

MEMORANDUM

TO: School of Medicine Faculty
CC: SOM Business Administrators
FROM: Glen N. Gaulton, Ph.D.
DATE: 3/13/2009
RE: Update on Challenge Grants and Institutional Support

Challenge Grant Update

Senior staff from the NIH Institutes have informed us that Challenge Grant funding from the Director's Office will be supplemented by the Institutes if a sufficient number of meritorious applications are submitted. Thus, it is clear that the original \$200 million allocated to the Challenge Grant RFA is only a starting point for stimulus funding through this mechanism.

With this in mind, I urge you to scrutinize the Challenge Grant topics carefully and creatively: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/challenge_award/Omnibus.pdf

As many of these topics are directed to translational research, it is important for basic scientists to create bridges to clinical applications. If you need help with this, please contact me, your Department Chair, and/or relevant Center and Institute Directors. You may also call the Program Officer associated with a topic to discuss your idea (there are links to PO contact information within each topic description).

For general information, the NIH has released a new **Challenge Grant Frequently Asked Questions**:

http://grants.nih.gov/recovery/faqs_challenge.html

Institutional Support Update

The School of Medicine has mobilized the following services to support the submission of "stimulus" related proposals. These services can be accessed by calling our stimulus hotline at (215) 898 - 1042 at any time 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Services:

- Answers to any stimulus grant related questions can be found by calling: (215) 898 – 1042
e-mailing: stimulus@mail.med.upenn.edu
visiting: <http://www.med.upenn.edu/stimulus>
- General and personalized e-mail updates identifying and updating stimulus-specific funding opportunities
- Assistance with grant writing and editing
- Assistance with budget development

- Collection of proposal background materials and managing paperwork for submission
- Assistance with upload of grant materials into the PennERA system or other electronic routing needs

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