ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINES

TSC Conference in Rome (May 2007): Final Call for Abstracts
The organization of the International Research Symposium on TSC to be held in Rome next May is proceeding smoothly. We have received more than 30 abstracts, and the preliminary scientific program with the list of speakers are available for view on the website http://www.ptsroma.it/tsc2007 However, we are still looking for your contribution, and last minute presentations can be sent over until the March 31, 2007. Details concerning registration and hotel accommodation are available on the website.

Hope to see you in Rome in May-
Prof. Paolo Curatolo
Past President, International Child Neurology Association
Pediatric Neurology & Psychiatry Unit
Neuroscience Department
Tor Vergata University of Rome
email: curatolo@uniroma2.it

September 23-25, 2007
Tuberous Sclerosis Complex: From Genes to New Therapeutics
International TSC Conference organized by the Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance
Loews Annapolis Hotel, Annapolis, MD
Deadline for Submission of Abstracts: July 1, 2007
Information, Abstract Submission Forms, Registration Forms at: www.tsalliance.org
**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Understanding and Treating Tuberous Sclerosis Complex (R01) (PAS-07-190)**
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke  
National Cancer Institute  
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases  
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases  
National Institute of Mental Health  
Application Receipt/Submission Date(s): Multiple dates, see announcement.  

**McKnight Neuroscience of Brain Disorders Award**
This award provides $100,000 a year for three years to a scientist working to translate basic research into treatments, preventions, and cures for human diseases. Letters of intent are due April 2, 2007. For more information, please visit [www.mcknight.org/neuroscience](http://www.mcknight.org/neuroscience)

**NIH Director’s New Innovator Awards**
The Office of the Director, NIH, plans to issue a Request for Applications (RFA) in the spring of 2007, with review and funding expected by September 30, 2007, for NIH Director’s New Innovator Awards. This new program extends the concept of the NIH Director’s Pioneer Awards ([http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/pioneer/](http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/pioneer/)) to support new investigators of exceptional creativity who propose innovative approaches that have the potential to produce an unusually high impact on significant problems in biomedical and behavioral research. The NIH Director’s New Innovator Awards will provide grant support to highly innovative new investigators who have not yet obtained a traditional R01 grant. Applicants must hold an independent research position at a domestic institution, and be within 10 years of their terminal degree (1997 or later). The proposed research may be in any scientific area relevant to the mission of NIH (biological, behavioral, clinical, social, physical, chemical, computational, engineering and mathematical sciences). The project description in the grant application will be briefer than that required for R01s and will emphasize the significance of the project, what makes the approaches exceptionally innovative, how the applicant will address risks and challenges, and the applicant’s qualifications for this award. The review criteria will emphasize the importance and potential impact of the scientific problem, the novelty and innovativeness of the approach, and evidence of the applicant’s potential for creative and innovative research. Presentation of preliminary data relevant to the project will be allowed, but is not required. Letters of reference are not required and will not be accepted. Awards will be made for up to $300K direct costs per year plus applicable Facilities and Administrative costs, for five years. It is anticipated that approximately 14-16 awards will be made.

**Announcing the NIH Director’s Bridge Awards (NOT-OD-07-056)**
National Institutes of Health  

**Notice of Intent to Issue a PA on Investigator-Initiated Multi-Site Clinical Trials (NOT-HL-07-108)**
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute  

**Assay Development for High Throughput Molecular Screening (R21) (RFA-RM-07-008)**
NIH Roadmap Initiatives  
Application Receipt Date(s): May 16, 2007  
Implementation of NIH Fiscal Policy for Non-Competing Grant Awards - “FY 2007” (NOT-OD-07-049)
National Institutes of Health

Notice of Legislative Mandates in Effect for FY 2007 (NOT-OD-07-050)
National Institutes of Health

Salary Limitation on Grants, Cooperative Agreements, and Contracts (NOT-OD-07-051)
National Institutes of Health

Request for Information (RFI): To Solicit Input for the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) Strategic Plan for 2008-2012 (NOT-GM-07-102)
National Institute of General Medical Sciences

NHLBI Creates A New Clinical Research Guide (NOT-HL-07-002)
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

Notice of a FAQ Website for RFA-HL-07-009, NHLBI Ancillary Studies in Clinical Trials (R01) (NOT-HL-07-007)
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

Special Emphasis Notice: AHRQ Announces Interest in Research Implementation Small Research (R03) Grants (NOT-HS-07-002)
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Request for Information (RFI): Tools and Resources for Research on Neuronal Plasticity (Neuroscience Blueprint) (NOT-MH-07-106)
National Institutes of Health
National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine
National Center for Research Resources
National Eye Institute
National Institute on Aging
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Engineering
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
National Institute on Drug Abuse
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
National Institute of General Medical Sciences
National Institute of Justice
National Institute of Nursing Research
Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research
Developmental Psychopharmacology (R21) (PA-07-222)
National Institute of Mental Health
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
National Institute on Drug Abuse
Application Receipt/Submission Date(s): Multiple dates, see announcement.

Pilot and Feasibility Studies on Oral Health Promotion Research across the Life Span (R21) (PA-07-223)
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research
Application Receipt/Submission Date(s): Multiple dates, see announcement.

Multidisciplinary Translational Research in Critical Care (R01) (PA-07-233)
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
National Institute on Aging
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
National Institute of General Medical Sciences
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
Application Receipt/Submission Date(s): Multiple dates, see announcement.

Planning Grant for Oral Health Promotion across the Life Span (R21) (PAR-07-224)
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research
Application Receipt/Submission Date(s): Multiple dates, see announcement.

Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) [P20] (PAR-07-229)
National Center for Research Resources
Application Receipt/Submission Date(s): October 24, 2007; October 29, 2008; October 28, 2009

CDC Grants for Public Health Research Dissertation (R36) (PAR-07-231)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Office of Public Health Research
Application Receipt/Submission Date(s): April 10, August 10, annually.

Molecular Probes for Microscopy of Cells (R01) (PAR-07-234)
National Institute of General Medical Sciences

Continued Development and Maintenance of Software (R01) (PAR-07-235)
National Center for Research Resources
National Cancer Institute
National Human Genome Research Institute
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Engineering
National Institute on Drug Abuse
National Institute of General Medical Sciences
National Institute of Mental Health
NEW TSC PUBLICATIONS


Hayashi AA, Proud CG (2007) The rapid activation of protein synthesis by growth hormone requires signaling through the mammalian target of rapamycin, mTOR. Am J Physiol Endocrinol Metab 2007 Feb 6 [Epub ahead of print]


RESEARCH RESOURCES

TSCRFP Funded TSC Research Resources
The Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Research Program (TSCRFP) in the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) in the Department of Defense (DoD) has posted a listing of the research resources that were developed utilizing funding from this program. For more information see: http://cdmrp.army.mil/tscrp/default.htm

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

March 26-27, 2007
Twelfth Meeting of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health, and Society
Marriott Inn and Conference Center University of Maryland-College Park 3501
University Boulevard East, Adelphi, MD 20783

The meeting is open to the public, and pre-registration is not required. Seating will be available on a first-come-first-serve basis. For directions, please visit http://conferencecenters.com/WASUM

For more information about the Committee and to obtain up-to-date information about the meeting, please visit http://www4.od.nih.gov/oba/sacghs.htm

March 29-30, 2007
Curing Epilepsy 2007: Translating Discoveries into Therapies
Natcher Conference Center, Bethesda, MD
Follow-up to 2000 Conference “Curing Epilepsy: Focus on the Future”
http://curingepilepsy.ninds.nih.gov/

April 19-22, 2007
2007 LAM International Research Conference
The LAM Foundation
Cincinnati, OH
http://www.thelamfoundation.org

May 1, 2007
Managing Incidental Findings in Human Subjects Research: From Imaging to Genomics
Cowles Auditorium, Hubert H. Humphrey Center, University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN
Online registration, full agenda, discount airfare and hotel rates, and other information are available at http://www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu/conferences/incidentalfindings.php or register by: Phone 612-625-0055, Fax 612-624-9143, E-mail lawvalue@umn.edu.

May 9-12, 2007
68th Annual Meeting of the Society for Investigative Dermatology
The Century Plaza Hotel, Los Angeles, CA
For more information: www.sidnet.org

May 24-26, 2007
Tuberous Sclerosis Complex International Research Conference 2007 in Rome (Italy)
Venue: Grand Hotel Palazzo Carpegna, Rome, Italy
Information: http://www.ptsroma.it/tsc2007/
September 23-25, 2007
Tuberous Sclerosis Complex: From Genes to New Therapeutics
International TSC Research Symposium organized by the Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance
Loews Annapolis Hotel, Annapolis, MD
More information coming soon on the TS Alliance website at www.tsalliance.org

November 3–4, 2007
Advances in Tuberous Sclerosis: From Pathway to Therapy
Sydney Children’s Hospital, Randwick, NSW, Australia
For more information, contact Dr. David Mowat at d.mowat@unsw.edu.au or Dr John Lawson at John.Lawson@unsw.edu.au

November 30 – December 4, 2007
American Epilepsy Society
Philadelphia Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA
Deadline for Submission of Abstracts: June 4, 2007
For more information and to submit an abstract, go to: www.AESNET.org

September 11-14, 2008
International TSC Conference
Organized by the Tuberous Sclerosis Association, U.K.
Brighton, U.K.
More information coming soon!

NEWS

AES Launches Regional Symposia March 24, 2007 in Los Angeles
The American Epilepsy Society has received an educational grant from Pfizer, Inc. to host a five-city series of symposia entitled: A Comprehensive Review of Epilepsy Management: A Case-Based CME Symposium. The symposia are chaired by AES Education Council Chair L. James Willmore, M.D.

The program is geared toward the general neurologist, pediatrician, residents, nurses and pharmacists. These regional meetings will take place throughout the year. The symposia will feature an interdisciplinary panel, who will review the epidemiology, diagnosis and evaluation of epilepsy. Workshops geared specifically to the adult physician, the pediatric physician and professional in epilepsy will follow and will be geared toward guidelines and emerging trends in the treatment of epilepsy.

These workshops will provide a venue for participants to interact with experts in discussion of current issues and future directions in epilepsy management. The goal of the symposium is to enhance participants’ knowledge base of epilepsy and its management, as well as optimize their skills in epilepsy care by demonstrating practical application of diagnostic tools and therapeutic options.

The first symposia in Los Angeles will also feature David M. Labiner, M.D.; Raman Sankar, M.D., Ph.D.; and Susan L. Yudovin, RN, MN, CPNP.

Future programs will be held in Houston (May 19), Atlanta, St. Louis, and Philadelphia (November 30).

For program and registration information, visit the AES Web site at www.aesnet.org or click here to download brochure in .pdf format.
**HHMI and Elsevier Announce Public Access Agreement**
The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) and Elsevier have established an agreement to make author manuscripts of articles published in Elsevier and Cell Press journals publicly available six months following final publication. It takes effect for articles published after September 1, 2007. For the full story, go to [http://www.hhmi.org/news/hhmielsevier20070308.html](http://www.hhmi.org/news/hhmielsevier20070308.html)

**Largest-Ever Search for Autism Genes Reveals New Clues**

**Half of Adults With Anxiety Disorders Had Psychiatric Diagnoses in Youth**

**Study Tracks Prevalence of Eating Disorders**

**Common Gene Version Optimizes Thinking - but With a Possible Downside**

**Autism Research Efforts Highlighted in Biological Psychiatry Special Issue**

**Brain's Reward Circuit Activity Ebbs and Flows with a Woman's Hormonal Cycle**

**Extreme Irritability: Is It Childhood Bipolar Disorder?**

**New Tests May Help Researchers Detect Genetic Basis For Autism**

**Clues to Making and Breaking Memories Included in List of Year's Top Science**

**Adult Stem Cells Decide the Fate of Their Daughters**
Adult stem cells call the shots when it comes to their daughters’ destinies. That’s the take-home lesson from a new study of adult stem cells in the intestines of fruit flies. Allan C. Spradling, Ph.D., HHMI investigator at Carnegie Institution of Washington, and collaborators found that intestinal stem cells make important decisions about their fate by communicating directly with their daughter cells, instructing them to become one of two possible cell types. The studies bring researchers a bit closer to understanding how adult stem cells decide to make the cell type that best meets the current needs of the organism. This research was published in the February 16, 2007, issue of Science. For the full story, go to: [http://www.hhmi.org//news/spradling20070215.html](http://www.hhmi.org//news/spradling20070215.html)

**Alternative Ways of Reading DNA Have Spurred Evolution**
Humans are substantially more complex than the tiny worm Caenorhabditis elegans, yet both organisms have about the same number of genes. Why is human DNA so much more versatile? In a new article published in the journal Genome Research, Howard Hughes Medical Institute researcher Philip Green, Ph.D. at the University of Washington and his collaborators conclude that roughly 40-50 percent of human and mouse genes have alternative promoters. Promoters tell specialized enzymes where to start reading the DNA message that is used to produce a protein. The data suggest that alternative promoters are critically important to the functioning of higher organisms. For the full story, go to: [http://www.hhmi.org/news/green20070215.html](http://www.hhmi.org/news/green20070215.html)
How Cells Connect Their Plumbing
Researchers have uncovered an important aspect of how cells create the junctions that allow them to communicate directly with one another. These gap junctions are protein channels through which cells exchange molecules and charged atoms among each other, helping to coordinate processes ranging from embryonic development to the heartbeat. A new understanding of how cells target the components of these channels to the appropriate location on the cell surface could reveal important insights into processes that have gone awry in heart failure and cancer. This research by Lily Y. Jan, Ph.D. and Yuh Nung Jan, Ph.D., HHMI investigators at the University of California, San Francisco was published in the February 08, 2007, issue of Cell. For the full story, go to: http://www.hhmi.org/news/jan20070208.html

Unscrambling the Gibbon Genome
The arboreal, branch-swinging antics of the gibbon are nothing compared to the acrobatics its genome has undergone during evolution. While the genomes of humans and other primates still resemble that of their common ancestor, the massive genomic scrambling of the gibbon genome has rendered it a complex puzzle. Solving that puzzle, scientists believe, could help reveal how evolution experiments with genomic rearrangement, as well as how chromosomes can become unstable in cancer and other genetic diseases. Now, Howard Hughes Medical Institute researcher Evan E. Eichler, Ph.D. from the University of Washington School of Medicine and his colleagues have mapped in the finest detail yet the many chromosomal breaks and rearrangements that have reshaped the white-cheeked gibbon's genome as it evolved. For the full story, go to: http://www.hhmi.org/news/eichler20070216.html

New Functional Atlas Gives the 411 on Gene Partners
Sometimes it helps to have a "cheat sheet" when you are working on a problem as difficult as deciphering the relationships among hundreds of thousands of genes. At least that's the idea behind a powerful new technique developed by Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) researchers to analyze how genes function together inside cells. This research was published in the February 21, 2007, issue of Nature by Jonathan S. Weissman, Ph.D., HHMI investigator at the University of California, San Francisco. For the full story, go to: http://www.hhmi.org/news/weissman20070221.html

Watching a Biological Jigsaw Puzzle Come Together
Scientists have recorded the action involved in assembling telomerase, an enzyme used by cells to protect their genes during the potentially dangerous process of DNA replication. Using a sophisticated technique for tracking structural changes in individual molecules in real time, they have revealed how three of the protein and RNA components of the enzyme come together, altering their shapes along the way to ensure that the next piece will fit. This research was published in the February 25, 2007, issue of Nature by Xiaowei Zhuang, Ph.D., HHMI investigator at Harvard University. For the full story, go to: http://www.hhmi.org/news/zhuang20070225.html

**TSC CLINICAL TRIALS AND STUDIES**

1. Sirolimus in Treating Patients with Angiomyolipoma of the Kidney

Official Title: Phase II Study of Sirolimus in Patients with Angiomyolipoma of the Kidney Secondary to Tuberous Sclerosis or Lymphangioleiomyomatosis

**Study Purpose:**
Rationale: Drugs used in chemotherapy, such as sirolimus, work in different ways to stop the growth of tumor cells, either by killing the cells or by stopping them from dividing.

Purpose: This phase II trial is studying how well sirolimus works in treating individuals with angiomyolipoma of the kidney.
Eligibility:
Ages Eligible for Study: 18 Years - 65 Years
Genders Eligible for Study: Both

Location and Contact Information:
Please refer to this study by ClinicalTrials.gov identifier NCT00126672

Connecticut
Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Hartford, Connecticut, 06106, United States; Recruiting
Francis J. DiMario, MD 860-545-9460

Massachusetts
Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, 02114, United States; Recruiting
Elizabeth Thiele, MD, PhD 617-726-6540

New York
New York University Medical Center, New York, New York, 10016, United States; Recruiting
Daniel K. Miles, MD 212-263-8318

Ohio
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45229-3039, United States; Recruiting
David Franz, MD 513-636-4222 david.franz@chmcc.org

Pennsylvania
University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19104-4283, United States; Recruiting
Peter Crino, MD, PhD 215-349-5312

Texas
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, Dallas, Texas, 75390, United States; Recruiting
Arthur I. Sagalowsky, MD 214-645-8797 arthur.sagalowsky@utsouthwestern.edu

Study chairs or principal investigators: Sandra Dabora, MD, PhD, Study Chair, Brigham and Women's Hospital

For more information about this clinical trial, visit:
http://www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials/DFCI-04298

2. Siblings Wanted for a Modifier Gene Research Study

The Herscot Center for Tuberous Sclerosis Complex and the Center for Human Genetic Research at
the Massachusetts General Hospital are trying to identify additional genes that play a role in
neurological problems in TSC.

We would like to enroll TSC siblings over 2 years of age that differ in their
expression of
autism or infantile spasms or uncontrollable seizures
Participants will have:
- clinical evaluation by a neurologist specialized in TSC (Dr. Elizabeth Thiele)
- blood drawn
- brain MRI
- EEG
- neuropsychological testing (only for siblings differing in autism)

The whole study will take about 2 days to complete. There is no direct cost to the participants.

Travel and lodging will be reimbursed for participants who live more than 2 hours away from Boston.

For more information contact Susana Camposano 617-726 0240 (M-F, 8-5), scamposano@partners.org

3. TSC and TSC/LAM Protocols at the National Institutes of Health
The Clinical Research Nurses can be reached toll-free at 1-877-NIH-LUNG, # 3 on the menu or locally through 301-496-3632.

4. Individuals with Seizures Sought
Scientists at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) seek people age 5 and older with seizures for participation in research studies. People with seizures that are not controlled by standard antiepileptic drugs are eligible. However, those with other medical conditions, particularly if on-going therapy is needed, may be excluded. The scientists will record seizures with video-EEG (electroencephalogram) monitoring, and will conduct non-invasive brain imaging tests such as positron emission tomography (PET) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans. The studies may last several months, with an inpatient stay of up to 2 weeks and 10-15 outpatient visits of about an hour each.

Before patients enter the study, they will be screened in the outpatient clinic. The screening will include a history, a neurological examination, an EEG, and an MRI scan, if needed. Even if patients decide not to enter the study after the initial screening, the investigators may be able to make suggestions for further seizure evaluation or treatment.

The studies will take place at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical Center in Bethesda, MD. All study-related expenses will be paid by the NIH. There is no cost for participation or for any tests associated with the research.

For further information, contact Dr. William Theodore, Chief, Clinical Epilepsy Section, NINDS, NIH, Building 10, Room 5N250, 10 Center Drive MSC 1408, Bethesda, MD 20892-1408; telephone: 301-496-1923. Please refer to study number 01-N-0139.

5. Everolimus (RAD001) Therapy of Giant Cell Astrocytoma in Patients with Tuberous Sclerosis Complex
The purpose of the study is to evaluate the safety and potential side effects of everolimus (an experimental drug) on a person with Tuberous Sclerosis Complex who also has been diagnosed with a brain tumor (astrocytoma). The hypothesis is that the drug will cause the tumor size to decrease, and may have beneficial activity separate from effects on tumors in patients.

Eligibility
Ages Eligible for Study: 3 Years and above,
Genders Eligible for Study: Both
Inclusion Criteria:

- Age three years and older
- If female and of child bearing potential, documentation of negative pregnancy test prior to enrollment and, where applicable, use of appropriate, non-estrogen containing birth control contraceptive regimen while on study that is to be continued 3 months after discontinuation of everolimus. Use of barrier methods alone will not constitute an acceptable contraceptive regimen.
- Clinically definite diagnosis of tuberous sclerosis (modified Gomez criteria or positive genetic test)
- Presence of giant cell astrocytoma as defined by imaging characteristics and serial increase in size of lesion on 2 or more MRI scans
- Adequate renal function (creatinine < 1.5 mg/dl)

Exclusion Criteria:

- Serious intercurrent medical illness or other uncontrolled medical disease which could compromise participation in the study
- Significant hematologic or hepatic abnormality
- Continuous requirement for supplemental oxygen
- Intercurrent infection at initiation of oxygen
- Recent surgery (within 2 months of initiation of everolimus)
- Pregnant or lactating women
- Use of an investigational drug within the last 30 days
- Must be adequately recovered from the acute toxicities of any prior therapy
- Clinical evidence of impending herniation or focal neurologic deficit related to the subject's astrocytoma

Location and Contact Information

Please refer to this study by ClinicalTrials.gov identifier NCT00411619
Jenny Leonard, R.N., CFNP
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH 45229
Phone: 513-636-4222
E-mail: tsclinic@cchmc.org

David N Franz, M.D., Principal Investigator
Darcy A Krueger, M.D., Ph.D., Sub-Investigator
Marguerite M Care, M.D., Sub-Investigator
Anna W Byars, Ph.D, Sub-Investigator
Kerry Crone, M.D., Sub-Investigator
Katherine Holland-Bouley, M.D., Ph.D., Sub-Investigator

For more information, see: http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct/show/NCT00411619?order=1

TSC INFORMATION

For information about TSC and the Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance, visit the TS Alliance Web site at: http://www.tsalliance.org or contact the TS Alliance at info@tsalliance.org or by telephone: 1-800-225-6872 or 301-562-9890.
This is the March 2007 edition of TSC Alert – an online research newsletter for individuals interested in Tuberous Sclerosis Complex (TSC) research and clinical care. This online newsletter contains information of interest to the TSC research and health care community. Please forward this newsletter to colleagues who are interested in TSC. To be added/deleted to/from the mailing list for TSC Alert and/or to submit information for the April 2007 TSC Alert contact: vwhittemore@tsalliance.org

Archived issues of the TSC Alert can be found at: http://www.tsalliance.org/pages.aspx?content=25