

HHS NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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Public Health Service
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The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, an agency of the U.S. Public Health Service, announced February 1, 1984, that it will fund nine new studies designed to find the cause of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Total first-year cost of these studies will be more than \$1 million.

Persons with AIDS have severe defects in their immune systems that leave them vulnerable to a wide variety of opportunistic infections, such as Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, and/or unusual tumors, such as Kaposi's sarcoma. More than 3000 cases have been reported since 1981, primarily among homosexual men with multiple partners, intravenous drug users, recent Haitian entrants to the United States, and hemophiliacs. The cause of AIDS is unknown, and the long-term outlook for patients with AIDS is very poor.

To stimulate specific research projects aimed at discovering the cause of this disease, in order to make possible the development of appropriate ways to prevent and/or control AIDS, the National Cancer Institute and the NIAID issued a Request for Applications from interested investigators. As a result of this request, the NIAID is awarding nine Cooperative Agreements, a mechanism that allows funding of studies

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of special concern while ensuring close collaboration between awardees and Institute staff.

The principal investigators and their studies are as follows:

° Deborah J. Anderson, Ph.D., assistant professor of pathology, Laboratory of Immunogenetics, Harvard Medical School and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, will use mice to study the effects of semen on the immune system.

° R.S. Chaganti, Ph.D., associate member and head, Laboratory of Cancer Genetics and Cytogenetics, Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, New York, will analyze chromosomal changes in relation to abnormal growth of immune cells.

° Marshall S. Horwitz, M.D., professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, will study the relationship between AIDS and adenoviruses.

° George I. Miller, M.D., John F. Enders professor of pediatrics and epidemiology, Departments of Pediatrics and Epidemiology and Public Health, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CN, will identify and characterize viral agents associated with AIDS using a variety of laboratory techniques.

° Carel Mulder, Ph.D., professor, Department of Pharmacology, Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, will conduct prospective studies on hemophiliacs, homosexual men, and AIDS patients while monitoring them for a variety of viral agents.

° Wade P. Parks, M.D., Ph.D., professor of pediatrics, microbiology and immunology, Division of Allergy, Immunology and Infectious Diseases,

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Memorial Hospital, Miami, will look for human T-cell leukemia retrovirus infections in Haitians with AIDS.

° Olivia T. Preble, Ph.D., senior research associate, Department of Pathology, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD, will examine blood Factor VIII concentrate for viruses suspected of causing AIDS in hemophiliacs.

° Aleem Siddiqui, Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Denver, will look for evidence of hepatitis B virus in Kaposi's sarcoma.

° Peter J. Tattersall, Ph.D., research scientist, Department of Human Genetics, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CN, will develop a mouse model to study parvoviruses as a possible cause of AIDS.

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