MEMORANDUM

To: School of Medicine Faculty

From: Glen N. Gaulton, Ph.D.

Date: February 24, 2009

Subject: Stimulus Funding Update

I am writing with an update on the NIH stimulus package, and to alert you to several items that you should immediately consider and be prepared to take action on.

For each category described below, please note that you should frame all requests for funding to NIH in the following context:

1) the capacity to achieve a significant scientific goal of strategic research importance to NIH within a two year period and
2) the immediate benefit to the economy (especially through maintaining or hiring personnel).

Here is a summary of the detail that is emerging. Of the $10.4 billion to be distributed through the NIH, $8.2 billion will be distributed through the following categories:

- Increased Pay Lines
- Supplements (Administrative and Competitive)
- Challenge Grants
- Equipment/Instrument Grants
- Construction/Renovation Grants
- Comparative Effectiveness Research

Below please find specific instructions/suggestions for each of these funding categories. Be aware that there will be great variability among institutes in how funds are allocated in each category.

- **Increased Pay Lines**: For those R01 applications already in the funding queue, two years of funding may be assigned. Institutes will prioritize those applications which:
  - are most closely aligned with the institute's scientific research priorities
  - are most likely to make significant scientific progress within two years

  All investigators who have a pending R01 application should contact their program officers immediately.
• **Administrative supplements**, related to originally proposed aims, may be awarded to existing grants that have at least one year remaining.

All investigators who have one or more years of funding remaining on current awards should contact their program officers immediately.

• **Competitive Supplements**, extending beyond original aims, are also likely to be offered.

All investigators who have one or more years of funding remaining on current awards should contact their program officers immediately. We will keep you apprised of clarifications on these funding announcements as they emerge.

• **Challenge Grants**: A two-year "challenge grant" will be introduced for cross-cutting, highly innovative projects, with $1 million going to each project ($500K/yr).

We will keep you apprised of clarifications on these funding announcements as they emerge.

• **Equipment/Instrument Grants**: NCRR will receive an additional $300M to supplement existing grant programs for Shared Instrumentation (SIG) and High-End Instrumentation (HEI).

The **Shared Instrumentation Grant (SIG)** program provides funds for groups of NIH-supported investigators to obtain or update commercially available equipment that costs more than $100,000. Instrumentation must be shared by at least three NIH-supported scientists and the maximum award is $500,000. Proposals are due March 23, 2009 and additional information is available at this website: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-028.html

The **High-End Instrumentation (HEI)** grant program supports the purchase of research equipment that costs more than $750,000. Instruments in this price range may include structural and functional imaging systems, macromolecular NMR spectrometers, high-resolution mass spectrometers, electron microscopes, and supercomputers. We anticipate that NIH will issue the HEI program announcement shortly.

• **Construction grants**: The School of Medicine is coordinating the submission of construction grants centrally, but we welcome any suggestions that you may have. Please forward suggestions to: vdrt@mail.med.upenn.edu

Please note that this stimulus funding will entail increased (even quarterly) reporting expectations, with a focus on fund expenditure in the local community and the creation/maintenance of jobs, posted on a public website.

We will keep you informed as the RFAs emerge. Please visit the SOM website for current announcements: http://www.med.upenn.edu/stimulus/ including the most recent
announcement (February 20, 2009) by Raynard S. Kington, M.D., Ph.D., Acting Director, National Institutes of Health: 
http://www.med.upenn.edu/stimulus/documents/FromtheActingNIHDirector.pdf

Lastly, a **Town Hall Meeting** is scheduled this Thursday, February 26, from 12 pm – 1 pm in Dunlop Auditorium in Stemmler Hall. At this time, I will discuss the federal stimulus plan and its implications for biomedical research. The focus of this discussion will be how SOM faculty can take maximal advantage of the opportunity for new research funding presented by federal stimulus funds administered through the National Institutes of Health.

As always, please let me know if you need any special institutional assistance with developing a response to any funding opportunity.