



## **The Multidisciplinary Institute for Neuropsychiatric Diagnosis**

**Federal Dollars Requested for FY 2009:** \$1.373 million

**Federal Bill & Account:** Department of Justice: COPS-meth

**Previous Federal Dollars:** None

**Total Federal Dollars Requested for the Project:** \$2.673

**Total Amount of Project:** \$4 million (over three years)

OHSU proposes to create a research institute that will develop biologically based criteria for diagnosing and classifying psychiatric disorders that may underlie or result from methamphetamine use. The knowledge that results from this work will be used to design targeted treatments that will be rigorously evaluated through clinical trials.

Methamphetamine use continues to cause overwhelming legal, social and medical problems in Oregon and throughout the United States. Although there is a high prevalence of mental illness among individuals with methamphetamine dependence, the direct and indirect effects of meth addiction make it difficult to recognize co-occurring psychiatric disorders. Delayed or inaccurate diagnosis is a major impediment in the treatment of meth addiction, a source of prolonged suffering for users, and a significant obstacle to society addressing the methamphetamine crisis.

This research will also have broader implications for diagnosis and treatment of mental illness. Today, there are no definitive medical diagnostic tests for schizophrenia, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, or bipolar disorder. These conditions are currently diagnosed with behavioral criteria that are not etiologically based and are therefore of uncertain validity and variable utility.

Although the need for laboratory criteria for psychiatric diagnoses and treatments is well recognized in academic circles, there has been no concerted effort to accomplish these goals. The Institute proposes to engage a critical mass of preclinical and clinical scientists whose expertise spans a range of disciplines including genomics, molecular pharmacology, neuroimaging and neuropsychology.

The Institute will develop objective biological tests, characterize patients using a variety of diagnostic techniques, group patients for individualized treatment and then verify the efficacy of the treatments through rigorous clinical trials. Funding of this Institute will help Oregonians and millions of patients nationwide through rational, evidence-based medical diagnosis and treatment of psychiatric disorders. This in turn will lead to reduced use of methamphetamine and a reduction in its impact on society.

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