Introduction

T.B.

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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 to stimulate and support new research ideas through the funding of science in the field of renal disease and to ultimately improve the quality of life for patients with end-stage renal disease.

The EGP has been modeled after the National Institutes of Health grant program. Twice each year, research topics are announced in a formal Request for Proposals (RFP) brochure. The RFP is distributed approximately 1 year before the grant deadline to more than 17,000 researchers and scientists worldwide. For those not on the mailing list, topics and deadlines are also announced in selected scientific journals and at international nephrology meetings. Proposals generated in response to the RFP are submitted in confidence to Dr. Henderson who, in turn, distributes them to members of an independent Medical Advisory Board (MAB). The MAB, composed of ten senior physicians and scientists from the international scientific and nephrology community, reviews and evaluates the proposals based strictly on the scientific merit of the research.

Approximately 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. The MAB may award up to \$ 1 million in new grants each year.

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. Each year, research highlights are presented at the EGP Scientific Meeting and are published in a special issue of this journal. The universities and investigators may retain ownership of all intellectual property and/or products which result from the EGP research grant.

Through December 1994, eleven grant rounds have been completed with more than US \$ 13.5 million awarded to 137 investigators representing 13 countries. Funded research encompasses both basic science (63%) and applied clinical studies (37%). A breakdown of the research is highlighted in figure 1.

In 1994, the Annual EGP Scientific Meeting was held June 14-16 in Chicago, 111., USA.

Eighty-one recipients presented the results of their research to members of the MAB (table 1), the other EGP investigators, the Baxter scientific community and invited guests. The thirty-two grant recipients who had completed a minimum of 3 years of research gave

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0132-0004\$8.00/0

Transport/Adequacy

4%

Table 1. 1994 MAB

Grant Awards by Topic

Access Biocompatibility 4%

8% Acute Renal Failure

9%

Transplant

9%

β 2-Microglobulin

Amyloidosis

7%

Cardiovascular

9%

Pathophysiology

35%

Fig. 1. EGP research focus.

slide presentations followed by a discussion period. The other forty-nine research projects were presented in poster format. This special issue contains abstracts from all presentations, transcripts of the discussions and publications resulting from each grant. It will be apparent from reading these proceedings that the EGP is funding some of the most exciting research being performed in the area of renal failure and its treatment.

As a commitment to the future, the Extramural Grant Program 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.

For information on preparation and submission of a grant application, please contact:

Baxter Healthcare Corporation, Renal Division

The Extramural Grant Program

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McGaw Park, IL 60085-6730 (USA)

Phone: (708) 473-6137; fax: (708) 473-6923

1995 Request for Proposals (RFP) Research Topics

Deadline: April 7, 1995

Treatment and Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease in ESRD

Management of the Diabetic ESRD Patient

Deadline: November 3, 1995

1. Renal Replacement Therapy in the Asian ESRD Patient