



NIH Awards First EUREKA Grants for Exceptionally Innovative Research

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded \$42.2 million to fund 38 exceptionally innovative research projects that could have an extraordinarily significant impact on many areas of science. The grants, the first made in a new program called EUREKA (for Exceptional, Unconventional Research Enabling Knowledge Acceleration), help investigators test novel, often unconventional hypotheses or tackle major methodological or technical challenges.

"EUREKA projects promise remarkable outcomes that could revolutionize science," said NIH Director Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D. "The program reflects NIH's commitment to supporting potentially transformative research, even if it carries a greater than usual degree of scientific risk." EUREKA researchers will receive direct costs of approximately \$200,000 per year for up to four years, subject to the availability of appropriations.

"EUREKA is an experiment in how to attract, identify, and support particularly creative approaches that, if successful, could move science forward dramatically," said Jeremy M. Berg, Ph.D., director of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), which led the development of the EUREKA program.

"One way EUREKA does this is through a specialized application and review process focusing on the significance and innovation of the proposal."

In addition to NIGMS, the other NIH components funding EUREKA projects are the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Additional EUREKA awards may be made in fall, and NIH has reannounced the program for next year. For more information, see <http://www.nigms.nih.gov/Research/Mechanisms/EUREKA.htm>.

To arrange an interview with a EUREKA program leader, please contact the NIGMS Office of Communications and Public Liaison at 301-496-7301 or info@nigms.nih.gov.

For a full list of EUREKA projects, see <http://www.nigms.nih.gov/Research/Mechanisms/EUREKAGrants.htm>