44 New Pilot Grants Test Innovative Ideas

Over the last six months, 44 new grants were awarded through the Pilot Research Program. These projects are aimed at quickly exploring new, untested ideas and generating preliminary data needed to apply for full grant support.

Therapy/Management of MS

Malachy Bishop, PhD "Adherence to disease modifying therapy in multiple sclerosis" University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, **$44,000**, 9/1/2007-8/31/2008

Kottil Rammohan, MD "Induction of B cell tolerance to interferon using Ig-interferon complexes" Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, **$44,000**, 5/1/2007-4/30/2008

Rehabilitation

Scott Davis, PhD "Baroreflex modulation of sympathetic nerve activity in MS patients" University of Texas Southwestern Med. School, Dallas, **$44,000**, 9/1/07-8/31/08

Slobodan Jaric, PhD "A novel device to test hand function in multiple sclerosis" University of Delaware, Newark, DE, **$44,000**, 7/1/2007-6/30/2008

Psychosocial Aspects of MS

David Shucard, PhD "Variability of the ERP as an index of cognitive neural efficiency in MS" Buffalo General Hospital, Buffalo, NY, **$44,000**, 5/1/2007-4/30/2008

Diagnostic Methods

Thomas Barry, PhD "Exploration of extra-neural MS tissue for mycoplasma DNA sequences" National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland, **$40,000**, 8/1/2007-7/31/2008

CNS Repair

Ernesto Bongarzone, PhD "Mobilization of neural precursor cells in the blood of MS patients" University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, **$44,000**, 6/1/2007-5/31/2008

Douglas Feinstein, PhD " Regulation of BMPs and noggin in astrocytes" University of Illinois, Chicago, IL, **$44,000**, 9/1/2007-8/31/2008

Marie Filbin, PhD "MAG and myelin inhibit Schwann cell migration" Hunter College, New York, NY, **$44,000**, 8/1/2007-7/31/2008

Martin Grumet, PhD "Functions of olfactory ensheathing cells and their precursors" Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ, **$44,000**, 4/1/2007-3/31/2008

Lori Isom, PhD "Expression of Na + channel B2 subunits in human MS" University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, **$44,000**, 7/1/2007-6/30/2008

Gary Matthews, PhD "Novel mechanisms of ion channel targeting in myelinated axons" State University of New York at Stony Brook, **$44,000**, 4/1/2007-3/31/2008

Ralph Puchalski, PhD "Construction of mouse spinal cord gene expression atlas" Allen Institute for Brain Science, Seattle, WA, **$44,000**, 6/1/2007-5/31/2008
Moses Rodriguez, MD "Effect of statins on central nervous system remyelination" Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, MN, **$44,000**, 5/1/2007-4/30/2008

Biology of Glia
Roumen Balabanov, MD "Generation of PLP/dnIRF-1 transgenic mouse" Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL, **$44,000**, 9/1/2007-8/31/2008
Manzoor Bhat, PhD, Med.ScD. "Disorganization of axonal domains in multiple sclerosis" University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, **$44,000**, 5/1/2007-4/30/2008
Jeffrey Dupree, PhD "Differential neurofascin 155 glycosylation in multiple sclerosis" Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, **$44,000**, 9/1/2007-8/31/2008
Hitoshi Komuro, PhD "Role of pituitary adenylate cyclase-activating polypeptides on oligodendrocyte migration" Cleveland Clinic Foundation, **$44,000**, 9/1/2007-8/31/08
Qing Lu, PhD "Genome-wide analysis of transcription factors for CNS myelinogenesis" UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, **$44,000**, 5/1/2007-4/30/2008
Sean Ryder, PhD "Regulation of alternative splicing in oligodendrocytes by QKI" University of Massachusetts, Worcester, MA, **$44,000**, 7/1/2007-6/30/2008
Sara Szuchet, PhD "Is RhoBTB2 a player in the events that stage CNS myelination" University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, **$44,000**, 9/1/2007-8/31/2008
Chengji Zhou, PhD "The role of Wnt signaling in oligodendrocyte lineage" University of California, Davis, Sacramento, CA, **$44,000**, 8/1/2007-7/31/2008

Epidemiology
Ilya Kister, MD "Prevalence and significance of migraines and other headaches in MS" New York University, New York, NY, **$44,000**, 9/30/2007-9/30/2008

Human Genetics
Brigitte Huber, PhD "HERV-K18 as risk factor in multiple sclerosis" Tufts University, Boston, MA, **$44,000**, 9/1/2007-8/31/2008

Measuring MS Disease Activity
Kailash Chadha, PhD "Proteomic analyses of interferon-inhibitory protein" Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo, NY, **$44,000**, 7/1/2007-6/30/2008
Joseph Herbert, MD "Validation of a new severity-based MS classification system using the Sylvia Lawry database" Hosp. for Joint Diseases, NY, **$44,000**, 9/1/07-8/31/08
Sharon Lynch, MD "Glutathione as a measure of oxidative stress in MRS in brains of MS patients" U. of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, **$44,000**, 8/1/2007-7/31/2008
Frederick Munschauer, MD "The role of advanced glycation end-products in multiple sclerosis" Buffalo General Hospital, Buffalo, NY, **$44,000**, 5/1/2007-4/30/2008

Horea Rus, MD, PhD "RGC-32 as a potential marker of disease activity in multiple sclerosis" University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD, **$44,000**, 9/1/2007-8/31/2008

Immunology

Bonnie Dittel, PhD "Regulation of autoreactive T cell effector function in CNS by the cannabinoid system" Blood Ctr of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, **$44,000**, 8/1/07-7/31/08
Zsuzsanna Fabry, PhD "Cerebral trauma and CNS autoimmunity" University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, **$44,000**, 8/1/2007-7/31/2008
Kouichi Ito, PhD "Generation of MBP-Tg mice to investigate the development of MBP-specific tregs" UMDNJ, Piscataway, NJ, **$44,000**, 7/1/07-6/30/08
David Kaplan, MD, PhD "High resolution immunophenotyping in the study of MS" Case Western University Hospital, Cleveland, OH, **$44,000**, 5/1/2007-4/30/2008
Hans Lassmann, MD "Feasibility of microarray studies in archival paraffin embedded MS tissue" Medical University of Vienna, Austria, **$40,000**, 8/1/2007-7/31/2008
Steven LeVine, PhD "The functional role of histamine receptors on lymphocytes from MS patients" University of Kansas, Kansas City, **$44,000**, 7/1/2007-6/30/2008
Minnie McMillan, PhD "Mass spectrometry study of a toleragenic peptide for treating MS" University of Southern California, Los Angeles, **$44,000**, 4/1/07-3/31/08
Thomas Petro, PhD "Effect of resveratrol on development of EAE" University of Nebraska Medical Center, Lincoln, NE, **$44,000**, 7/1/2007-6/30/2008
Christine Rohowsky-Kochan, PhD "Il-17 and SOCS expression in multiple sclerosis" UMDNJ, Newark, NJ, **$44,000**, 9/1/2007-8/31/2008
Philip Stork, MD "The role of the small G protein Rap1 in the EAE model of MS" Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, OR, **$44,000**, 5/1/2007-4/30/2008

Infectious Agents

Walter Atwood, PhD "Stem cell model of JCV-induced CNS disease" Brown University, Providence, RI, **$44,000**, 8/1/2007-7/31/2008
Jan Lunemann, MD "Epstein Barr virus infection and autoimmunity in multiple sclerosis" The Rockefeller University, New York, NY, **$44,000**, 9/1/2007-8/31/2008

Neuropathology

David Herrmann, MD " Is there a peripheral contribution to neuropathic pain in MS? A skin biopsy study" University of Rochester, NY, **$44,000**, 5/1/2007-4/30/2008
Aaron Johnson, PhD "Comprehensive assessment of antigen specific CD8 T cell mediated axonal damage" University of Cincinnati, **$44,000**, 5/1/2007-4/30/2008
Jacqueline Orian, PhD "Early grey matter changes in murine multiple sclerosis-like disease" La Trobe University, Australia , **$40,000**, 9/1/2007-8/31/2008