

SPHHP Research Activities Newsletter

University at Buffalo

September 2017

In the News

Congratulations to the Following Awardees!



Elizabeth Mietlicki-Baase, Assistant Professor of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences, is PI on a continuation award from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases/NIH entitled, *Amylin-Mediated Control of Energy Balance in the Mesolimbic Reward System*. Dr. Mietlicki-Baase's research will continue to evaluate the mechanisms by which the hormone amylin acts at a recently identified brain site-of-action, the ventral tegmental area, to suppress food intake. Furthering our knowledge of the central nervous system functions of amylin may provide new information about mechanisms controlling energy balance, thereby offering insight into potential targets for the pharmacological treatment of obesity.



Lina Mu, Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Environmental Health, is PI on a new award from UB's RENEW Institute and the Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development entitled, *Traffic Air Pollution, Genetic Variation and Autism Spectrum Disorder*. The project aims to conduct a case-control study to explore the relationship between traffic related air pollution exposure and autism development. **Matthew Bonner**, Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Environmental Health and **Lili Tian**, Professor of Biostatistics, are Co-Investigators.



Ekaterina Noyes, Professor of Epidemiology and Environmental Health, is Curriculum Director on a new award from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute/NIH entitled, *UB Clinical Scholar Program in Implementation Science to Achieve Triple Aims* (PIs: John Canty and Ranjit Singh, Medicine). The multidisciplinary clinical research program will train and prepare clinician scientists for academic leadership and independent research careers in dissemination and implementation science related to heart, lung, blood, and sleep disorders with associated risk factors and complexities.



Todd Rideout, Associate Professor of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences, is PI on a continuation award from the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine/NIH for the project entitled *Cardiovascular Protection by Phytosterols in Dyslipidemic Mothers and Progeny*. Dr. Rideout's research will continue to examine phytosterol intervention from pre-pregnancy to weaning on cardiovascular disease risk in hamsters, both in mothers and offspring.



Lili Tian, Associate Chair and Professor of Biostatistics, is PI on a new award from Health Research, Inc. (Roswell Park Cancer Institute) for the project entitled, *Combating Cetuximab Resistance in Colorectal Cancer*. The study will evaluate hPEPDG278D, a recombinant enzymatically inactive mutant of human peptidase D, for overcoming resistance to Cetuximab, an antibody used to treat colorectal cancer.

Inside this issue:

In the News	1-2
Grant Clinic	2-4
UB Funding: IMPACT	4
NIH Funding:	
Limited Submissions	5
RFA	6-9
PAR	9-11
PA	11
Foundations:	11
Bill & Melinda Gates AARP	
Words to Live By	11



Gregory Wilding, Chair and Professor of Biostatistics, is Co-Investigator on a continuation award from the National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders/NIH (PI: Kristin Tjaden, Communication Disorders and Sciences) entitled, *Therapeutic Approaches to Dysarthria: Acoustic and Perceptual Correlates*. This research will continue to investigate therapeutic techniques for maximizing intelligibility in dysarthria secondary to Parkinson's disease and Multiple Sclerosis.



Guan Yu, Assistant Professor of Biostatistics, is Co-I on a continuation award from the National Cancer Institute/NIH for the project entitled *Noninvasive Early Detection of Circulating RNA for Lung Cancer Early Detection and Prognosis* (PI: Yun Wu, Biomedical Engineering). The project will continue to research the feasibility of the tCLN biochip to assist with early detection and screening, prognosis, and surveillance of lung cancer, as well as provide insights into the biological nature of the disease.

Grant Clinic

The NIH has issued new guidelines in the following areas:

NIH's Changing Policies Impact NIH-Funded Studies Involving Human Subjects

If you are conducting NIH-funded research that involves human subjects, or are considering applying to NIH for support of such research, NIH wants to call your attention to important changes that may affect how you:

- select the right NIH funding opportunity announcement;
- write the research strategy and human subjects sections of your application;
- comply with appropriate policies and regulations.

First, familiarize yourself with the new PHS Human Subject and Clinical Trial Information form. For application due dates of **January 25, 2018**, and beyond, you will be required to use an updated application forms package (FORMS-E), which includes the new human subject and clinical trial form. This form requests human subject and clinical trials information at the study level using discrete form fields, which is a change from current practice. Contract proposals will also require this information. [Learn about the new form here.](#)

Second, take a moment to answer these four questions about your current or proposed research:

- 1) Does the study involve human participants?
- 2) Are the participants prospectively assigned to an intervention?
- 3) Is the study designed to evaluate the effect of the intervention on the participants?
- 4) Is the effect that will be evaluated a health-related biomedical or behavioral outcome?

If the answer to all four questions is yes, then your proposed research meets [the NIH definition of a clinical trial](#). Clarified and broadened in 2014, the definition encompasses a wide range of trial types: mechanistic, exploratory/developmental, pilot/feasibility, behavioral, and more. NIH expanded the clinical trial definition in response to widespread calls from diverse stakeholders for improved reporting of research milestones and outcomes, and for assuring maximal transparency.

Need help determining whether your study would be considered by NIH to be a clinical trial? See NIH's [webpage on the definition](#) that includes case studies, FAQs and other resources that can help. Still unsure? Contact your NIH program official or the scientific point of contact listed on the funding opportunity announcement to which you are applying.

Third, familiarize yourself with NIH policy changes related to enhancing stewardship of clinical trials.

NIH made a number of policy changes to improve the stewardship of clinical trials across the life cycle of the trial. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with all that is changing, including:

- the requirement to apply to an FOA that specifically allows for the submission of clinical trial applications for due dates beginning January 25, 2018.
- Good Clinical Practice training expectations for NIH staff, grantees, and contractors that went into effect January 2017.
- updated peer review criteria that will be included in FOAs for clinical trial applications and solicitations for due dates on/after January 25, 2018.
- new Human Subject Information form requirements for clinical trials that will be included in updated application forms (FORMS-E) for due dates on/after January 25, 2018, and contract solicitations published as of January 25, 2018.
- use of a single IRB for non-exempt, multi-site clinical trials for application due dates on/after January 25, 2018.
- expanded ClinicalTrials.gov registration and reporting to include **all** NIH supported clinical trials.

Improving the design, efficiency, and transparency of clinical trials is important because it:

- respects our ethical obligation to participants to maximize the use of the knowledge from the trials in which they participate
- facilitates design of clinical trials while reducing unnecessary duplication
- promotes broad, timely, and responsible dissemination of research information and results
- fosters responsible stewardship of the public's investment in biomedical research

NIH has developed a new [Clinical Trial Requirements for NIH Grantees and Contractors web page](#) to bring together all the information you need to know. Please review this information carefully. Your attention to detail will be critical to ensuring successful funding of your clinical trial awards.

NIH will be putting out a series of reminder policy notices, training opportunities, and other resources in the [NIH Guide to Grants and Contracts](#), in the [NIH Extramural Nexus](#), and on a [blog](#).

Notice of Changes to NIH Policy for Issuing Certificates of Confidentiality (CoCs)

To help protect the privacy of research participants, for many years NIH has issued CoCs, upon request, to researchers collecting sensitive information about research participants. The CoCs protect researchers and institutions from being compelled to disclose information in response to legal demands that would identify their research subjects. Section 2012 of the 21st Century Cures Act authorized new provisions governing the authority of HHS to protect the privacy of research subjects. The new policy implements the new CoC statutory requirements.

What this Means for NIH Funded Investigators

- As of October 1, 2017, NIH funded researchers will no longer have to request a CoC, nor will they receive an actual certificate. The CoC will be issued automatically to research covered by the policy, and compliance with the requirements of the law will become a term and condition of award for grant recipients who are collecting identifiable, sensitive information as part of their NIH funded research. All research that was commenced or ongoing on or after December 13, 2016 and is within the scope of this policy is issued a Certificate through this policy
- The policy applies to NIH funded grants, cooperative agreements, contracts and intramural research projects.
- The CoC protects the privacy of subjects by limiting the disclosure of identifiable, sensitive information.
 - o Under the new policy, disclosure is not up to the discretion of the investigator. Disclosure is only permitted in the following circumstances.
 - ✦ if required by other Federal, State, or local laws, such as for reporting of communicable diseases
 - ✦ if the subject consents; or
 - ✦ for the purposes of scientific research that is compliant with human subjects regulations
- The restrictions on disclosures apply to all researchers or research institutions previously issued a CoC who are engaged in research.

Recipients of NIH awards are required to ensure that any investigator or institution who receive a copy of identifiable sensitive information protected by the policy understand they are they are also subject to the disclosure restrictions, even if they are not funded by NIH.

What this Means for Research Funded by Other Federal Agencies

NIH will continue to consider requests for CoCs for research within the scope of NIH's mission funded or supported by other Federal Departments and agencies.

What this Means for Non-federally Funded Research

NIH will continue to consider applications for CoCs for applicable non-federally funded research submitted to the ICs through its existing online CoC application system

OER has noted the changing policy on our [CoC website](#) and will be overhauling the page to align with the new policy for the October 1, 2017 policy implementation date.

Questions may be sent to NIH CoC mailbox: NIH-CoC-Coordinator@mail.nih.gov.
[NOT-OD-17-109](#)

[NOT-OD-17-101](#)

Policy Supporting the Next Generation Researchers Initiative

The Next Generation Researchers policy requires institutes and centers to prioritize awards that will fund Early Stage Investigators (ESIs) and Early Established Investigators (EElS). The goal for FY 2017 will be to fund approximately 200 more ESI and 200 more EEl awards than in FY 2016.

An **ESI** is a Program Director / Principal Investigator (PD/PI) who has completed their terminal research degree or end of post-graduate clinical training, whichever date is later, within the past 10 years and who has not previously competed successfully as PD/PI for a substantial NIH independent research award. ESIs are encouraged to enter the date of their terminal research degree or the end date of their post-graduate clinical training in their eRA Commons profile to ensure their correct identification.

An **EEl** is a PD/PI who is within 10 years of receiving their first substantial, independent competing NIH R01-equivalent research award as an ESI. A meritorious application with a designated PD/PI EEl may be prioritized for funding if:

1. The EEl lost or is at risk for losing all NIH research support if not funded by competing awards this year, OR
2. The EEl is supported by only one active award.

NIH will identify EElS in their eRA Commons profile by January 2018.

[NOT-NS-18-007](#)

Informational Webinar on the NIH Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00) and Postdoctoral Mentored Career Development Award (K01)

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) will hold a webinar for applicants who wish to request assignment to NINDS for the Pathway to Independence and Postdoctoral Mentored Career Development awards. The webinar will provide participants with information on the intent of the K99/R00 and K01 mechanisms, and will discuss what NINDS and reviewers are expecting in a successful application. This webinar is recommended for postdoctoral fellows, faculty who are current or potentially future mentors for postdoctoral fellows, and anyone interested in learning about the NINDS philosophy of postdoctoral training and funding.

Date/Time: October 18, 2017; 1:00-3:00, p.m., Eastern

To register, refer to NIH Notice (NOT-NS-18-007) which contains a link to the registration site.

[NOT-HS-17-019](#)

AHRQ Announces Interest in Innovative Methods Research to Increase the Utility of Systematic Reviews

AHRQ intends to support research designed to develop novel or improved methods that optimize the efficiency, comprehensiveness, and predictive value of systematic reviews that address the opportunities and challenges of the current era of data abundance, and make systematic reviews both more efficient and salient to improve the healthcare of Americans. Please see the Notice for potential areas of interest. AHRQ will use the standing R03 grant mechanism, [PA-15-147](#).

University at Buffalo Funding Opportunity

[Innovative Micro-Programs Accelerating Collaboration in Themes \(IMPACT\)](#)

The IMPACT program is focused on funding innovative interdisciplinary and multi-thematic projects where the goal is to develop preliminary data that can support competitive external grant applications and directly demonstrate outcomes in these themes. IMPACT awards are available to scholars from all disciplines. The program seeks to support exciting projects in new areas of creative activities, as well as those that foster novel or unique collaborations.

Funding can support a variety of expenses, including but not limited to salaries to support graduate students, prototype development costs, materials and supplies, and equipment usage. Faculty salaries are not allowed. Award recipients are required to submit a proposal for competitive external funding, based on the project conducted with IMPACT funding, within 24 months of the award start date.

Award Amount: Awards will not exceed \$35,000 for projects of one year or less.

Submission Deadline: Applications must be submitted via email as a single PDF by 5:00 p.m. on **October 16, 2017** to Kenneth Tramosch at ovpr.impact@research.buffalo.edu.

NIH Funding Opportunities: **Limited Submissions**

UB prior approval is required for the following funding opportunities. If you are interested in applying to any of the **limited submissions** listed below, please provide the OVPRED with notification through the [Limited Submissions Mailbox](#) at least 60 days prior to the sponsor's submission deadline before proceeding with an application. The limited submission program is managed by Dr. Kenneth Tramosch on behalf of the OVPRED. He may be contacted at kmt1@buffalo.edu or by phone at 645-3321 for any questions or advice about the limited submission process.

[PAR-17-051 \(R25\)](#)

Post Baccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP)

This FOA will support creative educational activities with a primary focus on Research Experiences *and Courses for Skills Development*. Applications are encouraged from research-intensive institutions that propose to equip recent baccalaureate science graduates from diverse backgrounds underrepresented in biomedical sciences with the necessary knowledge and skills to pursue Ph.D. degrees in these fields. The program provides support for extensive research experiences and well-designed courses for skills development aimed at preparing individuals from underrepresented backgrounds to complete doctoral degrees. *Only one application per institution is allowed.*

Application Due Dates: January 24, 2018; and January 24, 2019

[PAR-17-053 \(R25\)](#)

Research Education: Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (IMSD) Program

The over-arching goal of this program is to support educational activities that enhance the diversity of the biomedical workforce. To accomplish this goal, this FOA will support creative educational activities with a primary focus on research experiences and courses for skills development. *Only one application per institution is allowed.*

Application Due Dates: January 26, 2018; January 28, 2019

[PAR-17-159 \(R01\)](#)

Data Science Research: Personal Health Libraries for Consumers and Patients

The National Library of Medicine seeks applications for novel informatics and data science approaches that can help individuals gather, manage and use data and information about their personal health. A goal of this program is to advance research and application by patients and the research community through broadly sharing the results via publication, and through open source mechanisms for data or resource sharing. *Only one application per institution is allowed.*

Application Due Date: March 19, 2018

[RFA-ES-17-003 \(P30\)](#)

Environmental Health Sciences Core Centers (EHS CC)

This FOA invites grant applications for EHS CC. The broad overall goal of an EHS CC is to identify and capitalize on emerging issues that advance improving the understanding of the relationships among environmental exposures, human biology, and disease. The EHS CC supports community engagement and translational research as key approaches to improving public health. The Core Centers provide critical research infrastructure, shared facilities, services and/or resources, to groups of investigators conducting environmental health sciences research. *Only one application per institution is allowed.*

Application Due Dates: April 17, 2018, April 17, 2019

[PAR-17-068 \(T34\)](#)

Maximizing Access to Research Careers Undergraduate – Student Training in Academic Research

The Program is designed to provide structured training programs to prepare high-achieving, underrepresented students for doctoral programs in biomedical research fields. Programmatic activities should include authentic research experiences, academic enhancements, skills development, and mentoring. *Only one application per institution is allowed.*

Application Due Date: May 24, 2018

[PAR-16-361 \(R25\)](#)

Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE)

The over-arching goal of this program is to support educational activities that enhance the diversity of the biomedical, behavioral and clinical research workforce. This FOA will support creative educational activities with a primary focus on research experiences and courses for skills development. Applicants should directly address how the set of activities will enhance the diversity of the biomedical, behavioral and clinical research workforce by discussing 1) the rationale underlying the balance of effort and resources dedicated to each activity; 2) how the three activities integrate; and 3) objective indicators that can measure the effectiveness of the program. *Only one application per institution is allowed.*

Application Due Date: May 25, 201

NIH Funding Opportunities: Requests for Applications (RFA)

November Due Dates

[RFA-AG-18-012 \(U2C\)](#)

Mobile Monitoring of Cognitive Change

This FOA invites applications to design and implement research infrastructure that will enable the monitoring of cognitive abilities and age, state, context, or health condition-related changes in cognitive abilities on mobile devices. This effort will include the development (or support for development) of apps on the Android and iOS platforms, the validation of tests and items to be used on the two leading smartphone platforms in age groups ranging from 20 to 85, and the norming of successfully validated measures to nationally representative U.S. population samples that will also receive gold standard measures, including the NIH Toolbox® for Assessment of Behavioral and Neurological Function.

Application Due Date: November 2, 2017

[RFA-MH-18-410 \(R01\)](#)

Addressing Suicide Research Gaps: Understanding Mortality Outcomes

This FOA seeks to support efforts focused on linking pertinent data from healthcare system records (e.g., suicide attempt events) to mortality data so that a more accurate understanding of the risk factors for, and the burden of, suicide among those seen in structured healthcare settings can be discerned. Specifically, data are needed on the type, severity, and timing of suicide predictors in the U.S.

Application Due Date: November 2, 2017

[RFA-AG-18-016](#)

Tailoring Cardiac Rehabilitation to Enhance Participation of Older Adults (R01)

This FOA seeks applications for novel strategies to enhance referral, participation, and adherence in cardiac rehabilitation (CR) of older and vulnerable patients who are eligible for CR under current Medicare eligibility criteria. Specifically, NIA seeks clinical trials that address one or more specific age-related factors including patient-related issues, CR program goals and components, and CR program setting-related aspects. Successful modified programs should strive to improve function, independence and quality of life while reducing disability, future CV events, readmissions, morbidity and mortality.

Application Due Date: November 9, 2017

[RFA-AG-18-017 \(R01\)](#)

Central Neural Mechanisms of Age-Related Hearing Loss

The purpose of this FOA is to encourage basic or clinical research applications that investigate central neural mechanisms of age-related hearing loss in older adults and/or in relevant animal models. This FOA is driven by the need to address a major gap in our understanding of the central pathways and neural networks that are involved in hearing loss and how these may be altered in the context of the aging brain, as well as how natural aging influences central auditory plasticity.

Application Due Date: November 8, 2017

[RFA-HD-18-009 \(UG1\)](#)

Re-Competition of Global Network for Women's and Children's Health Research

This FOA invites applications from U.S. institutions to support Research Units (RUs) within the Global Network for Women's and Children's Health Research at NICHD. RUs will consist of U.S.-based research centers applying in partnership with research centers in low income countries as defined by the World Bank. The RUs within the Global Network will participate in addressing the major causes of maternal, neonatal, infant, and early childhood morbidity and mortality through the conduct of clinical research. The grantees will become part of a cooperative network to conduct multi-enter observational studies and randomized clinical trials evaluating disease process, health and wellness outcomes, and results from interventions in resource-poor settings.

Application Due Date: November 27, 2017

December Due Dates

[RFA-DA-18-012 \(R43/R44\)](#); [RFA-DA-18-013 \(R41/R42\)](#)

Development of a Device to Objectively Measure Pain

The purpose of these FOAs is to develop a technology/device that objectivity indicates the presence and level of pain.

Application Due Date: December 5, 2017

[RFA-MH-18-500 \(R01\)](#)

BRAIN Initiative: Research on the Ethical Implications of Advancements in Neurotechnology and Brain Science

This FOA, in support of the NIH Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative, is one of several FOAs aimed at supporting transformative discoveries that will lead to breakthroughs in understanding human brain function. Specifically, this FOA seeks to support efforts addressing core ethical issues associated with research focused on the human brain and resulting from emerging technologies and advancements supported by the BRAIN Initiative.

Application Due Date: December 7, 2017

[RFA-DA-18-014 \(R01\)](#)

Pharmacogenomics of Anti-retroviral Therapy in People Who Inject Drugs

The purpose of this FOA is to identify genetic and epigenetic factors that affect the recovery of the CD4+ T cells in response to anti-retroviral therapy in HIV infected people who inject drugs infected

Application Due Date: December 14, 2017

[RFA-HL-18-006 \(K12\)](#)

Institutional Career Development Program in HIV-Related Heart, Lung, Blood, and Sleep Research

The goal of this Program is to encourage institutions to develop and sustain programs that support inter-disciplinary, intensive mentored research training and career development for junior PhDs and MDs in AIDS co-morbidities as well as cell and gene therapies for HIV cure and prevention of HIV transfusion transmission.

Application Due Date: December 14, 2017

[RFA-HL-18-004 \(R01\)](#)

Integrated Approaches to HIV-Related Heart, Lung, Blood, and Sleep (HLBS) Comorbidities

This FOA invites applications that propose "systems biology" approaches using clinical samples from HIV-infected patients to elucidate the biological perturbations associated with HIV-related heart, lung, blood, and sleep (HLBS) comorbidities. The ultimate goal is to better understand disease progression, which may help identify new therapeutic targets that pre-empt the onset of HLB diseases and sleep disorders in the HIV population.

Application Due Date: December 15, 2017

[RFA-DA-18-015 \(R01\)](#)

HIV-associated Neuropathic Pain and Opioid Interaction

The purpose of this RFA is to promote research investigating the underlying mechanisms by which opioids including prescription drugs exacerbate HIV-associated neuropathic pain. Results from these studies may help obtain information for developing safe and effective treatments of neuropathic pain for HIV-infected patients exposed to opioids.

Application Due Date: December 18, 2017

January Due Dates

[RFA-CA-17-041 \(U01\)](#)

Approaches to Identify and Care for Individuals with Inherited Cancer Syndromes

This FOA is associated with the [Beau Biden Cancer MoonshotSM Initiative](#) that is intended to accelerate cancer research. The purpose is to increase case ascertainment and optimize delivery of evidence-based healthcare for individuals at high risk of cancer due to an inherited genetic susceptibility. Specifically, this FOA targets the following area designated as a scientific priority by the [Blue Ribbon Panel](#) (BRP) [Recommendation E](#): *"To realize the potential of cancer prevention and early detection in our nation, NCI should sponsor an initiative to improve the current state of early detection, genetic testing, genetic counseling, and knowledge landscape of the mechanisms and biomarkers associated with cancer development. This initiative should include demonstration projects that will show how cancer screening programs can simultaneously save lives, improve quality of life, and reduce healthcare costs."*

Application Due Date: January 9, 2018

[RFA-HL-18-024 \(R01\)](#)

Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Research on E-Cigarettes

The purpose of this FOA is to stimulate research on cardiovascular and pulmonary physiologic and health effects of electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) exposure. This FOA invites applications addressing the effects of e-cigarettes on the cardiovascular and pulmonary systems, alone or in combination. Studies involving clinical populations, animal models and/or cell preparations would all be considered responsive. Research may examine the effects of the whole e-cigarette aerosol or of individual components or constituents. Research may also examine where aerosols, components, or constituents deposit in the airways and resulting heart and/or lung consequences.

Application Due Date: January 16, 2018

[RFA-HS-17-012 \(K12\)](#)

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Learning Health Systems Mentored Career Development Program

Applications are invited for institutional career development awards designed to train clinician and research scientists to conduct patient-centered outcomes research within learning health systems (LHS) focused on generation, adoption, and application of evidence in order to improve the quality and safety of care. LHS is a new and rapidly evolving conceptual approach in which science, informatics, incentives, and culture are aligned for continuous improvement and innovation in the care process, in which stakeholders (i.e., providers, patients and families) are active participants in all elements, and new knowledge is captured as an integral by-product of the care experience.

Application Due Date: January 24, 2018

February Due Dates

[RFA-DK-17-011](#) (DP1- Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Catalyst Award in Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases (DEMD)

This Award is designed to support individual scientists who propose pioneering and possibly transforming studies in DEMD topic areas. Applications should be focused on major scientific challenges, and have the potential to produce an unusually high impact on diseases and conditions that are central to the mission of NIDDK's Division of Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases.

Application Due Date: February 2, 2018

Multiple Due Dates

[RFA-CA-17-017 \(R01\)](#); [RFA-CA-17-018 \(R21\)](#)

Research Answers to NCI's Provocative Questions

These FOAs support research projects designed to solve specific problems and paradoxes in cancer research identified by the National Cancer Institute Provocative Questions (PQs) initiative. The current issuance includes an updated set of 12 PQs, which are listed in the funding announcements. Each research project must be focused on addressing one particular research problem defined by one specific PQ selected from the list.

Application Due Dates: October 30, 2017; June 28, 2018; October 30, 2018

[RFA-DA-18-004 \(DP2\)](#)

Avenir Award Program for Research on Substance Abuse and HIV/AIDS

This Program will support research approaches, both basic and clinical, which have the potential to benefit substance using populations with or at risk for HIV/AIDS by reducing HIV incidence, improving therapies for HIV, reducing the impact of comorbid conditions, and ultimately, eradicating HIV. The nexus with drug abuse should be clearly described.

Application Due Dates: Nov 13, 2017; Nov 13, 2018, Nov 13, 2019

[RFA-OD-17-013 \(R01\)](#); [RFA-OD-17-014 \(R21\)](#)

Tobacco Regulatory Science

These FOAs invite applications to support research that will provide scientific data to inform regulation of tobacco products to protect public health. Research results are expected to generate findings and data that are directly relevant in informing the FDA's regulation of the manufacture, distribution, and marketing of tobacco products to protect public health.

Application Due Dates: February 13, 2018, July 17, 2018, February 13, 2019

[RFA-OD-17-012 \(R03\)](#)

Tobacco Regulatory Science Small Grant Program for New Investigators

The purpose of this FOA is to invite applications to support biomedical and behavioral research that will provide scientific data to inform regulation of tobacco products to protect public health. Only [New Investigators](#) who fit the criteria are eligible to apply.

Application Due Dates: February 13, 2018, July 17, 2018, February 13, 2019

[RFA-MH-17-610 \(Collaborative R01\)](#)

Clinical Trials to Test the Effectiveness of Treatment, Preventive, and Services Interventions

This FOA supports clinical trials designed to test the therapeutic value of treatment and preventive interventions for which there is already evidence of efficacy, for use in community and practice settings. Applications might include research to evaluate the effectiveness or increase the clinical impact of pharmacologic, somatic, psychosocial (psychotherapeutic, behavioral), device-based, rehabilitative and combination interventions to prevent or treat mental illness.

Application Due Dates: February 14, 2018, June 15, 2018, October 15, 2018

[RFA-MH-17-604 \(R61/R33\)](#) - **Development of Psychosocial Therapeutic and Preventive Interventions for Mental Disorders**

[RFA-MH-17-606 \(R33\)](#) - **Development of Psychosocial Therapeutic and Preventive Interventions for Mental Disorders**

The purpose of these FOAs is to support the efficient pilot testing of novel psychosocial therapeutic and preventive interventions for mental disorders in adults and children, using an experimental therapeutics approach. These FOAs support the development and testing of innovative psychosocial intervention approaches where the target and/or the intervention strategy is novel.

Application Due Dates: February 14, 2018; June 15, 2018; October 15, 2018

[RFA-MH-17-612 \(R34\)](#)

Pilot Effectiveness Trials for Treatment, Preventive and Services Interventions

This FOA encourages pilot research consistent with [NIMH's priorities](#) for: 1) effectiveness research on preventive and therapeutic interventions with previously demonstrated efficacy, for use with broader target populations or for use in community practice settings, and 2) research on the development and preliminary testing of innovative services interventions.

Application Due Dates: February 14, 2018, June 15, 2018, October 15, 2018

[RFA-HL-17-022 \(R21\)](#)

Maximizing the Scientific Value of the NHLBI Biorepository: Scientific Opportunities for Exploratory Research

This FOA will support meritorious exploratory research relevant to the [NHLBI mission](#) using the existing biospecimen collections that are stored in the NHLBI Biologic Specimen Repository, thereby maximizing the scientific value of the stored collections and providing researchers with an opportunity to generate preliminary data for subsequent research proposals.

Application Due Dates: February 15, 2018; October 17, 2018; February 15, 2019; October 17, 2019

[RFA-ES-16-005 \(R21\)](#)

Mechanism for Time-Sensitive Research Opportunities in Environmental Health Sciences

This FOA is intended to support environmental health research in which an unpredictable event provides a limited window of opportunity to collect human biological samples or environmental exposure data to understand the consequences of natural and man-made disasters or emerging environmental public health threats in the U.S. and abroad. A distinguishing feature of an appropriate study is a shortened timeframe from submission to award. The entire cycle is expected to be within 3-4 months.

Application Due Dates: Multiple due dates, please see FOA

NIH Funding Opportunities: Program Announcement Reviewed by an Institute (PAR)

[PAR-16-357 \(DP1\)](#)

Avenir Award Program for Genetics or Epigenetics of Substance Use Disorders

This award will support those in an early stage of their career who may lack the preliminary data required for an R01 grant, but who propose high impact research and who show promise of being tomorrow's leaders in the field. The Program supports highly innovative studies that open new areas of research for the genetics or epigenetics of addiction. These may be novel methods or approaches that can potentially be applied to the analysis of the genetics or epigenetics of addiction.

Application Due Dates: October 19, 2017; October 19, 2018

[PAR-17-470 \(R01\)](#)

Clinical and Epidemiological Research on Chronic Disease in the Caribbean

The purpose of this FOA is to support US-Caribbean collaborative research to develop or extend cohort or surveillance studies on chronic disease in the Caribbean region that are aligned with existing publicly available US datasets. The focus of research is chronic diseases, such as cardiovascular disease, selected cancers, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, chronic liver disease, chronic inflammatory conditions, arthritis, and HIV/AIDS, as they are the predominant causes of premature morbidity and mortality in both the US and the Caribbean region. An additional purpose is to foster partnerships between US-based and Caribbean-based researchers to conduct collaborative research on chronic disease in both locations. The ultimate goal is to generate knowledge that can inform preventive, treatment, and policy interventions to improve chronic disease outcomes of individuals of Caribbean descent in the Caribbean and the US.

Application Due Dates: November 15, 2017, November 15, 2018, November 15, 2019

[PAR-17-473 \(R01\)](#); [PAR-17-472 \(R21\)](#)

Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS): Population, Clinical and Applied Prevention Research

The purpose of these FOAs are to support studies on electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) that examine population-based, clinical and applied prevention of disease, including etiology of use, epidemiology of use, potential risks, benefits and impacts on other tobacco use behavior among different populations.

Application Due Date: November 27, 2017

[PAR-17-476 \(R01\)](#); [PAR-17-475 \(R21\)](#)

Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS): Basic Mechanisms of Health Effects (Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

The purpose of this FOA is to support basic research examining how ENDS aerosols affect normal and disease states relevant to human cells, tissues and organs. Studies of interest include understanding the characteristics of ENDS aerosols and how they are generated. Also of interest is how ENDS-specific constituents alter molecular, cellular and physiological pathways important in maintaining normal homeostatic functions or progression to disease states.

Application Due Dates: November 27, 2017; June 27, 2018; October 24, 2018; June 27, 2019; October 24, 2019; June 27, 2020

[PAR-17-484 \(R01\)](#); [PAR-17-483 \(R21\)](#)

Collaborative Minority Health and Health Disparities Research with Tribal Epidemiology Centers

The purpose of this initiative is to support collaborative research between Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TECs) and extramural investigators on topics related to minority health and health disparities in American Indian / Alaska Native (AI/AN) populations, with emphasis on areas where there are significant gaps in data and knowledge. Research projects may be observational or intervention studies and are expected to use data that have been or are currently being collected by the TEC(s).

Application Due Dates: December 4, 2017, December 4, 2018, December 4, 2019

[PAR-17-455 \(R25\)](#)

NIAID Research Education Program

The over-arching goal of this program is to support educational activities that complement and/or enhance the training of a workforce to meet the nation's biomedical, behavioral and clinical research needs in [NIAID mission](#) areas.

To accomplish this goal, this FOA will support creative educational activities with a primary focus on *Courses for Skills Development, Research Experiences* and *Mentoring Activities* related to NIAID's mission areas.

Application Due Dates: December 6, 2017; December 5, 2018; December 5, 2019

[PAR-17-471 \(R61/R33\)](#)

Detection of HIV for Self-Testing

This FOA supports bi-phasic developmental, discovery-driven, or hypothesis-driven research focused on innovative strategies to detect HIV either within the first two weeks of infection or to monitor viral rebound after stopping or developing resistance to antiretroviral therapy. Applications should propose simple diagnostic tools that would be feasible for a self-testing platform to allow untrained individuals to detect HIV. Interdisciplinary collaborations that include biomedical, physical, and behavioral sciences are highly encouraged.

Application Due Dates: December 6, 2017, December 6, 2018, and December 6, 2019

[PAR-17-474 \(R21\)](#)

Reducing Stigma to Improve HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment and Care in Low and Middle- Income Countries

The overall goals of this FOA are to understand how to reduce stigma as a factor in HIV transmission, to eliminate or mitigate the aspects of stigma that limit beneficial health outcomes for the infected and at-risk individuals and communities, and to initiate exploratory studies to determine the feasibility of stigma interventions related to HIV prevention, treatment and/or care in Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). This FOA provides an avenue for investigators in the U.S. and LMICs to establish collaborative research and strengthen and sustain research capacity activities. Therefore, one or more investigators from an institution in the U.S. and one or more from an institution in an LMIC must collaborate on the application.

Application Due Date: December 11, 2017

[PAR-17-458 \(X01\)](#)

Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Biospecimen Access

This FOA allows investigators to apply for access to the PATH Study biospecimens for use in conducting tobacco-related research studies. The PATH Study is a collaboration between the National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health, the Center for Tobacco Products, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The PATH Study is an ongoing longitudinal cohort study on tobacco use behavior, attitudes and beliefs, and tobacco-related health outcomes and is planned through 2024.

Application Due Dates: January 31, 2018, July 31, 2018, January 31, 2019, July 31, 2019, January 31 2020, July 31, 2020

[PAR-17-338 \(U01\)](#)

Continuation of Existing Grant Based Epidemiology Cohort Studies in Heart, Lung, Blood, and Sleep Diseases and Disorders

This FOA supports research projects that will provide follow-up data collection and study maintenance activities of existing epidemiology cohorts that are prospectively following at least 2,000 participants. Through this FOA, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) will support the planning and operation of a basic content exam or data collection cycle, and ascertainment and/or adjudication of events of clinical significance. The primary goal of this FOA is to maintain and maximize investments in existing prospective cohorts by supporting the identification of relevant outcome events and the infrastructure needed to facilitate new innovative research opportunities.

Application Due Dates: February 22, 2018, February 21, 2019, February 20, 2020

NIH Funding Opportunities: Program Announcements (PA)

[PA-17-444 \(R01\)](#); [PA-17-446 \(R21\)](#); [PA-17-445 \(R03\)](#)

Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications (ELSI) of Genomics Research Project Grant Program

Application Due Dates: Standard dates apply

Expiration Date: September 8, 2020

[PA-17-467 \(R01\)](#); [PA-17-468 \(R03\)](#)

Secondary Analyses of Existing Alcohol Research Data

Application Due Dates: Standard dates apply

Expiration Date: September 8, 2020

[PA-17-452 \(R01\)](#); [PA-17-451 \(R03\)](#)

Pregnancy in Women with Disabilities

Application Due Dates: Standard dates apply

Expiration Date: September 8, 2020

[PA-17-478 \(R01\)](#); [PA-17-477 \(R21\)](#)

Research on Transgender Health

Application Due Dates: Standard dates apply

Expiration Date: September 8, 2020

Foundation Funding Opportunities

AARP Foundation

[Scaling Evidence-Based Solutions for Vulnerable Older Adults](#)

AARP Foundation works to ensure that low-income and vulnerable older adults have nutritious food, safe, secure, and affordable housing, a steady income and economic opportunities to grow and protect financial assets, and strong and sustaining social bonds. To address those needs, this grant competition seeks evidence-based solutions that are guided by a deep level of engagement with AARP Foundation and that can be brought to scale. Applications will be accepted in response to the following four impact areas: 1) Housing Security; 2) Social Connection; 3) Income Security; and 4) Food Security. *Each institution is allowed to submit one application in response to one impact area. If you would like to apply, please contact the [limited submissions mailbox](#).*

Application Due Date: October 24, 2017

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

The Gates Foundation is inviting proposals for the latest round of [Grand Challenges Explorations](#). Applicants can be at any experience level; in any discipline; and from any organization, including colleges and universities, government laboratories, research institutions, non-profit organizations, and for-profit companies. Applications are two pages and no preliminary data is required. Initial grants will be US \$100,000 each, and successful projects showing are eligible to receive follow-on funding of up to US \$1 million. Applications will be accepted on the following topics:

- Novel Approaches for Improving Timeliness of Routine Immunization Birthdose and Healthcare Worker skill in Low-Resource Settings;
- Healthy Minds for Adolescent Mothers: Achieving Healthy Outcomes for the Family;
- Innovations for Integrated Diagnostics Systems

Application Due Date: November 8, 2017, 11:30 am Pacific Time



“Two things define you: Your patience when you have nothing and your attitude when you have everything.”
George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950), Irish playwright, critic, and polemicist