

CABTRAC 2009 Meeting of the Diversity Recruitment Committee:

Chairs: Dr. Dihua Yu, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Dr. Susann Brady-Kalnay, Case Western Reserve University

Members: Dr. Dawn Eastmond, City of Hope  
Dr. Kathy Rundell, Northwestern University  
Dr. Robert Pauley, Wayne State University  
Dr. Terry Turski, Roswell Park Cancer Center  
Dr. Channing Der, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Dr. Ken Wright, Moffit Cancer Center  
Dr. Thomas Wiese, Xavier University of Louisiana  
Dr. Alexis Bakos, Chief, Diversity Training Branch, NCI

Report:

Our discussion centered around 2 issues:

1) The change in NIH policy about Diversity Reporting Requirements (see details below) was noted by the Diversity Recruitment committee. Following a discussion, there were various interpretations of these new rules and some debate from the NCI/CSR staff about whether this is temporary or a permanent change. Dr. Shannon Lemrow-Silkenson from the NCI was going to provide further clarification.

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-135.html>

**Amendment to the Instructions for Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Institutional Research Training Grant Applications and Other Research Training and Research Education Grant Applications Using Form PHS 398 Fillable Data Tables**

**Notice Number: NOT-OD-09-135**

**Key Dates** Release Date: August 21, 2009

**Issued by** National Institutes of Health (NIH), (<http://www.nih.gov>)

This notice amends the instructions for reporting **pre-enrollment data on individuals with disabilities and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds** in Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Institutional Research Training Grant applications ([PA-08-226](#)) and other research training and research education grant applications requiring the use of PHS 398 fillable data tables. Applicant institutions are instructed in [Form PHS 398](#) to include training program Information using the fillable [Data Tables 1-12](#). This notice refers specifically to certain data in Tables 7a and 7b, "Admissions and Completion Records for the Participating Departments and Programs During the Past Five Years". These Tables ask applicant institutions to provide, among other information, data on **individuals with disabilities** and **individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds** before enrollment (i.e., numbers applied and numbers accepted). NIH recognizes, however, that not all applicant institutions collect this particular data or are able to provide it. Therefore, applicant institutions are no longer required to submit pre-enrollment data on these two categories of individuals (categories /B and /C in the first two data columns of Tables 7a and 7b). **Omission of this data will not affect the evaluation of the application.** Please note, however, that all other information requested in data tables 7a and 7b and in other data tables must be

provided as instructed.

### **Inquiries**

Questions concerning this notice should be directed to: Rod Ulane, Ph.D., NIH Research Training Officer Director, Division of Scientific Programs Office of Extramural Programs, National Institutes of Health, 6705 Rockledge, Suite 350 Bethesda, MD 20892 ; Email: [NIHTrain@mail.nih.gov](mailto:NIHTrain@mail.nih.gov) ; NIH Extramural Training Mechanisms: <http://grants1.nih.gov/training/extramural.htm>

2) We were fortunate to have Thomas Wiese in our group from Xavier University of Louisiana. This is a historically black college or university according to the NIH criteria. We discussed how to specifically increase minority recruitment based upon his first hand experience with the students at Xavier. The main problem is one of communication, the students are very interested in careers in cancer research but have difficulty in finding the opportunities that are available to them. Navigating to appropriate websites for every institution or program is not practical. Our main recommendation is to improve the CABTRAC website to address Diversity Recruitment.

Our specific recommendations were:

- 1) To have pages on the CABTRAC website dedicated to Diversity Recruitment for each class of trainees: undergraduate students, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.
- 2) To have the CABTRAC website serve as a central place for trainees to find opportunities to do cancer research at various institutions. Listings could include summer research programs, PREP, MARC, McNair, CURE and RISE programs as well as special fellowships available to minority students. This would be a series of links provided by member institutions as one of the benefits for participating in CABTRAC.
- 3) To have the CABTRAC website link to various NCI bulletins relevant to diversity training. These links are to be provided by Dr. Alexis Bakos, Chief of the NCI Diversity Training Branch.
- 4) Have CABTRAC reach out to historically black colleges and universities to waive the institutional membership fee and/or registration fees so their representative faculty and students could attend a CABTRAC meeting. Dihua Yu and Susann Brady-Kalnay will bring this for discussion at the next CABTRAC executive committee meeting.
- 5) Dr. Wiese recommended having students participate in recruiting at national meetings for minorities instead of university administrators.
- 6) To ensure these websites on diversity can be viewed by anyone even if they are not currently members of CABTRAC. This will allow students to use the website as a resource for cancer biology training information.
- 7) CABTRAC should develop a poster with tear off cards or promotional materials with our website address to distribute to institutions and students. This could be done by mailings or at a meeting that students from a historically black college or university might attend.
- 8) CABTRAC could consider mailing a postcard to GRE takers indicating our website address for further information on cancer biology training.