



U.S. Department of Health  
and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health



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## ***News & Notes from the National Institute of Nursing Research: March 2011***

### **1. New Article with Interviews of NINR Director Dr. Grady and Deputy Director Dr. Kerr**

A recently published article in the publication *Nursing Spectrum*, “Mission possible: nurse scientists improve healthcare,” features interviews with NINR Director Dr. Patricia A. Grady and Deputy Director Dr. Mary E. Kerr on the impact of nursing research.

The article is available online at: <http://news.nurse.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011110209012>.

A link to this and other recent publications is available on the NINR Director’s Page:  
<http://www.ninr.nih.gov/AboutNINR/NINRDirectorsPage>.

### **2. Request for Information on Standardization of Biobehavioral Symptom Measures ([NOT-NR-11-010](#))**

On February 16, NINR released a new “Request for Information (RFI): To Solicit Input on the Standardization of Measurements for Biobehavioral Assessment of Symptoms ([NOT-NR-11-010](#)).”

NINR is seeking input about an initiative which will establish common data elements across biobehavioral symptom trials in an effort to advance scientific discovery and accelerate knowledge in the treatment and prevention of symptoms. This initiative would seek to establish a core set of biobehavioral symptom measures that can be used in trials across a variety of patient populations with acute or chronic illnesses in different settings in an effort to accelerate scientific advances.

The objectives of this initiative may include: 1) identifying optimal measures for assessing symptoms along a biobehavioral continuum; 2) establishing projects that incorporate standardized biobehavioral symptom assessment within a research network; and 3) creating a virtual symptom data repository for effective data mining and sharing. This initiative will target 12 of the most common symptoms: fatigue, dyspnea, pain, nausea, constipation, depression, anxiety, cognitive impairment, lack of appetite, itching, insomnia, and mucosal dryness.

NINR invites the scientific community, health professionals, industry representatives, scientific organizations, students and other interested parties to provide input and advice on this initiative by responding to a set of questions posted on our Web site at: <http://www.ninr.nih.gov/symptoms.htm>.

Responses will be accepted until **April 2, 2011**.

For more information, please see the full RFI at:  
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-NR-11-010.html>.

For questions, please contact:

Dr. Sue Marden  
NINR Office of Extramural Activities  
Phone: 301-496-9623  
Email: [mardens@mail.nih.gov](mailto:mardens@mail.nih.gov)

### **3. The 2011 NINR Summer Genetics Institute Now Accepting Applications.**

NINR is now accepting applications for the 2011 NINR Summer Genetics Institute (SGI). The SGI provides an intensive 4-week, 8 credit hour graduate level program in genetics that includes both classroom and laboratory components. Applicants should demonstrate potential for highly productive research or clinical careers.

This year's SGI will take place from June 6 - July 1, 2011, on the campus of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). More information is available at: [www.ninr.nih.gov/Training/SGI](http://www.ninr.nih.gov/Training/SGI).

**The application period will close on April 18, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. EST.**

The program is administered by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences (FAES) as one of the Bio-Trac programs, and is sponsored by NINR tuition-free. However, attendees are responsible for their own expenses incurred during the program, including room, board, and transportation.

#### **Important notes:**

- **Complete application instructions are available at: [www.ninr.nih.gov/Training/SGI](http://www.ninr.nih.gov/Training/SGI). To avoid confusion, applicants for the 2011 SGI are strongly urged to review the instructions on this page and the "How to Apply" page.**
- **Applicants must use the ARTiE Graduate Partnerships Program (GPP) application system at: <https://gpp-nih.symplicity.com>, and follow instructions to select "NINR Summer Genetics Institute."**
- **In addition, applicants who have applied to the SGI or the GPP in previous years must send an email to [ninrsgi@mail.nih.gov](mailto:ninrsgi@mail.nih.gov) before beginning the application process, because the previous application must first be deleted from the system.**

For more information on the SGI, please email [ninrsgi@mail.nih.gov](mailto:ninrsgi@mail.nih.gov) or visit: <http://www.ninr.nih.gov/Training/SGI>.

### **4. NINR Co-Sponsoring Meeting on Interdisciplinary Research**

The National Center for Research Resources and NINR are co-sponsoring a half-day meeting designed to improve interdisciplinary research participation. *Bringing Science to Life: The Interdisciplinary Advantage* will be held on April 27, 2011, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., in conjunction with the joint annual meeting of the Association for Clinical Research Training and the Society for Clinical and Translational Science. Experts will share information about successful interdisciplinary collaborations that have advanced the translational trajectory from bench to bedside, and to community practice. Presenters will:

- Identify opportunities and challenges when planning and conducting interdisciplinary research.
- Highlight successful exemplars of interdisciplinary research.
- Analyze essential components of interdisciplinarity and characteristics that enhance research.
- Discuss and develop strategies to maximize diverse disciplinary strengths.

The full agenda is available at: <http://www.acrtraining.org/2011-annual-meeting/ancillary-meetings>.

There is no fee for this meeting, but space is limited so please register early. Registration is available at: <http://www.acrtraining.org/2011-annual-meeting/science-life-interdisciplinary-advantage>

If you plan to attend the full conference, visit [www.acrtraining.org/2011-annual-meeting/registration](http://www.acrtraining.org/2011-annual-meeting/registration) to learn more about fees. Discounted hotel rates are available until March 26, 2011.

For additional information or special accommodations, contact Dr. Donna Jo McCloskey at [mccloskd@mail.nih.gov](mailto:mccloskd@mail.nih.gov) or 301-451-4216.

**Location:**

Omni Shoreham Hotel  
2500 Calvert Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20008

**5. Application Deadline Extended for the 2011 Graduate Partnerships Program**

The application deadline for the 2011 NINR [Graduate Partnerships Program \(GPP\)](#) has been extended until 10 a.m. EST on April 18, 2011.

The GPP is a doctoral fellowship training program that coordinates training and funding for doctoral students attending a school of nursing supported by an NINR-funded Institutional Research Training (T32) grant. The program combines the academic environment of a university and the breadth and depth of research at NIH.

**Please note:** To be eligible for the NINR GPP, the applicant must currently attend (or be accepted to) a school of nursing supported by a T32 grant funded by NINR.

Application instructions and answers to frequently asked questions are available online at: (<https://www.training.nih.gov/programs/gpp/appinfo>).

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Natalie A. Rasmussen  
Intramural Research Training Director, Assistant Clinical Investigator  
Email: [rasmussenna@mail.nih.gov](mailto:rasmussenna@mail.nih.gov)

**6. NINR – NIH Clinical Center Joint Conference on Symptom Mechanisms, Measurement, and Management**

As part of the on-going NINR 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events, NINR and the NIH Clinical Center will host a joint nursing research conference on May 12, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Masur Auditorium on the NIH campus.

Distinguished guest speakers from across the country will present lectures on a variety of symptom-related topics, including symptom self-management in oncology patients, pain management at end-of-life, sleep disorders, and genetic mechanisms of cancer treatment-related fatigue.

Attendees will gain a foundation in symptom mechanisms, measurement, and management, particularly those associated with chronic illnesses such as cancer and sickle cell disease. Researchers, clinicians, science writers, and the interested public are encouraged to attend this free event.

Registration is required to attend the NINR-NIH CC Joint Conference. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis and further information on the registration process will be posted on the NINR website later this month.

For more information, please email: [NINRIRPtraining@mail.nih.gov](mailto:NINRIRPtraining@mail.nih.gov).

For a complete list of 25th Anniversary events, please visit: [www.ninr.nih.gov/25years](http://www.ninr.nih.gov/25years).

## **7. Upcoming Lecture for the NIH End-of-Life and Palliative Care SIG**

The NIH End-of-Life and Palliative Care Special Interest Group (NIH EOL PC SIG) will present a special lecture by Dr. Jeffery A. Dusek, Director of Research at the Penny George Institute for Health and Healing, a part of Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, MN. The lecture is entitled, “Integrative Medicine at Abbott Northwestern Hospital: Impact on Pain, Anxiety, and End of Life.”

The lecture will take place on March 23, 2011, from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m., location TBA.

The NIH EOL PC SIG provides a forum for interested researchers from the NIH Intramural and Extramural Research Programs as well as interdisciplinary scientists from the non-NIH community to discuss current trends and exchange information in EOL PC research. Membership is open to anyone with a shared interest in EOL PC science. The NIH EOL PC SIG meets four times a year.

For more information, please visit: <http://sigs.nih.gov/eolpc>.

## **8. New NIH Training Opportunity: The Lasker Scholar program ([NIH RFA-OD-11-001](#))**

NIH recently released a Request for Applications (RFA) for a new research training opportunity, the Lasker Clinical Research Scholar (Lasker Scholar) program.

The Lasker Scholar program will support a small number of exceptional clinical researchers in the early stages of their careers to promote their development to fully independent scientists. It combines a period of research experience as a tenure-track Principal Investigator in the NIH Intramural Research Program (IRP) with an opportunity for additional years of independent financial support, either within the IRP or at an extramural (outside of NIH) research institution.

Eligible applicants must hold an RN/PhD, MD, MD/PhD, DO, DDS, DMD, or equivalent clinical doctoral degree, have a professional license to practice in the U.S., and be no more than 6 years from completion of their core residency training. Applicants do not have to be U.S. citizens or permanent residents, although selected Scholars must qualify for and maintain appropriate visa/residency status.

For this program, preferred areas of clinical research interest related to NINR include: molecular-genetic mechanisms that contribute to symptoms biology; discovery of novel mechanisms and development of investigational strategies for fatigue, chemotherapy-induced and diabetic peripheral neuropathy, chronic abdominal pain, fibromyalgia, traumatic brain injury, and sickle cell disease pain; integrative medicine.

**Applicants are encouraged to discuss their proposed research with the NINR contact person listed below to determine the suitability of their research program to this initiative.**

For more information, please see the full RFA announcement, [RFA-OD-11-001](#).

**Application deadline for the Lasker Scholar program is April 4, 2011.**

The Lasker Scholar program is a joint partnership between NIH and the Lasker Foundation, and honors the contributions of Mary and Albert Lasker to NIH and the overall biomedical community.

For specific questions related to the Lasker Scholar program, please contact:

Dr. Raymond Dionne, Scientific Director  
NINR IRP  
Phone: 301-496-0294  
Email: [dionner@mail.nih.gov](mailto:dionner@mail.nih.gov)

## **9. NINR Invites Public Comments on Next Strategic Plan**

NINR invites public comments on a draft of the Institute's next strategic plan. The draft is available on the NINR website at <http://www.ninr.nih.gov/NewsAndInformation/StrategicPlan2011>.

The draft strategic plan describes NINR's approach for advancing the science of health over the next five years. In doing so, NINR will leverage its past accomplishments to pave the way for future discoveries in the areas of science that have the greatest potential to impact public health.

The comment period will close on March 19, 2011. Members of the public can provide comments via email to: [NINRstrategicplan@mail.nih.gov](mailto:NINRstrategicplan@mail.nih.gov). The strategic plan is scheduled for release in October 2011.

## **10. NINR to Offer Grantsmanship Workshops at Nursing Research Society Regional Conferences**

As part of NINR's commemoration of its 25th anniversary year, NINR staff will hold grantsmanship workshops at the upcoming regional Nursing Research Society annual conferences and scientific sessions. These small-group workshops and panel discussions will offer attendees a better understanding of the NIH grant process and provide answers to common questions.

Topics to be covered include:

- The ABC's of NIH Funding: Mission, Mechanisms, and Science
- Introduction to Enhanced Peer Review
- Tips for Writing a Successful Grant Application
- Fitting Your Science to the NIH Mission, Mechanisms and Peer Review
- Planning a Research Career: Sound Bytes from the Experts.

The NINR grantsmanship workshops will be held at the following events:

### **Eastern Nursing Research Society Annual Scientific Sessions**

Philadelphia, PA

Wednesday, March 23, 2011

8:00 - 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 - 5:00 p.m.

### **Midwest Nursing Research Society Annual Research Conference**

Columbus, OH

Thursday March 24, 2011

8:00 - 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 - 5:00 p.m.

### **Western Institute of Nursing Annual Research Conference**

Las Vegas, NV

Wednesday April 13, 2011

12:00 - 3:30 p.m. and 4:00 - 7:30 p.m.

More information on the workshops, including an application form and first-come, first-served registration, is available through the appropriate regional Nursing Research Society.

## **11. Save the Date/Call for Poster Abstracts: NINR's 25th Anniversary Concluding Scientific Symposium: October 13, 2011**

Mark your calendars and save the date for NINR's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concluding Scientific Symposium and Poster Session.

The Symposium will be held October 13, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.

The day will include presentations, a panel discussion, and poster presentations. This event is free of charge but registration is required.

NINR continues to seek poster abstracts for a poster session to be held during the Symposium. **The abstract submission deadline has been extended to May 15.**

We invite submissions on:

- Clinical Research
- Basic Research
- Innovative programs with applications to nursing research
- Comparative Effectiveness Research.

These submissions can be:

- Completed work
- Work in progress
- Work presented at other meetings
- Work previously published.

For submission guidelines, please visit:

[http://www.ninr.nih.gov/ResearchAndFunding/DEA/OEP/2011\\_Symposium\\_CallForAbstracts.htm](http://www.ninr.nih.gov/ResearchAndFunding/DEA/OEP/2011_Symposium_CallForAbstracts.htm)

Selections will be announced by June 1, 2011.

For more information, please contact:

Dr. David Banks

NINR Office of Extramural Activities

Phone: 301-496-9558

Email: [banksdh@mail.nih.gov](mailto:banksdh@mail.nih.gov)

Please visit NINR's Anniversary website for information on speakers and registration for the Symposium, as it becomes available: [www.ninr.nih.gov/25years](http://www.ninr.nih.gov/25years).

## **12. A New Opportunity for Unfunded Research**

The National Health Council (NHC), comprised of over 100 national health-related organizations and businesses, recently announced plans to give unfunded NIH applications the potential for a new lease on life. The NHC has launched a national, online database, <http://www.HealthResearchFunding.org>, to bring researchers with worthwhile but unfunded projects together with non-governmental sources seeking to support medical breakthroughs.

Researchers whose meritorious grant proposals were reviewed but not funded by the NIH are being invited to post their abstracts and contact information on the website. In addition, leading national

patient advocacy organizations that are members of the NHC and interested in tapping into this novel research can post details about themselves and the research they underwrite and upload requests for applications. NHC member organizations are also encouraging researchers who have gone through their organization's own peer-review process to join the database as well.

Dr. Sally Rockey, the NIH deputy director for extramural research, commented, "By using this site, research institutions may find an easy way to seek alternative financial support, allowing more time to conduct important research to aid in the development of medical breakthroughs for patients."

To learn more about the NHC, please visit: <http://www.nationalhealthcouncil.org>.

For more information, please contact:

Emily Noonan, National Health Council

[enoonan@nhcouncil.org](mailto:enoonan@nhcouncil.org)

202-973-0552

### **13. Current Funding Opportunity Announcements and Notices**

All current NINR Funding Opportunity Announcements, including Requests for Applications (RFAs) and Program Announcements (PAs), as well as Notices of interest from NIH, are available on the NINR website at <http://www.ninr.nih.gov/ResearchAndFunding/DEA/OEP/FundingOpportunities/default.htm>.

These items can also be found in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/index.html>.

### **14. 74th Meeting of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research**

The open session of the 74th meeting of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research (NACNR) will take place on May 17, 2011 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room 6C6, Building 31, C wing, on the NIH campus. Visitors are welcome to attend.

The NACNR meets three times a year to provide recommendations on the direction and support of the nursing, biomedical, social, and behavioral research that forms the evidence base for nursing practice.

More information about the NACNR is available online at:

<http://www.ninr.nih.gov/AboutNINR/NACNR>.

Information on visiting the NIH campus is available online at:

<http://www.nih.gov/about/visitor/index.htm>.

### **15. NIH and Society of Behavioral Medicine Collaborate on Electronic Health Record (EHR) Initiative**

The HITECH Act and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act place new emphasis on the widespread and meaningful use of electronic health records (EHRs). However, currently EHRs fail to capture data reflecting crucial health behaviors and psychosocial issues, and such patient-reported variables are both health outcomes themselves, and major determinants of other health outcomes. Capturing a standardized set of patient-reported variables in the EHR would lead to unprecedented data harmonization and opportunities to improve health care and health research.

To this end, several institutes within the NIH – in collaboration with the Society of Behavioral Medicine – are coordinating an effort to identify a core set of brief, practical measures to be recommended for use in adult primary care and public health electronic health records (EHRs). To

facilitate pursuit of this exciting opportunity, researchers are being asked to use the Grid-Enabled Measures (GEM) database as a platform to facilitate discussion among stakeholders, clinicians, decision makers, patients, and researchers in this important process.

The project's first phase involved convening a panel of subject matter experts who have suggested one or more reliable, practical measures in each subject domain that would be appropriate to utilize in adult primary care and public health settings to be reported in EHRs.

The second and current phase of this project is soliciting input from a broad range of stakeholders (researchers, providers, policy makers, etc.) through GEM.

The third phase of the EHR Initiative will be a workshop/town hall meeting on May 2, 2011 at the NIH, bringing together scientists, practitioners, policy makers, and patient/consumer representatives to review the results of this campaign and make recommendations on standard consensus measures for behavioral health and health behavior screening in primary care and public health settings.

Interested parties are invited to visit <https://www.gem-beta.org/Public/EHRInitiative.aspx?cat=4> for more information on the EHR Initiative and instructions on how to participate.

**Comments will be accepted through April 4, 2011.**

## **16. The 2011 NINR Pain Methodologies Boot Camp**

NINR is pleased to offer its second Pain Methodologies Boot Camp this summer. The Pain Methodologies Boot Camp is a one-week intensive research training course held on the NIH campus, sponsored by NINR and administered by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences (FAES) as one of the Bio-Trac programs.

The Pain Boot Camp provides a foundation in pain methodology to increase the research capability of graduate students and faculty. The course will feature lectures by distinguished guest speakers, classroom discussion, and laboratory training. Course topics will include pain measurement, pain treatment, and pain genetics.

The course is provided by the NINR at no cost. Attendees are required to pay for housing, food, and transportation expenses incurred during program participation.

Graduate students and faculty who are citizens or permanent U.S. residents may apply. Applicants should demonstrate potential for productive research careers.

The Pain Boot Camp will be held Monday, July 25 to Friday, July 29, 2011. Classes will begin daily at 8:30 a.m. and adjourn at or before 5:30 p.m. All sessions will be held at Building 60 (The Cloisters) on the NIH campus.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.ninr.nih.gov/Training/TrainingOpportunitiesIntramural/painbootcamp> or contact:

Dr. Natalie A. Rasmussen  
Intramural Research Training Director  
Assistant Clinical Investigator  
Email: [rasmussenna@mail.nih.gov](mailto:rasmussenna@mail.nih.gov)

## **17. NINR Seeks Health Scientist Administrator (Program Officer)**

NINR announces a position opening for a Health Scientist Administrator (Program Officer) as part of the Institute's participation in the NIH Global recruitment of Health Scientist Administrators.

The NIH is looking for individuals interested in joining a diverse team of interactive scientists to help shape state-of-the-art biomedical research.

Health Scientists Administrators/Program Officers will stimulate, plan, advise, direct, and evaluate program activities for a portfolio of research projects and programs.

Duties for the position include:

- Providing scientific leadership and guidance in the planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of biomedical, behavioral health, or health-related research.
- Identifying and formulating program needs to achieve an integrated and responsive effort in the assigned program area.
- Performing scientific and administrative reviews and analyses of applications/proposals from a programmatic viewpoint.
- Consulting with and advising grantees/contractors during preparation of applications/proposals and providing guidance on program issues.
- Developing, coordinating, and administering grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts established to fulfill the mission of the Branch and Division.
- Organizing and conducting workshops, conferences, symposia, or similar activities. Visiting universities, research institutions, commercial organizations, other government agencies, and public and private organizations to promote and explain the objectives of the program.

For more information on the position opening and for a link to the USA JOBS website to apply, please visit:

<http://www.ninr.nih.gov/AboutNINR/OrganizationInformation/NINRJobOpportunities.htm>.