

Program Announcements (PA'S)
RESEARCH ON OSTEOARTHRITIS
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National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases

PURPOSE

The National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) and the National Institute on Aging (NIA) invite grant applications to study a broad range of basic and clinical topics related to osteoarthritis. Support will be through individual research, fellowship training and career development grants.

BACKGROUND

Osteoarthritis is a disease of unknown etiology characterized by slowly developing local joint pain, stiffness, limitation of motion and deformity. These symptoms may represent a common final pathway for many pathophysiological conditions. Alteration and deterioration may occur in many of the component tissues and structures within the affected joint. Osteoarthritis is one of the most common of all chronic diseases and the most frequent rheumatic disease. It may affect one joint, a few or many. Approximately 16 million Americans have osteoarthritis as identified through a medical examination and history. Approximately 37 percent of the adult U.S. population have radiologic evidence of osteoarthritis in their hands and/or feet. About 23 percent of these radiologically-identified changes are classified as being moderate or severe.

To help stimulate and focus the desired goal of enhanced research efforts, the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases and the National Institute on Aging (in conjunction with support from several private organizations) sponsored a Workshop on Osteoarthritis on July 21-25, 1985. A primary objective of the workshop was to develop suggestions for future research directions and approaches for achieving this new knowledge. Proceedings of the Workshop on Osteoarthritis were published in the Journal of Rheumatology (Volume 13, No. 6, pp 1127-1160 1986). This article documented over 130 recommendations for research by the workshop participants. A synopsis of the research suggestions is presented by the editors of the article in a concise list of

18 research areas to be pursued. Multidisciplinary approaches for research on osteoarthritis were emphasized. Investigators interested in responding to this announcement are invited to write or call the NIH program staff (listed in this announcement) to receive a copy of the journal article.

OBJECTIVES

This solicitation is intended to stimulate research that provides an improved understanding of general and age-specific epidemiology, etiology (including any age-related changes in function or metabolism) and prevention and treatment of osteoarthritis. Both basic and clinical research are encouraged. In many instances, collaborative and multidisciplinary research efforts may be required to achieve significant scientific advances. Research training and career development opportunities would be valuable for young investigators seeking to enter this field or to enhance their skills to conduct research related to osteoarthritis.

SCOPE

There is great need for increased research efforts in a broad range of scientific topics related to the pathogenesis, prevention and treatment of osteoarthritis. The scope of areas requiring further research was clearly described at the Workshop on Osteoarthritis. No priority has been established among the research suggestions presented in the article. Applications are encouraged in any scientifically meritorious research areas related to osteoarthritis.

The NIH urges applicants for grants to give added attention (where feasible and appropriate) to the inclusion of minority groups and/or women in the study populations for research.

APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURES

Applications in response to this announcement will be reviewed in accordance with the usual Public Health Service peer review procedures for research grant applications. Review criteria include the significance and originality of the research goals and approaches; feasibility of the research and adequacy of the experimental design; training research competence, and dedication of the investigator(s); adequacy of available facilities; provision for the humane care of animals; and appropriateness of the requested budget relative to the work proposed. Funding decisions will be based on the evaluations by the Initial Review Groups and the National Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases Advisory Council and the National Advisory Council on Aging recommendations. Applications should be submitted using form PHS-398, Rev. 9/86, available in the business or grants office at most academic or research institutions, or from the Division of Research Grants, National Institutes of Health.

Applications will be accepted in accordance with the dates for receipt of new applications on a continuing basis:

February 1, June 1, October 1

The phrase "RESPONSE TO NIAMS/NIA PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT: RESEARCH ON OSTEOARTHRITIS" should be typed on line 2 of the face page of the application. The original and six copies of the application should be sent or delivered to:

Grant Application Receipt Office Division of Research Grants Westwood Building, Room 240 National Institutes of Health Bethesda, Maryland 20892-4500**

For further information, investigators are encouraged to contact the following individuals:

Stephen L. Gordon, Ph.D.
Musculoskeletal Diseases Program Director
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases
Westwood Building, Room 407
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-4500
Telephone: (301) 496-7326

Lawrence Petrucelli, Ph.D.
Arthritis Program Director
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases
Westwood Building, Room 405
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-4500
Telephone: (301) 496-7326

Ann Sorenson, Ph.D.
Osteoporosis and Rheumatology Program Director
National Institute on Aging
Building 31, Room 5C-25
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-4500
Telephone: (301) 496-1033

This program is described in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 13.846, Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin Disease Research and No. 13.866, Aging Research. Awards will be made under the authority of the Public Health Service Act, Title III, Section 301 (Public Law 78-410, as amended; 42 USC 241) and administered under PHS grant policies and Federal Regulations 42 CFR Part 52 and 45 CFR Part 74. This program is not subject to the intergovernmental review requirements of Executive Order 12372 or Health Systems Agency review.

