

National Advisory Council for Human Genome Research

18-19 May 2015

Concept Clearance for RFA

Data Analysis and Coordinating Center for NHGRI's Research Training and Career Development Programs

Purpose: The purpose of this Request for Applications (RFA) will be to solicit applications for a center that will collect and analyze data on NHGRI's research and career development trainees, including those participating in Training Grants, the Diversity Action Plan, and several individual fellowship and career awards programs; and will organize the annual program meeting.

Background: The NHGRI has a strong commitment to research training, career development and providing opportunities for underrepresented minorities (URMs) through its Diversity Action Plan (DAP). In FY14, NHGRI invested \$9.7M in research training, career development and its DAP programs, all designed to train the next generation of genomic scientists. It is important to collect reliable data to determine if these programs are succeeding at achieving this goal. Such data can also be used to guide changes to programs as necessary. In 2009, NHGRI awarded a cooperative agreement grant to Washington University, St. Louis to develop a database based on REDCap¹ to track and analyze the participation of the DAP students; during the course of the grant, information about the trainees appointed to institutional grants (T32s) was later included. Information from the DACC has been brought to Council's attention in the past, and this led to recommendations to modify the DAP program:

- 1) For the three large grant classes (CEGS, large-scale sequencing centers, databases), participation in the DAP program is now optional yet strongly encouraged, with a justification needed for non-participation;
- 2) The number of career levels NHGRI supports has been reduced from seven to three (undergraduates, post baccalaureates and graduates) as this is viewed as a better target to attract and retain URM students into a genomics-related career;
- 3) The goal of the NHGRI's training programs is now expanded beyond preparing students for a **genomics research** career, by helping to produce PhDs and MD/PhDs who can pursue a variety of **genomics-related scientific** careers.

The responsibilities of the DACC under this new RFA will increase to include not only the current DAP and genomic sciences T32 trainees, but to also include trainees under the new T32 programs in genomic medicine and ELSI, and trainees supported under individual F and K awards. In addition, the annual meeting which in the past included only DAP grantees and training coordinators and T32 program directors has been restructured in several ways, the most important being to make this a forum for trainees as well, and to include scientific presentations, networking opportunities, and career development sessions. The DACC will take on primary responsibility for organizing the expanded annual program meeting.

¹ Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) software (<http://www.project-redcap.org/>), was developed at Vanderbilt University. It is specifically geared to support data capture for research studies.

Proposed Scope and Objectives: This RFA will solicit cooperative agreement applications from institutions and organizations that will: (1) collect and analyze data about the career path of individuals who have participated in NHGRI's institutional training grants, individual fellowships, career development program and Diversity Action Program; (2) develop or improve and maintain a database that can receive data from the grantees and allow grantees to have access to their data only; (3) transfer existing data and systems to a new DACC if necessary; (4) provide assistance to grantees to develop informed consent documents for human subjects research; (5) work with grantees to enter accurate and up-to-date information into the database on a regular basis; (6) ensure the confidentiality of information contained within the database; (7) periodically develop reports to help the NHGRI and its National Advisory Council assess whether grantees' activities match anticipated program progress and outcomes; (8) provide scientific input to NHGRI on refining definitions of successful outcomes and adjust data collection parameters if necessary; (9) provide scientific input and logistical support for annual program meetings of individuals receiving support under NHGRI's research training and career development programs; and (10) develop a website to improve communications between DACC, grantees and NHGRI staff for the annual program meetings.

This is a renewal of [RFA-HG-08-006](#) and will be an open competition.

Relationship to Ongoing Activities: This is a continuation of activities performed under a previous cooperative agreement, but expands the data collected to include genomic medicine T32, F and K trainees, and adds the responsibility to help NHGRI staff organize the annual program meeting of trainees, fellows, career awardees and DAP participants.

Mechanism of Support: This will be a cooperative agreement under the U24 activity code.

Funds Anticipated: \$325,000 direct costs, for each of five years. One award will be made.