

Limited Competition RFA: International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Monographs Program

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Background

- IARC- International Agency for Research on Cancer
- Monographs- critical scientific evaluations of carcinogenic hazards to humans
- NCI support since 1982 via an U01 award
- Evaluates chemicals, biological agents, occupational exposures and lifestyle factors
- Advisory Group
 - Prioritizes agents every 5 years
 - Criteria- extent of human exposure, suspicion of carcinogenicity, public health relevance and new studies

Monograph process

- Working Groups review literature comprehensively
 - Subject matter experts- interdisciplinary, international
 - Evaluate epidemiology, animal studies and mechanism data
 - Summarize exposure data
- Determination of agent as a cancer hazard
 - Known, probable, or possible carcinogen, not classifiable
- Three Working Groups per year (NCI funds two)
- Volumes freely available as PDFs
- Over 1,000 agents evaluated by 125 Working Groups

Agents

- Recently evaluated
 - High concern- engine exhaust, red meat and outdoor air pollution
 - Low and middle income countries (LMIC)- malaria, hepatitis B and C viruses, indoor combustion/cooking
- New and high priority for 2020-2024
 - Bisphenol A, cytomegalovirus, e-cigarettes and nicotine, disinfection byproducts and cannabis smoking

Portfolio analysis

- Unique NIH award
- US carcinogen identification programs
 - Report on Carcinogens (NTP, NIEHS)
 - Integrated Risk Information System (EPA)
- Program distinctions
 - Broader number and type of agents evaluated
 - Agents of global concern, especially for LMICs
 - Frequently the first to evaluate an agent
 - Interactions with EPA, NIH (NCI, NIEHS) and CDC

Funding opportunity announcement

- RFA
 - Reissuance- enable submission of a renewal application
 - Limited competition- uniquely positioned institution
 - Review by NCI special emphasis panel
- R01
 - Reflects current NCI role of award stewardship

Requested set aside funds

- \$900,878 TC/year for 5 years
- \$4,504,390 total
- Based on current award
- Allocation
 - Convening Working Groups 30%
 - IARC personnel 70%

Evaluation

- Internal
 - 48 publications from last 10 years analyzed by relative citation ratio (RCR, iCite)
 - 3.59 median RCR (near 90th percentile rank)
- External
 - Review of current project period by 5 outside experts
 - Many strengths with suggestions to improve the dissemination of information
 - Unique and critical role in cancer hazard assessment



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