With the semester winding down and the winter holidays all but here, the last thing on your mind is research. While “visions of sugar plums” arise in your mind’s eye, I’ve already opened my Christmas present from CSR (NIH’s Center for Scientific Review) and done a quick “conflict of interest” review of the long list of grant proposals assigned to my upcoming study section. You’d think that with the tightness of funding, the applications would have slowed down. They haven’t. My panel’s Exec. Sec. will have my selection of 12-15 grant applications, a mixture of R01, R21, R03, and R15 applications, posted on my commons IAR (Internet Assisted Review) page by Christmas Eve. Her desk will be cleared, while my work for our panel meeting, six weeks away, is just beginning.

What actually happens to your NIH Institute proposals once they arrive at Grants.gov? First, they are assigned to a study section like mine. There are dozens of these panels — More about how that is done another time. My panel, PDRP (Psychosocial Development, Risk, and Prevention), reviews a wide range of proposals in mental health, child development, gender differences, high-risk populations, prevention, and intervention; everything from observational work to randomized clinical trials of behavioral interventions. The panel has a wide range of expertise in behavior, its assessment, and biosocial factors. It’s the best place for life span and longitudinal work from prenatal to intergenerational studies. It’s not the only study section for such work, but it’s got some great researchers on it, both experienced and early career. The reviewers are tough, but fair.

Next, the Exec. Sec. assigns a triad of reviewers to each proposal, based on the panelist areas of expertise. Often, you review with the same panelist, but not every proposal, and not every time. There’s a real mix and in some cases, there are “temporary” or guest reviewers that sit in for just that panel meeting to provide needed coverage of an area. Each reviewer reads the grant and scores it according to NIH criteria and posts their reviews and scores independently. We see each other's reviews only 24 hours before the 2-day panel meeting. Resubmitted grants are usually sent to at least one or two, but not necessarily three of the same reviewers. Previous “Summary Statements,” the earlier proposal, and the actual RFA (if it was a specific grant announcement) are provided. The agreement between reviewers is often quite good, but sometimes not. A summary score is generated for each proposal and all proposals are ranked in highest to lowest score by funding mechanism. That’s so R01s are pitted only against other R01s etc. Within R01s, early career investigators are ranked separately from more experienced investigators, so junior people are judged in their own pool. Then the fun begins at the actual panel meeting……Stay tuned….

There were 2 NIH submissions for the Oct./Nov. deadline for the NIH:

Dr. Dan Gundersen submitted a proposal entitled Improving the Measurement of Tobacco Use Behaviors in Key Surveillance Systems. The purpose of this research project is to better understand the limitations and quality of measurements of non-cigarette tobacco use behaviors in key tobacco control surveillance systems, and to provide recommendations about corrective actions.

Dr. Margaret Sullivan submitted a proposal entitled Infant Goal Blockage Response as Related to EEG Asymmetry and Coherence. This study examines early individual differences in the tendency to approach or withdraw from potentially controllable (response contingent) events that are related to differences in specific aspects of brain electrophysiological responses (EEG) by 10 months of age. Measures of heart data, stress response, behavior, and facial expressions will be related to EEG differences.
**JOURNAL ARTICLE(S) OF THE MONTH**

♦ **Ready, Willing, and Able: Preparing Nurses to Respond to Disasters**
Excerpted from Medscape: Disasters continue to occur with regularity. Many nurses would love to have the opportunity to pack a bag and fly to the middle of the action to help out, but don't know where to start. We have updated this article with the latest information from the primary organizers of disaster relief medical assistance. All your questions -- from licensure to malpractice insurance -- are answered here. Nurses who just want to be better prepared if disaster comes to their own doorsteps will also find the information and resources they need.

♦ **Child & Adolescent Affective and Behavioral Distress and Elevated Adult Body Mass Index**
Excerpted from Medline: The present study utilizes data from a 20 year longitudinal study to examine the relations between symptoms of conduct disorder, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, and depression during late childhood and mid-adolescence and BMI during emerging adulthood.

**TARGETED GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Thanks to all who responded with your research areas of interest. We are continuing to generate a specific list of preferred topics. We have added some new topics, but we still need your help! We look forward to your continued ideas!

- = NEW RESEARCH TOPIC

⇒ Bioethics
⇒ Forensic Nursing
⇒ Intimate & Partner Violence
⇒ New Medical Technologies
⇒ Obesity & Nutrition
⇒ Women's Health
⇒ Maternal Depression/Depression
⇒ Addiction
⇒ Environmental Toxins
⇒ Immunology
⇒ Health Literacy
⇒ Aging
⇒ Minority/Cultural Status, Stress & Health
⇒ Pediatric Developmental Screening
⇒ Disable Populations/Pediatric Rehab.
⇒ Immunization
⇒ Cancer
⇒ HIV/AIDS
⇒ LGBT Gender Based Health
⇒ Obstetric/Gyn./Menopause
⇒ Quality of Care
⇒ Patient Safety
⇒ Workforce Health
⇒ Familial & Extra Familial Relationships
**REGS TO RESEARCH**

**PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

Dr. Mary Jo Bugel’s article entitled *Experiences of school-age siblings of children with a traumatic injury: Changes, constants, and needs* was recently accepted for publication in *Pediatric Nursing* in press.

Dr. Margaret Sullivan’s article entitled *Relations of Early Goal-Blockage Response and Gender to Subsequent Tantrum Behavior* has been published in *Infancy*, 17 (2), 159-178.

**FEDERAL NEWS & NOTES**

⇒ **AHRQ Conference Grant Program (R13)**

⇒ **HHS/National Institute of Health: Basic social and behavioral research on culture, health, and wellbeing (R24).**

⇒ **The National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect is accepting applications for its 2013 Summer Research Institute. Applicants are to submit, via e-mail attachment, their CV along with the official Application (MS Word Format) which is available for download at this link:**
http://www.ndacan.cornell.edu/ndacan/Summer_Institute/SRI2013.html
NIH CHANGES RULES FOR K AWARDS

K awards are “mentored career development” grants for new investigators who need further research mentoring to initiate their research program as independent and make them competitive for R01 funding. They are meant for new faculty. The rules can be found by downloading the link below:

NIH OPERATING UNDER A CONTINUING RESOLUTION THROUGH MARCH 27, 2013

The new fiscal year for government spending (FY2013) began on October 1, 2012. In order to continue operations in the absence of a FY2013 budget appropriation, President Obama signed a continuing resolution on September 28, 2012. This means anyone receiving a potentially fundable score will not know for certain about fund disbursement until the federal budget is passed.

GENERAL INTEREST

Faculty proposals for submission to New Jersey Health Care Foundation are submitted in January and March, 2013. To be considered, proposals must receive their internal review prior to submission for consideration by the Deans Salmond and Sullivan. If you have not been able to complete this process in time for the January deadline, please consider the March 15, 2013 deadline and see Dean Sullivan about preparing your research plan.

The journal Infants & Youth Children (IYC), an interdisciplinary journal on pediatric care, is published in conjunction with the International Society Intervention (ISEI). As part of this relationship, the publisher of IYC makes available an article from each issue of IYC on the ISEI website (www.isei.washington.edu) for members. The current issue of IYC focuses on international perspectives on early intervention as seen through the lens of the Development Systems Approach. An overview of this special issue is provided in the From the Editor piece. Please see the ISEI website for the IYC link:
http://journals.lww.com/iycjournal/pages/collectiondetails.aspx?TopicalCollectionId=1

In addition, an article summarizing the relevance of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to early intervention can also be found on the website. This article provides a follow-up to the recent publication of the discussion paper by WHO and UNICEF addressing early childhood development and disability.
SAVE THE DATE! Proposal Development Seminar — SAVE THE DATE!

Write Winning Grants Proposals
Presented by Grant Writers Seminars & Workshops, LLC
http://grantcentral.com/winninggrants.html

Friday, January 25, 2013
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Rosemary Gellene Conference Room, B515
New Jersey Medical School
185 South Orange Avenue, Newark, NJ

This widely acclaimed seminar comprehensively addresses both practical and conceptual aspects that are important to the proposal-writing process. This program focuses especially on writing proposals to the NIH, incorporating recent changes in the NIH grant format. The seminar teaches how to write for reviewers and provides tips and strategies that are of proven value in presenting an applicant’s case to reviewers. Participants learn to write with a linear progression of logic to effectively lead reviewers through their applications. Emphasis is placed on strategies designed to merit a fundable priority score, and the skills acquired are applicable to proposals to many different sponsors.

The fee for the seminar is $50, which includes the full day seminar, customized handouts, lunch and refreshments, and the Grant Application Writer’s Workbook (NIH version) that all participants can take home (a $75 value!).

REGISTRATION WILL BE OPENING SOON at http://www.umdnj.edu/resr/web/

For more information, contact Diane Ambrose at (973) 972-3369 or ambrosdm@umdnj.edu.

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