

Research Activities Newsletter

The latest news and announcements



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In the News: Congratulations to the following awardees!!!



Katherine Balantekin, Assistant Professor of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences (ENS), received two continuation awards from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases/NIH. The first project is entitled, *The Intersection between Loss of Control Eating and Obesity: The Role of Restriction and Food Reinforcement*. The project continues to explore the relationships among LOC eating, parental restriction, and the reinforcing value of food in a sample of 7-10 year-old children at risk for obesity.

The second award is for the project entitled, *Positive Food Parenting Intervention to Promote Healthy Growth in Children at Risk for Obesity*. The project aims to develop an evidence-based positive food parenting (i.e., high in structure and autonomy promotion) intervention to give parents the tools to promote healthy child growth and improve diet quality in children to prevent obesity.



Erin Brunelle, Director of Client Services for the SPHHP's Center for Assistive Technology (CAT), received a renewal award from the NYS Office of Children and Family Services for the project entitled, *OCFS Assistive Technology Center*. This award continues to provide funding for assistive technology services to eligible participants whose vocational rehabilitation goal requires expertise in the use of adaptive electronic technologies during post-secondary education, training, or during employment.



Hang Jin Jo, Assistant Professor of Rehabilitation Science (RS), is PI on a new award from the New York State Department of Health for the project entitled, *Neuromodulation to Improve Grasping After Spinal Cord Injury*. This project has two main goals: 1) Target late corticospinal descending volleys using neuromodulation after cervical SCI; and 2) Examine the effect of neuromodulation targeting late corticospinal descending volleys in combination with hand motor training after cervical SCI. **Sue Ann Sisto**, Professor and Chair of Rehabilitation Science and **Jeffrey Miecznikowski**, Professor of Biostatistics are Co-Investigators on the award.



Michael LaMonte, Research Professor of Epidemiology and Environmental Health (EEH), is PI on a new award from Kent County Memorial Hospital/NIH for the project entitled, *Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Heart Failure: A Cross Cohort Collaboration*. This study is evaluating the magnitude and potential causes of racial/ethnic and sex disparities in incident heart failure and its subtypes and their prognosis in 130,000 men and women from 10 pooled cohorts.



Douglas Landsittel, Professor and Chair of Biostatistics, received two awards. He is PI on a new award from the University of Pittsburgh/NIH for the research project entitled, *Targeting Monocyte Allorecognition to Achieve Allograft Acceptance*. This project will look to develop a translatable model of blocking CD47 in addition to T cell costimulatory blockade to induce long term graft acceptance (Aim 1), and b) to investigate the mechanisms of monocyte unresponsiveness in the absence of CD47 signaling to uncover novel targetable pathways (Aim 2).

Dr. Landsittel also is Co-I on a new supplement (PI: Allison Brashear) from National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke/NIH for the parent award entitled, *Clinical, Genetic, and Cellular Consequences of Mutations in Na,K-ATPase ATP1A3*. This study, in its 14th year has generated significant knowledge and corresponding hypothesis for clinical advances. While a major strength of this study is the extensive follow-up data from 2008 on, the associated complexities of collecting data over multiple funding cycles also leads to challenges and logistic hurdles including use of a now outdated custom-built electronic data capture system and inconsistent clinical research forms and associated data dictionaries over multiple cycles of the parent grant. The broad objective of the proposed Administrative Supplement is to address those challenges by restructuring the data to produce optimally efficient analytical data sets which can subsequently advance scientific discovery.





Jeffrey Miecznikowski, Professor of Biostatistics, received two continuation awards. He is Co-I on an award from the National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research/NIH, (PI: Jill Kramer, Oral Biology), for the research project entitled, *Analysis of MyD88-mediated Immune Activation in Sjogrens Syndrome Pathogenesis*. This project seeks to determine novel pathways that can be targeted to treat pSS and other autoimmune diseases.

Dr. Miecznikowski also is Co-I on an award is from the National Cancer Institute/NIH, (PI: Robert Pili, Microbiology and Immunology), for the research project entitled, *Therapeutic Targeting for Translocation Renal Cell Carcinoma*. This project is focused on identifying small molecules that selectively bind the leucine zipper domain and disrupt the TFE3-Os/TFE3 interaction.



Zhongzheng (Jason) Niu, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Environmental Health (EEH), is PI on a new award from the University of California at Los Angeles for the project entitled, *Perception of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals among Parents in the BEST-Kids Study (Buffalo Environment and Psychosocial Stressors: Targeting Health Disparities in Kids Study)*. The long-term goal of this project is to establish a longitudinal study of refugee children and their families to improve children's health development, provide community support, and to advocate for refugee policy changes.



Jean Wactawski-Wende, Dean of the SPHP and SUNY Distinguished Professor of Epidemiology and Environmental Health (EEH) and **Hailey Banack**, Research Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Environmental Health (EEH) are MPIs on the continuation of their award from the National Institute on Aging/NIH for the research project entitled, *MASS: Muscle and Disease in Postmenopausal Women*. The study continues to address key knowledge gaps related to the extent to which insulin-glucose homeostasis is associated with loss of muscle mass over time in aging women and whether this varies by race/ethnicity. The feedback loop between impaired insulin-glucose homeostasis and loss of skeletal muscle mass also will be examined.



Meng Wang, Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Environmental Health (EEH), is PI on a continuation award from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences/NIH for the research project entitled, *Air Pollution, Coronary Events, Atherosclerotic Progression in a Susceptible Population*. His research continues to examine whether exposure to air pollutants alters coronary biological process, accelerates disease progression, and contributes to coronary heart disease in 3500 patients in Beijing. **Jeffrey Miecznikowski**, Professor of Biostatistics and **Lina Mu**, Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Environmental Health are Co-Investigators.



Gregory Wilding, Professor of Biostatistics, is Co-I on a continuation award is from the National Institute of Aging/NIH (PI: Elsa Bou Ghanem, Microbiology and Immunology) for the project entitled, *The Role of Neutrophils in the Age-driven Decline in Anti-pneumococcal Vaccine Responses*. This project seeks to determine the role of polymorphonuclear leukocytes in the age-driven reduction in vaccine responses and increased susceptibility to streptococcus pneumoniae.

General Notice

[NOT-OD-25-121](#) – Temporary Extension of Eligibility for the NIH Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00)

The National Institutes of Health announces an automatic extension until October/November 2025 receipt dates for prospective applicants to the NIH Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00) program. The extension is limited to individuals whose eligibility period under the Parent K99/R00 would have ended between October 2024 – January 2026. Please see notice for additional eligibility extension and who is impacted.

Policy Notice

[NOT-OD-25-104](#) – Updated NIH Policy on Foreign Subawards

Effective May 1 and until the details of the new foreign collaboration award structure are released, NIH will not issue awards to domestic or foreign entities (new, renewal or non-competing continuation), that include a subaward to a foreign entity. Additionally, NIH will no longer accept prior approval requests to add a new foreign component or subaward to an ongoing



project. In all cases, NIH will allow Institutes, Centers and Offices (ICOs) to renegotiate awards, whether new, renewal or non-competing, to remove subawards to foreign entities and, where the work can be performed domestically, allow the funds to be re-budgeted for use by the prime recipient (domestic or foreign) or a domestic subrecipient. If a project is no longer viable without the foreign subaward, NIH will work with the recipient to negotiate a bilateral termination of the project, taking into consideration any need to support patient safety and/or animal welfare.

Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) that state that foreign components are allowed are superseded by this notice. NIH will revise NOFOs to reflect the new award structure.

[NOT-OD-25-110](#) – Updated NIH Processes for No-Cost Extensions

This notice alerts the extramural community that NIH has temporarily disabled the No-Cost Extension functionality in eRA Commons. The Director of NIH has directed NIH staff to review all existing grants and cooperative agreements to ensure that NIH awards do not fund off-mission activities or projects. Therefore, temporarily disabling the NCE functionality in eRA Commons will allow NIH staff to review and assess all NCE requests to confirm that the activities proposed during the extension align with the NIH mission and agency priorities. At this time, all requests for NCEs must be submitted as a prior approval request in eRA Commons, for NIH review and approval. Requests for activities that do not align with the NIH mission and agency priorities will not be approved.

NIH Funding Opportunities (PAR)

Miscellaneous

[PAR-25-416](#) – (R24 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

NIGMS National and Regional Resources

This Notice encourages applications for support of resources that will provide access to state-of-the-art equipment, technologies, research tools, materials, organisms, software, and/or services to a substantial regional (multi-state) or national user base. Only those resources with technical capabilities that fall within the NIGMS-supported [program areas](#) are eligible for awards. The resources should already be established or may be formed through consolidation of existing local or regional facilities. The intent is to provide resource access to investigators without regard to the specific biomedical focus of their research, while not duplicating or replacing resources supported by sources such as other NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) or host institutions. The resource is expected to be maintained or upgraded to current best practices, make its capabilities and availability known to the biomedical research community through a robust web presence and outreach activities, and provide user training and support. The NOFO does not support major new research and development efforts. Stand-alone data resources and databases are not eligible. **Application Due Date:** multiple dates; **Expiration Date:** June 15, 2027.

NIH Funding Opportunities Request for Applications (RFA)

Miscellaneous

[RFA-RM-25-002](#) – (DP2 Clinical Trial)

NIH Director's New Innovator Award Program

The [NIH Director's New Innovator Award](#) addresses two important goals: stimulating bold and highly innovative research and supporting promising Early Stage Investigators, as defined by [NIH policy](#). It is designed specifically to support unusually creative investigators with bold and highly innovative research ideas at an early stage of their career when they may lack the preliminary data required for a conventional R01 grant application. The emphasis is on innovation and creativity; preliminary data are not required but may be included. Applications are welcome in all research areas broadly relevant to the mission of NIH. These areas include, but are not limited to, the behavioral, medical, natural, social, applied, and formal sciences. Research may be basic, translational, or clinical. The primary requirements are that the research be highly innovative and have the potential for unusually broad impact. **Application Due Date:** August 19, 2025; **Expiration Date:** August 20, 2025.



[RFA-RM-25-001](#) – (DP1 Clinical Trial Optional) **NIH Director's Pioneer Award Program**

The [NIH Director's Pioneer Award](#) supports individual scientists of exceptional creativity who propose bold, highly innovative, and broadly impactful research towards the ultimate goal of enhancing human health. Applications are welcome in all research areas broadly relevant to the mission of NIH. To be considered pioneering, the proposed research must reflect substantially different scientific directions from those already being pursued in the investigator's research program or elsewhere. These areas include, but are not limited to, the behavioral, medical, natural, social, applied, and formal sciences. Research may be basic, translational, or clinical. The primary requirements are that the research be highly innovative and have the potential for unusually broad impact. **Application Due Date:** September 9, 2025; **Expiration Date:** September 10, 2025.

NIH Funding Opportunities: Program Announcements (PA)

The following opportunities have standard due dates unless noted otherwise:

[PA-25-422](#)

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) – Individual Predoctoral Fellowship (Parent F31)
Expiration Date: May 8, 2028

[PA-25-423](#)

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) – Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship (Parent F32)
Expiration Date: May 8, 2028

[PA-25-424](#)

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Award (NRSA) – Individual Senior Fellowship (Parent F33)
Expiration Date: May 8, 2028

[PA-25-425](#)

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) – Individual Fellowship for Students at Institutions Without NIH-Funded Institutional Predoctoral Dual-Degree Training Programs (Parent F30)
Expiration Date: May 8, 2028

[PA-25-426](#)

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) – Individual Fellowship for Students at Institutions with NIH-Funded Institutional Predoctoral Dual-Degree Training Programs (Parent F30)
Expiration Date: May 8, 2028

Limited Submissions

Only one application per institution is allowed for the following FOAs and prior approval from the OVPR is required to be the sole applicant. If interested in applying, please provide the OVPRED with notification 60 days prior to the deadline to ovpr.limitedsubmission@research.buffalo.edu before proceeding with the application.

[Limited Submission Funding Opportunities](#)

Prior Research Opportunities can be found on the SPHHP RAS website and by clicking the link below:

[Research Opportunities from Past Newsletters](#)

Words to Live By

“The greatest mistake you can make in life is to be continually fearing you will make one.”

- Elbert Hubbard, writer and philosopher

For more information on RAS services, visit our website at sphhp.buffalo.edu/ras

