



Research News of Note

from Anne Rosenfeld
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New Grant Funding

Congratulations to Dr. Dena Hassouneh for funding from the U. S. Department of Education National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) for the study, *Promoting Adoption and Implementation of the Healing Pathways Program to Reduce Depressive Symptoms in Women with Physical Disabilities*.

NIH Loan Repayment Programs

***Participants in the NIH Loan Repayment Programs Receive Up to \$35,000 Annually to Help Repay Student Loans
Application Deadline is November 15, 2011***

The 2012 application cycle for the National Institutes of Health's Loan Repayment Programs (LRPs) is now open, so start your application online at <http://www.lrp.nih.gov>. The LRP's repay the outstanding student loans of researchers who are or will be conducting nonprofit biomedical or behavioral research. Opportunities are available in five research areas – clinical, pediatric, health disparities, contraception and infertility and clinical research for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. **Applications will be accepted until 8:00 p.m. Eastern time on November 15, 2011.**

Please share this e-mail with researchers in your organization who may benefit from this career-enhancing opportunity.

BENEFITS: New LRP contracts are awarded for a two-year period and repay up to \$35,000 of qualified educational debt annually. Tax offsets also are provided as additional benefits. Participants may apply for competitive renewals, which are issued for one or two years. Undergraduate, graduate, medical school, and other health professional school loans qualify for repayment. *An NIH grant or*

other NIH funding is not required to apply for or participate in the LRPs.

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants must possess a doctoral-level degree (with the exception of the contraception and infertility research LRP); be a U.S. citizen, national or permanent resident; devote 20 hours or more per week to conducting qualified research funded by a domestic nonprofit, university or government entity; and have qualified educational loan debt equal to or exceeding 20 percent of their institutional base salary.

AWARDS: Each year, nearly 1,600 research scientists benefit from the more than \$70 million NIH invests in their careers through the extramural LRPs. Approximately 40 percent of new applications and 70 percent of renewal applications are funded.

APPLICATION TIPS: For guidance on the application process and NIH Institute and Center (IC) research priorities, potential applicants should watch this [webinar](#), review [Tips for Completing a Competitive Application](#) and contact an [IC LRP liaison](#).

QUESTIONS? Visit the LRP website at <http://www.lrp.nih.gov> for more information and to access the online application. For additional assistance, call or e-mail the LRP Information Center at (866) 849-4047 or lrp@nih.gov. Also, receive application cycle updates and tips through Twitter [@NIH_LRP](#) and [Facebook](#).

NIH Calls for Comments to the Advisory Committee on Future Biomedical Research Workforce

Call for Comments

NIH has released a notice calling for input to the advisory committee to the NIH Director on the Future Biomedical Workforce. This request is your opportunity to support the greatly needed continuing training of translational scientists and clinicians.

SCTS, as part of our Joint Advocacy Coalition (JAC), is working on a statement from the Society. Dr. Dan Ford, Chairman of the JAC, will coordinate the SCTS response. Additional [details of the notice are available online](#). Please send your comments by October 1 to mliibert@ctssociety.org for inclusion in the SCTS response.

[Changes to Rules Protecting Human Research Subjects – Deadline Extension for Comments](#)

The Department of Health and Human Services has [extended the period for comments](#) on changes to the common rule governing protection of human research subjects. The deadline is now **Wednesday, October 26**.

Since these rules impact many aspects of translational research, SCTS members are strongly encouraged to review the proposed changes and to [provide commentary](#).

We are seeking comments are on the following:

1. Revising the existing risk-based framework to more accurately calibrate the level of review to the level of risk.
2. Using a single Institutional Review Board review for all domestic sites of multi-site studies.
3. Updating the forms and processes used for informed consent.
4. Establishing mandatory data security and information protection standards for all studies involving identifiable or potentially identifiable data.
5. Implementing a systematic approach to the collection and analysis of data on unanticipated problems and adverse events across all trials to harmonize the complicated array of definitions and reporting requirements, and to make the collection of data more efficient.
6. Extending federal regulatory protections to apply to all research conducted at U.S. institutions receiving funding from the Common Rule agencies.
7. Providing uniform guidance on federal regulations.

PCORI FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT/ Pilot Project Grants

The Patient-Center Outcomes Research Institute (see www.pcori.org) announced a \$26 million Pilot Projects Grants Program (\$13M per year for 2 years) that will support approximately 40 awards. The FOA is mostly methods oriented, and seeks to

- 1) Inform PCORI priorities,
- 2) Enable collection of preliminary data, and
- 3) Address challenges in research methodology

As stated in the FOA, “For this [announcement], PCORI is not interested in CER studies aimed at determining comparative efficacy for specific diseases or conditions. Rather, PCORI is interested in the development of research methods, patient-oriented outcomes instruments, patient-provider communication and other decision-making strategies, building collaborative research teams, translating research findings into clinical practice, stakeholder

engagement, and research agenda setting strategies that can be used in future comparative effectiveness research.”

PCORI is particularly interested in applications that bring together researchers, health care providers, and other stakeholders. Information about the program and how to apply is on the PCORI web site: <http://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/pcori-funding-announcement-pilot-projects-grants/>.

Please let me know if I can help, especially in coordinating groups that have similar interests.

There has been some discussion about forming a group that might develop some long-term strategic plans for responding to PCORI funding opportunities. If that sounds like you, let me know.

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