

## **2007-2008 King and Bankhead-Coley Programs Grant Awards Announcement**

The Lytmos Group, LLC and the Florida Department of Health are pleased to announce that beginning July 1, 2007, 45 Florida scientists will receive research grants worth over \$16.6 million. The scientists and their institutions were notified by the department on May 30.

The Florida Department of Health funds biomedical research through two programs, the James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program and the William G. "Bill" Bankhead, Jr. and David Coley Cancer Research Program. The King Program named for Senator King's (R-Jacksonville) parents who both died as a result of smoking, funds research into the cure, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of tobacco-related diseases. The Bankhead-Coley Cancer program named for two legislators who recently died of cancer, funds research to find cures for cancer.

The department received 98 grant applications in response to its December 2006, Call for Grant Applications. Applicants submitted 55 proposals to the King Program and 43 to the Bankhead-Coley Program. The application deadline was February 23, 2007. During March and April, each application was reviewed for eligibility, scientific merit, and responsiveness to program goals.

Except for the Bridge Grant proposals, applications are independently reviewed by five to seven peer reviewers against specific review criteria. All peer reviewers are located outside of Florida to minimize conflict of interest. In addition to answering a series of questions and providing comments and recommendations about the proposal, each reviewer assigns an overall proposal merit score using a scale where 1.0 represents the highest score and 5.0 the lowest. This scale is similar to the one used by the federal National Institutes of Health in its peer review process.

Bridge Grant proposals are treated differently because these research proposals have already been reviewed by a federal granting agency (like the National Institutes of Health or the National Science Foundation). For these proposals, the federal agency scores were considered for scientific merit and three independent peer reviewers commented on specific criteria. Peer review criteria are available at [www.floridabiomed.com](http://www.floridabiomed.com).

In May the Biomedical Research Advisory Council met in Tampa to review the scientific merit scores of the proposals. The advisory council is an 11-member oversight committee that advises the department on the administration of the King and Bankhead-Coley Programs. Its membership is comprised of one designee each for the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, and the American Lung Association. The remaining eight members are appointed by the Governor, Senate President, and House Speaker.

Council members review information about the applications in a way that protects the identity of scientists and institutions. This prevents conflict of interest. Based on scientific merit scores and responsiveness to specific program goals such as tobacco or cancer relatedness or emphasis on cure or prevention, the Council makes funding recommendations to the State Surgeon General. The Surgeon General makes the final funding decisions.

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The 2007-2008 King Program grant applications included six Team Science Program grants, 12 Bridge grants, and 37 New Investigator Research grants. Team Science Program grants support a broadly based, often multi-disciplinary research project with a well-defined major objective or theme addressing the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, or cure of tobacco-related disease. The purpose of this type of grant is to stimulate applications to, and make Florida institutions more competitive for high-level grants offered by the National Institutes of Health.

Bridge grants provide interim support for tobacco-related investigator-initiated research projects that have been highly rated by national panels of peer reviewers in recent federal competitions but were not funded due to budgetary constraints. The purpose of this type of grant is to allow the scientist to continue a research project while a new federal application is pending.

The New Investigator Research grants foster development of new Florida-based scientists and are conducted under the mentorship of a senior scientist. The purpose of this type of grant is to launch independent research careers and make the scientists competitive for national research funding. For the King Program, proposals must address an important biomedical or behavioral problem relevant to tobacco use or tobacco-related disease.

The 2007-2008 Bankhead-Coley Program grant applications included three Specialized Program of Research Excellence Planning grants, 20 Bridge grants, 18 New Investigator Research grants, and two Special Emphasis Project grants (Identification of Barriers to Participation of Florida Cancer Patients in Clinical Trials). The Specialized Program grants assemble and prepare strong interdisciplinary teams of Florida researchers so that they can compete successfully for National Cancer Institute Specialized Center grants. The federal Specialized Center grants are very large and their purpose is to improve the screening, detection, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of organ-specific human cancers (or highly related groups of human cancers).

The Bridge grants provide interim support for promising cancer-related investigator-initiated research projects that have been highly rated by national panels of peer reviewers in recent federal competitions but were not funded due to budgetary constraints. Like the King Program, the purpose of a bridge grant is to allow the scientist to continue a research project while a new federal application is pending.

The New Investigator Research grants are similar to the King grants but the applications must be cancer related. Although all cancer-related applications were welcomed, the program had a special interest in receiving biomedical or behavioral research proposals addressing efforts to improve research or treatment through greater participation in clinical trial networks, and to reduce the impact of cancer on disparate groups.

The Special Interest Emphasis Project grant specifically requested proposals for a comprehensive study intended to yield insights into the very low patient participation rate in cancer clinical trials in Florida and to recommend actionable countermeasures. Applicants

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were required to build upon the existing body of knowledge regarding patient participation in clinical trials and not duplicate previous studies. Furthermore, applicants were required to propose methods for capturing and integrating patient and provider perspectives, including those of disparate and underserved groups (such as ethnic and rural populations and women). The purpose of the Special Interest Emphasis Project is to develop a set of recommendations for concrete interventions to overcome barriers to cancer clinical trial participation in Florida.

### 2007-2008 James and Esther King Program Grantees

#### Bridge Grants

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>	<b>Award Term</b>
Eric Bennett, Ph.D.	University of South Florida	Department of Molecular Pharmacology & Physiology	\$200,000	One Year
Rosanna Forteza, M.D.	University of Miami	Department of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine	\$200,000	One Year
Abigail Hackam, Ph.D.	University of Miami	Department of Ophthalmology	\$200,000	One Year
Bingren Hu, M.D., Ph.D.	University of Miami	Department of Neurology	\$200,000	One Year
Irene Litosch, Ph.D.	University of Miami	Department of Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology	\$200,000	One Year
Alison Willing, Ph.D.	University of South Florida	Center for Aging & Brain Repair, Neurosurgery	\$200,000	One Year
Jang-Yen Wu, Ph.D.	Florida Atlantic University	College of Biomedical Science	\$184,280	One Year

#### New Investigator Research Grants

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>	<b>Award Term</b>
Carlos Bolanos, Ph.D.	Florida State University	Department of Psychology and Program in Neuroscience	\$357,767	Three Years
S. Marina Casalino-Matsuda, Ph.D.	University of Miami	Department of Medicine	\$375,000	Three Years
Sic Chan, Ph.D.	University of Central Florida	Biomolecular Science Center	\$375,000	Three Years
Valentina Echeverria Moran, Ph.D.	Bay Pines Veterans Administration	Department of Research and Development	\$375,000	Three Years
Mary Gerend, Ph.D.	Florida State University	Department of Medical Humanities and Social Sciences	\$375,000	Three Years

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Paul Kenny, Ph.D.	Scripps Research Institute	Department of Biochemistry	\$375,000	Three Years
Joy Lincoln, Ph.D.	University of Miami	Department of Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology	\$375,000	Three Years
Roman Manetsch, Ph.D.	University of South Florida	Department of Chemistry	\$375,000	Three Years
Derek Radisky, Ph.D.	Mayo Clinic	Department of Cancer Biology	\$375,000	Three Years
Ami Raval, Ph.D.	University of Miami	Department of Neurology	\$375,000	Three Years
Ming Su, Ph.D.	University of Central Florida	NanoScience Technology Center	\$375,000	Three Years
Norito Takenaka, Ph.D.	University of Miami	Department of Chemistry	\$328,841	Three Years
R. Grace Zhai, Ph.D.	University of Miami	Department of Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology	\$375,000	Three Years
Tatyana Zhukov, Ph.D.	H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute	Department of Risk Assessment, Detection & Intervention	\$355,002	Three Years

### Team Science Project Grants

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>	<b>Award Term</b>
Shyam Mohapatra, Ph.D.	University of South Florida	Department of Internal Medicine	\$999,132	Two Years
Keith Webster, Ph.D.	University of Miami	Vascular Biology Institute	\$1,000,000	Two Years

### 2007-2008 Bankhead-Coley Program Grantees

#### Bridge Grants

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>	<b>Award Term</b>
Jin Cheng, Ph.D., M.D.	H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute	Department of Molecular Oncology	\$200,000	One Year
John Copland, Ph.D.	Mayo Clinic	Department of Cancer Biology	\$200,000	One Year
David Gilbert, Ph.D.	Florida State University	Department of Biological Science	\$200,000	One Year
Alexander Ishov, Ph.D.	University of Florida	Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology	\$200,000	One Year

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William Kerr, Ph.D.	H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute	Department of Immunology Program	\$200,000	One Year
Brian Law, Ph.D.	University of Florida	Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics	\$108,000	One Year
Steven Lipshultz, M.D.	University of Miami	Department of Pediatrics	\$200,000	One Year
Weihong Tan, Ph.D.	University of Florida	Shands Cancer Center and Department of Chemistry	\$200,000	One Year
Charles Widmer, D.D.S., M.S.	University of Florida	Department of Orthodontics	\$162,000	One Year

### New Investigator Research Grants

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>	<b>Award Term</b>
Maen Abdelrahim, Ph.D.	M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Orlando	Cancer Research Institute	\$209,520	Three Years
Akash Gunjan, Ph.D.	Florida State University	Department of Biomedical Sciences	\$375,000	Three Years
Suming Huang, Ph.D.	University of Florida	Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	\$375,000	Three Years
Sergei Kusmartsev, Ph.D.	University of Florida	Department of Urology	\$375,000	Three Years
Mia Liza Lustria, Ph.D.	Florida State University	College of Information	\$348,510	Three Years
Yi Qiu, Ph.D.	University of Florida	Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology	\$375,000	Three Years
Evette Radisky, Ph.D.	Mayo Clinic	Department of Cancer Basic Science	\$375,000	Three Years
Peter Storz, Ph.D.	Mayo Clinic	Department of Tumor Biology	\$375,000	Three Years
Kirsten Weigel-Van Aken, M.D.	University of Florida	Department of Pediatrics	\$375,000	Three Years

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### Special Emphasis Project Grants

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>	<b>Award Term</b>
Margaret M. Byrne, Ph.D.	University of Miami	Department of Epidemiology and Public Health	\$395,542	Two Years
Karen Moffitt, Ph.D.	University of South Florida	College of Education	\$500,000	Two Years

### Specialized Program of Research Excellence Planning Grants

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>	<b>Award Term</b>
William Harrington, Jr., M.D.	University of Miami	Department of Medicine	\$989,999	Three Years
Vernon Sondak, M.D.	H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute	Department of Interdisciplinary Oncology	\$990,000	Three Years

For more information go to [www.floridabiomed.com](http://www.floridabiomed.com) or contact the Lytmos Group at [programsupport@floridabiomed.com](mailto:programsupport@floridabiomed.com) or the Florida Biomedical Research Programs at [fbrp@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:fbrp@doh.state.fl.us).