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Research Office | Newark

Research News

Young Investigators Issue

This special issue focuses on the Young Investigator (broadly defined as anyone who has not yet received any major research funding. NIH estimates that researchers are close to their mid-forties at the time of the first NIH award). That first, very important, major grant has become very competitive and more elusive in recent years. Some of the ma-

lor federal agencies and private foundations have sought to address this situation and provide encouragement by introducing special funding opportunity tracks.

The University of California at Berkeley and the University of New Hampshire have already researched some of these opportunities and have graciously agreed

to allow us to use their previously prepared materials. See the spotlight on three of our own Young Investigators. Take a look at *Grant Tip # 1* and the special information/training session to be offered in Fall 2007. Here's to a productive summer of proposal writing.



Spotlight on...

Mauricio Delgado,

Assistant Profes-

sor, Psychology Department, FASN, recently received his first NIH award at Rutgers. Mauricio joined Rutgers 14 months ago. The one-year R03 grant is from the National Institute on Drug Abuse for his research titled *Influence of Emotion Regulation on the Neural Systems of Reward Processing*. Mauricio was delighted to receive a congratulatory call from the office of NJ Senator Robert Menendez. Mauricio was recently a presenter at the 2007 Annual Provost's Research Day.

Haesun Kim, Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences, FASN has

been at Rutgers for just over 3 years. Haesun is still pursuing direct federal funding but has been very successful in obtaining funding through the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and close to \$700,000 from the NJ Commission on Spinal Cord Research in two successive awards. Haesun's research focus is to define molecular mechanisms that regulate myelination and demyelination in the peripheral nervous system. Haesun presented a brief overview of her work at the recent 2007 Annual Provost's Research Day.

Bart Krekelberg, Assistant Professor, CMBN, joined the faculty in Newark in September 2005. He was recently named as a 2007 Pew

Scholar in the Bio-medical Sciences and will receive \$240,000 over four years.

Bart is the first Pew Scholar on the Newark

campus and only the second for Rutgers. He is also in the process of finalizing his first NIH award. Bart's research is in the field of eye movements and visual perception. **Congratulations Bart!**

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Young Investigators Initiatives at NIH

Excerpt From the Desk of NIH Director Elias A. Zerhouni, MD, Spring 2007

NIH has a strong commitment to support new investigators as the major way to expand the pipeline of talent needed to support biomedical research of the future. NIH will maintain a level of New Investigators in 2007 at a comparable level to the average of the most recent five years.

- This means NIH will support, at a minimum, 1500 First-Time Investigators on competing R01 awards in FY 2007.
- NIH established a new award within the Roadmap called the NIH Director's New Innovator Award.

NIH is taking specific steps to buttress investigators whose R01 applications receive review scores near the Institute or Center nominal payline and who have limited additional support. Program administrators will identify and nominate applications near the payline for conversion to an NDBA. Awards will be se-

lected based on the scientifically creative and innovative approaches that meet the mission of the Institute or Center. NIH will devote \$91 million dollars to this effort.

NIH Director's New Innovator Award [Editorial Comment – The research proposed need not be in a conventional biomedical or behavioral discipline but must be relevant to the mission of NIH]

In times of tight budgets, it is more important than ever to fund new investigators and innovative research. To address these twin goals, I am launching the [NIH Director's New Innovator Award](#). This program will support new investigators who propose highly innovative research projects with the potential for exceptionally great impact on biomedical or behavioral science.

We expect to make at least 14 New Innovator awards in September 2007. Each grant will be for 5 years and up to a total of \$1.5 million in direct costs plus

applicable facilities and administrative costs. For details on our plans, see <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-07-047.html>.

NIH Director's Bridge Award

NIH will offer the [NIH Director's Bridge Award](#) (NDBA) which is designed to provide continued but limited funding for new and established grantees who have submitted a competing renewal grant application that describes a highly meritorious project but has fallen below the payline. The NDBA will one year of additional support to give the Principal Investigator time to continue their research while strengthening a resubmission application.

Also of note: The Joint Resolution Impact

The FY 2007 Joint Resolution increases NIH funding by \$687 million over FY 2006 and provides an increase of about 1% to Institutes and Centers and directly supports the Common Fund at \$483 million.

Grant Tip # 1

Cultivate a relationship with the relevant Program Officer. Their contact information is normally contained in the program announcement. It may not work in every instance but they can provide valuable information that could position your next proposal for success. Time and again those faculty who maintain such contacts very well are successful in obtaining additional small project funding that do not require outside review.

BIG changes coming soon...

1. **Grants.gov** will switch from the PureEdge format to Adobe. The system is currently being tested and the transition is expected to be complete for October 1, 2007 submissions. Please keep tuned for developments.
2. **Electronic Endorsement Forms** - PIs will have the option to submit the endorsement form for internal approvals and signatures via an electronic transmission system which is currently in design as part of the COEUS system. It will mean that PIs no longer have to walk the campus in search of signatures. Eventually it will also allow for direct proposal transmission to grants.gov.
3. **NSF** announced some significant changes in font and spacing requirements for all proposals submitted after June 1.
 - An Arial, Helvetica, Palatino, Computer Modern, or Georgia typeface, a black font color, and a font size of 10 points or larger must be used. (A Symbol font may be used to insert Greek letters or special characters; however, the font size requirement still applies.)
 - No more than 6 lines of type within a vertical space of 1 inch; and
 - Margins, in all directions, must be at least an inch. Proposals that don't use these fonts may be rejected without review.

Important links for NEW INVESTIGATORS

Research Funding Opportunities for New and Young Faculty (compiled by University of California, Berkley):

<http://www.spo.berkeley.edu/Fund/newfaculty.html>

Hint No. 2: Look at the list of prior funded projects to see if your area of research will fit.

Grant Programs for Young Investigators/Junior Faculty (compiled by University of Hew Hampshire):

http://www.unh.edu/osr/funding/support/young_pi.pdf

Tips for Developing Successful Grant Applications (US Environmental Protection Agency):

<http://www.epa.gov/Education/granttips.html>

A Guide for Proposal Writing (National Science Foundation):

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2004/nsf04016/start.htm>

Grant Writing Tip Sheets (National Institutes of Health): http://grants2.nih.gov/grants/grant_tips.htm

Making the Right Moves: A Practical Guide to Scientific Management for Postdocs and New Faculty

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the Burroughs Welcome Fund has put out a book called "Making the Right Moves: A Practical Guide to Scientific Management for Postdocs and New Faculty". You may wish to bring it to the attention of graduate students, post docs and junior faculty members. The book contains chapters focusing on: *Obtaining and Negotiating a Faculty Position and Planning for Tenure, Defining and Implementing Your Mission, Staffing Your Laboratory, Mentoring and Being Mentored, Time Management, Getting Funded, and Getting Published and Increasing Your Visibility.*

The book is freely available at: <http://www.hhmi.org/grants/office/graduate/labmanagement.html> . It is about 250 pages in length but sections can be individually downloaded.

Hint No. 1: Look beyond young investigator on each website to see what else is offered.

Hint No. 3: Make a note to come back if you are interested in a program but the current deadline has

Training Opportunity (coming Fall 2007)

A panel of faculty who have been successful in obtaining grants will present on their experiences in proposal writing, including their insights, obstacles, frustrations, strategies etc.

The panel includes:

Dr. Lee Slater – Earth and Environmental Sciences, FASN

Dr. Charalampos Kalodimos – Chemistry, FASN

Dr. Richard Mendelsohn – Chemistry, FASN

Dr. Bark Krekelberg – CMBN

Dr. Wilma Friedman – Biology, FASN

Our records show...

Sustainability – the following faculty have 10 or more years of continuous NIH funding

Dr. Gyorgy Buzsaki – 11 years for his project *Network cooperation in the Hippocampus In Vivo*

Dr. Frank Jordan – 10 years for his project titled *Struc-*

ture and Mechanism of Yeast Pyruvate Decarboxylase

Dr. Richard Mendelsohn – 26 years for his research on *Lipid Control of Membrane Protein Organization.*

Dr. James Tepper – 10 years in the field of *Nigrostriatal*

Dopamine Function.

Dr. Laszlo Zaborsky – 17 years on the subject of *Aferent Regulation of Cholinergic Forebrain Neurons*

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