Highway, NE, (M/S K–10), telephone 770–488–5000 or fax 770/488–5966.

Dated: July 7, 1998.

Carolyn J. Russell,

Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Hanford Thyroid Morbidity Study Advisory Committee: Notice of Charter Renewal

This gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92–463) of October 6, 1972, that the Hanford Thyroid Morbidity Study Advisory Committee (HTMSAC) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services, has been renewed for a 2-year period. The charter will now expire June 13, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Henry Falk, M.D., Executive Secretary, HTMSAC, CDC, 4770 Buford Highway, NE, (M/S F–28), telephone 770–488–7300 or fax 770/488–7044.

Dated: July 7, 1998.

Carolyn J. Russell,

Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Announcement Number 99012]

Notice of Availability of Funds; Applied Research Program in Emerging Infections Novel Diagnostic Tests for Infections of Public Health Significance

Introduction

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the availability of fiscal year (FY) 1999 funds for competitive grants and/or cooperative agreements to support applied research on emerging infections. This announcement addresses the development of novel diagnostic tests for infections of public health significance.

CDC is committed to achieving the health promotion and disease prevention objectives of Healthy People 2000, a national activity to reduce morbidity and mortality and improve the quality of life. This announcement is related to the priority area of Immunization and Infectious Diseases. (For ordering a copy of Healthy People 2000, see the section **WHERE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**)

Authority

This program is authorized under Sections 301(a) and 317(k)(2) of the Public Health Service Act, as amended [42 U.S.C. 241(a) and 247b(k)(2)].

Smoke-Free Workplace

CDC strongly encourages all grant recipients to provide a smoke-free workplace and to promote the non-use of all tobacco products, and Pub. L. 103–227, the Pro-Children's Act of 1994, prohibits smoking in certain facilities that receive Federal funds in which education, library, day-care, health-care and early childhood development services are provided to children.

Eligible Applicants

Applications may be submitted by public and private nonprofit organizations and governments and their agencies. Thus, universities, colleges, research institutions, hospitals, other public and private organizations, including State and local governments or their bona fide agents, federally recognized Indian tribal governments, Indian tribes or Indian tribal organizations.

Only one application will be accepted from any single applicant, organization, government, or agency in each focus area.

Availability of Funds

Approximately $500,000 is available in FY 1999 to fund two to three awards, ranging from $160,000 to $250,000. It is expected the awards will begin on or about February 1, 1999, and will be made for a 12-month budget period within a project period of up to three years. (The funding amounts listed above are for the first 12-month budget period and include both direct and indirect costs.) The funding estimate is subject to change.

Continuation awards within an approved project period will be made on the basis of satisfactory progress and availability of funds.

Specifically, applications are solicited for projects addressing any of the following three areas:

1. Diagnostic Tests of High Sensitivity and Specificity for Use in Clinical Settings

The objective is to encourage the development of highly sensitive and specific diagnostic tests for infectious disease agents of high public health significance for which such tests are not currently available.

2. Development and Evaluation of Improved Tests for Malaria Diagnosis in the U.S.

The objective is to develop and evaluate a malaria diagnostic test that does not require microscopic examination of blood smears and: (a) is at least as sensitive as microscopy (4 parasites per ul. of blood); (b) can detect all 4 known species of human malaria parasites; (c) has a specificity of at least 95 percent; (d) is simple to perform; and (e) can provide results in less than 1 hour.

3. Diagnostic Tests for Field Use

The objective is to encourage the development of field tests for infectious disease agents of high public health significance. Attributes sought in these field tests are: low cost; use with noninvasive or easy to collect specimens; short time-to-result; stable reagents; minimum risks to technicians; sensitivity and specificity appropriate for setting.

Applicants may submit separate applications for projects in one or more of the three focus areas. (See Application Process Section, Application Content area, for detailed instructions.)

Determination of Which Instrument to Use

Applicants must specify the type of award for which they are applying, either grant or cooperative agreement. CDC will review the applications in accordance with the evaluation criteria. Before issuing awards, CDC will determine whether a grant or cooperative agreement is the appropriate instrument based upon the need for substantial CDC involvement in the project. To assist applicants in making a determination as to which type of award to apply for, the following information is provided:

1. Research Project Grants

A research project grant is one in which substantial programmatic involvement by CDC is not anticipated by the recipient during the project period. Applicants for grants must demonstrate an ability to conduct the proposed research with minimal assistance, other than financial support,