

The Rehabilitation Research and Development (RR&D) Service of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers an opportunity for investigators to apply for funding studies to overcome paralysis and restore motor and sensory function in veterans with nervous system disease or damage.

VA seeks to examine intensive multidisciplinary rehabilitation approaches to functional and sensory recovery for patients with spinal cord injury, stroke, and other neurologic disorders, including multiple sclerosis. Investigations that combine functional electrical stimulation (FES), robotics, electromyography, imaging, quantitative measurements, neuropharmacologic treatment, endocrine therapy, motor learning, motor strength, and cognitive behavioral therapy will be given high priority.

Current VA investigators and investigators willing to partner with their local VA Medical Center may request funds of up to \$750,000 per year for 5 years. All necessary equipment (i.e., Lokomat, treadmills, FES) will be made available to investigators. Priority research areas include mass-practice approaches in upper- and lower-limb paresis/paralysis, secondary disability, delayed instability, and reintegration into society.

Principal and coprincipal investigators will have a PhD and/or MD degree and will hold at least a five-eighths VA appointment. Inquiries may be directed to Danielle M. Kerkovich, PhD, Acting Assistant Director, RR&D Service, at 202-254-0258 or danielle@vard.org. To obtain additional information, including instructions on LOI and proposal development and submission, visit the web page "Guidelines for Researchers and Opportunities for Funding" at www.vard.org.

The Rehabilitation Research and Development (RR&D), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), offers an opportunity for clinician/scientists affiliated with VA medical centers to submit proposals for establishing Rehabilitation Engineering and Platform Technology Centers (REPT) that focus on cutting-edge translatable solutions to issues of sensory deficit, motor impairment, or limb loss.

REPT Centers are expected to cultivate a community of VA and non-VA clinician scientists and scholars; train personnel to practice in a multidisciplinary environment; share their intellectual and physical resources with the medical, scientific, and lay community; and incorporate best methods in research. Overall, REPT Centers must focus on research that supports a proactive comprehensive approach to veterans' rehabilitation.

Investigators may request up to \$850,000 annually, with required competitive renewal on a 5-year cycle. Proposals that incorporate materials science, nanotechnology, microtechnology, tissue engineering, robotics, molecular biology, and other emerging biomedical engineering applications are expected. Proposals that incorporate neural prosthetics or CAD/CAM technology are highly encouraged.

Letters of Intent (LOI) will be accepted on a rolling basis. Proposals are due January 31, 2004, and will be reviewed in April. The director and associate director for research must have an MD and/or PhD and be approved for a five-eighths VA appointment. For more information, contact Danielle M. Kerkovich, PhD, Acting Assistant Director, RR&D Service, at 202-254-0258 or danielle@vard.org. To obtain LOI instructions, proposal development, and submission guidelines, visit the web page "Guidelines for Researchers and Opportunities for Funding" at www.vard.org.

