



June 2009

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided critical federal support to help stimulate the economy and advance medical research. Under this act, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) received \$10.4 billion to fund new and expand ongoing research initiatives. The Recovery Act also provided support for essential state-of-the-art laboratory space and equipment to meet the challenges of 21st century science.

Many of these new projects will take place at the nation's medical schools and teaching hospitals.

Below is information on some of the first NIH grants supported by ARRA funding awarded to medical schools and teaching hospitals. Each project will conduct cutting-edge research and create new and retain jobs for residents in neighboring communities.

Attacking complicated lung diseases

The NIH National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) has announced that it will award 22 grants totaling \$3.3 million from the Recovery Act for research on two common yet complex lung diseases.

The new research will focus on two lung diseases that are a major cause of disability and death—chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF). Using small tissue samples obtained from volunteer donors during surgery, investigators will examine the molecular pathways involved in the development and progression of these diseases, which will lead to better understanding and improved treatments. COPD, the fourth-leading cause of death in the United States, affects an estimated 24 million Americans. IPF is a debilitating condition in which tissue deep in the lungs becomes thick and stiff, or scarred. In most cases, the cause of IPF is unknown.

Upcoming Briefings from the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research

Throughout the summer, the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research will host Capitol Hill briefings on how NIH is investing ARRA funds. On June 1, the featured guest was Anthony Fauci, M.D., director of the NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. For more information on upcoming briefings or to view Webcasts of previous briefings, go to www.aamc.org/research/ftp.

Friday, July 10

Thomas Insel, M.D., director, National Institute of Mental Health
12-1 p.m.
Rayburn House Office Building
Room B-339

Friday, July 17

Elizabeth Nabel, M.D., director, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
1-2 p.m.
Rayburn House Office Building
Room B-369

"Fulfilling the Promise" is a special AAMC initiative highlighting the collaboration between the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and academic medicine. As research engines of the U.S. health system, the nation's medical schools and major teaching hospitals are awarded

Grantee institutions include Brigham and Women's and Massachusetts General hospitals in Boston, Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine in Minnesota, Meharry Medical College in Tennessee, Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, the University of Colorado School of Medicine, and the University of Texas Health Science and Southwestern Medical centers in Texas.

www.nih.gov/news/health/may2009/nhlbi-20.htm

Research ramps up on infectious diseases

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases institute expects to award up to \$20 million in Recovery Act funds for 10 regional academic centers dedicated to improving biodefense and infectious diseases research. These centers, housed at Harvard Medical School and the Oregon Health and Science University among other schools, are seeking new ways to treat, diagnose, or prevent illnesses including anthrax, West Nile fever, and plague. The centers also are prepared to advise first responders in the event of an infectious-disease-related emergency.

www.nih.gov/news/health/jun2009/niaid-08.htm

Expanded training for global health providers

Thanks to ARRA funding, two medical schools will join the effort to provide training on global health issues. The grants were awarded through the NIH's Fogarty International Center, which makes it possible for faculties to work across disciplines to bring their expertise to bear on improving global health.

At Dartmouth Medical School, principal investigator C. Fordham von Reyn, M.D., estimates the grant will help support several jobs. Douglas J. Perkins, Ph.D., of the University of New Mexico School of Medicine Division of Infectious Diseases, said the grant his school received will help train nine graduate student fellows a year to meet the demand for global health professionals and support the local economy by bringing in regional speakers and guests to an annual symposium on global health.

www.nih.gov/news/health/may2009/fic-12.htm

Nebraska medical schools to study wide range of diseases using ARRA funding

The NIH will send more than \$1.5 million in Recovery Act funding to two Nebraska medical schools. The University of Nebraska Medical Center will receive \$468,688 to research possible treatments for chronic pulmonary mucus hypersecretory diseases, and \$107,969 to study a type of strep bacteria that can lead to cavities and infective endocarditis. Creighton University School of Medicine, which like UNMC is located in Omaha, Neb., will receive \$922,946 for three separate research projects relating to treatments for hearing loss, immunodeficiency, and lymphoid malignancy.

http://bennelson.senate.gov/press/press_releases/052707-01.cfm

Enhancing science education

A \$21 million allocation of ARRA funds will allow high school and college students and science educators around the country to learn in NIH-funded laboratories for students and science educators. According to the NIH, the summer research program will promote job creation and accelerate the pace and achievement of scientific research while encouraging students to pursue research careers in health-

more than half of all NIH grants to scientists through its extramural research program.

www.aamc.org/ftp

AAMC Contacts

Dave Moore
Senior Director, Government Relations
202-828-0525

dbmoore@aamc.org

Retha Sherrod
Director of Public Relations
202-828-0975

rsherrod@aamc.org

related sciences. Institutions who have already received grants to participate in the program include the University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine.

http://grants.nih.gov/recovery/summer_opps.html

© 2009 AAMC | [Privacy Policy](#)

Association of American Medical Colleges, 2450 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037-1126