

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

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) announces 17 recipients of biomedical research Bridge grants totaling \$2.8 million for projects scheduled to begin September 1, 2011. In making these award determinations, Dr. Frank Farmer, Florida's Surgeon General accepted funding recommendations made by Florida's Biomedical Research Advisory Council.

The Florida Biomedical Research Programs (FBRP), 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. 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. 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.

Bridge Grants are awarded on a competitive basis to applicants who submitted an eligible grant proposal to a federal agency, received excellent peer review scores, but were not funded due to budget constraints. The FBRP received 54 proposals Bridge Grant applications, from 11 different universities and research institutes.

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 awards for fourteen New Investigator Research and four Team Science Program Grants of \$10.2 million were made on June 1.

The Program is also holding in reserve an additional \$1.1 million for technology transfer grants to be awarded through calls for applications that opened July 15.

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

Bridge Grants

Grantee	Institution	Title	Award Amount	Award Term
Gregory Conner	University of Miami	Regulation of Airway Lactoperoxidase Host Defense	\$ 180,000	One Year
Zhongwei Li	Florida Atlantic University	RNA Quality Control Against Oxidative Damage	\$ 103,500	One Year
Roberto Vazquez-Padron	University of Miami	Leukadherins as Novel Compounds for Treating Restenosis	\$ 180,000	One Year
Jie Wu	H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute	Modulation of ErbB Signaling and Lung Cancer by Shp2	\$ 180,000	One Year
Antonis Zervos	University of Central Florida	A New Signaling Pathway in Myocardial Ischemic Injury	\$ 180,000	One Year

2011-2012 Bankhead-Coley Program Grantees

Bridge Grants

Grantee	Institution	Title	Award Amount	Award Term
Jin Cheng	H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute	MicroRNA-155 in Breast Cancer	\$ 180,000	One Year
Christopher Cogle	University of Florida	A Phase I/II Clinical Study of OXi4503 in AML and MDS	\$ 180,000	One Year
Michael Crary	University of Florida	Sensory Alterations and Swallow Functions in RT Treated Head/Neck Cancer Patients	\$ 155,250	One Year
David Gilbert	Florida State University	Replication Profiling as a Diagnostic Tool in B-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia	\$ 129,171	One Year
Emina Huang	University of Florida	The Role of IL8 in Colitis-Associated Tumor Initiation	\$ 180,000	One Year
Huabei Jiang	University of Florida	Combined Photoacoustic and Diffuse Optical Tomography	\$ 155,250	One Year
Michael Kladde	University of Florida	Interplay of Epigenetic Mechanisms in Gene Silencing	\$ 180,000	One Year
Javier Pinilla-Ibarz	H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute	Epigenetic Modifiers to Augment the Immunogenicity of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia	\$ 180,000	One Year
E. Aubrey Thompson	Mayo Clinic Jacksonville	MicroRNAs in Lobular Involution and Breast Cancer	\$ 129,375	One Year

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Michael Wallace	Mayo Clinic Jacksonville	Confocal Endomicroscopy for Colorectal Neoplasia	\$ 179,848	One Year
Lizi Wu	University of Florida	Regulation of Notch Pathway Transcription Factor CSL in Normal and Malignant Cells	\$ 180,000	One Year
Xiangxi Xu	University of Miami	Ovarian Cancer: Nuclear Envelope Defects	\$ 180,000	One Year