



Presentation 18 – William Goldberg




Gulf War Update

William J. Goldberg PhD
Portfolio Manager
Gulf War
Veterans Health Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs




Gulf War Update

- Topics
 - FY04 RFA
 - FY05 RFA
 - Merit Review process
 - Gulf War portfolio management
 - Some ideas




FY 2004 RFA




FY 2004 RFA

- 69 LOIs submitted
- 49 Proposals submitted (~ 71%)
- Review conducted in September 2004
- Funding in FY 2005 (on or after October 1, 2004)




FY 2005 RFA




FY 2005 RFA

- Areas of interest include studies that have the potential to make significant progress in understanding and treating Gulf War-related conditions
 - > Epidemiologic
 - > Clinical
 - > Laboratory
- Proposals which focus on psychological stress or psychiatric conditions, such as PTSD, will not be considered under this RFA.




FY 2005 RFA

- Notification of intent to submit
 - > 67 notifications received
- 44 Proposals submitted (~ 66%)
- Proposals assigned to 1 of 2 Subcommittees
- Review scheduled for Sept. 16 and Sept. 30
- Funding in FY 2006
 - > Review of compliance documentation (IRB, IACUC, etc.) must be completed prior to release of funds
 - > Earliest start date October 1, 2005




Research Focus of Submitted Proposals

- Brain and Nervous System Function 15
- Chemical Weapons 2
- Exposures (Non-Infectious) 2
- Pyridostigmine Bromide 6
- Immune Function and Infectious Diseases 5
- Symptoms and General Health 14




Project Focus of Submitted Proposals

- Diagnosis 9
 - Biomarkers, genomics, etc.
- Exposure 7
 - PB, sarin, particulates, etc.
- Symptoms 22
- Treatment 6
 - massage, IBS, pain, gene therapy




Merit Review Process

- Notification of intent to submit
- Administrative check of proposals received
- Review and assignment to review panels
 - Evaluation of specific expertise needed for review
- Recruitment of reviewers (2-3 per proposal)
- Written reviews submitted in advance
- Discussion of each proposal at review meeting
- Summary Statement written at meeting



Review Criteria (written comments and discussion)

- Significance
- Approach
 - Strengths and weaknesses
- Feasibility
- Responsiveness to the RFA
- Relevance to Gulf War veterans' illnesses
- Ethical and safety issues
- Budget



Gulf War Research Portfolio



Portfolio Management

- Dr. William J. Goldberg was appointed as portfolio manager in June 2005
 - 7 years experience as Portfolio Manager for Neurological and Sensory Disorders Research Portfolio
 - 15+ Years research experience in ischemia, stroke, spinal cord injury, and brain tumor (glioblastoma) growth and migration
 - Also appointed as the Designated Federal Official for the RAC-WGVI



FY 2006 Portfolio

- 35 Ongoing projects From 2005 GW Portfolio
 - \$ 10.1 Million
- All projects will be reviewed for continued inclusion in the Gulf War research portfolio
- Projects from the FY 2005 RFA and other solicitations will begin funding on or after October 1, 2005
 - Number and cost will depend on the scientific quality and relevance of submitted proposals to GWVI



New Initiatives

- Gulf War Treatment Research Center RFA
 - RFA announced in 2006
 - Review of proposals in 2006
 - Funding of approved projects in FY 2006
- Gulf War Merit Review RFA
 - RFA announced in FY 2006
 - Review of proposals in August or September 2006
 - Funding of approved projects to begin on or after October 1, 2006

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Gulf War Research
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Some Ideas

- Potential mechanisms to expand the portfolio
 - Better communication of RFA announcements
 - Better-focused RFAs
 - One dilemma
 - ✓ Too narrow RFA
 - Not enough applications
 - ✓ To broad RFA
 - Perhaps do not suit purpose



Portfolio Expansion

- Potential mechanisms to expand the portfolio
 - Partnership with NIH
 - Partnership with pharmaceutical industry
 - ✓ Fibromyalgia
 - ✓ Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
 - ✓ Irritable Bowel Syndrome
 - Partnership with DoD