

THE

CANCER LETTER

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The March To Deliver Message Of Funding For Cancer Research, Access To Care

The March: Coming Together to Conquer Cancer promises to be the largest cancer-related nationwide event ever held in the U.S.

In the past few weeks, organizers of The March have:

- Won endorsements from labor unions,
- Received media coverage of The March on the West Coast and in the Midwest through the efforts of a cancer survivor who is bicycling from San Diego to Washington, D.C.,
- Received promises from community organizations and cancer centers nationwide that buses, trains, and planes loaded with supporters

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In Brief:

Salmon To Step Down As Center Director; Becker To Relinquish Positions At MDACC

SYDNEY SALMON, Regents professor of medicine and director of the Arizona Cancer Center, has asked the leadership of the Univ. of Arizona College of Medicine to begin a national search for a new director of the center. Salmon will continue to serve as the center's director until the search is completed. "I have served as director of the Arizona Cancer Center for most of my adult life and feel that the time is right to step down and I welcome the opportunity for change," Salmon said. "One might be quick to infer that my request is a result of my pancreatic cancer diagnosis late last year. I assure you that I am doing well and have continued to work throughout my treatment." Salmon said he hoped that a new director will be appointed by July 1, 1999, after which he would continue as emeritus director of the Arizona Cancer Center and have more time for nonadministrative activities including teaching and research. According to the office of James Dalen, dean of the College of Medicine and vice president for health sciences, a search committee is being formed and the position advertised. . . . **FREDERICK BECKER**, vice president for research at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and director of the center's Tumor Institute, has stepped down from those positions as of Aug. 31. He will remain at the center as special advisor to President John Mendelsohn and as deputy director of the Cancer Center Support Grant and chief of the section of experimental pathology. Becker joined M.D. Anderson in 1978 as chairman of anatomic and research pathology, from New York Univ. He was named VP/research in 1979 and scientific director of the Tumor Institute in 1989. . . . **MARC LIPPMAN** has been

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**THE
MARCH**
**Coming Together
To Conquer Cancer**
**September 25 & 26
Washington, D.C**
1-877-THE-MARCH
www.themarch.org

Organizers Ready For March On Washington Sept. 25-26

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will arrive in Washington for The March events scheduled to take place Sept. 25 and 26.

"In 1971, President Nixon declared a 'war on cancer,' pledging to find a cure within seven years. It's 27 years later and we are still fighting this war," said Ellen Stovall, president of The March. "This is the beginning of a large, ongoing movement to prevent, treat, and cure all forms of cancer. With the commitment of the American people from all disciplines and walks of life, we will find a cure."

About 500 organizations have endorsed The March. Organizers of The March said they were gratified that several labor unions and large associations that do not view cancer as their priority issue have endorsed The March. The labor unions endorsing The March include AFL-CIO, the American Federation of Teachers, the IUE—Electrical Workers, and the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Other large national organizations endorsing The March include the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Council of La Raza, the National Partnership for Women and Families, YMCA of the USA, the National Council of Churches, and Friends of the Earth.

In addition, many oncology-related organizations have endorsed The March, including, the American Cancer Society, the National Breast Cancer Coalition, American Association for Cancer Research, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Oncology Nursing Society, Leukemia Society of America, and the National Prostate Cancer Coalition.

"Hundreds of thousands of lives are lost each year not because we lack the technology or the human talent to conquer cancer, but because we lack the research funds to finish the job," Sidney Kimmel, sponsor of The March, said in a statement this week. "Cancer touches us all, and on Sept. 25 and 26, America will speak out in an urgent call for a new federal commitment to cancer research and an end to this terrible disease."

Organizers say it is difficult to estimate how many people will attend The March. However, an estimated 400,000 attendance is expected at community events around the country in conjunction with the March. The March's message of the need for funding for cancer research and ensuring access to quality cancer care is expected to reach millions of people due to national media coverage of the events in Washington, as well as local coverage of community events.


The March communications team has distributed more than 5,000 press kits to radio, television, and print media contacts, according to organizers. Advertisements in publications including TIME, Scientific American, People, and Newsweek feature tag lines about The March. The ads were placed by PhRMA, Bell Atlantic, and other March sponsors. Public service announcements were scheduled to begin appearing on national media on Sept. 1.

Following are some of the events scheduled for The March as of this week. For up-to-the-minute information, visit The March website on the Internet at <http://www.themarch.org>.

Washington, D.C., Schedule of Events

Although the name implies a march through the streets, The March is a "symbolic march from our communities to Washington, D.C.," according to organizers. Events will take place on the National Mall, unless otherwise noted:

—Hearing of the Senate Cancer Coalition, Sept. 25, 10 a.m., Dirksen Senate Office Building. Sponsored by Sens. Connie Mack (R-FL) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA). The March research panel is



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Founded Dec. 21, 1973 by Jerry D. Boyd

scheduled to present its recommendations on priorities for cancer research and clinical trials, and access to quality cancer care for all Americans.

—Sept. 25, 7-10 p.m.: Sunset Candlelight Vigil and Interfaith Service, Lincoln Memorial.

—Sept. 26: 9 a.m.-noon, Cancer Education Activities and Displays, including Children's Village, a number of activities designed for children, on the National Mall.

—Sept. 26, 10 a.m., Cancer 101, a town hall forum sponsored by AACR for discussion of recent advances in cancer research and for participants to ask questions of cancer experts, on the Mall.—Sept. 26, noon, The March Rally and Entertainment, on the Mall at the west side of the U.S. Capitol, led by Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, singer Aretha Franklin, political leaders, celebrities, and cancer survivors.

Events around the U.S.

As of Sept. 2, there were more than 130 events scheduled in communities nationwide. For a list of all local events, visit <http://www.themarch.org/community/events>.

Following are some highlights of events scheduled for Sept. 26:

—In **New Orleans**, survivors and their supporters will parade, Mardi Gras-style, from the City & County Building, through the French Quarter, to the Waterfront. The parade will include floats, and cancer survivors tossing out doubloons with The March logo printed on them. At the waterfront there will be a rally and health fair.

—In **Nashville**, a statewide event is planned that will include a non-denominational remembrance, a rally at the state capitol, entertainment, and a candlelight vigil.

—In **Seattle**, an evening candlelight vigil is planned for Sept. 25 at The Seattle Center. All of the downtown-based cancer centers will march from their institutions to the event. On Sept. 26, a multi-cultural health group is planning a march along the Seattle waterfront.

—In **Lansing**, a rally is expected to draw about 15,000 people. Candlelight vigils are planned for Sept. 25. A presentation is scheduled Sept. 26 at the University of Michigan vs. Michigan State University football game, before a crowd of about 100,000. Events are sponsored by the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute.

—In **Lincoln, NE**, a moment of silence to honor those who have died of cancer will be held during the University of Nebraska vs. University of Washington football game.

—Other large events are planned in **Tampa, FL**, and **Des Moines, IA**.

—Rallies and events in **state capitals** are planned in Anchorage, AK; Atlanta, GA; Augusta, ME; Austin, TX; Boston, MA; Columbia, SC; Concord, NH; Denver, CO; Des Moines, IA; Hartford, CT; Honolulu, HI; Indianapolis, IN; Lansing, MI; Lincoln, NE; Little Rock, AR; Montpelier, VT; Nashville, TN; Phoenix, AZ; Providence, RI; Salt Lake, UT; Sacramento, CA; St. Paul, MN; and Trenton, NJ.

—**Conquer Cancer Coast-To-Coast National Bike Tour**. Breast cancer survivor Dani Grady is more than half-way through a 4,000-mile bicycle ride from San Diego to Washington. Twenty-five Association of American Cancer Institute members are hosting the bike tour at stops in various cities. Some cancer center directors and staff have gotten on bikes to escort the riders into the cancer center or back to the main biking route. Several directors plan to ride onto The Mall with the bike tour.

The bike tour started July 20 at the San Diego Cancer Center and traveled to the following centers: Sidney Kimmel (San Diego), July 20; Burnham Institute (La Jolla), July 20; University of California Irvine, July 22; USC/Norris (Los Angeles), July 22; City of Hope and Beckman Research Institute (Duarte), July 23; Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, UCLA (Los Angeles), July 23; University of New Mexico Cancer Center (Albuquerque), Aug. 7; Kansas Cancer Center (Kansas City), Aug. 21; Ellis Fischel (Columbia, MO), Aug. 25.

March organizers said at every stop there has been local media coverage of the bike tour, and, as a result, coverage of The March and funding for cancer research.

In Kansas and Missouri, the ride logged 12 media "hits," including stories on local ABC and NBC stations, two newspaper and eight radio interviews, Grady said in a statement. "I think everyone in these two states now know about The March and the need for more research investment," she said. "We received good local coverage for our cancer center," said Steven Carr at the University of New Mexico Cancer Research and Treatment Center.

Other scheduled events include: Walther Cancer Institute (Indianapolis), Sept. 2; Arthur G. James

Cancer Institute (Columbus), Sept. 4; University of Michigan and Karmanos Cancer Center (Detroit), Sept. 8; Ireland Cancer Center (Cleveland), Sept. 9; University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (Pittsburgh), Sept. 10; Kimmel Cancer Center at Thomas Jefferson University (Philadelphia), Sept. 15; University of Pennsylvania Cancer Center (Philadelphia), Sept. 15; Fox Chase Cancer Center (Philadelphia), Sept. 16; Cancer Institute Of New Jersey (Trenton), Sept. 17; Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center (New York City), Sept. 21; Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (New York City), Sept. 22; Johns Hopkins Oncology Center (Baltimore), Sept. 24.

The tour will culminate on the Mall in Washington at noon on Sept. 26, in a ceremony on the speaker's podium.

"These cancer institute people are the best folks in the whole world," Grady said. "Their enthusiasm and dedication has really spurred me to keep on truckin' and riding to the top of those mountains."

Grady collected signatures at all of her cancer center stops. She will present the signed banners as evidence of the grassroots support for a war on cancer.

"We are sponsors of this National Bike Tour because we feel that the tour's visits at cancer centers across the nation will raise awareness of The March and its important messages," said Max Wicha, AACI president. "We want everyone to stand up and be counted and help put cancer on the top of the agenda of our elected officials."

"Dani has a way of reaching out and touching everyone. She is a wonderful ambassador for The March and for AACI," said Suzanne Mahler, AACI executive director.

The bike tour can be followed on the web at <http://www.thrivers.org> or <http://www.themarch.org/community/biketrip.html>.

Town Hall Meetings: The National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship and OnCare Inc. are coordinating Town Hall meetings for The March. A Town Hall provides a forum for anyone whose life has been touched by cancer to voice their concerns and make them heard, March organizers said. Following are the remaining Town Hall meetings locations, dates, and contact phone numbers:

—**Atlanta**, Sept. 21, The Fox Theatre, 770-752-5570.

—**Buffalo**, Sept. 12, Center for the Performing Arts, 716-214-1600.

—**Dallas/Ft. Worth**, Sept. 13, Southern Methodist University, 214-739-3467 x105.

—**Honolulu**, Sept. 8, Governor's Mansion, 808-597-1550.

—**Houston**, Sept. 19, Texas Southern University, 713-529-3619.

Planes, Trains, and Buses

Many organizations are arranging transportation to The March.

Following are some highlights:

—Several cancer centers are organizing bus transportation to The March. Visit The March website for information or contact local cancer centers. In Philadelphia, for example, Fox Chase Cancer Center plans to rally as many supporters as possible to "Get on the Bus" to attend the events in Washington. Buses will leave from Fox Chase at 7 a.m. on Sept. 26. Cost of the trip is \$15 per person. A T-shirt and box lunch are included. For information, call 888-FOX-CHASE.

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey plans to fill 10 buses. Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo plans to send two buses, and it's likely that while en route, participants will learn to sing a song composed by scientist William Greco in honor of The March. The song is titled, "Coming Together to Conquer Cancer."

—Some American Cancer Society divisions are making travel arrangements. In Milwaukee, ACS is chartering two planes to take volunteers, cancer survivors, and medical personnel to The March. The planes will leave Milwaukee at 7 a.m. on Sept. 26, and return at 7 p.m. the same day.—Cancer Care Inc. plans to bring professional counselors to Washington to help participants.

—Rev. Thomas Walker of Rocky Mount, NC, a prostate cancer survivor and pastor of the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, plans to bring 15 busloads of church organization members to The March.

—Amtrak is offering a group discount of one free ticket for every 21 tickets purchased by a group. For group sales, call 800-872-1477; for individual reservations, 800-872-7245.

—To charter a bus, contact American Bus Association, 800-283-2877.

Additional Information

—**Housing** in Washington, D.C., for The March: Contact DC Accommodations, 800-554-

2220. For online housing information visit <http://www.dcaccommodations.com>.

—**Event listing:** To have a community event listed with The March, contact Jessica Kinney, 877-843-6272.

—**Honor Roll:** The March is collecting names and photographs of individuals who died of cancer for a presentation at the candlelight vigil. Names may be sent by Sept. 11 via e-mail to honorroll@themarch.org or by fax to The March, Operations and Logistics, at 202-861-3326. Names and photographs should be mailed to: The March, Attn: Operations & Logistics, 1730 K Street NW, 4th Floor, Washington, DC 20006. Inquiries: Contact the Operations & Logistics staff, 877-843-6272 ext. 227. Photographs should be no larger than 3" x 5" and mailed in packaging that prevents damage. All photographs become the property of The March and will not be returned.

—**Wall of Courage:** At the rally in Washington, a display recognizing cancer survivors, supporters, and those who died of cancer will be built from mementos such as photographs, stories, or artwork brought by individuals. Items to be mounted should weigh no more than five ounces. Items for the base of the display, such as flowers or stuffed animals, should be no larger than a shoebox. Glass or other breakable items and balloons are not permitted.

—**Volunteers:** The March has as of this writing more than 150 volunteers signed up to help on Sept. 26. Individuals or groups interested in volunteering may call Liz Burke, 202-861-0998, ext. 241. The March holds weekly volunteer meetings every Tuesday and Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at its offices at 1730 K Street NW, 4th Floor, Washington, D.C. To sign up for training sessions online, visit the following website: <http://www.themarch.org/help/volunteer.html>.

—**The March headquarters:** 1730 K Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20006. E-mail: info@themarch.org, fax: 202-861-4794, phone: 877-THE-MARCH (877-843-6272).

Major funding for The March was donated by the Sidney Kimmel Foundation for Cancer Research and the Milken Family Foundation. The convening organizations include the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, Friends of Cancer Research, Intercultural Cancer Council, and the Association for the Cure of Cancer of the Prostate (CaPCURE).

[The Cancer Letter Inc. is one of the 500 organizations and companies endorsing The March.]

NCI Peer Review: **Advocates Named To Panels Reviewing Center Grants, Cooperative Group Renewal**

The National Cancer Institute has appointed several consumer advocates to serve as ad hoc reviewers on committees that review Cancer Center Support Grant applications and clinical trials cooperative group grant applications.

It is the first time the Institute has appointed consumers, in addition to scientists and clinicians, to review applications for cancer center and cooperative group grants. These grants are among NCI's largest in terms of dollar award.

The decisions of the committees affect approximately \$132 million in funding for cancer centers and about \$90 million for the clinical cooperative groups.

The committees have met recently and are scheduling site visits in order to submit funding recommendations in time for the January meeting of the National Cancer Advisory Board, according to Marvin Kalt, director of the NCI Division of Extramural Activities.

Whether the involvement of consumers will alter the results of peer review is anyone's guess, Kalt said. "It may take a year or so to see what all of this does," Kalt said to **The Cancer Letter**. "The applicants, knowing consumers will be involved in the review, may well modify their applications and be more sensitive to the fact that they might need to go into more explanation, and, more importantly, incorporate consumers into their own programs."

Consumer advocates will serve as ad hoc members of the site visit teams that conduct the first reviews of four of the six cancer center grant applications in the current funding round, said Olivia Preble, chief of the Grants Review Branch in DEA. Consumers are not included on the review of an application for a basic science cancer center and an amended application.

A consumer advocate also participated in the cancer center review "parent committee" meeting held Aug. 6-7. "This was the first time a consumer had participated in a chartered review committee of the Cancer Institute," Preble said.

Two consumer advocates will serve on the site visit and at the parent committee meeting to review the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group's cooperative group U10 cooperative agreement.

NCI declined to release the names of consumer advocates serving as ad hoc reviewers, because customarily only the names of the appointed members of the chartered review committees are publicly available. Chartered committee memberships change every year on June 30, and the selection of new members are made in the winter and early spring.

The consumer advocates have full voting privileges on the committees, Preble said.

For the past two to three years, the Institute has appointed consumers to peer review committees for applications submitted in response to NCI Requests for Applications (grants) and Requests for Proposals (contracts). Consumers help review most grant applications and contract proposals that involve clinical or population science, Preble said.

"We are looking forward to this as it unfolds," said Preble, who prior to joining NCI last year worked in grant reviews at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. AIDS activists have been involved in peer review of the AIDS Clinical Trials Groups, Centers for AIDS Research and AIDS vaccine initiatives since about 1990, Preble said.

NCI will evaluate the involvement of consumer advocates over the next year, Preble said. "We want feedback from them on what can we do to facilitate their participation," she said.

Scientific review administrators are taking more time to help orient consumer advocates prior to committee meetings, Preble said. Cancer center reviews, in particular, are complex. "There is a lot of terminology that is specific to those applications," Preble said. "Reviewers receive a very large box, or two, of paper. The cancer center guidelines alone are four volumes."

Kalt said his division is working with the NCI Director's Consumer Liaison Group, which established criteria for identifying consumers to serve on the Institute's advisory committees and review groups.

"The nomination process that DCLG used in its formation resulted in a number of individuals who were highly qualified but not chosen for the DCLG, so we have incorporated those names into our reviewer database," Kalt said.

"We are trying to make sure we have an adequate pool of reviewers without being premature about recruiting additional individuals in a large way, so we don't create some expectation of service that would be unrealistic based on number of reviews we

are doing," Kalt said. "At some point we will be opening up a solicitation for additional consumers. We will be doing that in conjunction with the DCLG."

DEA is conducting surveys of peer review committee members to learn how to make committee service a "positive experience," Kalt said.

"We are learning this as we go along."

Grants Funding: **NIH Awards \$13 Million For AIDS Research Centers**

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, along with five other NIH institutes including the National Cancer Institute, has awarded more than \$13 million for first year funding for 12 centers for AIDS research (CFARs) across the country.

The grants will provide three to five years of continued support for the centers, which provide a pool of shared resources made available to AIDS researchers.

NIAID will provide \$6.45 million of the total, while the remaining \$7 million will come from NCI, the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute; the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the National Institute of Mental Health.

Six of the CFARs are being funded for the first time: Emory Univ., with the AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta, the Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center, and Atlanta VA Medical Center, James Curran, principal investigator; Great Lakes CFAR, a collaboration of Northwestern Univ., Univ. of Minnesota, Univ. of Wisconsin, and Univ. of Michigan, Steven Wolinsky, PI; Univ. of Massachusetts Medical Center, Mario Stevenson, PI; Columbia and Rockefeller Universities, with the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center and the New York State Psychiatric Institute, David Ho, PI; Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with the Research Triangle Institute and Family Health International, Ronald Swanstrom, PI; and Miriam Hospital of Providence, with Brown Univ., Tufts Univ., the New England Medical Center, and Memorial Hospital of New England, Charles Carpenter, PI.

CFARs whose grants were renewed are Univ. of Alabama at Birmingham, Eric Hunter, PI; UCLA, Irvin Chen, PI; Univ. of California at San Diego, with Scripps Research Foundation, Burnham Cancer

Research Foundation, and La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology, Flossie Wong-Staal, PI; Univ. of California at San Francisco, Paul Volberding, PI; Case Western Reserve Univ., Stuart LeGrice, PI; and Univ. of Washington with Harbor View Medical Center and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, King Holmes, PI.

Five CFARs whose grants were not up for renewal this year are Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Arye Rubinstein, PI; Baylor College of Medicine, Janet Butel, PI; Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Joseph Sodroski, PI; Duke Univ., Dani Bolognesi, PI; and New York Univ., Fred Valentine, PI.

Funding Opportunities:

NCI RFAs Available

RFA CA-98-008

Title: **Specialized Program of Research Excellence in Ovarian Cancer**

Letter of Intent Receipt Date: Oct. 1, 1998

Application Receipt Date: Jan. 15, 1999

The Organ Systems Branch of the Office of the Deputy Director Extramural Science at NCI invites grant applications (P50) for a Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) in Ovarian Cancer. Applicant institutions must be able to conduct the highest quality balanced translational research on the prevention, etiology, screening, diagnosis, and treatment of ovarian cancer.

NCI anticipates making at least one award. Additional awards will be considered based on availability of funds. An applicant may request up to five years of support. NCI anticipates setting aside at least \$2.5 million for the initial year's funding.

Inquiries: Jorge Gomez, MD, PhD, Organ Systems Branch, NCI, 6130 Executive Blvd Suite 512-MSB 7386, Bethesda, MD 20892-7386, Rockville, MD 20852 (for express/courier service). Phone 301-496-8528. Email: jglw@nih.gov.

RFA CA-98-022

Title: **Flexible System to Advance Innovative Research for Cancer Drug Discovery by Small Businesses**

Letter of Intent Receipt Dates: Oct. 20, 1998; June 22, 1999

Application Receipt Dates: Nov. 17, 1998; July 20, 1999

Discovery and development of new cancer therapeutics, including both drugs and vaccines, normally involve lengthy and costly projects. The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs have supported these efforts; however, the extent of such support has been limited by the traditional stringent guidelines of the Phase

I and Phase II components. Recently NIH announced that applicants may request a larger budget and period of support if necessary for completion of the project

This RFA provides a flexible system within the SBIR and STTR programs to accommodate the extensive needs and complex discovery and development process, at least partially, from basic discovery through proof of principle demonstration in clinical trials.

Support for the RFA is through the SBIR and STTR mechanisms. Applications can be submitted for support as Phase I STTR (R41) or Phase I SBIR (R43) grants; Phase II STTR (R42) or Phase II SBIR (R44) grants; or under the SBIR/STTR FAST-TRACK option. Phase II applications in response to this RFA will only be accepted as competing continuations of previously funded NIH Phase I SBIR/STTR awards. The Phase II proposal must be a logical extension of the Phase I research.

It is expected that five awards will be made in FY99, and \$1.8 million from the SBIR and STTR set asides will be designated for this purpose. The number of awards will be dependent upon receipt of a sufficient number and diversity of applications with high scientific merit.

Inquiries: George Johnson, PhD, Div. of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis, NCI, 6130 Executive Blvd, Room 841, Bethesda, MD 20892-7456, phone 301-496-8783, fax 301-402-5200. Email: gj16m@nih.gov.

RFA CA-98-023

Title: **Small Animal Imaging Resource Programs**

Letter of Intent Receipt Date: Oct. 23, 1998

Application Receipt Date: Nov. 18, 1998

NCI invites applications for these grants that will support both shared imaging research resources to be used by cancer investigators and research related to small animal imaging technology.

Small Animal Imaging Resource Programs will be supported by the resource related research projects (R24) mechanism. Approximately \$13 million total cost will be available for the 5-year period of the award for all the SAIRPs. Approximately \$4.5 million total cost will be available for the first year of this RFA, which should fund three to four resource related grants, including funds for adding small animal imaging equipment; subsequent year funding would be less, because it would not fund equipment acquisition. Approximately \$2.1 million total cost for all the SAIRPs will be available each year for years 2 through 5 of the award. It is anticipated that three to four awards will be supported through this RFA.

Inquiries: Barbara Croft, PhD, Diagnostic Imaging Program, NCI, 6130 Executive Blvd, Room 800, Rockville, MD 20892-7440, phone 301-496-9531, fax 301-480-5785. Email: bc129b@nih.gov.

RFA CA-98-024

Title: **Development and Application of Imaging in Therapeutic Studies**

Letter of Intent Receipt Date: Oct. 14, 1998

Application Receipt Date: Nov. 18, 1998

The Diagnostic Imaging Program and the Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program of the Div. of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis, NCI, invites applications to apply imaging technologies in the assessment of investigational cancer therapeutic agents. This RFA is designed to support research projects that address the development and application of labeled therapeutic agents as compounds for imaging studies, and/or the development and application of imaging agents as metabolic markers of response to newly developed therapeutic agents.

This RFA will use the NIH research project grant (R01). Total project period may not exceed 4 years. The anticipated award date is Aug. 1, 1999.

Approximately \$2.8 million per year in total costs for four years will be committed by NCI to fund applications submitted in response to this RFA. The expected number of awards is six to eight.

Inquiries: Anne Menkens, PhD, Div. of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis, NCI, 6130 Executive Blvd, Room 800, Bethesda, MD 20892, Rockville, MD 20852 (for express/courier service), phone 301-496-9531, fax 301-480-5785. Email: am187k@nih.gov.

NCI SBIR Solicitations

Contract Proposal Receipt Date: Nov. 5, 1998

Innovative technologies and methodologies fuel progress in biomedical and behavioral research and represent an increasingly important area of the economy. The Small Business Innovation Research program provides support for research and development of new or improved technologies and methodologies which have the potential to succeed as commercial products.

NCI is soliciting proposals in the following areas:

--Isolation of high quality mRNA from human epithelial tissues.

--Development of new methodologies for preservation of human tissue specimens.

--Web based visualization and analysis of DNA micro-array data.

--Conversion of existing cDNA libraries into vectors for functional studies.

Eligibility requirements, definitions, submission procedures, review considerations, contract proposal forms and instructions, and other pertinent information, including the Fast-Track Initiative, are contained in the SBIR contract solicitation available electronically through the NIH Small Business Funding Opportunities home page at <http://www.nih.gov/grants/funding/sbir.htm> on the World Wide Web.

A limited number of hard copies of the solicitation is available from PHS SBIR/STTR Solicitation Office, 13687 Baltimore Ave., Laurel, MD 20707-5096, phone 301-206-9385, fax 301-206-9722. E-mail a2y@cu.nih.gov.

In Brief:

Lippman Named To Bentley Scientific Advisory Board

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named chairman of the Bentley Health Care Oncology Scientific Advisory Board by **Bernard Salick**, BHC's chairman and CEO. Lippman is director of the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center at Georgetown Univ. . . . **MONICA LIEBERT**, associate professor of urology and cell biology at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, has been selected for an 18 month assignment as deputy director of the U.S. Army's Prostate Cancer Research Program at Fort Detrick, MD. She will oversee the program's \$76 million in grants for innovative basic research on prostate cancer. . . . **ROBERT KURTZ**, associate chairman of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center's Dept. of Medicine and director of gastrointestinal endoscopy, has been named chief of the Gastroenterology and Nutrition Service. He replaces **Sidney Winawer**, who after 19 years as chief of the service has decided to take on new responsibilities at the center. . . . **DENISE BITTNER**, director of development at the Univ. of North Carolina Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, has been elected chair of the National Association of NCI Supported Cancer Centers Development Officers. Other officers are: vice chair, Larry Feder, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center; treasurer, Victoria Rogers, Univ. of Miami/Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. . . . **UNIV. OF MINNESOTA** Cancer Center, which was designated an NCI cancer center only last May, has received further recognition as an NCI designated comprehensive cancer center. **John Kersey** is director of the center. . . . **NATIONAL CHILDHOOD** Cancer Foundation received support for two new fellowships for young investigators in pediatric cancer research. The William Kennedy fellowship went to **Suzanne Ragg**, who will work at Riley Children's Hospital at Indiana Univ. **William Slayton**, who will work at the Univ. of Utah, received the first Clarissa and Larry Winslow fellowship. Previously, NCCF established a fellowship in honor of golfer Greg Norman and his wife, Laura, for their contributions to the foundation as trustees and major donors. **Evilio Perez-Albuerne** is the 1998 winner of that award; he will work at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington DC. **Denman Hammond** is president and CEO of the foundation.