

**ABRAMSON CANCER CENTER**  
**OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
**Weekly Events Bulletin**

November 25 - 29, 2002

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**Cancer Center Seed Money Grants**

**Deadline: January 15, 2003**

The Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania announces the availability of three types of seed money grants for faculty to conduct cancer-related research projects:

- American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant
- Cancer Center Pilot Projects Program
- Cancer Center Collaborative Pilot Projects Program (New Program)

<b>Name of Grant</b>	<b>Eligibility</b>	<b>Amount of Grant</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
ACS IRG	Junior faculty who do not current hold a national research grant	\$5,000-20,000	January, 15, 2003
Cancer Center Pilot Projects	All faculty	Up to \$25,000	January, 15, 2003
Cancer Center Collaborative Pilot Projects	Faculty at all levels - applications must be submitted by two or more faculty members	\$50,000-75,000	January, 15, 2003

**American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grants for Junior Faculty**

Through its American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant (ACS IRG), the Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania will provide partial support to full-time University junior faculty for cancer-related research. The stated purpose of the ACS IRG is to provide seed money to junior faculty members (e.g., Assistant Professor) to initiate promising new research projects so they can obtain preliminary results that will enable them to compete successfully for national peer-reviewed research grants. Hence, investigators who have a peer-reviewed national research grant or have previously received support from the Cancer Center ACS IRG are not eligible. Seed money grants from \$5,000 to \$20,000 will be awarded for the exploration of new developments in basic, clinical and cancer control research. Behavioral sciences or health services research related to cancer are eligible for these awards. Covered costs include laboratory personnel costs (non-faculty), data manager or research nursing support, laboratory supplies, animals, and small equipment; no travel or patient costs are allowed. The award period for the ACS IRG will be one year from July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004.

*continued on p. 2*

# **NIH RFA: Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Centers**

## **RFA: ES-03-001**

Release Date: November 11, 2002

Letter of Intent Receipt Date: December 31, 2002

Application Receipt Date: February 11, 2003

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) invite applications to create a network of research centers in which multidisciplinary teams of scientists, clinicians, and breast cancer advocates work collaboratively on a unique set of scientific questions that focus on how chemical, physical, biological, and social factors in the environment work together with genetic factors to cause breast cancer. Answering these questions will allow the translation of such findings into information that can be applied to increase awareness of the causes of breast cancer.

This program will support a network of cooperative agreements (U01) comprised of research teams, which will work within and across centers on targeted biological and epidemiologic research projects. These projects will be designed to fill specific gaps related to how environmental exposures impact the development of the mammary gland at the cellular, molecular, organ, and population level throughout a woman's lifetime to influence future breast cancer risk. The research conducted will take a unique developmental approach to integrate time, susceptibility and exposure in order to more fully appreciate the changes that occur in the mammary gland early in life that may predispose the breast to cancer. These projects will help to define specific periods of susceptibility of the breast when environmental stressors may change the molecular architecture of the gland, conferring increased risk of future cancer.

The purpose of implementing a network of cooperative breast cancer centers is twofold. The first goal is to integrate scientific information on histologic, pathologic, cellular, and sub-cellular changes that occur in normal mammary gland tissue across the lifespan and compare this to exposure-induced changes. Discovering changes in gene and protein expression due to agents to which young girls and women may be exposed during their lifetime will be a primary goal. Experiments will be conducted cooperatively, using animal models that characterize pathways related to breast and endocrine system development during early life, puberty, pregnancy, and other time points, which may be affected by exposures to environmental stressors occurring at different windows of vulnerability. When clinical specimens are available from women at risk, they will be compared to animal models. Data from these experiments will be made available to the scientific community in order to stimulate further investigations of mechanisms of interest.

A second goal is to conduct a focused and coordinated epidemiologic study of determinants of puberty in girls. Attention will be paid to understanding the shift towards earlier puberty among adolescent girls, the identification of environmental exposures in young girls, and the interplay between genetic polymorphisms and environmental exposures that may put them at risk of future breast cancer.

The overall goal of this network of centers is to integrate the basic biological, toxicologic, and epidemiologic data on the development and lifespan of the mammary gland in a way that public health messages can be designed to educate young girls and women who are at high risk of breast cancer on the role of specific environmental stressors in breast cancer development and how to reduce exposure to those agents.

This information will be useful in developing clinical and public health programs that target breast cancer prevention in young girls and women. This research program complements other programs on breast cancer and mammary gland development being conducted at the National Institutes of Health. The unique focus of this program extends that research by comparing the effects of environmental stressors, including environmental pollutants, nutritional and lifestyle factors, and other exposures on normal mammary gland development in order to more fully consider the multiple causes of breast cancer.

This RFA will use the NIH U01 award mechanism. More information can be found at: <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-ES-03-001.html>

## NCI Update: Activities to Promote Research Collaborations

The Division of Cancer Biology (DCB) of the National Cancer Institute announces an eligibility change in the Activities to Promote Research Collaboration (APRC) supplement program previously published as NOT-CA- 02-028. NCI-funded Phase II SBIR and Phase II STTR grantees are now eligible to apply for funding under the APRC program. SBIR/STTR grantees may participate as either the leader of a consortium, if funded by NCI through DCB, or as a participant in a consortium headed by another DCB grantee. As stated in the Eligibility Requirements section of the APRC Guidelines, participants in a consortium, except for the lead institution, need not be funded by DCB. All eligibility requirements and budget and administrative limits will apply to any consortia that include NCI-funded SBIR/STTR grantees. Proposals for workshops would not be appropriate from SBIR/STTR grantees. SBIR/STTR grantees will be expected to comply with the limitations on outsourcing.

A full description of the APRC program and the guidelines can be found at the URL: <http://www.nci.nih.gov/dcb/APRC2003.htm>. It details the opportunities available to DCB grantees for collaborative activities funded with administrative supplements to their active grants and the mechanisms for requesting these supplements. Requests for APRC supplemental support will be accepted 2 times this year: December 16th and April 15th. Requests must be submitted as described on the web site.

### NIH Changes Electronic FSR Submission Process

#### Notice: NOT-OD-03-008

The current system used to electronically submit financial status reports to the NIH is scheduled to be turned off on December 31, 2002. This system is part of an NIH legacy system that is in the process of being decommissioned. The new system that will take its place is the FSR module of the NIH Commons version 2. To be able to use the new FSR module, recipient institutions will need to register in the NIH Commons V2. All of the institutions that were registered users in version 1 of the NIH Commons will automatically be registered for version 2. To register before December 6th, contact the Commons helpdesk at (866) 504-9552.

Institutions not registered by December 31, 2002, will need to submit FSRs in paper form until they are registered. We understand that this is a very short timeline for this transition, but it is necessary in order to avoid technical problems caused by the legacy system. NIH will make every effort to ease the transition as much as possible. Please contact the Commons helpdesk ([commons@od.nih.gov](mailto:commons@od.nih.gov) or (866) 504-9552) with any questions about how to use the FSR module or the registration process.



## Publicize Conferences on OncoLink:

OncoLink, the Abramson Cancer Center's award-winning website, offers a quick and easy way to *publicize conferences*.

Submission form can be found at: <http://www.oncolink.upenn.edu/templates/conferences/>

## American Brain Tumor Association

Deadline: *January 7, 2003*

### Research Fellowships

The American Brain Tumor Association provides support to conduct basic brain tumor research. Research must be conducted in the U.S. or Canada. Eligible applicants are postdoctoral researchers. Candidates must be either M.D.s who are within two years of residency completion (two years pre-residency or two years post-residency) on July 1, 2003; or conferred Ph.D.s by January 1, 2003 who will have no more than thirty months postdoctoral laboratory experience by July 1, 2003. The award provides \$70,000 for two years with \$60,000 intended to be used for salary support and the remaining \$10,000 to be used for equipment/supplies or travel to an appropriate, educational meeting. (cmb)

### Translational Research Grant

The American Brain Tumor Association provides encourages pediatric research and research investigating benign and low-grade tumors, radiation necrosis and long-term effects of radiation therapy. Eligible applicants are M.D.s up to five years post-residency who have attained Junior Faculty to Assistant Professor stature as of July 1, 2003, or are conferred Ph.D.s who will have no more than five years post-doctoral laboratory experience by July 1, 2003. Research must be conducted in Canada or the United States. Grants are \$50,000 for one year.

More information on these programs can be found at: <http://www.abta.org>

# University of Pennsylvania

## Stem Cells: Research Advances & Future Prospects

**December 11, 2002**

**8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

**Annenberg Center, 3680 Walnut Street**

<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Continental Breakfast</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Unexpected Potential of Adult Stem Cells</b> Catherine Verfaillie, M.D. University of Minnesota
<b>8:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b>		
<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Male Germline Stem Cells</b> Ralph Brinster, V.M.D., Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania	<b>11:45 a.m.</b>	<b>The Ethical Pros and a Few Cons of Stem Cell Research</b> Arthur Caplan, Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania
<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Stem Cells in the Post-Genome Era</b> Ihor Lemischka, Ph.D. Princeton University	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Symposium Adjournment</b>
<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>		

**As seating is limited advance registration is strongly encouraged. If you plan to attend please register via email to [vpr@pobox.upenn.edu](mailto:vpr@pobox.upenn.edu)**

**For more information about the symposium please contact Josie Rook at [rookj@pobox.upenn.edu](mailto:rookj@pobox.upenn.edu) or 215-898-1572.**

*Sponsored by: Abramson Cancer Center, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Office of the Vice Provost for Research*

## **Cancer Center Seed Money Grant (continued from p. 1)**

### **Cancer Center Pilot Project Grants**

The Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania will provide seed money grants up to \$25,000 to Penn faculty members at any level for innovative cancer research projects that have the potential for national peer-reviewed grant funding. Investigators who have already received peer-reviewed funding for their proposed projects will not be eligible for this award. Investigators who have not previously conducted cancer research, but are proposing a cancer-related project are encouraged to apply. Covered costs include faculty salaries, laboratory personnel costs, data management or research nursing support, laboratory supplies, animals, and small equipment; no travel or patient costs are allowed. The award period for the Pilot Projects grant will be from March 1, 2003 to November 30, 2003.

### **Cancer Center Collaborative Pilot Project Grants (New Program)**

The Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania will provide Collaborative Pilot Project Grants for faculty to conduct cancer-related research projects. Proposals must be submitted by two or more Penn faculty members. All full-time University faculty are eligible to apply. The Cancer Center Collaborative Pilot Projects Program funds innovative, collaborative cancer research projects that have the potential for future peer review funding. The proposed area of research cannot be funded through an existing or prior research grant. Among the factors of high value to the scientific reviewers will be: translational research impact, new collaborations (researchers have not previously worked together), researchers representing more than one discipline or department, novelty of the research concept, and research addressing a high priority area. The award period will be one year from the date of the award notice from the Cancer Center (estimated start date of April, 2003).

**For More Information or an Application:** University faculty from all Schools and Departments are invited to obtain application forms and instructions from Cancer Center Administration, 1635 Penn Tower, (215) 614-1954.

## **Member Surveys Due by December 1**

**Cancer Center member surveys are due to Cancer Center Administration by December 1.**

**Please email Jamie Kudera at [jkudera@mail.med.upenn.edu](mailto:jkudera@mail.med.upenn.edu) if you have any questions.**

## **Current Concepts in the Management of Colorectal Cancer**

### **Who Should Attend:**

**Colon and Rectal Surgeons \* Surgical Oncologists \* Radiation Oncologists \* Medical Oncologists \* Oncology Nurses \* other health care professionals involved in the treatment of Colorectal Cancer**

**Friday, January 10, 2003**

**210 West Rittenhouse Square  
Philadelphia, PA**

### **Program Objectives:**

At the completion of the program, participants should be able to:

- 1) Evaluate the role of new chemotherapeutic and biologic agents in colorectal cancer treatment
- 2) Review standard therapy for the management of colorectal cancer
- 3) Relate recent information on the basic biology and causation of colorectal cancer

### **Disclosure Statement**

University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine Office of Continuing Medical Education adheres to the ACCME Standards for Commercial Support. Faculty disclosure information will be made available during the activity. Faculty members are also expected to disclose to participants any discussion of an off-label and/or investigational use of pharmaceutical products or devices during their presentations.

More information can be found at: <http://www.oncolink.com/conference/colorectal.cfm> To request a brochure e-mail Mary Graham at [grahamm@mail.med.upenn.edu](mailto:grahamm@mail.med.upenn.edu)

**Registration Deadline: Friday, December 27, 2002**

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**Monday, November 25:**

Pharmacology & Center for                      12:00 - 1:00 pm  
Experimental Therapeutics Seminar Series

*“The integrin-fibronectin bond is a mechanical clutch  
activated through the phosphorylation of FAK”*

David Boettiger, Ph.D., Professor of Microbiology, Professor of  
Pharmacology, University of Pennsylvania  
Reunion Hall, John Morgan

**Tuesday, November 26:**

Hematology/Oncology Research                      12:00 - 1:00 pm  
Seminar Series

*“Signaling at the Crossroads of Cell Aging and Cancer”*

Stuart Aaronson, M.D., Mount Sinai  
Auditorium BRB II/III

**Wednesday, November 27:**

*No seminars presented*

**Thursday, November 28:**

*No seminars presented*

**Friday, November 29:**

*No seminars presented*

# *Weekly Events Bulletin*



Events Bulletin Announcements must be received by Friday one week prior to the week of the scheduled event. Please send information to:

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