

## **Program Announcements (PA'S)**

### **MOLECULAR BIOLOGY OF THE SKIN**

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National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases

The Skin Diseases Program supports research on the structure, function, disorders and diseases of the skin. This program announcement is to encourage submission of scientifically meritorious grant applications in the specific area of the molecular biology of the skin, including its normal structure, function, diseases and disorders, both genetic and acquired.

Abnormalities of structural element in the skin or of the enzymes controlling skin structure and function have been identified in a number of hereditary skin diseases, including forms of Epidermolysis Bullosa and Ichthyosis. The molecular targets for a number of acquired autoimmune skin diseases have recently been identified, including the pemphigus group of diseases and acquired Epidermolysis bullosa.

Current molecular biologic and molecular genetic techniques promise to allow identification of the normal genes and gene products as well as abnormalities which may underlie certain skin diseases, resulting in a greater understanding of normal skin and the pathogenesis of disease. The knowledge gained should allow the application of better diagnostic and therapeutic techniques to patients with cutaneous disease.

This announcement encourages research applications focused on normal skin genes; the mechanisms of their regulation and expression; the altered genes and proteins associated with skin diseases and disorders; and other aspects of the molecular biology of skin structure and function, including the nature of the targets in autoimmune skin diseases.

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

Non-profit Organizations and Institutions, Governments and their agencies, For-Profit Organizations, and individuals are eligible to apply.

#### **DEADLINE**

Applications will be accepted in accordance with the announced receipt dates for new applications, listed in application kits numbered PHS 398.

## REVIEW PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA

Applications should be submitted on Form PHS-398 (Rev. 9/86) which is available in the Institution's Collaborative Research or Business Office. Additional application kits may be obtained from the Office of Grants Inquiries, Division of Research Grants (DRG), NIH. The phrase "prepared in response to research grants announcement on Molecular Biology of the Skin" should be typed on Line 2 of the first page of the application. The original and six copies of the application should be sent to:

Application Receipt Office  
Division of Research Grants  
National Institutes of Health  
Westwood Building, Room 240  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Applications in response to this solicitation will be reviewed on a nationwide basis in competition with other research grant applications, and in accord with the usual NIH peer review procedures. Applications will first be reviewed for technical merit by initial review groups and then by the National Advisory Council. The review criteria customarily employed by the NIH for regular research grant application material.

All PHS and NIH grant policies governing regular research project grants apply to applications received in response to this program announcement.

For further information contact:

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