



November 21, 2012

Happy Thanksgiving!

On behalf of the Health Sciences & Services Authority (HSSA) Board, we wanted to wish all our friends and supporters a very happy Thanksgiving, and to provide a brief update of those matters which make us thankful this holiday season. Here is a quick update about recent events.

HSSA Awards \$200,000 for End-Stage Renal Disease Research; may result in better patient care and millions of dollars of potential savings for local health care providers

The Health Sciences & Services Authority (HSSA) is pleased to announce that it recently awarded a \$200,000 research grant to **Dr. Kathy Tuttle**, Providence Research Center, and **Dr. Cindy Corbett**, Washington State University.

Drs. Tuttle and Corbett submitted a proposal titled “Medication Intervention in Transitional Care to Improve Outcomes in End-Stage Renal Disease.” The research is a pilot study that targets translational/implementation research, and it extends earlier research funded by the National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Disease (NIDDK) in response to a request for applications specific to type 2 translational research for people with chronic kidney disease (CDK). The current study will focus on patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) who are receiving dialysis. Based on the results of the early analysis, the researchers anticipate a 50-90% reduction in acute care services within 90 days of an index hospitalization, and estimate a potential savings in Eastern Washington for as much as \$48 million every year.

This is the first grant funded under HSSA’s RFP #7 that intends to “support innovative research that advances Spokane as a national leader in health delivery research.”

HSSA Research Grants to Remain Open for Proposals

Researchers no longer have to wait for certain dates to submit their proposals for HSSA funding.

At its November meeting, the HSSA Board determined it would make all three research (3) grant competitions open for submittals any time. The Board will review proposals it receives on a quarterly basis. This should prove to be more efficient both for applicants and staff.

“We’re interested in making our process as transparent and user-friendly as possible,” said Nancy Isserlis, HSSA Board Chair.

The three areas of research for which HSSA will invest are:

HSSA RFP #5: Invest in human capital to accelerate Spokane’s health sciences by funding recruitment packages, endowed chairs, or other means.

HSSA RFP #6: Innovate research by SBIR/STTR or other “proof of concept” granted small businesses to expedite commercialization and spur job growth.

HSSA RFP #7: Research that advances Spokane as a national leader in health care delivery research.

More details about these grants and the criteria that qualifies an applicant, visit the HSSA website at www.hssapokane.org.

Innovate Washington & WBBA Offer Early-Stage SBIR/STTR Funding

Innovate Washington (formerly Sirti and the Washington Technology Center), is a statewide public-private partnership that serves as a catalyst for economic growth in Washington’s innovation economy. On Friday it announced the launch of its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Phase Zero (0) grant programs. This program will provide grant-writing support for qualified Washington-based small technology businesses interested in pursuing the federal R&D programs’ Phase I application. These grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to the most promising and qualified companies. Candidates can find more information on the program and application process by visiting <http://www.innovatewashington.org/sbir>. Questions may be directed to Jim Sampson at iwfsbir@innovatewashington.org or calling 509.358.2006.

Simultaneously, the Washington Biotechnology & Biomedical Association (WBBA) announced its SBIR/STTR Match Program to match selected companies with interns (current graduate students or postdoctoral fellows) paid by the WBBA to assist the company with the preparation and writing of an SBIR or STTR grant to be submitted in 2013. Additionally, the WBBA will support the process with workshops and mentorship by a committee of experienced industry professionals with a history of SBIR, STTR and commercialization success. For information contact Christina Delouse, PhD, Director, Commercialization at christiana@washbio.org or by phone at 206.456.9560.

HSSA is pleased with these two new SBIR/STTR programs as it will help to create deal flow for its grant programs, all of which are intended to grow the bioscience industry capacity in Spokane County.

About Our Board:

Nancy Isserlis, City Attorney, City of Spokane, and HSSA Board Chair; **Earl F. “Marty” Martin, Ph.D.**, Executive Vice President, Gonzaga University and HSSA Board Vice Chair; **Michael Wilson**, Chief Executive, Providence Health Care and Grants Committee Chair; **Jason Thackston**, Vice President of Energy Delivery, Avista Corp. and Finance Committee Chair; **Dr. Jeff Collins**, Medical Director, Providence Health Care; **Kevin Oldenburg, Ph.D.**, President, MatriCal Bioscience, Inc.; **Gary Pollack, Ph.D.**, Vice Provost for Health Sciences, Dean and Professor, College of Pharmacy, **David J. Vachon, Ph.D.**, CEO/Founder, Iasis Molecular Sciences, and **Francisco R. Velázquez, M.D., S.M.**, President & CEO, PAML.

For More Information:

The mission of HSSA is to invest funds to create and support a nationally competitive health sciences research cluster in Spokane County, and to increase access to health care. HSSA works collaboratively with community partners to catalyze higher education research and the health sciences industry to lead to higher wage jobs, long-term sustainability and economic diversification. For more information, visit our website at www.hssaspokane.org, or contact **Susan Ashe**, Executive Director, at 509.358.2113 or info@hssaspokane.org.