

CorNotes

FUNDING RESULTS FROM AHA - NATIONAL

The American Heart Association-National Center has recently released the funding statistics for the last round of grant submissions. Of the 1,460 reviewed applications, 145 applicants (9.8%) were funded from the fall review cycle. The programs' success rates (applications/awards funded) and percentile ranking (ranking of an application after all applications in one study group are evenly distributed) were as follows:

Application	No. Submitted	No. Funded	Success Rate	%ile Rank
Scientist Development Grant	404	65	16.1 %	13.37
Established Investigator Grant:	213	26	12.2 %	6.25
Grant-in-Aid	663	37	5.6 %	7.76
AHA - PRT Outcomes Research Program	105	10	9.5 %	9.05
AHA-Bugher Stroke	75	7	9.3 %	8.67

The success rates and paylines given above are considerably lower than in the previous year, even though the application volume for this cycle was quite similar to the previous year. This is because the American Heart Association is initiating some strategies that it hopes will benefit beginning investigators. Offering more opportunities to apply for funding (and to resubmit immediately rather than having to wait for an annual deadline) and a program that helps physician-scientist trainees transition into their first academic appointments are two of the strategies in support of the AHA goal. With the July 2001 deadline, the American Heart Association began offering two semi-annual application cycles at the national level to provide more frequent opportunities to apply for AHA funding. Because of this change, the dollars available to fund AHA's national research program must now be divided between two cycles each fiscal year.

Transitioning to the two-cycle model means that the AHA is going through a period of time where it needs to be conservative with its award commitments, at least until it

sees what the application volume is for the second deadline in January, as well as the number of declinations of new awards and resignations of existing awards. At that point, the National Research Committee will assess the situation and decide whether any immediate modifications to the pay lines for this fall's cycle are in order. Finally, since the committee has already allocated a little over half of its \$53.6 million budget for the year, the AHA pay-lines will be similar next May unless the January application volume is significantly lower.

The Research Committee is soliciting comments regarding the new policies and procedures. If you have suggestions or comments, please contact Marcia.baker@heart.org

*Allen M. Samarel, M.D.
Director of Research, CVI*

CVI JOURNAL CLUB

January 10.....Dr. Ziolo
January 24.....Dr. Walenga

For further information, contact Dr. Byron at x72819

CVI SEMINAR SERIES

The next CVI seminar will be held on **Thursday, January 17, 2002 at 4:00 p.m.** in **Building 102, Rm 7601** (Department of Medicine Conference Room). The Seminar will feature talks by two of our recent Falk Cardiovascular Research Fellows, Allison Bayer, Ph.D. and Jens Kockscämper, Ph.D. They will present their research projects completed during the tenure of their Falk Fellowships.

For further information, contact Dr. Leanne Cribbs at x72817.

CARDIOLOGY- CVI RESEARCH DIVISION SEMINAR SERIES

The Cardiology Division and the CVI Research Division are sponsoring a series of seminars by Loyola Faculty dealing with the "nuts and bolts" of doing cardiovascular research. The following seminars are scheduled:

Dr. Samarel.....January 14
Dr. Cribbs.....January 31

Seminars are held in the Cardiology Conference Room at 7:30 am. For further information, contact Dr. Samarel at x72821.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM THE CVI

Puglisi, J.L., Bers, D.M. LabHEART: an interactive computer model of rabbit ventricular myocyte ion channels and Ca transport. *Am. J. Physiol. Cell Physiol.* 281(6):C2049-C2060, 2001.

Ziolo, M.T., Kato, H., Bers, D.M. Positive and negative effects of nitric oxide on Ca^{2+} sparks: influence of β -adrenergic stimulation. *Am. J. Physiol. Heart Circ. Physiol.* 281(6):H2295-H2303, 2001.



*Happy and Prosperous New Year from the CVI
Research Division!*