

Grant Title: PILOT PROJECTS ON SPORTS-RELATED BRAIN AND SPINAL CORD INJURY (R03, R21)

Funding Opportunity Number: RFA-NS-13-015, RFA-NS-13-014.

Agency/Department: National Institutes of Health.

Area of Research: Support pilot projects on sports-related traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury.

Release and Expiration: Release Date: March 12, 2013. Expiration Date: May 15, 2013.

Application Deadline: May 14, 2013. Letter of Intent Due Date(s): April 14, 2013.

Amount: R03: The combined budget for direct costs for the two year project period may not exceed \$100,000. No more than \$50,000 in direct costs may be requested in any single year. R21: The combined budget for direct costs for the two year project period may not exceed \$275,000. No more than \$200,000 may be requested in any single year. Applicants may request direct costs in \$25,000 modules, up to the total direct costs limitation of \$275,000 for the combined two-year award period.

Length of Support: Up to 2 years.

Eligible Applicants: Public and State controlled institutions of higher education. See the full announcement for a complete list of eligible applicants.

Summary: The goal of this initiative is to enhance research on sports-related traumatic brain injury (TBI) and spinal cord injury (SCI) by providing an opportunity for investigators to submit applications for pilot or feasibility studies. The FOA is the result of discussions with the Foundation for the NIH (FNIH) Sports Health Research Program, other NIH Institutes, the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA), who all have a shared interest in furthering our understanding of the acute and chronic effects of neurotrauma. This initiative will help to coordinate the research effort around this important topic. Sports-related TBI is a major public health concern. Diagnostic tools and consensus treatment guidelines exist for return to play and other activities, but they are almost completely unsupported by an evidence base. In addition, risk factors for poor outcomes are unknown. Sports-related SCI, although less common, can lead to catastrophic, life-long disability and further research is also warranted to minimize risk and improve outcomes. The scope of the FOA is intentionally broad to address the myriad gaps in our knowledge and enable a wide range of scientific experts within and outside of the sports medicine field to submit an application. The effects of single and repetitive neurotrauma are both of interest, as well as research studies on risk factors including neurodevelopmental stage, the development of age appropriate biomarker and diagnostic tools, and preclinical interventions to prevent or attenuate injury or promote neural plasticity. The FOA will support both preclinical and clinical studies to collect high quality preliminary data on sports-related TBI and SCI on such topics as: (a) the mechanical and biological mechanisms of injury and recovery; (b) genetic and environmental risk factors, such comorbid substance abuse or psychiatric disorders; (c) development of age-appropriate diagnostics and biomarkers; (d) development of new approaches in image processing with applications for mild TBI; (e) development of predictive multiscale modeling approaches to elucidate the mechanisms of TBI and simulate potential treatment outcomes; (f) assessment of short and long-term cognitive, behavioral, emotional and/or social deficits; (g) development of tools and equipment for prevention; (h) characterization and validation of animal models. biological interactions with pain medications, psychiatric medications and other substances; (i) preclinical therapy development for attenuating injury and/or improving outcomes; (j) interactions between TBI and stimulant or opiate medication use on TBI treatment outcomes or on brain or behavioral (including cognitive, emotional, and/or social) measures; (k) examination of sports-related TBI on drug abuse treatment outcomes.

Detailed Information: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-NS-13-015.html>
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-NS-13-014.html>