The Role of Exosomes in HIV Neuropathogenesis.

Date: December 4, 2015.
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Contact Person: Robert Freund, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5216, MSC 7852, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301–435–1050, freundr@csr.nih.gov.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Program Project; Cellular Reprogramming, Phiruptility and Differentiation.

Date: December 7–8, 2015.
Time: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Virtual Meeting).

Contact Person: Elena Smirnova, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5187, MSC 7840, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301–435–1236, smirnove@csr.nih.gov.


Dated: October 29, 2015.

Carolyn Baum,
Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 2015–27933 Filed 11–2–15; 8:45 am]
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Announcement of Requirements and Registration for “Addiction Research: There’s an App for That” Challenge


SUMMARY: The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), one of the components of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), announces the Challenge, “Addiction Research: There’s an App for that”. With this Challenge, NIDA aims to develop novel mobile applications (apps) for future addiction research explicitly created on Apple Inc.’s ResearchKit framework. ResearchKit is open-source software which makes it easy for researchers and developers to create apps for specific biomedical research questions by circumventing development of custom code. Contestants will create the solicited app for use by addiction researchers to engage mobile device users in future society-changing research.


Submission Period: November 3, 2015 to April 29, 2016, 11:59 p.m., ET.


Winners Announced: August 1, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elena Koustova, Ph.D., MBA, Director, Office of Translational Initiatives and Program Innovations (OTIPI), NIDA Challenge Manager, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), 6001 Executive Blvd. Room 4286, MSC 9555 Bethesda, MD 20892–9555 Phone: (301) 496–8768 Email: elena.koustova@nih.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Institute’s Statutory Authority to Conduct the Challenge, NIDA is conducting this challenge under the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science (COMPETES) Reauthorization Act of 2010, 15 U.S.C. 3719. This Challenge is consistent with and advances the mission of NIDA as described in 42 U.S.C. 2850. The general purpose of NIDA is to conduct and support biomedical and behavioral research, health-services research, research training, and health-information dissemination with respect to the prevention of drug abuse and the treatment of drug abusers. App developed as a result of this Challenge will help NIDA to gain strides in behavioral addiction research. After winning apps are selected, NIDA may announce subsequent funding programs for a future research study with real human subjects to engage the widest possible community of participants—“citizen scientists.” These future research studies will help researchers to better understand drug abuse and addiction.

Subject of Challenge

Background: The problem of drug abuse affects almost every community and family and yet it remains an uncomfortable subject for discussion. Each year, substance abuse causes high rates of injuries and mortality among Americans and plays a role in many major social problems, such as druged driving, violence, child abuse, stress, crime, and problems with employment. It harms unborn babies, destroys families, and contributes to homelessness. The societal burden caused by substance use disorders exceeds half a trillion dollars yearly. This cost to society is greater than other chronic conditions such as diabetes ($131.7 billion) and cancer ($171.6 billion). NIDA sponsors the majority of addiction-related scientific research in the world. NIDA-funded researchers seek to answer important scientific questions about the paths people take to avoid or to succumb to drug addiction, about the mechanisms and pathways involved in substance-use disorders, and about new tools and techniques for prevention and treatment.

Because the problems stemming from drug abuse and addiction affect almost every community and family to some degree, NIDA issues this Challenge with the hope that Contestants will actively mobilize around the need to know more about the roots of drug abuse and addiction. Specifically, NIDA is seeking to engage communities to envision and to create an app which will help advance scientific research in areas of nicotine, opioids, cannabinoids (including marijuana), methamphetamine, and prescription drug use. The Institute is also interested in further understanding abstinence and wellness as it relates to drug addiction.

The causes and consequences of addiction are multi-faceted, involving biological, behavioral, social, cultural, economic, and environmental factors. These factors likely interact, with no single factor exerting substantial independent influence on drug use and addiction risk. Unfortunately, most research addresses these factors separately because it is difficult to collect data on the large numbers of participants needed to understand the multi-factor relationships. However, this is changing. Mobile technology offers the capacity to recruit large numbers of participants, in diverse and distant places and to collect prospective data on a broad range of variables as these study participants go about their daily lives. This approach has already led to advances in addiction research. Mobile assessment has extended to geolocation and physiological monitoring, with promising results for predicting and detecting drug use in the field.

As exciting as these findings have been, however, the scope of studies and the types and number of participants studied have been limited by researchers’ access to mobile technology. The problem has been exacerbated by a gap in communication between addiction researchers and software and hardware developers. In addition, NIDA-sponsored mobile tools and technologies are often afflicted by a lack of interoperability and by non-sustainability beyond the grant-funding period.

Fortunately, those concerns can be successfully addressed by the inventive uses of customizable research platforms developed by the established informatics technology companies. The recently unveiled ResearchKit, developed by Apple Inc., is the available platform designed specifically for