University of California
San Francisco
UCSF
News Services

NEWS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO

3333 California Street
Suite 103, Box 0462
San Francisco, CA
94143-0462
tel: 415/476-2557
fax: 415/476-3541

Source: Kristen Bole
Phone: (415) 502-NEWS (-6397)
E-mail: kbole@pubaff.ucsf.edu
Web: www.ucsf.edu

September 14, 2010

FACT SHEET: ARRA Stimulus Funding for UCSF

Overview: The University of California, San Francisco has been awarded 344 ARRA awards totaling $151.2 million in funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, primarily through grants from the National Institutes of Health. This makes UCSF one of the top institutional recipients of this stimulus-based scientific funding. As of June 30, the University had received $31.2 million of those funds, enabling it to retain or create 288 jobs in research or associated areas.

Importance of Funding to University: This infusion of resources comes at a critical time for UCSF, which is one of 10 campuses of the University of California and the only campus dedicated solely to graduate and professional education in the health sciences. With shrinking state funds, UCSF has increasingly relied upon extremely competitive NIH funding to drive its research. That research consistently ranks among the top in the nation across research areas.

Impact of ARRA Funds:
This funding is just a small portion of the $21.5 billion promised nationwide for scientific research, equipment and construction – including $10.4 billion through the NIH – but already it has enabled UCSF to continue important research, begin new and valuable studies in novel and promising areas, and launch Grand Opportunity projects that will serve as the cornerstone of effective medical care for years to come.

This research promises to have a direct effect on the health of Americans in enabling new knowledge on how to best prevent, diagnose and treat disease. Most programs that are being supported would not be possible under the normal funding approaches, either because the costs are so large ($25 million in some cases) or because they tackle over-arching healthcare issues that do not fit into standard grant structures.

For example, 43 UCSF grants are being used to lead national collaborations to assess exactly how physicians are treating conditions such as head trauma in a real-life clinical setting, and which therapies work best – a process that has never been possible due to the lack of large-scale collaborations and data collection on the issue.

Overall, UCSF projects range from improving outcomes for stroke patients, to reducing maternal mortality in rural areas or creating biomarkers to detect deadly brain

tumors. Still other projects serve as investments in the future of our nation, by training students and creating research resources.

The grants also contribute funds to cover indirect costs at UCSF to support research and teaching facilities and the administrative functions that would have been cut in the face of UC-wide budget reductions. Each of those functions represents a job that extends beyond the scientific community and helps support the local economy.

Examples of UCSF ARRA Grants:
Below are some examples of two-year ARRA projects awarded to UCSF researchers:

- A $25 million Grand Opportunity grant in partnership with Kaiser Permanente to fund the research and creation of the largest genetic health care database ever undertaken. Of that, roughly $7.8 million will come to UCSF. Geneticist Neil Risch, PhD, director of the UCSF Institute for Human Genetics, will lead a genome-wide analysis of DNA samples from 100,000 Kaiser Permanente member volunteers, representing decades of historical clinical, medication and health-related information on the largest and most diverse genetic population ever studied. The project will support 22 staff and research positions at Kaiser and UCSF in the first year alone, as well as providing key funding to nine current faculty and physician researchers in the two institutions.
- A $12.4 million cooperative agreement to evaluate an acute intervention in patients with transient ischemic attacks (TIA), a precursor to stroke. TIAs are common, with an estimated 250,000 - 350,000 occurring each year in the U.S., and numerous studies have shown that short-term risk of stroke is high in the first few days after a TIA. Yet there has never been a pivotal clinical trial to assess which TIA treatments actually reduce the chance of stroke. These funds will enable S. Claiborne “Clay” Johnston, MD, PhD, director of the UCSF Stroke Service, to lead the Platelet-Oriented Inhibition in New TIA (POINT) trial, a multicenter clinical trial. The project will create four full-time research positions at UCSF, six others at partnering institutions, and positions for 25 full-time coordinators nationwide.
- A $4.1 million Grand Opportunity award to fund a potential framework for all future Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) research, creating 14 full-time positions and eight part-time jobs. TBI is one of the greatest unmet needs in medicine and public health and is the signature injury of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Advances in basic science research in the past 20 years have created new opportunities for targeted therapies for TBI, but these advances have never translated into actual treatment due to a lack of standardization in data collection, and outdated approaches to TBI classification and outcome. Geoffrey Manley, MD, PhD, co-director of the UCSF Brain and Spinal Injury Center, will lead an effort to test and

refine standards for data collection in TBI studies and use emerging technology to explore novel approaches for TBI classification and outcomes.

- A $1.5 million grant from the National Institute of Nursing Research to fund the Faculty Scholars Program. This Program, led by Christine Miaskowski, RN, PhD, is designed to mentor five assistant professors in the School of Nursing to build internationally recognized programs of research in symptom management. Through this funding, the scholars have protected time and funding for pilot studies that will serve as the foundation for competitive grant proposals. The grant also provides salary support for laboratory personnel and research assistants.
- A $1.39 million grant to support new faculty development for research to reduce oral health disparities. The project, led Jane A. Weintraub**,** DDS, MPH, in the Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences, is among $3.7 million in ARRA grants to the UCSF School of Dentistry for research in oral and craniofacial sciences.
- A $998,000 Challenge Grant to fund a study of the use of web-based, patient-controlled personal health records to improve health and HIV prevention outcomes for HIV positive patients. UCSF professor James S. Kahn, MD, will lead a group to determine whether mobile phone text messages linked to a web-based personal health record will help HIV patients adhere to pill-taking regimens. The goal is to find ways to help patients succeed in self-managing multiple health challenges. The project is creating five new positions at UCSF and its partner Avanade.
- A $772,000 grant for Jim Wells, PhD, will provide critical startup funds to hire world-class junior faculty to the UCSF Chemical Biology Group, in the School of Pharmacy. This group develops chemical tools and technologies to address significant biological problems in health care and is renowned for its leadership in cellular discoveries that translate into drug discovery, but its recruitment efforts have been severely curtailed by the state economic crisis. These funds will enable UCSF to foster the scientific leadership that is vital for the future of biomedical and pharmaceutical sciences.
- A $225,570 Administrative Supplement will enable UCSF researcher Wendell Lim, PhD, director of the Cell Propulsion Laboratory, to advance an education program in cellular engineering research, for applications in cancer and neurological disorders, among others. The grant will fund nine summer research internships for San Francisco public high school students plus two science teachers in a unique program that trains these students to compete with international college teams in synthetic biology, cellular engineering and nanomedicine.

###