



National Health Council

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Opening a New Door for Unfunded Research

National Health Council Database Supports Funding of Patient-Focused Health Research

Washington, DC – February 7, 2011 – In 2010, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) was able to fund fewer than 25 percent of the research grant applications submitted to its 27 institutes and centers. In 2011, the National Health Council (NHC) is giving unfunded NIH applications the potential for a new lease on life. With more than 133 million people in the United States living with chronic diseases and disabilities and in need of new treatments and cures, the NHC today launched a new national, online database to bring researchers with worthwhile but unfunded projects together with non-governmental sources seeking to support medical breakthroughs.

“HealthResearchFunding.Org was created with input from the NIH and is the NHC’s latest effort to support cutting-edge research that provides hope to the millions of people living with chronic conditions,” explained NHC President Myrl Weinberg. “We desperately need to find new ways to help patients live longer, healthier, and better lives and expedite the funding process for health and behavioral research.”

By using HealthResearchFunding.Org, researchers can make their innovative proposals easily accessible to new funding sources. Researchers whose meritorious grant proposals were reviewed but not funded by the NIH are being invited to post their abstracts and contact information on the website. In addition, leading national patient advocacy organizations that are members of the NHC and interested in tapping into this novel research can post details about themselves and the research they underwrite and upload requests for applications. NHC member organizations are also encouraging researchers who have gone through their organization’s own peer-review process to join the database as well.

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“HealthResearchFunding.Org is a creative way to bring researchers, the patient advocacy community, and supporters together,” commented Dr. Sally Rockey, NIH deputy director for extramural research. “By using this site, research institutions may find an easy way to seek alternative financial support, allowing more time to conduct important research to aid in the development of medical breakthroughs for patients.”

The HealthResearchFunding.Org database is currently populated with information from 42 leading national patient advocacy organizations. The site will eventually expand to include other funding sources, including corporations and private investors.

The National Health Council (NHC) is the only organization of its kind that brings together all segments of the health care community to provide a united voice for the more than 133 million people with chronic diseases and disabilities and their family caregivers. Made up of more than 100 national health-related organizations and businesses, its core membership includes approximately 50 of the nation’s leading patient advocacy groups, which control its governance.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) — The Nation's Medical Research Agency — is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is the primary federal agency for conducting and supporting basic, clinical and translational medical research, and it investigates the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- HealthResearchFunding.Org – <http://www.healthresearchfunding.org>
- National Health Council – <http://www.nationalhealthcouncil.org>
- National Institutes of Health – <http://www.nih.gov>
- NIH Data Book: Research Grant applications and awards – <http://report.nih.gov/NIHDataBook/Charts/Default.aspx?sid=0&index=1&catId=2&chartId=159>
- Slide Share presentation – <http://www.slideshare.net/nfhughes/healthresearchfundingorg>

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