



# NF Inc. Minnesota E-News

From the NF Inc. Minnesota Chapter

February 2006

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## DOD NF Research Program announces \$17 million in funding for 2006

New York – January 12th, 2006: The United States Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research



Program in Neurofibromatosis (CDMRP NFRP) has announced that the Fiscal Year 2006 (FY06) Defense Appropriations Act will provide \$17 million to the NFRP. In addition to providing support for ongoing areas of research, the fiscal year 2006 awards will include two new areas of research: The NF Consortium Awards and the Resource Development Awards.

“At a time when many congressionally funded programs are being cut, we are very pleased that the United States Congress has again displayed their commitment to NF Research by funding the NFRP,” said Children’s Tumor Foundation President, John Risner. “The CDMRP has enabled many significant advances to be made in NF research and this year’s funding will provide crucial support to ongoing research efforts around the country.”

“The Children’s Tumor Foundation and our constituents have played a key role in ensuring the program continues by keeping congressional staff apprised of the importance and success of this program,” added Risner.

FY06 NFRP Program Announcements for proposals in the following mechanisms are expected to be released in February 2006:

- NF Consortium Awards - New

- Resource Development Awards - New
- Clinical Trial Awards
- Concept Awards
- New Investigator Awards
- Therapeutic Development Awards

“We are very excited about the new funding mechanisms for fiscal year 06,” said CTF Chief Scientific Officer, Dr. Kim Hunter-Schaedle. “The NF Consortium Awards are particularly important because they will allow us to build upon the NF Clinical Consortium that was launched in fiscal year 05.”

## **Department of Defense Neurofibromatosis Research Program Announces the Investigator-Initiated Research Award**

Due to enthusiasm for the Fiscal Year 2005 (FY05) Investigator-Initiated Research Awards, the Department of Defense (DOD) Neurofibromatosis Research Program (NFRP) will be offering a second opportunity this year for individuals to compete for these awards. The NFRP plans to announce a \$3.4 million (M) initiative to support these awards in mid-December 2005.

The Investigator-Initiated Research Award supports basic or clinical studies by established researchers (Assistant Professor level or higher) that will provide insight into the molecular mechanisms underlying the development of NF and lead to substantial improvements over today's approach to the diagnosis and treatment of NF1, NF2 and Schwannomatosis. In support of this goal, this award mechanism also provides funding through Nested Postdoctoral Traineeships to prepare recent doctoral graduates (3 years or less experience as a postdoctoral fellow) for a career in NF or Schwannomatosis research through a mentored training experience. Established researchers may request funding up to a maximum of \$2M inclusive of direct and indirect costs for a period of up to 4 years. Funds for Nested Postdoctoral Traineeships can be requested as part of the \$2M total. Each Traineeship can be requested for a maximum of \$60 thousand per year inclusive of direct and indirect costs for a period of up to 4 years. The receipt deadline is planned for **March 17, 2006**. These awards will be reviewed, negotiated, and finalized no later than September 30, 2006.

A detailed description of this mechanism, including evaluation criteria, specific submission requirements, and deadlines will be available in the FY05 NFRP Investigator-Initiated Research Award Program Announcement. **This Program Announcement will be available electronically for downloading from the CDMRP web site (<http://cdmrp.army.mil>) upon its release in mid-December 2005.**

Requests for e-mail notification when Program Announcements are released may be sent to [prequest@constellagroup.com](mailto:prequest@constellagroup.com). For more information about the NFRP, previous NFRP awardees and Program Announcements, and other CDMRP-sponsored programs and events, please visit our web site: <http://cdmrp.army.mil>.

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## **New therapeutic target identified in inherited brain tumor disorder**

Oct. 31, 2005 — Researchers studying a mouse model of neurofibromatosis 1 (NF1), a genetic condition that causes childhood brain tumors, have found their second new drug target in a year, a protein called methionine aminopeptidase-2 (MetAP2).

An established drug, fumagillin, is already known to suppress the activity of MetAP2. Researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis showed that fumagillin significantly slowed the rapid proliferation of cultured mouse brain cells that resulted from the loss of Nf1, the gene that causes neurofibromatosis 1. Evaluation of the ability of this class of drugs to control brain tumor growth in small animal models is planned.

"This agent and others like it have already been in clinical trials as treatments for other tumors, so if we find that fumagillin inhibits brain tumor growth in preclinical studies, it will be a much smaller leap to using these compounds in patients with NF1," says senior investigator David H. Gutmann, M.D., Ph.D., the Donald O. Schnuck Family Professor of Neurology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and co-director of the neuro-oncology program at the Siteman Cancer Center. [To read more click here.](#)

## **NF Inc. Announces Camp New Friends July 16-22, 2006**

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l Center, conducts Camp New Friends, a summer camp for those affected by NF, in Adamstown, Maryland. The next Camp New Friends is currently being planned for July 16 - 22, 2006. Children 7 through 15 years of age, with NF1 or NF2, are encouraged to apply as campers. Those 18 or older may apply as Counselors or as Counselors-in-Training.

To request further information or register for Camp New Friends 2006, please print, complete, and return our [camp form \(pdf\)](#). You can also obtain more information about the camp by emailing [NFMidAtlantic@aol.com](mailto:NFMidAtlantic@aol.com); or contact Sandy Cushner-Weinstein, PT, LCSW-C, at Children's National Medical Center, by phone at 202-884-5142, or via email at [scushwei@cnmc.org](mailto:scushwei@cnmc.org) (please use "NF Camp" in the subject line). Further details regarding the camp will be posted here as they become available -- please check back!

## Mark Your Calendar!

**Saturday, April 22, 2006** is the date for the next NF Inc. Minnesota Chapter Meeting. Topic and meeting place to be announced.

**NF Inc.  
Minnesota  
Welcomes  
New Board  
Members**

## 2006 NF Walk

**Sunday, September 17,  
2006**

**Be sure to mark you calendar  
for the 11<sup>th</sup> Headwaters Walk  
for Justice**

<http://www.walkforjustice.org/>

Jackie Santa and Elizabeth Siqveland were elected as the newest board members of the Board of Directors at the

November 5, 2005 Annual Meeting. Congratulations and welcome to our new Board Members! NF Inc. Minnesota would also like to thank out-going members Barb Kalthoff, David Kalthoff and Karen Reiset for sharing their time and talent during their time on the Board.

## **May is National NF Awareness Month**

We invite you to help us spread the word about Neurofibromatosis and the important work that we do here at NF Inc. Minnesota. Help us educate the community by inserting a short paragraph about NF in your church bulletin or your local paper. For more information on how you can help, please contact NF Inc. Minnesota at (651) 225-1720.

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