

Program Announcements (PA'S)

CUTANEOUS MANIFESTATIONS OF HIV INFECTION AND AIDS

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National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases

The Skin Diseases Program supports research on the structure, function, and diseases of the skin. This Program Announcement is to encourage submission of research grant applications in the area of cutaneous manifestations of HIV infection and diseases, including AIDS, that are caused by HIV infection. Research grant applications may be basic, clinical or epidemiologic. Research mechanisms to support these investigations include regular research grants (R01), Clinical Investigator Awards (K08), First Independent Research and Transition (FIRST) Awards (R29), and Individual National Research Awards (F32).

The vast majority of patients with AIDS manifest cutaneous disease at some time during their illness. Patients with HIV infection not meeting the criteria for the diagnosis of AIDS also frequently manifest cutaneous disease. In addition, there has been recently described an exanthem that is associated with initial HIV infection in man; it precedes by weeks to months seroconversion to HIV positivity. The skin diseases seen in HIV infection include diseases of less than clear-cut pathogenesis including psoriasis and seborrheic dermatitis, among others; infectious diseases such as candidiasis and viral and bacterial infections; and malignancies, particularly Kaposi's sarcoma.

This Program Announcement is designed to encourage grant applications to investigate basic, clinical and epidemiologic aspects of these diverse cutaneous manifestations of HIV infection. Projects may be oriented specifically towards the cutaneous manifestations of HIV infection. They may also be oriented towards utilizing the high incidence of skin disease in the HIV-infected and AIDS populations to investigate the pathogenesis of the idiopathic skin disease. Thus, we would hope to obtain new information relevant to idiopathic skin diseases as well as new information relevant to the understanding of the coexistence of AIDS and skin disease.

An exanthem as the initial manifestations of HIV infection has been reported. This phenomenon needs to be more specifically defined, both as regards to the manifestations of the exanthem and its frequency and the time course between the exanthem and seroconversion to HIV positivity. If established as a specific and relatively high frequency manifestation of initial HIV infection, this

phenomenon may prove to be extremely valuable for the identification very early in the course of infection of HIV-infected individuals. It would provide a cohort of individuals appropriate for the testing of therapeutic modalities.

ELIGIBILITY

Non-profit organizations and institutions, governments and their agencies, for-profit organizations, and individuals are eligible to apply.

DEADLINE

Commencing May 2, 1988, applications will be accepted in accordance with newly announced receipt dates for unsolicited AIDS RO1 and R29 applications, May 1, September 1, and January 2. Principal Investigators who do not wish to have the RO1 or R29 applications subjected to expedited review may submit applications to meet the receipt dates for new applications listed in the application kit 398 (Rev. 9/86). Applicants for the K08 or F32 awards should submit applications to meet the receipt dates listed in the instructions for those mechanisms.

REVIEW PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA

Applications should be submitted on Form PHS-398 or 416-1 which are 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 "Cutaneous Manifestations of HIV Infection and AIDS" should be typed on line 2 of the first page of the application form 398 or item 3 of the form 416-1. The original and 32 copies of an R01 or R29 application submitted for expedited review, or the original and 6 copies for normal receipt dates of R01, R29 or K08 applications, or the original and 2 copies of a fellowship application should be sent to:

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

Applications in response to this solicitation will be reviewed on a nationwide basis in competition with other research grant applications, and, when requested, in accord with the expedited NIH peer review procedures for AIDS related research.

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 applications will prevail.

Applicants from institutions which have a General Clinical Research Center (GCRC) funded by the NIH Division of Research Resources may wish to identify the Center as a resource for conducting the proposed research. In such a case, a letter of agreement from the Program Director of the GCRC should be included with the 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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