usual PHS receipt and review schedule. Applications will be reviewed by an initial review group (IRG) consisting primarily of non-Federal scientific and technical experts. Applications will receive a second-level review by the appropriate National Advisory Council based on policy considerations as well as scientific merit. Applications recommended for approval by Council will be considered for funding on the basis of overall scientific and technical merit of the research as determined by peer review, program needs and balance, and availability of funds. Applicants are advised to obtain additional information regarding funding mechanism(s) of interest.

AWARDS

Grant funds may be used for expenses clearly related and necessary to conduct research projects, including both direct costs which can be specifically identified with the project and allowable indirect costs of the institution. Funds may not be used to establish, add a component to, or operate a treatment, rehabilitation, or prevention intervention service program. Support for research-related treatment, rehabilitation, or prevention services and programs may be requested only for costs required by the research. These costs must be justified in terms of research objectives, methods, and designs which promise to yield generalizable knowledge and/or make a significant contribution to theoretical concepts. Applicants are advised to obtain additional information regarding funding mechanism(s) of interest.

INQUIRIES

The RFA contains important information for applicants and may be obtained from the following who can also provide general information concerning this announcement:

Susan J. Blumenthal, M.D., M.P.A.
Chief, Behavioral Medicine Program
Basic Prevention and Behavioral Medicine Branch
National Institute of Mental Health
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 11C-006
Rockville, MD 20857
Telephone: (301) 443-4337

Division of Clinical Research

Mary C. Blehar, Ph.D.
Chief, Clinical and Biological Studies of Mood Disorders Program
Mood, Anxiety, and Personality Disorders Branch
National Institute of Mental Health
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 10C-23
Rockville, MD 20857
Telephone: (301) 443-4524
INTRODUCTION

Under the authorization in the Public Health Service Act, Section 301, as amended (42 U.S.C. 241), the Institutes of the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration (ADAMHA) make Research Scientist Development Awards (RSDAs) to eligible institutions for support of named individuals. Each ADAMHA Institute has different program goals, program initiatives, and resource constraints; therefore, potential applicants for an RSOA must contact the appropriate Institute office, listed herein, prior to preparing an application to obtain the full Program Announcement and current information about that Institute's situation with regard to RSDAs.

PURPOSE

The ADAMHA RSDA is intended to enhance the development of outstanding scientists and enable them to expand their potential for making important contributions to the fields of alcohol, drug abuse, or mental health (ADM) research. This Award provides five years of salary support (renewable once) and guarantees that the awardee will be able to devote at least 80 percent of their time to research for the duration of the award.

The RSDA is part of an integrated ADAMHA Scientist Development Award Program which is made up of three types of awards: the Scientist Development Awards (K20, K21), the Research Scientist Development Award (K02), and the Research Scientist Award (K05). Together, they provide a continuum of support for scientists at all stages of their careers. The Scientist Development Awards are designed for beginning scientists who need additional supervised research experience to develop into excellent independent scientists. The Research Scientist Development Award, described here, is designed for fully trained, independent scientists whose careers are developing rapidly. The Research Scientist Award is designed for outstanding senior investigators.

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates must be nominated by non-Federal public or private, non-profit or for-profit organizations and institutions engaging in ADM research and located in the United States or its territories and possessions. Candidates for RSDAs are investigators with an earned doctorate degree who have demonstrated the potential to become outstanding scientists, are capable of designing and conducting original high quality research (as evidenced by
obtaining independent funding), and need to devote more time to research activities to gain more experience and additional skills in order to reach their full potential.

Candidates for RSDA awards must be citizens or non-citizen nationals of the United States, or have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence and have in their possession an Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-151 or I-551) at the time of application.

Scientists who hold a position with firm salary support for full-time research are not eligible for support under this program. ADAMHA is interested in applications from all well-qualified individuals. Women and minority candidates, in particular, are encouraged to apply.

PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

The essential elements of an ADAMHA RSDA are an individualized, well thought out career enhancement plan, including research related career activities, e.g., providing research training, workshops, seminars, or other forms of science education; commitment on the part of the applicant institution to the RSDA candidate's research career development; and a research plan that demonstrates the ability to conceptualize and organize a well reasoned program of scientific research. Documentation concerning each of these essential elements must be included in the RSDA application.

Particular attention must be paid to the supplemental instructions that may be obtained from the offices listed under Application Procedures. All potential candidates are encouraged to consult with appropriate ADAMHA Institute program staff for technical assistance in the preparation of these applications.

STUDY POPULATIONS

In compliance with ADAMHA policy, research supported by ADAMHA grants and cooperative agreements are required to include both women and minorities in study populations for clinical research, unless compelling scientific or other justification for not including either women or minorities is provided. All clinical research supported by ADAMHA is required to address these policies. ADAMHA funding components will not fund RSDA applications that do not comply with these policies.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SUPPORT

RSDA awards are to be administered under PHS grants policy as stated in the PHS Grants Policy Statement (Rev. 10/90).

Individuals who receive salaries from RSDA grants are to devote full time (at least 80 percent) to research and research-related activities, including science education activities. The salary proposed must be consistent with the established salary structure for full-time, 12-month staff appointments at the grantee institution. ADAMHA's contribution to salary support is geared to the institution's base as follows: up to $45,000, 100 percent of institutional base; $45,001 to $60,000, $45,000; $60,001 and over, 75 percent of institutional base up to $75,000.

The grantee institution may supplement ADAMHA's salary contribution up to a level that is consistent with the institution's salary scale. Fringe benefits are paid out of grant funds in the same proportion as the salary contribution. Applicants may request up to 8 percent of direct costs for indirect costs. Indirect costs are not provided on tuition and related fees or on equipment expenditures.

Allowance for Support Costs: Candidates should have alcohol, drug abuse, and/or mental health relevant research project support. However, under certain circumstances candidates engaged in predominantly theoretical work, such as modeling or computer simulations, not generally supported by traditional research grants, may request a research allowance of up to $25,000 per year for each year of the RSDA award.

Professional Income Other Than Salary: Remuneration for clinical practice, consultation, or other work related to the awardee's research program must be assigned to the grantee institution and may not be retained by the awardee.

Use of PHS Research or Training Grant Funds Freed by an RSDA: Funds budgeted in an ADAMHA-supported research or training grant for the salaries or fringe benefits of individuals, but freed as a result of an RSDA award, may not be rebudgeted.

Leaves of Absence: Subject to institutional policy, a leave of absence (with continued salary support from the award) for the purpose of engaging in research or career enhancement activities related to the award may be arranged, subject to prior approval of the ADAMHA awarding component.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Prospective applicants should contact the relevant Institute office (see below) for a copy of the complete RFA preapplication consultation, and additional information regarding the application process. The regular research grant application, the most current version of Form PHS 398, (rev. 10/88), must be used in applying for the RSDA award. Supplemental instructions prepared especially for these programs will be included with the application kit and must be followed in applying. Application kits may be obtained from institutional business offices or offices of sponsored research at most universities, colleges, medical schools, and other major research facilities, and from the ADAMHA institute to which the investigator intends to apply for funding, as follows:

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REVIEW PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA

Review procedures for RSDA applications are based on the system of dual review: evaluation for scientific and technical merit by an initial review group (IRG) consisting primarily of non-Government technical and scientific experts, followed by evaluation for policy and program relevance by the appropriate National Advisory Council. Only applications recommended for approval by the Council can be considered for funding. Applications will be reviewed to determine the candidate's potential to develop into and/or perform as an outstanding research scientist. Review criteria include: 1) need for the award, 2) the candidate's qualifications, 3) career commitment, 4) research plan, and 5) research environment.

AWARD PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA

Award decisions will be made by authorized program staff of the ADAMHA Institutes. The following criteria will be used in making award decisions: overall merit of the proposal as determined by the review committee; relevance of the proposal to the research priorities of the awarding Institute and program balance; availability of funds.

INQUIRIES

For further program information contact the relevant offices listed under Application Procedures. Inquiries regarding grants management may be directed to:

Grants Management Section
Grants Management Branch
National Institute of Mental Health
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 7C21
Rockville, MD 20857
Telephone: (301) 443-4456

AUTHORITY AND REGULATIONS

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 93.271, 93.277, 93.281. Under the authority of Section 301 of the Public Health Services Act, as amended (42 U.S.C.), and subject to the availability of funds, the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration (ADAMHA) will accept applications in response to this announcement under receipt dates of February 1, June 1, and October 1. Federal regulations at 42 CFR Part 52, "Grants for Research Projects," and Title 45 CFR Parts 74 and 92, generic requirements concerning the administration of grants, are applicable to these awards.

ADAMHA RESEARCH SCIENTIST AWARD

PA AVAILABLE: PA-91-102
P.T. 34; K.W. 0404003, 0404009, 0715095
Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration
Application Receipt Dates: February 1, June 1, October 1
Under the authorization in the Public Health Service Act, Section 301, as amended (42 U.S.C. 241), the Institutes of the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration (ADAMHA) make Research Scientist Awards (RSAs) to eligible institutions for support of named individuals. Each ADAMHA Institute has different program goals, program initiatives, and resource constraints; therefore, potential applicants must contact the appropriate Institute office listed herein, prior to preparing an application to obtain the full Request for Applications (RFA) and current information about that Institute's situation with regard to RSDAs.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the ADAMHA Research Scientist Award (RSA) is to enable exceptionally talented investigators who are well-established in fields relevant to alcohol, drug abuse, or mental health (ADM) research to engage in research on an essentially full-time, long-term basis. This renewable award provides five years of salary support for the investigator's research and research-related activities and guarantees that the awardee will be able to devote at least 80 percent of their time to research for the duration of the award.

The RSA is part of an integrated ADAMHA Scientist Development Award Program designed to foster the development of outstanding scientists and enable them to expand their potential for making important scientific contributions to our understanding of the ADM fields. The Program is made up of three types of Awards: Scientist Development Award (K20, 21), Research Scientist Development Award (K02), and Research Scientist Award (K05). Together they provide a continuum of support for scientists at all stages of their careers. The Scientist Development Award is designed for beginning scientists who need additional supervised research experience to develop into excellent independent scientists. The Research Scientist Development Award is designed for fully trained, independent scientists whose careers are developing rapidly. The Research Scientist Award, described here, is designed for outstanding senior investigators.

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates must be nominated by non-Federal public or private, non-profit or for-profit organizations and institutions engaging in ADM research and located in the United States or its territories and possessions. Candidates for RSA awards must be citizens or noncitizen nationals of the United States, or have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence and have in their possession an Alien Registration Receipt Card (I-151 or I-551) at the time of application.

RSAs are geared to support persons with an earned doctorate degree who have established a distinguished record of original contributions to research in the ADM research areas. Awards will be made to those individuals who can best demonstrate the benefits provided by allowing them release time to pursue research full-time. Scientists who hold a position with firm salary support for full-time research (e.g., endowed chairs) or whose primary responsibility is administrative (e.g., department chairs and deans) are not eligible for support under this program. ADAMHA is interested in applications from all well-qualified individuals. In particular, women and minority candidates are encouraged to apply.

PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

The essential elements of an ADAMHA Research Scientist Award are: a distinguished record of relevant research that is, or can be, directed toward ADM research; an individualized, well-thought-out plan for career activities including science education (e.g., the promotion and development of young investigators and science education in grade schools); a commitment on the part of the applicant institution to the continued support (including all rights and privileges that pertain to full faculty status and continuation of salary in the event this career award is not received) and development of the RSA candidate; and an exceptional research plan that demonstrates the ability to conceptualize, organize, and expand a well-reasoned program of scientific research. Documentation concerning each of these essential elements must be included in the RSA application.

Particular attention must be paid to the supplemental instructions that may be obtained from the appropriate Institute office listed under Application Procedures. In addition, all potential candidates are encouraged to consult with the appropriate ADAMHA Institute program staff for technical assistance in the preparation of these applications.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF NIH POLICIES CONCERNING INCLUSION OF WOMEN AND MINORITIES IN CLINICAL RESEARCH POPULATIONS

In compliance with ADAMHA policy, research supported by ADAMHA grants and cooperative agreements are required to include both women and minorities in study populations for clinical research, unless compelling scientific or other justification for not including either women or minorities is provided. All clinical research supported by ADAMHA is required to address these policies. ADAMHA funding components will not fund RSA applications that do not comply with these policies.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SUPPORT

RSA awards are to be administered under PHS grants policy as stated in the Public Health Service Grants Policy Statement (revised 10/90).

Individuals who receive salaries from RSA grants must devote full time (at least 80 percent) to research and research-related activities, including science education. The salary proposed must be consistent with the established salary structure for full-time, 12-month staff appointments at the grantee institution. ADAMHA's
contribution to salary support is geared to the institution's base as follows: up to $45,000, 100 percent of institutional base; $45,001 to $60,000, 85 percent of institutional base; $60,001 and over, 75 percent of institutional base, up to $75,000.

The grantee institution may supplement ADAMHA's salary contribution up to a level that is consistent with the institution's salary scale. Fringe benefits are paid out of grant funds in the same proportion as the salary contribution. Practices related to payments of fringe benefits shall be consistent with grantee institution policies and not be altered for RSA awards. Applicants may request up to 8 percent of direct costs for indirect costs. Indirect costs are not provided on equipment expenditures.

Professional Fees Other Than Salary: Remuneration for clinical practice, consultation, or other work related to the awardee's research program must be assigned to the grantee institution and may not be retained by the awardee.

Use of PHS Research or Training Grant Funds Freed by an RSA: Funds budgeted in an ADAMHA-supported research or training grant for the salaries or fringe benefits of individuals, but freed as a result of a RSA award, may not be rebudgeted.

Leaves of Absence: Subject to institutional policy, a leave of absence (with continued salary support from the award) for engaging in research or career enhancement activities related to the award may be arranged, subject to prior approval of the ADAMHA awarding component.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Prospective applicants should contact the relevant Institute office (see below) for a copy of the Program Announcement and additional information regarding the application process. The regular research grant application Form PHS 398 (Rev. 10/88) must be used to apply for the RSA award. Supplemental instructions prepared especially for these programs will be included with the application kit and must be followed in applying. Application kits may be obtained from institutional business offices or offices of sponsored research at most universities, colleges, medical schools, and other major research facilities, and from the ADAMHA Institute to which the investigator intends to apply for funding, as follows:

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)
Office of Scientific Affairs
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 16C20
Rockville, MD 20857
Telephone: (301) 443-4375

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
Office of Extramural Program Review
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 10-42
Rockville, MD 20857
Telephone: (301) 443-2755

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
Division of Extramural Activities
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 9-105
Rockville, MD 20857
Telephone: (301) 443-3367

The signed original and six permanently legible copies of the completed application must be sent to:

Division of Research Grants
National Institutes of Health
Westwood Building, Room 240
Bethesda, MD 20892**

Applications received after the receipt dates listed above are subject to assignment to the next review cycle or may be returned to the applicant.

REVIEW PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA

Review procedures for RSA applications are based on the dual review system that includes evaluation for scientific and technical merit by an initial review group (IRG) consisting primarily of non-Government technical and scientific experts, followed by evaluation for policy and program relevance by an appropriate National Advisory Council. Only applications recommended by the Council can be considered for funding.

Applications will be reviewed to determine the candidate's suitability for the award and potential for continued performance as an outstanding research scientist. Review criteria include: 1) benefit derived from the award, 2) the candidate's qualifications, 3) career commitment, 4) research plan, and 5) research environment.

AWARD PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA

Award decisions will be made by authorized program staff of the ADAMHA Institutes. By law, only applications recommended for approval by the relevant ADAMHA Advisory Council can be considered for funding. The following criteria will be used in making award decisions: overall merit of the proposal as determined by the review committee; relevance of the proposal to the research priorities of the awarding Institute and program balance; availability of funds.
INQUIRIES

For further program information contact the relevant office listed under Application Procedures. Inquiries regarding grants management may be directed to:

Grants Management Section
Grants Management Branch
National Institute of Mental Health
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 7C21
Rockville, MD 20857
Telephone: (301) 443-4456

AUTHORITY AND REGULATIONS

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 93.271, 93.277, 93.281. Under the authority of Section 301 of the Public Health Service Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 241), and subject to the availability of funds, the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration (ADAMHA) will accept applications in response to this announcement. The receipt dates for applications for the Research Scientist Award are February 1, June 1, and October 1. Federal regulations at 42 CFR Part 52, "Grants for Research Projects," and Title 45 CFR Parts 74 and 92, generic requirements concerning the administration of grants, are applicable to these awards.

**THE MAILING ADDRESS GIVEN FOR SENDING APPLICATIONS TO THE DIVISION OF RESEARCH GRANTS OR CONTACTING PROGRAM STAFF IN THE WESTWOOD BUILDING IS THE CENTRAL MAILING ADDRESS FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH. APPLICANTS WHO USE EXPRESS MAIL OR A COURIER SERVICE ARE ADVISED TO FOLLOW THE CARRIER'S REQUIREMENTS FOR SHOWING A STREET ADDRESS. THE ADDRESS FOR THE WESTWOOD BUILDING IS:

5333 Westbard Avenue
Bethesda, Maryland 20816