

First Round of Florida Biomedical Research Grants for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Announced

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) announces 18 initial recipients of biomedical research grants totaling \$10.2 million for projects scheduled to begin July 1, 2011. It is hoped that these research projects will provide invaluable new insights to combat cancer and tobacco-related diseases in the years to come. In making these award determinations, Dr. Frank Farmer, Florida's Surgeon General accepted funding recommendations made by Florida's Biomedical Research Advisory Council at its May 17-18 meeting in Jacksonville.

Grants are awarded on a competitive basis through the assignment of merit scores as determined by a scientific peer review process. The Florida Biomedical Research Programs administered by the DOH, Office of Public Health Research, includes two grant-funding programs: the James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program and the Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program. As a result of calls for applications that ended in both January and April, 191 proposals from 15 different universities or research institutes were received by DOH.

This year's awards are based upon \$16.65 million in appropriations, a reduction of nearly 60% over the previous two years, resulting in part from continued declines in state tax revenues. Of that \$14.13 million is available for competitive awards after accounting for specific allocations made by the Legislature, including the costs of Program administration.

Initial grants were made in two categories – New Investigator Research and Team Science, running the gamut from basic biomedical science to clinical trials. Of these, 10 of 67 applications submitted to the **James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program** were selected totaling \$4.5 million. The King Program sponsors innovative research seeking new insights into the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and/or cure of tobacco-related diseases. Tobacco remains the single leading cause of preventable death in the U.S. It is predicted that as many as 369,000 Florida children will face premature death in the future as a result of tobacco use or exposure. Additionally, 8 of 70 applications submitted to the **Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program** were selected totaling \$5.7 million. The Bankhead-Coley Program focuses on cancer research regardless of cause, with special emphases on closing the gap in health disparities and increasing patient participation in clinical trials.

An additional \$2.8 million in awards will be announced in late July or early August for King and Bankhead-Coley Bridge grants selected from 54 submitted projects. The Council also recommended holding in reserve an additional \$1.1 million for technology transfer grants to be awarded through an anticipated call for applications planned to open in mid-July.

More information about the Calls for Grant Applications, along with other Program information is available at www.floridabiomed.com, and the DOH may be contacted via e-mail regarding these awards at fbrp@doh.state.fl.us.

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2011-2012 James and Esther King Program Grantees

New Investigator Research Grants

Grantee	Institution	Title	Award Amount	Award Term
Chuanhui Dong	University of Miami	Gene-Smoking Interactions and Atherosclerosis	\$ 360,000	Three Years
Jamie Fernandez	University of South Florida	Neuroendocrine Disruption and Nicotine Preference in a Rat Model of Postpartum Depression	\$ 360,000	Three Years
Monica Hooper	University of Miami	Serotonergic Function and Impulsive Responding in Treatment-Seeking Smokers	\$ 359,998	Three Years
Jinliang Li	University of Miami	CIP4 Scaffold Protein Regulation of Cardiac Myocyte Hypertrophy and Survival	\$ 360,000	Three Years
Dmitriy Minond	Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies	Inhibitors of ADAM Proteases for Lung Cancer Therapy and Research	\$ 360,000	Three Years
J Mocco	University of Florida	Hematopoietic Stem Cell Function Following Acute Stroke Therapy	\$ 359,262	Three Years
Charles Saunders	Florida State University	Improving Surveillance Measures of Tobacco Use in Florida's Adolescent Population	\$ 360,000	Three Years
Gary Wang	University of Florida	Molecular Identification of Subgingival Bacteria Associated with Progression of Periodontitis in Smokers	\$ 360,000	Three Years
Dileep Yavagal	University of Miami	Intra-arterial Mesenchymal Stem Cell Delivery in a Canine Model of Acute Ischemic Stroke	\$ 360,000	Three Years

Team Science Program Grants

Grantee	Institution	Title	Award Amount	Award Term
Robert Gillies	H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute	Radiomics of Lung Cancer Screening	\$ 1,275,000	Three Years

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2011-2012 Bankhead-Coley Program Grantees

New Investigator Research Grants

Grantee	Institution	Title	Award Amount	Award Term
Sarah McLaughlin	Mayo Clinic Jacksonville	Enhancing the Ability to Predict Lymphedema Development Following Axillary Surgery for Breast Cancer and its Effects on Patient Survivorship	\$ 357,726	Three Years
Joseph Pidala	H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute	Regulatory T Cells for Prevention of Acute Graft-Versus-Host Disease	\$ 343,280	Three Years
Radka Stoyanova	University of Miami	Metabolic Tumor Volumes in Radiation Treatment of Brain Tumors	\$ 360,000	Three Years
Yijun Sun	University of Florida	Derivation of Molecular Signatures for Accurate Breast Cancer Prognosis	\$ 180,776	Two Years
Kristen Wells	University of South Florida	Developing and Piloting a Patient Navigation Program for Breast Cancer Survivors	\$ 360,000	Three Years

Team Science Program Grants

Grantee	Institution	Title	Award Amount	Award Term
Kevin Brown	University of Florida	Epigenetic Basis of Neoplastic Progression in Human Cancers	\$ 1,350,000	Three Years
Olveen Carrasquillo	University of Miami	South Florida Center for the Elimination of Colorectal Cancer Health Disparities (SUCCESS-CRC)	\$ 1,350,000	Three Years
Lori Hazlehurst	H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute	Targeting the Tumor Microenvironment in Multiple Myeloma	\$ 1,350,000	Three Years