Developmental Awards Program Requests Research Grant Applications Since its inception, CFAR developmental awards in excess of $800,000 have been used to competitively fund a total of 58 New Investigator, Pilot Project, and Interdisciplinary grants, selected from more than 150 applications submitted to the program. The program has been extremely successful in stimulating and supporting the establishment of new and nationally competitive research programs in AIDS-related areas with more than $14 million in extramural grant funding obtained by successful grantees.

This year, the UAB CFAR will fund a limited number of research grants in basic sciences, behavioral/prevention sciences, and critical AIDS-related areas to assist faculty members in initiating new research programs in basic science and/or clinical AIDS-related areas. Any faculty member at the University of Alabama at Birmingham or Southern Research Institute is eligible to apply for these funds. Present funding in AIDS-related areas is not an exclusion criterion. Junior and established investigators who have not previously received an AIDS-related grant from a national extramural funding agency are encouraged to apply.

Deadline for application submission is June 1, 2000. For more information, please contact Rob McDonald in the CFAR Administrative Office at 934-2437 or rwm@uab.edu.

Birmingham Hosts the First Annual Community AIDS TRYathlon

The Community AIDS TRYathlon, a product of Dr. Michael Saag’s imagination and a fundraiser designed to benefit HIV/AIDS-oriented organizations in Birmingham, took place on April 9th in Linn Park. The first annual TRYathlon provided a unique opportunity to bring together seven organizations, integrating their efforts for three goals: raising money for each organization, increasing awareness within the Birmingham at-large community, and bringing disparate organizations together for the first time. The event itself consisted of a unique combination of events: a USATF certified 5K run, a fun-run, cycling events of variable distances (100K, 50K, & 15K), music, food and drink.

The organizations involved were the 1917 Clinic, the Center for AIDS Research, the Family Clinic, St. George’s Clinic, AIDS in Minorities, Birmingham AIDS Outreach, and AIDS Alabama (formerly AIDS Task Force of Alabama). There were approximately 3,000 people in the park on the day of the TRYathlon, and there were about 600 registrants for the different events. Over one fifth of the participants were runners, and nearly half registered for the fun-run with the remainder choosing to cycle. A twenty-foot tall ribbon made of red balloons marked the finish line. Mary Fisher, who founded the Family AIDS Network now relocated in Birmingham as the Mary Fisher Clinical AIDS Research and Education Fund at UAB."

Institute Relocates to Birmingham

The Family AIDS Network, a non-profit organization founded by Mary Fisher, closed its doors effective March 31, 2000—and reopened them on April 1, 2000 as the Mary Fisher Clinical AIDS Research and Education (CARE) Fund at UAB.

Led by Dr. Michael Saag, the Fund’s primary focus will be supporting long-term, outcomes-based research on the treatment and care of individuals with HIV/AIDS. If you have any questions regarding this transition, please contact Lisa Butler at 975-0840 or FisherCARE@uab.edu.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

2nd Frederick Workshop on the Cell Biology of Viral Entry May 7-10, 2000 Conference Center, NCI-Frederick Cancer Research and Development Center Frederick, MD Co-sponsored by the National Cancer Institute, Division of Basic Sciences, the National Institutes of Health Office of AIDS Research, and the UAB Center for AIDS Research. Organizers: Robert Blumenthal, Ph.D. and Eric Hunter, Ph.D.

The purpose of this workshop is to bring together leaders in the areas of animal virus structure, viral envelope glycoprotein structure, cell membrane dynamics, viral receptors and viral fusion mechanisms. The meeting of minds will hopefully result in new approaches for the development of antiviral therapies and vaccines.

www.lecb.ncifcrf.gov/~blumenth/fredeonf2


13th Annual Alabama AIDs Symposium
October 5, 2000, 11 a.m.-3:00 p.m. This year’s symposium will be available via satellite downlink from remote locations across the United States. For more information, please contact Brenda Cummings at (334) 206-5364.

Upcoming Dinner Lectures
Jack Nunberg, Ph.D.
Director and Professor, Montana Biotechnology Center, University of Montana
Title to be announced.
Wednesday, May 31, 2000
Bevill Biomedical Research Building 170
Dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m.
Lecture begins at 5:30 p.m.

Upcoming Special CFAR Lectures
Phillip D. Smith, M.D.
Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology, University of Alabama at Birmingham
“Mucosal Events in Early HIV-1 Infection”
Wednesday, May 3, 2000
Bevill Biomedical Research Building 170
Refreshments served at 3:45 p.m.
Lecture at 4:00 p.m.

Upcoming Virology Discussion Group Lectures
The Virology Discussion Group Lecture Series is co-sponsored by the UAB Center for AIDS Research and the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center. All lectures begin at 1:00 p.m. in Bevill Biomedical Research Building Room 263, and are preceded at 12:45 p.m. by pizza and soft drinks.

Tom Broker
“Unexpected Molecular Epidemiology of HPV in HIV-Positive Women”
May 5, 2000
Wayne Sullender
May 12, 2000
Mike Sakalian
May 19, 2000

CFAR Member Accepts New Position
Katharine E. Stewart, Ph.D., M.P.H., Associate Scientist within the Center for AIDS Research, has joined the faculty in the Behavioral Medicine Unit, Division of Preventive Medicine, Department of Medicine. This shift in her primary appointment, effective May 1, 2000, will allow her to build on her current activities in the 1917 Clinic and the CFAR by working with other Behavioral Medicine Unit and Health Behavior faculty with similar interests.

Spotlight On:
Jalie A. Tucker, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Dr. Jalie Tucker recently moved to Birmingham from Auburn, AL, where she was Alumni Professor of Psychology at Auburn University. Here at UAB, she is a Professor of Public Health in the Department of Health Behavior, a member of the Center for Health Promotion, a member of the Lister Hill Center for Health Policy, and a Senior Scientist within the Center for AIDS Research.

The bulk of Dr. Tucker’s research has been in the areas of substance abuse and addictive behaviors. She is a past president of the Division on Addictions of the American Psychological Association and is senior editor (along with Dennis M. Donovan and G. Alan Marlatt) of a book published in 1999 entitled Changing Addictive Behavior: Bridging Clinical and Public Health Strategies (Guilford Press).

Consistent with her move to UAB, Dr. Tucker has taken on HIV Research. In addition to analyses of help-seeking behaviors of HIV-infected individuals, she is focusing on the similarities in social dynamics of HIV and substance abuse and the societal stigma of quarantine and segregation that is woven into the history of the HIV epidemic. Dr. Tucker can be reached at 934-6020 or jtucker@uab.edu.

New CFAR Members
James D. Slack, Ph.D.
238 Ullman Building
(205) 934-9680
(205) 934-9896 fax
jslack@uab.edu
Primary Appointment:
Professor and Chair, Department of Government and Public Service, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Secondary Appointment:
Senior Scholar, John J. Sparkman Center for International Public Health Education
Dr. Slack joins us as Senior Scientist.

Peter Prevelige, Ph.D.
416 Bevill Biomedical Research Building
(205) 975-5327
(205) 975-5479 fax
prevelig@uab.edu
Primary Appointment:
Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology
Dr. Prevelige joins us as Scientist.

Patricia A. Lee, Ph.D.
Primary Appointment:
Assistant Professor, Department of Health Behavior, UAB School of Public Health
Currently at the University of California at San Francisco, Dr. Lee will join us in October 2000 as Associate Scientist.