John E. Nestler, MD, Chair of the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, has been notified by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) that it will recommend funding of VCU’s U54 SCCPRIR center application focusing on “Translational Research in Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS).” Dr. Nestler is the Principal Investigator for the $6 million grant, which will provide funding for five years (April 2008–March 2013) for interdisciplinary and translational research in PCOS. Key investigators are Dr. Nestler and Dean Jerome Strauss from VCU and Dr. Richard Legro of Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Paulina Essah of VCU’s Division of General Internal Medicine has a development project on the grant, and there are collaborators from the University of Pennsylvania and Hershey Medical Center.

The Specialized Cooperative Centers Program in Reproduction and Infertility Research (SCCPRIR) is administered by the Reproductive Sciences Branch of the NICHD and provides funding for a limited number of research centers in the reproductive sciences. The purpose of these centers is to provide an arena for multidisciplinary interactions among basic and clinical scientists interested in establishing high quality programs in reproduction and infertility research. The centers also serve as national resources for the training and career development of new scientists electing to pursue research in high priority areas of reproduction and infertility research.

There are only 15 SCCPRIR centers nationwide, and this year’s annual competition was particularly fierce. VCU’s success in obtaining the U54 center bespeaks the accomplishments and reputations of its investigators and is both an honor and distinction for the institution.

“John Nestler is a rare talent in Endocrinology and a unique resource for VCU’s Health System,” said Richard Wenzel, MD, MSc, chairman of Internal Medicine.

“Dr. Nestler brings extraordinary acclaim to the Department of Internal Medicine as a result of his creative research.”

Dr. John Nestler
Research Activities in the Department of Internal Medicine

It is no secret that the Department has a large research portfolio. In fact, Internal Medicine generates more direct expenses in sponsored projects than any department in the School of Medicine. In fiscal year 2007, the department’s share of direct sponsored programs expense was 33% of all clinical departments in the School ($11,804,897 out of a total of $34,862,358) and 20% of all departments in the School ($11,804,897 out of a grand total of $57,975,603). These figures do not include activities through McGuire VAMC and the Massey Cancer Center.

Congratulations to all our researchers for a job well done!

Contributed by Cindy Kinney, MBA, CRA,
Associate Administrator for Grants, Department of Internal Medicine

In calendar year 2007, our faculty submitted a total of 103 proposals. Funding sources ranged from NIH to the American Diabetes Association to GlaxoSmithKline.

In calendar year 2007, there were 175 active awards totaling over $12 million.

**SPONSOR TYPE** | **NUMBER OF SUBMITTED PROPOSALS** | **REQUESTED AMOUNT** | **AWARD AMOUNT**
--- | --- | --- | ---
NIH | 40 | $114,269,029 | $5,152,182
Other Federal | 33 | $7,522,196 | $2,522,822
Industry | 88 | $839,022 | $3,765,127
Foundation | 10 | $291,437 | $830,452
State | 4 | | |

A number of our faculty have awards totaling over $1 million.

**PI NAME** | **ASSOCIATED DIVISION** | **PROJECT TITLE** | **TOTAL COST**
--- | --- | --- | ---
Dr. Gordon Archer | Infectious Diseases | Staphylococcal Methicillin | $1,932,436
Dr. Alpha Fowler | Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine | Role of Hypoxia Inducible Factor 1 in Inflammation | $1,089,443
Dr. Steven Grant | Hematology/Oncology | Checkpoint Abrogation and NIKC - Inhibition in Myeloma | $1,034,543
Dr. Steven Grant | Hematology/Oncology | Promotion of Nucleoside Analog | $1,059,664
Dr. John Clore | General Clinical Research Center | General Clinical Research Center | $15,420,971
Dr. John Kuhrmeme | Gastroenterology | Growth and Function of Cultured Gastrointestinal Muscle | $1,206,839
Dr. Rakesh Kukreja | Cardiology | Molecular Mechanisms of Delayed Preconditioning | $1,874,498
Dr. Anan Sanyal | Gastroenterology | Clinical Studies of Non-alcoholic Steatohepatitis | $2,998,371
Dr. Anan Sanyal | Gastroenterology | Training Grant in Digestive Diseases And Liver Disease | $1,148,297
Dr. Mitchell Shiffman | Endocrinology | Hepatitis C Clinical Trial – Clinical Centers | $7,712,742
Dr. John Nestler | Endocrinology | Polycystic Ovary Syndrome | $6,000,000
Dr. Robert Downs | Endocrinology | Trial of Effects of Thalidomide on the Incidence of New Vertebral Fractures in Osteoporotic Postmenopausal Women | $1,667,424

**FACULTY PUBLICATIONS**


If you would like to obtain a copy, please contact Katia Clod-Svensson at 828-5738 or at katia@vcu.edu.
Dr. John Nestler

VCU Masters of Health Administration Program/Department of Internal Medicine Partnership

In an effort to enhance experiential learning opportunities for students in the Department of Health Administration and to gain additional administrative expertise in the Department of Internal Medicine, a partnership has been developed whereby graduate students will provide consulting services to Internal Medicine as part of a management course taught by Dr. Kenneth White, Charles P. Cardwell, Jr. Professor and Director of the Graduate Program in Health Administration. As part of this initiative, students in the MHA Class of 2010 will volunteer to work on four administrative projects in the areas of human resources and finance from January until May 2008.

This collaboration will bring a talented group of individuals to the Department of Internal Medicine who can make meaningful contributions, and it will provide an excellent opportunity for students to apply what they have learned in the classroom to real-world situations. In exchange for their service, the Department will make a small donation to the MHA Student Annual Fund. “It is a win-win situation which allows us to meet bright young students from another discipline,” said Richard P. Wenzel, MD, MSc, chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine.

Contributed by Mindy Wyttenbach-Lindsey, PhD Executive Director, Department of Internal Medicine

Nestler Wins $6 Million NIH Center Grant for Polycystic Ovary Research

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