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Cancer Centers Branch

U.S. Department of Health  
and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

DATE: February 8, 2002

FROM: Linda K. Weiss, Ph.D., Chief  
Cancer Centers Branch

TO: Cancer Center Directors

SUBJECT: Research Supplements Available to Underrepresented Minorities (PA-01-079)  
Through Cancer Center Support Grants (CCSGs) For Patient-Oriented Research

In 1999, the National Institutes of Health issued a program announcement geared toward increasing the number of underrepresented minorities in research through the provision of administrative supplements to existing grants. We are writing to inform you that supplements are now available to Cancer Center Support Grants for the specific purpose of enhancing the representation of minority physician investigators in patient-oriented research. The supplements are intended to provide support for minority clinicians who wish to participate in ongoing clinical research projects in the cancer center, either as postdoctoral researchers or as investigators developing their own independent research careers. Since CCSGs do not directly fund research projects, an applicant institution must include a complete description of the research project of which the minority clinician will actually be a part, as well as information on the source and duration of funding for that project. Supplements to CCSGs will be limited to those instances where no other mechanisms (e.g. research awards from NCI or other NIH entities) currently exist. Adequate mentorship should be provided by the principal investigator of the clinical research project (not the PI of the CCSG). Recipients of supplements must be given the opportunity to interact with appropriate individuals in the cancer center in order to enhance their skills and knowledge regarding clinical research.

A request for a supplement may be submitted at any time by the institution, acting on behalf of the principal investigator of the CCSG and the minority investigator. Requests for support of more than one minority physician per CCSG are allowable. Specific information on application procedures, eligibility, and review criteria is available through the NIH Guide (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-01-079.html>). If you have further questions, please feel free to contact either the NCI Cancer Centers Branch at 301 496-8531, or the NCI Comprehensive Minority Biomedical Branch at 301 496-7344.