



Office of Sponsored Programs
OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Fall 2004

September 2004

Federal Opportunities

The [National Endowment for the Humanities \(NEH\)](#) is the independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. Click here to view [program descriptions and deadline dates for 2005](#). The NEH Collaborative Research Grants support research undertaken by two or more scholar's research that significantly adds to knowledge and understanding in the humanities. Eligible topics for the Collaborative Research Grants include:

- conferences on topics of major importance in the humanities that will benefit ongoing research;
- translations into English of works that provide insight into the history, literature, philosophy, and artistic achievements of other cultures; and
- research that uses the knowledge, methods, and perspectives of the humanities to enhance understanding of science, technology, and medicine.

Other programs include, [America's Historic Places](#), [Consultation Grants for Libraries, Museums, or Special Projects](#), [Documenting Endangered Languages](#) (program collaborative with the National Science Foundation and the Smithsonian Institution), [Faculty Humanities Workshops](#), [Faculty Research Awards for Historically Black, Hispanic-Serving, and Tribal Colleges and Universities](#), and [Grants for Teaching and Learning Resources and Curriculum Development](#), to name a few. Review the NEH Website at www.neh.gov.

Health and Human Services (HHS) Initiatives
[Obesity and the Built Environment](#) supports R01 and R21 studies in two specific areas related to the built environment and obesity: First, understanding the role of the built environment in causing/exacerbating obesity and related co-morbidities; and second, developing, implementing, and evaluating prevention/intervention strategies that influence parameters of the built environment in order to reduce the prevalence of overweight, obesity and co-morbidities. The Letter of Intent (LOI) is due November 17, 2004, with the full application deadline date of December 17, 2004.

[The Division of Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Metabolic Disease of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases](#) invites applications for the exploratory/developmental (R21) grant mechanism in selected areas of opportunity within their mission. The intent of this initiative is to encourage researchers to apply novel technologies, develop new tools, biomarkers and model systems, and test innovative concepts of potential diagnostic and therapeutic relevance to diseases within our mission including diabetes and its complications, obesity, endocrine disorders including osteoporosis, cystic fibrosis and inborn errors of metabolism. The R21 mechanism is intended to encourage exploratory research projects by providing support at the conceptual stages of these projects. This initiative represents a reissue of the original PA-02-008 (<http://grants.NIH.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-02-008.html>) with updated research objectives and revised budgetary information to conform to the NIH R21 definition.



[Collaborative Studies on Alzheimer and Related Diseases](#) invites faith-based or community-based organizations, for-profit or non-profit organizations, universities, colleges, hospitals, and laboratories, units of federal, state and local governments, and domestic or foreign institutions/ organizations to apply for funding to accelerate collaborative cross-disciplinary and multi-institutional approaches that will contribute new and vital information about the clinical and pathological course of normal aging and the neurodegenerative diseases associated with aging. Applications are due December 21, 2004 with available funding of approximately \$2 million to fund up to 3 awards. Please contact Deborah Stauffer at (301) 496-1472 or email stauffed@nia.nih.gov for more information.

Foundation Opportunities

[W.K. Kellogg Health Disparities](#) program encourages individuals interested in health disparities issues to turn their intellectual energies early in their careers to: research questions that relate to the understanding of health disparities by race/ethnicity, gender and income/ socioeconomic status; study mechanisms and pathways by which structural social, economic, political, environmental and educational inequalities, institutional racism and discrimination affect health; and develop private sector and public policy frameworks and programs to eliminate health disparities.

The program provides exposure to public policy-making and knowledge exchange and the interactive process of translating research findings into policy and practice. Through mentoring, research training, publishing and policy workshops, and diverse professional meetings, Scholars' career development and leadership roles are enhanced.

[The Arthur Vining Davis - The Higher Education Program](#) seeks to strengthen private four-year liberal arts institutions that place strong emphasis on teaching and whose students choose majors primarily in the humanities, sciences, and mathematics. Support generally will be reserved for schools of broadly acknowledged academic excellence in the liberal arts and a solid record of financial strength. Grants normally range from \$100,000 to \$200,000 and should represent the President's highest priority for reinforcing institutional excellence. Preference will be given to projects with potential to influence undergraduate education beyond the institution.

Colleges and universities with innovative programs for strengthening teaching and teachers in grades 9-12 should refer to the description of the [Secondary Education program](#). The higher and secondary education programs are independent and grant requests from institutions of higher education may be submitted in both programs at the same time.

[United Parkinson Foundation](#) provides individual research grants for a one-year term, January 1 - December 31 with an upper limit of \$25,000 in U.S. funds. The foundation has no citizenship restrictions or geographic discrimination. Research can be basic or clinical but must have direct relevance to Parkinson's disease but the Foundation does not fund research on clinical efficacy of patentable or patented compounds. Grant applications should follow the NIH RO-1 format with appropriate budget and budget justification including other support applied for and/or received. The UPF office must receive applications by June 15th.

Fellowship Opportunities

[Irvington Institute](#), the Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, with the help of supporters and foundations provides fellowships for promising young immunologists to study and train under senior researchers at the country's leading universities and

medical centers. The fellows are dedicated to the research of immune system disorders, including cancer, AIDS, diabetes, lupus, multiple sclerosis, and rheumatoid arthritis.

Resources & Announcements

Welcome

Science and Mathematics

- Emma L. Frazier, Research Associate Professor, Medical University of South Carolina, Biology Department
- Triscia W. Hendrickson, Assistant Professor, Emory University, Biology Department
- Jeremy Willis, Assistant Professor, University of Florida, Chemistry Department
- Chaohui Zhang, Assistant Professor, State University of New York, Stony Brook, Mathematics Department
- Charles L. Brown, Professor, Georgia Institute of Technology, Chair of Physics Department
- Christopher Bass, Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin, Psychology Department
- Bryant T. Marks, Assistant Professor, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Psychology Department
- Kathy Stansbury, Associate Professor, U.C.L.A., Psychology Department

Business and Economics

- **New Chair** for Business Administration, Hosein Abghari
- Amaechi Nwaokoro, Assistant Professor, University of Oklahoma

GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP

Office of Sponsored Programs, in conjunction with The Department of Defense (DOD) Technical Assistance Program (TAP) will host a two-day workshop on **October 7th and 8th 2004**. The workshop will focus on “Developing Winning Proposals,” which will focus on the characteristics of a winning proposal, writing a statement of need, connecting program components with the needs statement, designing an evaluation plan, and developing a workable budget.

The workshop is open to the schools in the AUC and other HBCUs in the southeastern region. Please watch the OSP Newsletter for upcoming registration information.

Common Problems in Proposals

Ahhhhhhhhhh the fear – of rejection! Although it is painful, we learn from our mistakes. It is often easier to learn from those of others, however. After reviewing hundreds of proposals, the staff of the National Institute for Child and Human Development put together a list of the most common problems found in those proposals, which were rejected. Robert J. Toft, Ph.D., editor of the “The Grant Works,” contributed a column in the monthly newsletter, **The Grant Advisor**. He gathered the following information to shed light on some of the problems with in proposal development.

PROBLEMS WITH THE RESEARCH GOALS

- Topic inappropriate for program mission
- Topic not responsive to the guidelines issued
- Purposes of the study not clear or not detailed
- Research goals not worthy of support
- No specific products/end-points included

RESEARCH/STUDY DESIGN DEFICIENCIES

- Insufficient attention to the works of others
- Unawareness of published work refuting premise
- Study design not related to purposes of project
- Lack of coherence in complex proposals
- Lack of focus in proposal



- Sampling design not appropriate
- No recognition of problems of data bias
- Lack of detailed methodology

STAFF, BUDGET, TIMELINE PROBLEMS

- Tasks not related to personnel, time, or budget
- Insufficient time commitment by project director
- Too many persons each giving too little time
- Research team disciplines inappropriate

OVERALL PRESENTATION PROBLEMS

- Lack of specific plan
- Reliance on reputation rather than planning
- Assuming reviewers know applicant's work
- Unbalanced presentation

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAIL

- Budgets unrealistic for work proposed
- Insufficient budget justification
- Lack of letters outlining scope of collaboration for consultants/subcontractors

Your OSP Staff Members:

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