Introduction

T.B.	Terry B.	Strom
------	----------	-------

MD Secretary – MAB

The Extramural Grant Program (EGP) is an international research funding source established in 1989 under the direction and influence of Lee W. Henderson, MD, FACP, Executive Director.

The objectives of the EGP are: (1) to stimulate and support new research ideas through the funding of science in the field of renal disease; (2) to ultimately improve the quality of life for patients with end-stage renal disease, and (3) to allow Baxter to maintain its scientific and technological leadership position in the treatment of patients with renal disease.

The EGP has been modeled after the National Institutes of Health grant program. Research topics for the upcoming grant round (two per year) are announced in a formal Request for Proposals (RFP) brochure. The RFP is distributed approximately 1 year before the grant deadline to more than 15,000 researchers and scientists worldwide. Proposals generated in response to the RFP are submitted in confidence to Dr. Lee Henderson who, in turn, distributes them to members of the Medical Advisory Board (MAB). The

MAB is composed of 10 physicians and scientists renowned in the international scientific community for their expertise in the field of nephrology. The MAB reviews and evaluates the proposals based strictly on the scientific merit of the research. Approximately 6–8 weeks following the RFP deadline, the MAB meets to discuss the proposals and assign a final average score to each. Grants are awarded to the proposals with the highest ranking scores.

Grants funded through the EGP are 1–3 years in length and average US\$ 40,000 per year.

Research progress is monitored through brief semiannual reports. A final report is submitted at the completion of the grant study. Research highlights are presented each year at the EGP Scientific Meeting. The universities and investigators may retain ownership of all intellectual property and products which result from the EGP research grant.

Through 1992, seven grant rounds have been completed with more than US\$ 7.5 million awarded to 90 investigators representing 12 countries. Funded research encompasses

©1993

S. Karger AG, Basel

0253–5068/93/

0111–0011\$2.75/0

Trar

γv .-u.i» Access

Biocompatibility r.,

8%

Acute renal failure 9%

Transport/adequac 4%

(1/8-Microglobulin

amyloidosis

%

Cardiovascular %

Pathophysiology 33%

Fig. 1. EGP: research focus.

USA

UK

USA

FRG

Japan

Italy

Sweden

Canada

France

USA

Table 1. 1992 MAB

Clark Colton, PhD Ram Gokal, MD Thomas Hostetter, MD Hans Köhler, MD Kiyoshi Kurokawa, MD Giuseppe LaGreca, MD Bengt Lindholm, MD Robert Lindsay, MD Nguyen-Khoa Man, MD Terry Strom, MD

1993 RFP Research Topics

Deadline: April 9, 1993

The Role of Lipids in Renal Disease

Peritoneal Dialysis in the Pediatric Patient

Deadline: November 5, 1993 Quality of Life on Dialysis Open

both basic science (62%) and applied clinical studies (38%). A breakdown of the research is highlighted in figure 1.

In 1992, the Annual EGP meeting was held on May 14 and 15. Sixty-two recipients from five grant rounds presented their results to members of the MAB (table 1), the other principal investigators funded through the EGP, the Baxter scientific community and invited guests. A question and answer period followed oral presentations by grant round 1, 2 and 3 recipients. Recipients from rounds 4 and 5 presented posters.

As a commitment to the future, the EGP will continue to support researchers and scientists at universities and medical centers throughout the world in their quest to increase the understanding of renal disease.