DID YOU KNOW…?

The Ebola epidemic in West Africa has caused enormous suffering, but scientists also see it as a chance to test experimental therapies that could save lives in the future. With declining case numbers, however, it is becoming less likely that all the drug tests will reach a conclusion. Now, scientists are debating whether some trials should be stopped so that tests of more promising therapies that have only now become available have a better chance of reaching a conclusion. An expert panel at the World Health Organization has given ZMapp and TKM-Ebola highest priority but in a recent meeting did not call for ongoing studies of favipiravir and convalescent blood to be stopped. The experts did convince a group of Italian doctors to test ZMapp instead of the heart drug amiodarone and criticized an interferon trial that has now started in Guinea.

http://www.sciencemag.org/content/348/6230/20.full?utm_campaign=email-sci-ntw&utm_src=email

Scientists at the Scripps Research Institute have created a compound that can protect against a wider range of HIV strains than any previous attempts. They created a fusion protein with a form of CD4 on one end and a crucial piece of CCR5 on the other. One author commented: “Our compound is the broadest and most potent entry inhibitor described so far. Unlike antibodies, which fail to neutralize a large fraction of HIV-1 strains, our protein has been effective against all strains tested, raising the possibility it could be part of an effective HIV vaccine alternative.”

http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v519/n7541/full/nature14264.html

PERSONALIZED CANCER VACCINES

Vaccines for infectious diseases typically deliver into the body bits of protein or other material from a virus or bacterium that trigger the immune system to defend against the invading pathogen. With cancer, the similar idea is to vaccinate a patient with immune-stimulating molecules, known as antigens, found only on tumor cells, so that the person’s immune system ends up attacking the tumor. But cancer vaccines have had a poor record of success because most of the tumor antigens tested also appear in small amounts on healthy cells, and the immune system has mechanisms that make it tolerate, or ignore, these familiar antigens. Scientists are now focused on antigens those that result from the mutations that riddle a tumor’s DNA. Some of these mutations do not appear in genes that drive cancer growth, but instead code for novel peptides. Because these so-called neoantigens are completely foreign to the body, they could in theory make a cancer vaccine. Promising results in a melanoma study appear in a recent issue of Science.

http://www.sciencemag.org/content/early/2015/04/01/science.aaa3828
NEWSWORTHY FROM NIH

Uniform Guidance
Still trying to understand what the new cost principles in the Uniform Guidance mean to you? The NIH has added a video overview as well as a recorded Q & A to the NIH Grants YouTube page.  
http://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2015/03/31/uniform-guidance-explained/?utm_source=nexus&utm_medium=email&utm_content=nihupdate&utm_campaign=mar15

NIH REGIONAL SEMINAR IN BALTIMORE
The NIH Regional Seminar will take place May 7-8, 2015. It will have more than 50 of my NIH and HHS colleagues to share the latest updates and guidance on NIH initiatives, policies, and updates on the NIH grants process. If you are new to working with NIH – or maybe just in need of a brush-up on NIH funding and grant policy-related topics – consider attending.  
http://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2015/03/20/time-for-the-nih-regional-seminar-in-baltimore/?utm_source=nexus&utm_medium=email&utm_content=nihupdate&utm_campaign=mar15

Reminder: Biosketch Requirements for Due Dates On/After May 25, 2015

The modified biosketch format is required for applications submitted to NIH for due dates on or after May 25, 2015. Biosketch format pages, instructions, samples and FAQs are available on the Biosketches section of the SF424 (R&R) Forms and Applications page.  
http://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2015/03/31/reminder-biosketch/?utm_source=nexus&utm_medium=email&utm_content=nihupdate&utm_campaign=mar15


NEWSWORTHY FROM THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION

NEW PRE-AWARD FORMS
The Pre-award Division of ORA has posted new forms that must be used for grant application submissions. Please stop using older versions of these forms. Download new forms at  
http://research.downstate.edu/forms/forms.htm

Training Sessions Offered by ORA
The Office of Research Administration will now be offering quarterly training sessions to discuss sponsored projects and research administration; ranging from important updates of sponsor policies and new forms to internal changes in process and policy, as well as other items. We expect these sessions to provide a fundamental and essential overview of research administration, as well as answer any Pre- and Post-award questions you may have. Click the URL below for scheduling information.  

NIH Grants Policy Statement
Effective for all NIH grants and cooperative agreements with budget periods beginning on or after December 26, 2014 and awards receiving supplemental funds on or after that date: The policy addresses updates related to the Uniform Guidance.  
**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

Weekly NIH funding opportunities: [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/WeeklyIndex.cfm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/WeeklyIndex.cfm)

Information on hundreds of non-federal sources of grant and fellowship support is available on the URL below. This is provided, with permission, by the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.
[http://www.einstein.yu.edu/administration/grant-support/funding-opportunities.aspx](http://www.einstein.yu.edu/administration/grant-support/funding-opportunities.aspx)

Proposal CENTRAL is an e-grantmaking website shared by many government, non-profit, and private grant-making organizations.
[https://proposalcentral.altum.com/](https://proposalcentral.altum.com/)

Additional funding information can be found on the SUNY- RF website. You will need to login with your SUNY RF user name and password.

The Myositis Association (TMA) has announced new funding available this year is $750,000, and we are going to enable individual projects to receive funding up to $250,000. Of the $750,000, $200,000 is set aside specifically for fellowships.

The Arthritis Foundation just opened a Request for Proposals. An estimated $5 million in multi-year awards may be approved for new Delivery on Discovery projects based on the evaluation criteria provided in the RFP. See the link below for more information. Please note that the submission deadline is Tuesday, May 12th.
[HTTP://WWW.ARTHRITIS.ORG/RESEARCH/FUNDING-OPPORTUNITIES/](HTTP://WWW.ARTHRITIS.ORG/RESEARCH/FUNDING-OPPORTUNITIES/)
MRSA Treatment?

It's time to break out your old copy of Bald's Leechbook that's been gathering dust on the top bookshelf. It apparently contains a cure for MRSA. Based on a recipe in the book, scientists concocted an "eye salve" that contains garlic, onion, wine, and cow bile. Does it work? In an experiment, the remedy killed 90 percent of MRSA bacteria.