

THE

CANCER NEWSLETTER

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FOURTEEN IMMUNOLOGY RFPs ANNOUNCED, NCI WILL HAVE EIGHT MORE IN IMMUNODIAGNOSIS; \$3 MILLION BUDGETED

NCI's Immunology Branch announced 14 RFPs in immunotherapy and immunobiology this week (see RFPs Available, page 4) and will release eight more in immunodiagnosis in about three weeks. Branch Chief William Terry said that if one contract is awarded in each of the 22 projects, it will involve a one-year commitment of about \$3 million. Most of the contracts will require from three to six years to complete, however.

The 22 RFPs all represent new projects and will result in new awards, assuming acceptable proposals are generated in each area, rather than recompleted contracts.

The new projects carry on the Immunology Branch's contract program, initiated several years ago. Even more projects were advertised last year and resulted in awards in every proposed area except those few in which acceptable proposals were not generated.

NCI's immunology program has been one of those critics say has involved overlap and duplication, with programs scattered throughout the institute. The Immunology Branch is in the Div. of Biology & Diagnosis. The Div. of Research Resources & Centers runs an immunology grants program, and the Div. of Cancer Treatment has an interest in immunotherapy.

"Those who say there is no coordination don't know what they are talking about," Terry said. The Treatment division has three of its
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In Brief

NCI'S CUTLER CLARIFIES POLICY ON RELEASE OF SURVEY DATA; TAPE DUPLICATES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT COST

CLARIFICATION of NCI's policy on release of data from the Third National Cancer Survey was offered by Sidney Cutler, associate director of the Biometry Branch. Requests for duplicates of tapes will be honored, the only consideration being payment of the cost of the tape. Requests from investigators whose needs go beyond the raw data and which involve manipulation of the data by NCI will have to be negotiated. Investigators whose projects overlap with each other or with those under way by NCI staff members will be asked to work out cooperative arrangements. A subcommittee of the Survey Advisory Committee was appointed to advise on issues arising from data requests. Its members are Charles Sherman of Rochester, Howard West of the Social Security Administration and John Dunn of the California Dept. of Health . . .

THE NEW Assn. of Community Cancer Centers, headed by James Donovan of Bakersfield, Calif., will complete its organization and adopt bylaws at a meeting in Denver Sept. 20. The meeting will be held at Stouffer's Denver Inn, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. NCI Cancer Control Chief Diane Fink and Centers Director John Yarbrow will be on the program.

Control Committee
To Hear Reports
On High Risk

Control Committee

Control Committee

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RFPs Available

Contract Awards

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IMMUNOLOGY BRANCH CHIEF DEFENDS CONTRACT PROGRAM, COORDINATION

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members sitting on the Immunology Contract Review Committee. "They know everything that we are doing, and are our conduit to DCT," Terry said. "They also provide the committee with expertise in clinical oncology."

A staff member from the Div. of Research Resources & Centers attends committee meetings and provides liaison with that division's grant supported programs in immunology.

Since the immunology program involves a great amount of fundamental research, the fact that NCI is supporting it so extensively with the contract mechanism has generated some criticism.

"Our general approach with the immunology program is that we are concerned not with making a fine distinction between basic or applied research but rather determining if it is good research," Terry said. "This whole controversy has been put in the wrong terminology. It is impossible to separate fundamental research from applied research in a developing area."

Terry acknowledged that NCI is moving toward more rigid enforcement of the doctrine that basic research should be supported by grants and applied research by contracts. "That's my feeling, speaking as an individual and not on behalf of NCI or anyone else."

The Immunology Branch's contract program is somewhat of a forerunner of the program grants mechanism NCI is attempting to develop, Terry said. The branch puts together a definition of the goal of a particular project, puts out the RFP and hopes to generate a variety of proposals that attack the problem in a variety of ways. That is particularly the case with immunotherapy projects, Terry said. The immunotherapy work generally is that which fits best in the classical contract.

"Our primary concern is providing a mechanism for funding extramural research," Terry said. No single mechanism is perfect. All have their advantages and disadvantages. Used together in appropriate ways with appropriate safeguards, they can all be used to get the best research."

CONTROL AC TO HEAR REPORT ON HIGH RISK CONFERENCE, MESSER SURVEY

A report on a pending conference on "Persons at High Risk of Cancer: Implications for Cancer Control" will be presented at the Sept. 27 meeting of the Cancer Control Advisory Committee.

The meeting will be held in NIH Building 31, conference room 4, starting at 9 a.m. It will be open until 1 p.m., at which time grant applications and contract proposals will be reviewed.

The open portion of the meeting also will include a report on the survey of cancer control activities conducted by the consulting firm Messer Associates Inc. under contract from the Cancer Control Program.

A preliminary report on the survey was made at the last Cancer Control Advisory Committee meeting (*The Cancer Newsletter*, July 19). Cancer Control Director Diane Fink held up release of the survey until her staff had had a chance to analyze it.

The Cancer Newsletter published details of the survey's report on Regional Medical Programs cancer control activities. Other reports include activities of the states and territories; the 10 HEW regions; six major cities; the American Cancer Society; and the Leukemia Society of America.

Other NCI meetings scheduled include:

- Tobacco Working Group (see story in this issue).
- Committee on Cancer Immunodiagnosis, NIH Clinical Center, room 4B14, Sept. 10, open 1-1:30 p.m.
- Biometry & Epidemiology Contract Review Committee, NIH Landow Building, room C418, Sept. 11, open 9-10:30 a.m.
- Breast Cancer Diagnosis Committee, NIH Building 31, conference room 2, Sept. 11, open 7-7:30 p.m.
- President's Cancer Panel, NIH Building 31, room 11A-10, Sept. 12, 9:30 a.m., open.
- Diagnostic Radiology Committee and Breast Cancer Diagnostic Committee, NIH Building 1, Wilson Hall, Sept. 12, open 9 a.m.-noon.
- Breast Cancer Experimental Biology Committee, Bethesda Holiday Inn, Versailles room, Sept. 18-20, open Sept. 20 10:30 a.m.-noon.
- Cancer Special Programs Advisory Committee, NIH Building 31, conference room 8, Sept. 18-19, open Sept. 18 9-10 a.m.
- Cancer Control Education Review Committee, NIH Landow Building, room C418, Sept. 19, open 8:30-10 a.m.
- Committee on Cytology Automation, NIH Westwood Building, conference room B, Sept. 20, open 9-10 a.m.
- Cancer Clinical Investigation Review Committee, NIH Building 31, conference room 6, Sept. 23-25, open 8:30 a.m.-noon Sept. 23 and 24.

-Bladder-Prostate Advisory Committee, Bethesda Holiday Inn, Pennsylvania room, Sept. 23-24, open Sept. 24 9-11 a.m.

-Cancer Control Advisory Committee (see above).

-Committee on Cancer Immunobiology, NIH Clin-

ical Center, room 4B14, Sept. 30, open 2-2:30 p.m.

—National Cancer Advisory Board, Oct. 7-9 (see story elsewhere in this issue).

—Cancer Research Centers Review Committee, Bethesda Holiday Inn, Lobby conference room, Oct. 11-12, open Oct. 11 8:30-10 a.m.

Other meetings may be placed on the schedule during the time frame covered above. They will be published when announced.

NCI WILL REISSUE TWO RFPs ON SMOKING; TWG WILL HEAR ARTIFICIAL TOBACCO WORK

Two of the series of RFPs calling for proposals in smoking-related research issued by NCI earlier this year (*The Cancer Newsletter*, March 8) did not result in contract awards and will be reissued this year.

The two were "Clinical trials for pharmacological approaches in smoking withdrawal," and "Use of closing volume tests to determine acute bronchitis in man."

Gio Gori, chairman of the Tobacco Working Group, said that only one proposal was received for clinical testing of antismoking drugs. "It was a good proposal but we decided we wanted a larger response before making the award," Gori said.

Only one response was received from the bronchitis RFP, and NCI did not consider it adequate. Both projects will be readvertised during fiscal 1974.

The clinical testing of antismoking drugs would involve four agonists—nicotine, lobeline, cotinine, arecoline—plus other drugs with nicotine-like response; and five antagonists—benactyzine, chlorpromazine, propranolol, mecamylamine, and ecolid.

The RFP suggested that tests would be conducted with volunteers who want to stop smoking, comparing those who receive a variety of medication to three control subgroups which would receive only counseling, counseling plus placebo, and a nicotine non-dependent group which would be asked to stop smoking with no assistance of any kind.

The Tobacco Working Group will meet for two days, Sept. 10 and 11, at NIH Building 31, conference room 9. The meeting will be open to the public both days from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The meeting agenda includes presentation of tobacco-related research being carried out in Canada, England, France and Austria; by the industry-supported Tobacco Research Council; and the Univ. of Kentucky. None are supported by NCI.

The English presentation will include a discussion of that country's efforts to develop a less-hazardous cigarette by using artificial tobacco, a program certain to arouse the interest of representatives of tobacco growers who are members of the Tobacco Working Group.

The growers' answer (they hope) to artificial to-

bacco and to the entire question of smoking and health will be discussed by representatives of the Univ. of Kentucky, which is conducting a well-financed effort to develop new varieties of tobacco which contain less of the harmful elements. The Kentucky program is supported by a cigarette tax levied by the state.

Gori's smoking program is being funded with \$5.9 million from fiscal 1974 funds, although some of that will be carried over on multiple-year contracts. Funds committed for release in 1974 amount to \$4.8 million. Gori expects to receive approximately the same amount in the current fiscal year.

NCAB TO HEAR PROGRAM REVIEW AT MEETING SCHEDULED OCT. 7-9

Next meeting of the National Cancer Advisory Board is scheduled for Oct. 7-9 with a review of NCI programs taking up most of the agenda.

The review will include epidemiology, with presentations on carcinogenesis, environmental carcinogenesis and viral oncology; cancer biology; tumor immunology; breast cancer; cancer treatment; cancer control; and international activities.

The meeting will be open all three days except for 9-10:30 a.m. Oct. 8. It will start at 9 a.m. each day, in conference room 6 of NIH Building 31.

RFPs AVAILABLE

Requests for proposal described here pertain to contracts planned for award by the National Cancer Institute, unless otherwise noted. Write to the Contracting Officer or Contract Specialist for copies of the RFP. Some listings will show the phone number of the Contract Specialist, who will respond to questions about the RFP. Contract Sections for the Cause & Prevention and Biology and Diagnosis Divisions are located at: NCI, Landow Bldg. NIH, Bethesda, Md. 20014; for the Treatment and Control Divisions at NCI, Blair Bldg., 8300 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring, Md. 20910. All requests for copies of RFPs should cite the RFP number. The deadline date shown for each listing is the final day for receipt of the completed proposal unless otherwise indicated.

RFP N01-CP-55634

Title: Information Resource

Deadline: Sept. 30, 1974

NCI is interested in establishing a basic ordering agreement type contract to provide a mechanism whereby the successful offeror can respond to task orders directed to individual scientific information needs of the carcinogenesis program. The task orders that may be issued will range from hand-searching the

existing literature to delivering a finished critical analysis of a defined scientific area.

Contracting Officer: D. J. Dougherty
Biology & Diagnosis
301-496-6496

The following RFPs were scheduled for release by the NCI Div. of Cancer Biology & Diagnosis contracts section this week. They were not available by press time, however. Details will be published in next week's issue of *The Cancer Newsletter*, if the RFPs are available by then.

IMMUNOTHERAPY

RFP NCI-CB-53869-31

Title: Quantitative assays of monocyte-macrophage function
Deadline: Dec. 9, 1974

RFP NCI-CB-53870-31

Title: Preparation and distribution of rabbit serum complement
Deadline: Dec. 10, 1974

RFP NCI-CB-53871-31

Title: Effects of cancer treatment on the function of the human immune system
Deadline: Dec. 11, 1974

RFP NCI-CB-53872-31

Title: New approaches to immunotherapy
Deadline: Dec. 12, 1974

RFP NCI-CB-53873-31

Title: Immunotherapy of disseminated human cancers in combination with optimal conventional therapy.
Deadline: Dec. 12, 1974

RFP NCI-CB-53874-31

Title: Cancer Immunotherapy: Phase I study of effects of immune stimulants on human immune response
Deadline: Dec. 13, 1974

RFP NCI-CB-53875-31

Title: Immunotherapy for tumor patients with no detectable disease or minimal tumor burden
Deadline: Dec. 13, 1974

IMMUNOBIOLOGY

RFP NCI-CB-53876-31

Title: Innovative small projects in immunobiology
Deadline: Jan. 3, 1975

RFP NCI-CB-53877-31

Title: Human tumor-associated antigens and corresponding antibodies
Deadline: Jan. 3, 1975

RFP NCI-CB-53878-31

Title: Detection of antigen binding activity of transplantable T-cell tumors
Deadline: Jan. 3, 1975

RFP NCI-CB-53879-31

Title: Cell surface antigens relevant to tumor immunology: Development of new experimental systems and serologic reagents
Deadline: Jan. 3, 1975

RFP NCI-CB-53880-31

Title: Studies of the mechanisms by which tumors avoid destruction by the immune system
Deadline: Jan. 3, 1975

RFP NCI-CB-53881-31

Title: Development or improvement of techniques for in vitro sensitization of human lymphocytes
Deadline: Jan. 3, 1975

RFP NCI-CB-53882-31

Title: Role of the macrophage in tumor resistance
Deadline: Jan. 3, 1975

CONTRACT AWARDS

Title: Continuation of support of the U.S. National Committee on the International Council of Societies of Pathology.

Contractor: National Academy of Sciences, \$4,815

Title: Oncology nursing programs in medical centers
Contractor: New York State Dept. of Health, \$311,869

Title: Operation of a genetic center for rodents in a biocontainment environment
Contractor: Microbiological Associates, \$456,100

The Cancer Newsletter—Editor JERRY D. BOYD

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