

# Appendix B

## Definitions of NIH International Program Activities

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### RESEARCH

#### Foreign Research Grants

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) supports research projects outside the United States only when such projects have met special criteria established for foreign grants. These criteria include high scientific merit relevant to the program interests of the NIH, unique or special resources, and potential for significantly advancing the health sciences in the United States.

#### Domestic Grants With Foreign Components

A domestic grant with a foreign component is an NIH-financed grant to a domestic institution in which a part of the grant is used to support research in a foreign country.

#### Cooperative Agreements

Cooperative agreements are assistance awards to foreign or domestic institutions in which substantial programmatic involvement is anticipated between the NIH and the recipient during performance of the contemplated activity.

#### International Scientific Meetings

The NIH assists in the support of scientific meetings held to coordinate, exchange, and disseminate information when such activities are directed toward objectives clearly within the area of NIH program interests. Activities reported include international components of those meetings supported under this research program area.

#### Special Foreign Currency (Public Law 480) Grants

The Special Foreign Currency Program, administered by the Fogarty International Center (FIC), enables the NIH to support overseas activities that contribute to the advancement of health sciences in the United States. Funded by U.S.-owned local excess currency derived primarily from the sales of surplus U.S. agricultural commodities, these

activities include biomedical research and the translation and dissemination of scientific literature. Funds for the Special Foreign Currency Program are appropriated to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Department of Health and Human Services, and awarded and administered by the NIH.

#### Foreign Contracts

The NIH awards contracts for scientific projects directed toward specific areas and research and development needed by the NIH. Contracts with institutions outside the United States must comply with special criteria prescribed for such awards.

#### AIDS International Training and Research Program

The FIC AIDS International Training and Research Program enables U.S. universities and other research institutions to increase the capacity of developing countries to deal with the AIDS epidemic through training in epidemiological research, clinical trials and other prevention programs, and to build infrastructure for coordinated international testing of candidate HIV/AIDS vaccines and other interventions.

#### Fogarty International Research Collaboration Award

FIC established the Fogarty International Research Collaboration Award in FY 92 to enable U.S. scientists to cooperate with regions of the world that present new scientific opportunities, including the former Soviet Union, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Small research grants are provided to NIH grantees and foreign collaborators for supplies and materials, small equipment, and travel support to conduct cooperative international studies. The program was expanded in FY 95 to include Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and the Pacific Ocean Islands.

#### HIV/AIDS and Related Illnesses Collaboration Award

FIC provides small research grants for collaboration between NIH grantees and foreign collaborators to conduct research on HIV infection, AIDS, and areas related to AIDS. The main objective is to facilitate unique and highly promising collaborative basic and applied research efforts between U.S. and foreign scientists that will both expand and enhance the HIV- and AIDS-related NIH-supported research program of the U.S. Principal Investigator and benefit the scientific interests of the collaborating foreign scientist.

#### International Cooperative Biodiversity Groups Program

The International Cooperative Biodiversity Groups (ICBG) Program is an interagency effort cosponsored by the NIH (FIC, National Cancer Institute, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institute of Mental Health), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the National Science Foundation. The ICBG Program was established to identify new therapeutic agents through the analysis of plants and organisms from natural ecosystems and traditional medicines, promote strategies to protect threatened biodiversity, and promote economic growth.

#### International Training and Research Program in Emerging and Infectious Diseases

In collaboration with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the National Institute of Dental Research, FIC funds U.S. universities to expand NIH research training efforts in studies of emerging infectious diseases. The long-term objective is to train teams of scientists in regions of the world that provide unique opportunities to understand the fundamental biology, epidemiology, and control of microbial diseases. The Program focuses on research train-

ing in the changing patterns of infectious diseases, including genetic evolution, geographical spread, and social factors such as economic development and land use.

### **International Training and Research Program in Environmental and Occupational Health**

In collaboration with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the Center for Environmental Health of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, FIC funds U.S. nonprofit public or private institutions to support international training and research in general environmental and occupational health for scientists and health professionals from developing countries. The goal of the program is to train foreign scientists in epidemiological research, environmental monitoring, engineering control, and prevention research programs.

### **International Training and Research Program in Population and Health**

In cooperation with the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, FIC funds U.S. nonprofit public or private institutions to support training and research programs in population-related sciences for scientists and health professionals from developing countries. This Program aims to enhance domestic population research programs through training and international collaborative studies related to population, including the study of reproductive processes, contraceptive development, contraceptive and reproductive evaluation, reproductive epidemiology, and social and behavioral factors that influence population dynamics.

### **Minority International Research Training Grant**

In cooperation with the NIH Office of Minority Health, FIC funds the Minority International Research Training Grant Program to provide international training and research opportunities for minorities underrepresented in the scientific professions. Institutional training grants are provided to U.S. colleges and universities to support undergraduate and graduate training at foreign institutions. Awards are also provided to faculty members to conduct independent re-

search abroad and serve as mentors to students abroad.

### **Special International Programs in Tropical Infectious Diseases and Tuberculosis**

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) supports four special international programs in tropical infectious diseases and one in tuberculosis.

(1) International Collaboration in Infectious Diseases Research Awards

Under the International Collaboration in Infectious Diseases Research (ICIDR) Program, emphasis is given to developing relationships between U.S. institutions and counterpart institutions abroad in infectious diseases research. The ICIDR Program was begun in 1979, when International Centers for Medicine Research (started in 1962) were phased out.

(2) Tropical Disease Research Unit (TDRU) awards support multidisciplinary centers of research excellence in the United States.

(3) Tropical Medicine Research Center (TMRC) awards are direct funding to outstanding institutions located in the tropics.

(4) The new Tuberculosis and Research Center supports the efforts of investigators at a U.S. university to coordinate a network of domestic and international centers for study of this re-emerging disease.

(5) The NIAID-USAID Middle Eastern Regional Cooperation (MERC) Program began in 1980 to promote cooperation between Israeli and Arab institutions in vector-borne diseases.

### **HIV Network**

In 1987, NIAID launched the International Collaboration in AIDS Research (ICAR) Program, modeled after the ICIDR Program. The ICAR awards were followed by the Preparing for AIDS/HIV Vaccine Evaluation (PAVE) awards, which supported U.S. institutions for a 2-year period to work with developing countries to identify and develop populations in which vaccine and other prevention studies could be conducted. NIAID now supports an International AIDS Vaccine Master Contract, which makes awards to the HIV Network (HIVNET), comprising U.S. institutions and their partners in developing countries.

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND SCIENTIST EXCHANGES**

### **Foreign Work/Study Assignments**

The Foreign Work/Study Program involves overseas work assignments that are developed by NIH professionals not only to meet their own training and experience needs but to contribute to the domestic and international goals of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Potential assignments are developed directly with foreign institutions, U.S. organizations that have overseas installations, or other appropriate organizations that can provide a foreign work/study experience that would fulfill program objectives.

### **International Neurological Science Fellowships**

The International Neurological Science Fellowship Program provides opportunities for junior or mid-career health professionals and scientists in the neurological sciences to enhance their basic or clinical science research skills in a research setting in the United States. The objective of this Program is to prepare candidates for leadership positions in research, academic, and public health institutions in their home countries. The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke administers the program in collaboration with the World Health Organization.

### **International Research Fellowships**

The FIC International Research Fellowship Program provides awards to foreign scientists in the formative stages of their careers to come to the United States for up to 2 years to receive advanced research experience. Fellows are required to return to their home countries at the termination of their fellowships.

### **International Visiting Scientists and Technical Exchange Program**

The International Visiting Scientists and Technical Exchange (INVEST) Program, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), promotes international collaboration in drug abuse research among scientists in the United States and worldwide. NIDA's INVEST Program includes research fellowship opportunities (Hubert H. Humphrey Drug Abuse Fellowship and INVEST Research Fellowship), technical consultation and scien-

tific exchange, information dissemination, and international research communications networking.

### **National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Short-Term Scientist Exchange Program**

NCI's Short-Term Scientist Exchange Program, sponsored by the Office of International Affairs, promotes collaborative research between established U.S. and foreign scientists by supporting, in part, exchange visits of U.S. cancer researchers to foreign laboratories, or foreign cancer researchers to U.S. laboratories. The visits may be from 1 week to 6 months in duration.

### **Career Development Awards for Young Cancer Researchers in the Newly Independent States of the Former USSR**

This NCI program makes a limited number of awards to young cancer researchers in these countries, thus allowing them to remain productive during this period of transition to a market economy.

### **Oncology Research Faculty Development Program**

NCI supports the Oncology Research Faculty Development Program for cancer researchers who have a minimum of 3 years of postdoctoral cancer research experience. The program provides advanced research training at NCI laboratories or at U.S. laboratories of NCI grantees for a period of 1 to 3 years. Only candidates from developing countries are eligible.

### **National Research Service Awards**

Under NIH National Research Service Awards, predoctoral, postdoctoral, and special fellowships to promote training for research in health-related sciences are granted each year to U.S. citizens, noncitizen nationals of the United States, or persons who have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence to pursue training in U.S. institutions. With acceptable justification, these fellowships may be taken at foreign institutions. Fellowships are not awarded for study leading to professional degrees.

### **Scholars-in-Residence**

The FIC Scholars-in-Residence Program enables a small number of eminent U.S. and foreign scientists to come to the NIH each year to interact with the scientific staff and to conduct advanced studies in biomedicine or international health research issues. Scholars are nominated by NIH scientists and spend up to 12 months in residence at the NIH.

### **Senior International Fellowships**

The FIC Senior International Fellowship Program provides opportunities for established U.S. faculty members who have demonstrated productive scholarship and achieved recognized stature in their professions to go abroad to conduct collaborative research and to share their expertise. It is intended that this award be a career-enhancing educational experience with mutual benefits to both home and host institutions.

### **Visiting Fellows, Associates, and Scientists**

The NIH Visiting Program offers talented scientists throughout the world the opportunity to share the research resources of the NIH. Through this Program, scientists at all levels of their careers are invited to the NIH to receive further research training and to conduct research in their biomedical specialties.

### **International Travel**

International travel is defined as travel done by NIH personnel under U.S. Department of Health and Human Services travel orders to locations outside the United States, including Canada and Mexico. This includes travel for contract or grant site visits, under bilateral exchanges to attend international meetings, and to participate in the activities of multilateral organizations, such as the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization.

## **PROGRAM SUPPORT**

### **Bilateral Exchanges**

Bilateral exchanges contribute to the advancement of biomedical and behavioral science for the benefit of health in the United States and also serve such purposes as the following:

- overcoming social or political barriers;
- fostering or sharing of technical resources and expertise;
- drawing on unique resources or settings; and
- furthering U.S. foreign policy objectives.

