

2008-2009 King and Bankhead-Coley Programs Grant Awards Announcement

The Lytmos Group, Inc. and the Florida Department of Health are pleased to announce that beginning July 1, 2008, fifty Florida scientists will receive research grants totaling over \$16.5 million. The scientists and their institutions were notified by the Department on May 30.

The Florida Department of Health funds biomedical research through two programs, the James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program and the William G. "Bill" Bankhead, Jr. and David Coley Cancer Research Program. The King Program, named for Senator King's (R-Jacksonville) parents who both died as a result of smoking, funds research into the cure, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of tobacco-related diseases. The Bankhead-Coley Cancer Program, named for two legislators who recently died of cancer, funds research to find cures for cancer.

The Department received 122 grant applications in response to its Call for Grant Applications. Applicants submitted 65 proposals to the King Program and 57 to the Bankhead-Coley Program. Each application was reviewed for eligibility, scientific merit, and responsiveness to Program goals.

Except for the Bridge Grant proposals, applications are independently reviewed by three to seven peer reviewers using specific review criteria. All peer reviewers are located outside of Florida to minimize conflicts of interest. In addition to answering a series of questions and providing comments and recommendations about the proposal, each reviewer assigns an overall merit score using a scale similar to the one employed by the National Institutes of Health in its peer review process. The Program then averages reviewer ratings to determine an overall score for scientific merit. The applications are then ranked according to scientific merit using this overall score.

Bridge Grant proposals were treated differently because these research proposals have already been reviewed by a federal granting agency (like the National Institutes of Health or the National Science Foundation). For these proposals, the federal agency scores were used for scientific merit and three independent peer reviewers provided comments on other specific criteria.

In May the Biomedical Research Advisory Council met in Miami to review the scientific merit scores of the proposals. The 11-member advisory council advises the Department on the administration of the King and Bankhead-Coley Programs. Council members review information about the applications in a way that protects the identity of researchers and their institutions in order to prevent conflicts of interest. Based on scientific merit scores and responsiveness to specific program goals such as tobacco or cancer relatedness, the Council makes funding recommendations to the State Surgeon General. The State Surgeon General then makes the final funding decisions.

Peer review criteria, specific information about grant types, and other Program information is available on the Program website at www.floridabiomed.com. The Programs' annual reports and the Calls for Grant Applications are also valuable sources of Program information. The Lytmos Group can be contacted via e-mail at programsupport@floridabiomed.com and the Florida Biomedical Research Programs e-mail is fbrp@doh.state.fl.us.

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2008-2009 James and Esther King Program Grantees

Bridge Grants

Grantee	Institution	Title	Award Amount	Award Term
Duane Eichler, Ph.D.	University of South Florida	Regulation of the Endothelial Citrulline-Nitric Oxide Cycle	\$199,800	One Year
Anatoly Martynyuk, Ph.D., D.Sc.	University of Florida	Balanced, Polyvalent Antiglutamatergic Action as a Novel Approach to Efficacious and Safe Neuroprotection	\$184,951	One Year
Miguel Perez-Pinzon, Ph.D.	University of Miami	Ischemic Preconditioning: Mechanisms of Neuroprotection	\$200,000	One Year

New Investigator Research Grants

Grantee	Institution	Title	Award Amount	Award Term
Francisca Diaz, Ph.D.	University of Miami	Neuronal Adaptations to Defects in Mitochondrial Respiration	\$372,455	Three Years
Ana Diez-Sampedro, Ph.D.	University of Miami	Investigation of SGLT3 and its Effect on the Activity of the Intestine	\$372,791	Three Years
Mingui Fu, Ph.D.	University of Central Florida	Role of MCP1P1 in Nicotine-Induced Repression of Macrophage Inflammation	\$375,000	Three Years
Sukwon Hong, Ph.D.	University of Florida	Catalytic Enantioselective Synthesis of Anti-Cancer Natural Products	\$374,765	Three Years
Zhihua Jiang, M.D., Ph.D.	University of Florida	Mechanisms of MCP-1/CCR2 Axis Regulated Vein Graft Neointimal Hyperplasia	\$374,997	Three Years
Kevin Johnson, Ph.D.	University of Florida	Validation of Coronary Calcium Scoring Using Dual Energy CT	\$375,000	Three Years
Andrew Judge, Ph.D.	University of Florida	Cytokine-Induced Muscle Atrophy Following Exercise Claudication	\$373,122	Three Years
Karina Krotova, Ph.D.	University of Florida	Involvement of Arginase in the Response of Endothelial Cells to Hypoxia	\$375,000	Three Years
Yiwen Li, M.D.	University of Miami	Age-Related Macular Degeneration: Experimental Model and Neuroprotection	\$375,000	Three Years
Zhao-Jun Liu, Ph.D.	University of Miami	Role of Notch Signaling in Endothelial Differentiation of Bone Marrow Stem Cells	\$375,000	Three Years
Rajeev Prabhakar, Ph.D.	University of Miami	Effect of Nicotine on Amyloidosis and Oxidative Stress in Alzheimer's Disease	\$272,245	Three Years

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Evette Radisky, Ph.D.	Mayo Clinic	Development of Highly Selective MMP-10 Inhibitors for Lung Cancer Therapy	\$375,000	Three Years
Thomas Shellenberger, M.D.	M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Orlando	Protease Inhibition of Invasion in Head and Neck Cancer	\$372,600	Three Years
Vani Simmons, Ph.D.	H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute	Secondary Smoking Prevention for College Students: Testing an Experiential, Web-based Intervention	\$365,192	Three Years
Yoshinori Takahashi, Ph.D.	H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute	Functional Role of Bif-1 in the Regulation of Autophagy and Lung Tumorigenesis	\$361,795	Three Years
Lei Zhu, Ph.D.	Florida State University	Development of Sensitive Fluorescent Probes for Physiological Zn ²⁺ Over Large Dynamic Ranges	\$375,000	Three Years

Small Business Technology Transfer Grants

Grantee	Institution	Title	Award Amount	Award Term
Aristide Dogariu, Ph.D.	University of Central Florida	Real Time Monitoring of Blood Coaguability for Thrombolytic Therapy	\$98,519	One Year
Daniel Paris, Ph.D.	Roskamp Institute	Treatment of Lung Adenocarcinoma and Metastasis by Anti-angiogenic Fragments of Abeta	\$100,000	One Year

Team Science Program Grants

Grantee	Institution	Title	Award Amount	Award Term
Keith Brew, Ph.D.	Florida Atlantic University	A Rat Model of Individual Differences in Neuro-immune Responses to Nicotine and Stress	\$820,800	Two Years
Patrick Kupelian, M.D.	M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Orlando	Incorporating 3D Lung Dynamics into Lung Radiotherapy for Non-small Cell Lung Cancer	\$949,717	Two Years

2008-2009 King and Bankhead-Coley Programs Grant Awards Announcement

2008-2009 Bankhead-Coley Program Grantees

Bridge Grants

Grantee	Institution	Title	Award Amount	Award Term
Tatjana Abaffy, Ph.D.	University of Miami	Detection of Melanoma by Canine Olfactory Receptors	\$162,000	One Year
Linda Bloom, Ph.D.	University of Florida	Dynamic Eukaryotic Replication Machines	\$200,000	One Year
Karoline Briegel, Ph.D.	University of Miami	The Role of T Box Transcription Factor 2 (TBX2): A Novel Therapeutic Target in Breast Cancer	\$104,945	One Year
Jin Cheng, M.D., Ph.D.	H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute	Identification and Characterization of MicroRNAs Involving Breast Cancer Metastasis	\$100,000	One Year
Doug Cress, Ph.D.	H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute	Basic Mechanisms of E2F Regulation in Cancer Therapeutics	\$200,000	One Year
Anuradha Godavarty, Ph.D.	Florida International University	Diagnostic Mammography Using a Real Time Co-Registering Novel Hand-Held Optical Imager	\$108,000	One Year
Vijaya Iragavarapu-Charyulu, Ph.D.	Florida Atlantic University	Use of Selective PGD2 Receptor Antagonists to Reduce MMP-Secretion and Decrease Metastasis in a Breast Cancer Model	\$81,000	One Year
William Kerr, Ph.D.	H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute	SHIP and Immunoregulatory Cell Function	\$200,000	One Year
Vinata Lokeshwar, Ph.D.	University of Miami	Mechanisms of Bladder Cancer Progression	\$199,633	One Year
Michael Lu, Ph.D.	Florida Atlantic University	PAK6 Activation in Advanced Prostate Cancer	\$135,000	One Year
Anthony McGoron, Ph.D.	Florida International University	Image Guided Intervention for Breast Cancer: Combined Hyperthermia and Chemotherapy with Reduced Cardiotoxicity	\$200,000	One Year
Dietmar Siemann, Ph.D.	University of Florida	Enhancing Radiation Therapy: Vascular Targeting Agents	\$200,000	One Year
Jeffrey Weber, M.D., Ph.D.	H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute	PD-1 Abrogation and Immunity in Melanoma	\$196,362	One Year

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Amy Wright, Ph.D.	Florida Atlantic University	Discovery of Novel Antitumor Agents Effective Against Pancreatic Cancer	\$200,000	One Year
Fanxiu Zhu, Ph.D.	Florida State University	Activation of the ERK/RSK MAPK Pathway by KSHV	\$161,668	One Year

New Investigator Research Grants

Grantee	Institution	Title	Award Amount	Award Term
Jia Fang, Ph.D.	H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute	Role of Novel Methyl-H3K9 Binding Protein MPP8 in Transcription Silencing and Tumorigenesis	\$375,000	Three Years
Andrew Jakymiw, Ph.D.	University of Florida	RNA Silencing of Oral Cancer	\$375,000	Three Years
Wen Liu, M.D.	University of Miami	Prediction Models of Complex DNA Repair Pathways in Prostate Cancer Risk	\$375,000	Three Years
Roman Manetsch, Ph.D.	University of South Florida	Chemical Tools for Proteomic Profiling	\$375,000	Three Years
Kyle Roux, Ph.D.	University of Florida	Targeting A-type Lamins as a Cancer Therapy	\$375,000	Three Years
Justin Summy, Ph.D.	M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Orlando	SHP-2 and c-Src in Pancreatic Cancer Cell Biology, Tumorigenesis, and Metastasis	\$346,298	Three Years
Silvia Tornaletti, Ph.D.	University of Florida	Role of RNA Polymerase II in Genome Maintenance	\$375,000	Three Years
Hong-Guo Yu, Ph.D.	Florida State University	Chromosome Mechanics in DNA Double-Strand Break Repair	\$375,000	Three Years
Omar Zeidan, Ph.D.	M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Orlando	Evaluation of a Novel 3D Polymer Gel Dosimetry System for Proton Radiotherapy	\$359,286	Three Years
Yanbin Zhang, Ph.D.	University of Miami	RecQ Family of DNA Helicases in Human DNA Mismatch Repair	\$375,000	Three Years

Specialized Program of Research Excellence Planning Grants

Grantee	Institution	Title	Award Amount	Award Term
Johannes Vieweg, M.D.	University of Florida	Developing a Translational Prostate Cancer Research Program	\$969,030	Two Years
Timothy Yeatman, M.D.	H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute	Molecular Signatures for Colon Cancer	\$970,000	Three Years