DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Findings of Scientific Misconduct

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) and the Assistant Secretary for Health have taken final action in the following case:

Heather J. Muenchen, Ph.D., University of Michigan: Based on the report of an investigation conducted by the University of Michigan (UM), Dr. Muenchen’s admissions, and additional analysis conducted by ORI in its oversight review, the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) found that Dr. Muenchen, former postdoctoral fellow at UM, engaged in scientific misconduct in research funded by National Institutes of Health (NIH) Urology Research Training Grant T32 DK07758 and SPORE grant P50 CA69568. Dr. Muenchen falsified and fabricated research data by computer manipulation of 12 Western blot analyses in three publications and two draft manuscripts. Specifically, PHS found that Dr. Muenchen:


(2) Falsified Western blot data in Figures 2 and 3 in the following paper: Muenchen, H.J., Poncza, P.J., and Pienta, K.J. “Different docetaxel-induced apoptotic pathways are present in prostate cancer cell lines LNCaP and PC-3.” Urology 57(2):366–370, 2001;

(3) Falsified Western blot analyses and associated claims for Figures 1, 5A, 5B, and 8 in the following paper: Muenchen, H.J., Lin, D-L., Poncza, P.J., McLean, L.L., Diorette, M.L., Keller, E.T., and Pienta, K.J. “Re-expression of functional androgen receptor in androgen-independent prostate cancer cells.” Published electronically on November 13, 2000 in the Journal of Biological Chemistry (JBC) as Online Manuscript M008934200 (withdrawn January 16, 2001); and

(4) Falsified Western blot analyses in Figures 4A, 4B, and 7 of the original draft submitted for publication on September 29, 2000, (and the corresponding Figures 5A, 5B, and 8 in the second draft submitted October 20, 2000) of the JBC manuscript.

Dr. Muenchen was the first and corresponding author on the above publications, which were supported in part by Urology Research Training Grant T32 DK07758 and SPORE grant P50 CA69568. These falsifications are significant because they misrepresent the expression of the androgen receptor, the necessary control data, the evidence for “super-repressor” binding and its effect, and the control data for assaying apoptosis. These misrepresentations occurred through a series of separate and specific deceptions in an attempt to obviate the legitimate criticisms of publication reviewers. These falsifications were designed to be misleading about the experiments’ true results and to wrongfully induce publication of the experiments. Dr. Muenchen’s actions could have provided tools for understanding metastasis in prostate cancer and ultimately impact on treatment of this disease.

Dr. Muenchen has entered into a Voluntary Exclusion Agreement in which she has voluntarily agreed:

(1) To exclude herself from any contracting or subcontracting with any agency of the United States Government and from eligibility for, or involvement in, nonprocurement transactions (e.g., grants and cooperative agreements) of the United States Government as defined in 45 CFR part 76 (Debarment Regulations) for a period of five (5) years, beginning on September 5, 2002;

(2) To exclude herself from serving in any advisory capacity to PHS including but not limited to service on any PHS advisory committee, board, and/or peer review committee, or as a consultant for a period of five (5) years, beginning on September 5, 2002; and

(3) Within 30 days of the effective date of this Agreement, to submit letters of retraction to the editor of Urology retracting the paper published at 57(2):366–370, 2001, and to the editor of Clinical Cancer Research, published at 6(5):1969–1977, 2000, identifying and retracting the falsified or fabricated data in Figure 3 and Figures 4A and 4B. The retraction requirements will remain on the ALERT System until Dr. Muenchen sends, and ORI receives, copies of the retraction letters consistent with the above language.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Director, Division of Investigative Oversight, Office of Research Integrity, 5515 Security Lane, Suite 700, Rockville, MD 20852, (301) 443–5330.

Chris B. Pascal,
Director, Office of Research Integrity.
[FR Doc. 02–24952 Filed 10–1–02; 8:45 am]

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Program Announcement 02185]

Cooperative Agreement to the Association of Immunization Managers; Notice of Award of Funds

A. Purpose

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the availability of fiscal year (FY) 2002 funds for a cooperative agreement program for the Association of Immunization Managers. This program addresses the “Healthy People 2010” focus area of Immunization and Infectious Diseases.

The purpose of the program is to (1) maintain an effective communication capacity among the nation’s immunization program managers and CDC; (2) sustain a capacity to coordinate both rapid and comprehensive assessments of problems and opportunities faced by immunization managers; and (3) establish a capacity to coordinate the consultations and collaborations that will enable state and local health departments to assimilate and implement the latest programmatic, scientific and technological developments and concepts affecting the goal of immunizing our nation’s citizens.

B. Eligible Applicants

Assistance will be provided only to the Association of Immunization Managers (AIM). No other applications are solicited. AIM is the only organization that has an established relationship with state and local health department immunization programs, access to public health managers and
practitioners involved in the control of vaccine-preventable diseases, and the expertise necessary to carry out this project. AIM is a unique organization because its members have technical expertise in the areas of management, vaccine, information technology, quality assurance, health care delivery, health education and disease surveillance which is required to ensure effective implementation of population-based vaccination programs.

Note: Title 2 of the United States Code section 1611 states that an organization described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engages in lobbying activities is not eligible to receive Federal funds constituting an award, grant or loan.

C. Availability of Funds

$150,000 is being awarded in FY 2002. It is expected that the award will begin on or about September 30, 2002 and will be made for a 12-month budget period within a project period of up to five years. Funding estimates may change.

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

D. Where To Obtain Additional Information

This and other CDC announcements, the necessary applications, and associated forms can be found on the CDC home page Internet address—http://www.cdc.gov. Click on “Funding” then “Grants and Cooperative Agreements.”

For business management assistance, contact: Peaches Brown, Grants Management Specialist, Procurement and Grants Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2920 Brandywine Road, Room 3000, Atlanta, GA 30341–4146, Telephone number: (770) 488–2738, Email address: prb0@cdc.gov.

For program technical assistance, contact: Kenneth Sharp, Program Operations Branch, ISD, National Immunization Program, Mailstop E–52, 1600 Clifton Rd, Atlanta, GA 30333, Telephone number: (404) 639–8215, Email address: kls2@cdc.gov.

Dated: September 24, 2002.

Sandra R. Manning,
Director, Procurement and Grants Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[FR Doc. 02–24986 Filed 10–1–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163–18–P

ANNUAL BURDEN ESTIMATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Number of respondents</th>
<th>Number of responses per respondent</th>
<th>Average burden hours per response</th>
<th>Total burden hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCSE–100</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.72</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In compliance with the requirements of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Administration for Children and Families is soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the information collection described above. Copies of the proposed collection of information can be obtained and comments may be forwarded by writing to the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Administration, Office of Information Services, 370 L’Enfant Promenade, SW., Washington, DC 20447, Attn: ACF Reports Clearance Officer. All requests should be identified by the title information collection.

The Department specifically requests comments on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted within 60 days of this publication.

Dated: September 26, 2002.

Robert Sargis,
Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 02–25002 Filed 10–1–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4184–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

Proposed Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

Proposed Projects

Title: Revised Form OCSE–100, State Plan for Child Support Under Title IV–D of the Social Security Act.

OMB No.: 0970–0017.

Description: The state plan preprint and amendments serve as a contract with OCSE in outlining the activities the state will perform as required by law in order for states to receive federal funds. We are asking for approval to revise one state plan preprint page to reflect new Federal requirements regarding medical support enforcement.

Respondents: 54.