The ACR-Pezcoller International Award for Cancer Research is given biennially to a scientist who has made a major scientific discovery in the field of cancer. The Pezcoller Foundation was established in 1982 by Professor Alessio Pezcoller, a dedicated Italian surgeon who has made important contributions to medicine during his career and who, through his foresight, vision, and generous gift in support of the formation of the Foundation, stimulated others to make significant advances in cancer research. Over the past decade the Pezcoller Foundation has given a major award for outstanding contributions to cancer and cancer-related biomedical science.

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) was founded in 1907 by eleven physicians and scientists dedicated to the conquest of cancer and now has over 13,000 members in more than 60 countries who are experts in basic, clinical, and translational cancer research. The AACR fulfills its mission - the communication of important scientific results - in a variety of forums including publications, meetings, and training and educational programs. Because of their joint commitment to scientific excellence in cancer research, the Foundation and the AACR have now agreed to collaborate in the presentation of this award. This will strengthen their already well-established relationship and facilitate international collaborations and interactions.

The awardee will be selected by an international committee of AACR members appointed by the AACR President with the agreement of the Council of the Pezcoller Foundation. While normally the Award will be presented to a single investigator, in exceptional cases two individuals may be selected to share the award when their investigations have resulted in related prizeworthy work. The committee will make its selection solely on the basis of the awardee's scientific accomplishments without regard to race, gender, nationality, or religious or political views. The candidate will give an award lecture during the AACR Annual Meeting in New Orleans, USA (March 28-April 1, 1998) and will receive the award in a ceremony at the Foundation's headquarters in Trento, Italy, right after the annual meeting. The award consists of an honorarium of US$100,000 and a commemorative plaque.

The Foundation and the AACR are now soliciting nominations for the 1998 Award. Nominations can be made by any scientist who is now or has been affiliated with an institution engaged in cancer research. Institutions or organizations are not eligible for this award, and candidates may not nominate themselves.

There is no official application form for this award. The nomination package should consist of the following:

- the candidate's curriculum vitae
- an indication of the most important references in the candidate's curriculum vitae and list of publications
- a letter of recommendation in English (500 words, maximum) describing the candidate's major scientific achievements and explaining the impact of these achievements on progress in cancer research

Nominators are asked to maintain the confidentiality of the nomination process and to refrain from informing the candidate about the nomination.

The deadline for receipt of nominations by the AACR is September 30, 1997, for consideration for the 1998 Award. Questions about the nomination process should be directed to the AACR Office via FAX at (215) 440-9313 or Email at aacr@aacr.org. Nominators should submit the original plus 12 copies of their nominations to

Carlo M. Croce, M.D., Chairperson, Selection Committee
AACR-Pezcoller International Award for Cancer Research
c/o American Association for Cancer Research, Inc.
Public Ledger Building, Suite 826
150 S. Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3483
USA
AACR MINORITY SCHOLAR AWARDS IN CANCER RESEARCH
Supported by a generous grant from the Comprehensive Minority Biomedical Program
of the National Cancer Institute (NCI)

AACR Minority Scholar Awards in Cancer Research are offered to eligible minority
scientists wishing to attend the Annual Meeting and Special Conferences of the
American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). The awards are supported by a
generous grant from the Comprehensive Minority Biomedical Program of the National
Cancer Institute (NCI). Those eligible for these awards are graduate and medical
students, physicians-in-training, and postdoctoral students from minority groups
considered underrepresented in cancer research by the NCI, i.e., African Americans,
Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Native Pacific Islanders, and Alaskan
Americans. Please contact the AACR for an application form. The deadline for
receipt of applications for participation in the 89th AACR Annual Meeting, March
28 - April 1, in New Orleans, LA, is December 1, 1997. Applications for Special
Conference awards are due approximately two months before the date of the meeting.
For Special Conferences only, minority faculty at the level of Instructor, Lecturer, or
Assistant Professor are also eligible.

For Further Information:
Ms. Robin E. Felder, Membership Development Coordinator
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH
Public Ledger Building, Suite 826
150 South Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3483
Telephone: (215) 440-9300
FAX: (215) 440-9313
Email: felder@aacr.org
http://www.aacr.org
The National Cancer Institute is looking for two highly motivated, innovative biomedical scientists who will work in the Office of the Associate Director of the National Cancer Institute, Frederick Cancer Research and Development Center (NCI-FCRDC) developing new programs which will aid in attaining the goals of the NCI.

These two positions will work closely with the new Associate Director, NCI-FCRDC to examine the role that the Center plays as an integral component of the intramural and extramural functions of the NCI. It is planned that this NCI facility, composed of four commercial contractors plus approximately 350 intramural NCI scientists, will become an outstanding national center for AIDS and molecular biologic research and an advanced resource for biomedical technologic methodologies. Both positions will be involved with planning goals, allocation of resources, and networking with the Divisions of NCI and other Institutes within the National Institutes of Health.

The positions are located at the NCI-FCRDC in Frederick, Maryland, which is 30 minutes north of the main NIH campus. These positions in the U.S. Government are GS-14/15 and have the academic equivalent rank of an assistant/associate professor. United States Citizenship is required. A doctoral degree (Ph.D. or M.D.) is essential but not required, and background in molecular biology, cell biology, genetics, biochemistry, etc., is also a requirement.

If interested, please call (301) 402-2789 for a copy of the recruiting bulletins #CA-97-1937/CA-97-1938. You will also be required to respond to questions concerning your knowledge, skills, and abilities as they relate to the job as stated on the recruiting bulletins.

The NIH is an equal opportunity employer and encourages all qualified women and minorities to apply.

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AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS NOVEL IDEAS IN PROSTATE CANCER CELL BIOLOGY

The American Cancer Society has earmarked $750,000 for this grant cycle for Novel Ideas in Prostate Cancer Cell Biology. Application is open to investigators at any stage of their careers.

The first deadline for these applications is October 15, 1997. Subsequent deadlines will be April 1, 1998, and on those same dates through 1999. The grants awarded in response to this RFA will be for three years, up to $65,000 per year, including 25% indirect costs, and will not be renewable. Please contact the grants administration or development office at your institution for a special RFA application form, or download from http://www.cancer.org.

Questions concerning this RFA should be directed to Dr. Peter Ove (404) 329-7552.
GENOTYPING RESOURCE AVAILABLE

The National Institutes of Health announces to all interested investigators the availability of resources and facilities for high throughput genotyping at the Center for Inherited Disease Research (CIDR). CIDR is a joint effort by eight participating institutes at NIH: the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHHD), the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). The NHGRI serves as the lead agency and manager of the CIDR facility which is housed at the Bayview Campus of Johns Hopkins University.

CIDR has been established as a resource to provide, on a fee for service basis, high throughput genotyping services to research efforts that are attempting to identify genetic loci and allelic variants involved in multifactorial disease. Using samples provided by the principal investigators, a variety of different mapping approaches will be supported, including human disease affected pedigree member methods, transmission disequilibrium testing, and linkage analysis in pedigrees. Consultation on study design and statistical analysis are available as additional services to investigators. The data and analyses will remain the property of the principal investigator and, once the studies in CIDR are complete, will be returned to the principal investigators for further research.

Access to CIDR is open to all investigators on a competitive basis. This includes both extramural and NIH intramural investigators. A more complete description of CIDR is available at the NHGRI homepage on the World Wide Web at http://www.nhgri.nih.gov/DIR/CIDR. If you are interested in using the services and facilities of CIDR or if you would like additional information, contact Dr. Jerry Roberts, Scientific Review Administrator and Chief of Staff, CIDR Board of Governors, in the NHGRI Office of Scientific Review.

Jerry Roberts, Ph.D.
National Institutes of Health
National Human Genome Research Institute
38 Library Drive MSC 6050
Building 38A, Room 609
Bethesda, MD 20892-6050
(301) 402-0838
FAX (301) 480-2770
robertsj@odder.nhgri.nih.gov

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AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
HEALTH POLICY AND OUTCOMES RESEARCH—PROSTATE CANCER

The American Cancer Society is earmarking $1.5 million for this grant cycle for Health Policy and Outcomes Research in Prostate Cancer. Application is open to independent investigators at any stage of their careers.

The next deadline is October 15, 1997. Subsequent deadlines will be April 1, 1998, and on those same dates through 1999. The grants will be for three years, up to $250,000 per year, including 25% indirect costs and will be renewable as long as this remains a targeted priority area. Please contact the grants administration or development office at your institution for a special RFA application form, or download it from http://www.cancer.org.

Questions concerning this RFA should be directed to Dr. Ralph Vogler at (404) 329-7542 or Dr. Frank Baker at (404) 329-7795.

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4TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON CYTOSTATIC DRUG RESISTANCE

September 25–27, 1997
University Hospital Charité
Berlin, Germany

Topics:
- Cell cycle and drug resistance
- Genetic alterations and drug resistance
- MDR/MRP/LRP
- Non-MDR mechanisms of drug resistance
- Novel Compounds
- Clinical relevance of circumvention
- Gene therapy of drug resistance

Contact:
Prof. M. Dietel, Institute of Pathology
University Hospital Charité
Humboldt University Berlin
Schumannstr. 20-21, D-10117 Berlin
Phone: 0049-30-2802 3158
Fax: 0049-30-2802 3407
E-mail: dietel@rz.charite.hu-berlin.de
AACR SPECIAL CONFERENCE IN CANCER RESEARCH
DNA Methylation, Imprinting, and the Epigenetics of Cancer

December 12-16, 1997
El Conquistador Resort and Country Club
Las Croabas, Puerto Rico

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Peter A. Jones / Los Angeles, CA
Stephen B. Baylin / Baltimore, MD
Timothy Bestor / Columbia, NY

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Keynote Address
Arthur D. Riggs / Duarte, CA

Tumor Suppressor Genes
Stephen B. Baylin / Baltimore, MD
Curtis C. Harris / Bethesda, MD
Webster K. Cavenee / La Jolla, CA
Susan J. Clark / Sydney, Australia

Methylation Patterns
Timothy Bestor / Columbia, NY
Jean-Pierre Jost / Basel, Switzerland
Samuel H. Speck / St. Louis, MO
Carl W. Schmid / Davis, CA

Mouse Models
Rudolf Jaenisch / Cambridge, MA
Tyler Jacks / Cambridge, MA
William F. Dove / Madison, WI
Steven A. Belinsky / Albuquerque, NM

Imprinting
Denise P. Barlow / Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Andrew P. Feinberg / Baltimore, MD
Monica Peacocke / New York, NY
Anthony E. Reeve / Dunedin, New Zealand

Chromatin Structures
Adrian P. Bird / Edinburgh, Scotland
Alan P. Wolff / Bethesda, MD
Steven Henikoff / Seattle, WA

Mismatch Repair and Methylation
Donald Kohn / Los Angeles, CA
Christoph Lengauer / Baltimore, MD
Jean-Pierre J. Issa / Baltimore, MD

Methylation and Mutation
Joseph Jiricny / Zurich, Switzerland
Gerd P. Pfeifer / Duarte, CA
Peter A. Jones / Los Angeles, CA

Applicants are encouraged to submit abstracts for poster presentation.

Application deadline: September 30, 1997

Information and Application Forms
American Association for Cancer Research
Public Ledger Building, Suite 826
150 South Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3483
215-440-9300 215-440-9313 (FAX)
aacr@aacr.org (E-mail)
http://www.aacr.org
ADMINISTRATOR for scientific society in Philadelphia, PA, to advance programs and provide staff support to committees. Candidate must have minimum of seven years of work experience in administration (preferably nonprofit association management) or biomedical research (preferably cancer research). Position requires excellent written and oral communication skills, versatility, accuracy, and computer literacy. Familiarity with needs and practices of scientific community valuable. Graduate degree required. Send covering letter, resume, writing sample, and desired salary to:

P. O. Box 40138
Philadelphia, PA 19106

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) is a professional society of over 11,000 scientists and physicians involved in all aspects of basic, clinical, and translational cancer research. Members of the AACR enjoy

• subscriptions to Cancer Research, Cell Growth & Differentiation (CG&D), Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention, and Clinical Cancer Research at reduced member rates
• reduced registration rates at the AACR Annual Meeting, Special Conferences, and International Meetings
• Employment Register, Directory of Members, public education activities, and many other benefits

Special programs to provide enhanced career development opportunities for minority scientists include

• Session on Career Development at Annual Meeting
• Mentorship Program
• Travel Awards to Scientific Meetings

American Association for Cancer Research
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150 S. Independence Mall West
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Telephone: (215) 440-9300
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Program expansion within the Department of Otorhinolaryngology: Head and Neck Surgery has created an outstanding opportunity for a director of Molecular Biology for a newly established research laboratory. A major focus of the research program will be to identify molecular determinants predictive of tumor responsiveness to chemotherapy and radiation. Candidates must have documented experience with PCR, DNA, RNA analysis and gene cloning. Opportunities exist for a strong collaboration with basic science departments, graduate training and mentoring physician-scientists. Applications are invited at the Research Faculty Tract level. Academic rank will be commensurate with experience. Inquiries: (215) 662-4744.

Applications to:
Randal S. Weber, MD
Director, Center for Head and Neck Cancer
Department of Otorhinolaryngology:
Head and Neck Surgery
University of Pennsylvania Medical Center
5 Radvin 3400 Spruce Street
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This issue’s cover features Anthony E. Pegg, a leading figure in separate but related areas of polyamine biosynthesis, DNA repair, and chemical carcinogenesis. Working with H. G. Williams-Ashman at Johns Hopkins University on his long-standing interest in the role of polyamines in normal and neoplastic cell growth, Dr. Pegg was responsible for the detailed characterization of the biosynthetic pathways for the synthesis of polyamines in mammalian cells. This work included the discovery of the enzymes l-ornithine decarboxylase (ODC) (Biochem. J., 108: 533, 1968) and putrescine-activated S-adenosylmethionine decarboxylase (J. Biol. Chem., 244: 682, 1969) as the rate-limiting steps in mammalian polyamine formation. ODC has subsequently been shown to play a critical role in tumor cell growth and in the action of tumor promoters and has proved to be an important target for the design of therapeutic agents. The suicide substrate inhibitor for ODC, DFMO, is currently the drug of choice for treating some forms of African sleeping sickness and is under development as both an antitumor and a chemopreventive agent. Other compounds that interfere with polyamine synthesis/function, including polyamine analogues, have also been shown to be effective antitumor agents in animal models and are undergoing clinical trials as cancer chemotherapeutic agents.

Dr. Pegg’s early work in polyamine metabolism also characterized 5′-deoxy-5′-methylthioadenosine phosphorylase (Biochem. J., 115: 241, 1969). This enzyme, which allows salvage of the components of S-adenosylmethionine remaining after polyamine synthesis, has now been shown to be deleted in a significant number of tumors because of the proximity of its gene on chromosome 9 to the p15 and p16 tumor suppressor genes. Strategies for therapeutic exploitation of this absence are under development.

Later work on polyamine metabolism in Dr. Pegg’s laboratory has led to the cloning and expression of key enzymes in the polyamine pathway. Dr. Pegg has shown that polyamine content is very highly regulated in normal cells and that aberrant overproduction of polyamines can lead to either neoplastic growth or cell death. His laboratory has identified an acetylation/oxidation pathway that is induced in response to a rise in polyamines (FASEB J., 7: 653, 1993). This pathway is now established as playing a critical role in maintaining polyamine homeostasis.

Dr. Pegg has written a number of influential overviews of the polyamine field, including a Perspectives in Cancer Research article (Cancer Res., 48: 759, 1988) and a review with P. P. McCann (Am. J. Physiol., 243: C212, 1982). The latter article has been cited more than 1200 times and was selected as a Citation Classic by the Institute for Scientific Information.

In work on carcinogenesis and DNA repair, Dr. Pegg was one of the first to demonstrate that the initial event in the induction of tumors by alkylating agents is the frequent formation of O6-alkylguanine adducts in DNA and that an important determinant of sensitivity to such agents was the ability to repair this lesion prior to cell division. This work is of particular relevance to the hazards posed by environmental exposure to compounds such as nitrosamines. Dr. Pegg then showed that the DNA repair mechanism for O6-alkylguanine occurred via a saturable reaction (J. Natl. Cancer Inst., 58: 681, 1977). The basis for this saturation was established when the repair was characterized in a number of laboratories as being due to a unique alkyltransferase reaction in which the alkyl group is transferred to a repair protein. The alkyl acceptor site in this protein is not regenerated and the protein can, therefore, act only once. The important role that this alkyltransferase plays in protection from alkylating agents has now been firmly established and is reviewed in a Perspectives in Cancer Research article (Cancer Res., 50: 6119, 1990).

Dr. Pegg’s laboratory and many others have shown that the activity of the alkyltransferase protein described above is a critical determinant of the sensitivity of tumor cells to chemotherapeutic nitrosoareas. In 1990, in collaboration with R. C. Moschel and M. E. Dolan, Dr. Pegg discovered that O6-benzylguanine is a potent inactivator of the human alkyltransferase and could be used to render resistant cells sensitive to these drugs (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 87: 5368, 1990). This discovery has not only provided a very useful research tool, which has been used widely for evaluation of the contribution of alkyltransferase reaction in response to alkylating agents, but has also led to the rapid development of strategies to enhance the clinical activity of therapeutic methylating and chloroethylating agents (Prog. Nucleic Acid Res. Mol. Biol., 51: 167, 1995). Phase II trials of O6-benzylguanine for this purpose are just beginning.

Dr. Pegg’s research has been supported by peer-reviewed grants since 1975, and he has received MERIT awards from the National Cancer Institute for both his work on polyamine metabolism and on DNA repair. He has been a member of the American Association for Cancer Research since 1976. He has lectured widely throughout the world, and his publication record includes close to 400 papers. He serves on the Editorial Boards of a number of journals, including the Biochemical Journal, for which he acted as the Reviews Editor, and Cancer Research, for which he has been an Associate Editor since 1980. He has organized several international meetings, including serving as the elected Chairman of the Gordon Research Conferences on both polyamines and DNA repair.

Dr. Pegg received a Ph.D. degree in Biochemistry from the University of Cambridge in 1966 and was a postdoctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins University. From 1970–74, he was a faculty member at the University of London, where he was the Sir Michael Sobell Fellow of the Cancer Research Campaign. In 1975, he returned to the United States to join the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, becoming a Full Professor in 1977. He is currently the Evan Pugh Professor of Cellular and Molecular Physiology and the J. Lloyd Huck Professor of Cell and Molecular Biology at the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine.

Sidney Weinhouse