

FROM: Howard J. Federoff, M.D., Ph.D.
Executive Vice President for Health Sciences
and Executive Dean

DATE: March 4, 2009

RE: American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009
NIH Funding Opportunities

It is critical that our research faculty be prepared to respond quickly to new funding opportunities and to “just-in-time” requests made available through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA). Information on the act is available at <http://www.recovery.gov>.

To that end, I am providing you with additional information that should help individual investigators best prepare for requests for applications when they are made available. We have gathered this information primarily from the NIH Office of the Director, and our approach reflects that of our peer institutions who have published information on ARRA funding strategies.

As a point of illustration, Yale University has reported that one of its peer institutions received its first letter indicating that a grant application had been selected as a candidate to receive funding under the 2009 ARRA. To be considered for possible funding, the institution was required to send a full, categorical two-year budget within 3-5 business days and to meet other “just-in-time” requirements.

We are confident that GUMC investigators will be receiving similar letters in the very near future. In order to be prepared, investigators must be ready to act quickly. More importantly, they must ensure that all compliance documents (HIC, IACUC, COI, etc.) are current so that the awards can be set up rapidly. In addition, investigators accepting awards must commit to spending the funds by the end of the federal fiscal year 2010 and to the quarterly reporting that will be required on all funds dispensed through this mechanism.

The three categories of funding to be made available by the NIH are as follows:

1. R01s already reviewed but not funded:

Characteristics:

- A pool of grants from late FY08 and early FY09 where the applications have been found highly meritorious but NIH could not fund because of budgets.
- Approved by council and ready to be funded.
- Dollars must be spent within two years (by FY 2010)
- P.I. must demonstrate viability of research plan within accelerated funding term

2. Supplements to currently funded grants to accelerate outcomes.

Characteristics:

- Administrative supplements to expand research under original proposals.
- Awards may be organized according to themes to support equipment purchases, training positions, summer jobs for students, etc.
- Drivers will be scientific and programmatic, not just a percentage increase to existing grants.
- Grants will be targeted by institute priorities and factors such as time remaining on the grant.

3. NIH Challenge Grant Program (\$100-200M estimated)

These grants will be identified by RC1. The grant website is as follows:

<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-09-003.html>

Characteristics:

- Focus on programs that have a reasonable opportunity for advances in 2 years.
- There will be competitive application process with peer review.
- Each institute will identify areas that reflect their priorities.

In addition there will also be opportunities for equipment made available through programs such as NIH-NCRR Shared Instrumentation Grants Program.

NCRR – SIGP Deadline: March 23, 2009 (submissions via grants.gov)

NIH will rely heavily on peer review system to guide decisions. The goal is to move funds quickly and wisely. NIH will support grants that provide jobs - part of economic engine - and address NIH core mission of improving health of individuals in the United States and around the world. The NIH goal is flexibility in how funds can be used over the next two years. The NIH wants to make the smartest decisions about science and at the same time have impact on local communities (and create jobs!).

It is our understanding that ARRA will NOT cover the following for NIH:

- No funds will be provided to restore cuts to existing programs or grants.
- CTSA's will not be restored to full funding nor will the program expanded from 48 to the original 60 awards
- No proportional assignment of funds to any particular priority
- No restoration of funds cut previously,
- No awards will be fully funded at the outset, except possibly the Innovator Awards Program under the Common Fund.

GUMC Plan of Action:

With this information in hand, I am providing to each department chair two lists of information on our RO1 Portfolio:

- 1 – Fiscal year 2008 and 2009 submitted RO1 funding applications (by department);
- 2 – Currently funded RO1 grants (by department)

To ensure that I have a comprehensive understanding of our response to ARRA funding opportunities, I am asking each department chair to provide to Kathy Byington by no later than Friday, March 13:

- 1 – List of highly scored, but unfunded RO1 applications from investigators within your department;
- 2 – List of investigators who plan to submit for supplemental funding with a brief description of the supplemental funding request. Please remember that GUMC does not have the capacity to provide matching funds. The supplemental request must cover all costs to support the grant.
- 3 – List of investigators who plan to submit, when announced, for NIH Challenge Grant Funding. I'd like a brief summary of the proposed grant and budget. Please remember that Challenge Grants must expend budgets with two years and the research plan associated with this budget must produce feasible results.

To optimize potential for success, each investigator should be certain to include within the justification for grant/supplemental funding the following factors:

- Demonstrate capacity to create new jobs through grant funding;
- Demonstrate ability to accelerate research output through accelerated funding;
- Demonstrate high quality science
- Demonstrate plan to expend funding within two year term

I will ask the Office of Sponsored Research (OSR) to track both our solicitations for supplemental funding as well as all new grants applications for ARRA funding.

I am very excited about this opportunity provided to GUMC through the ARRA funding initiative. It is essential that our research faculty take advantage of this unique time to secure funding to advance our research.

I wish you all the best of luck and many thanks for your cooperation. The OSR will be posting on their site all announcements for NIH funding opportunities. Should you have any questions or concerns related to the procedure for resubmitting or responding to these opportunities, please be sure to connect directly with OSR staff. Please be sure to regularly check their website: <http://gumc.georgetown.edu/osr/>

cc: <Business Administrator(s)>

ATTACHMENT: RO1 Funding Applications by Department:

1 – RO1 Grants submitted in FY 2008 – 2009

2 – Currently funded RO1 Grants