



## ***TSC ALERT***

Edited by Vicky Holets Whittemore, Ph.D. & Cheryl Dunigan, Ph.D.  
**July 27, 2003**

Welcome to the July edition of *TSC Alert* – an online research newsletter for individuals interested in Tuberous Sclerosis Complex (TSC) research and clinical care. This online newsletter contains information of interest to the TSC research and health care community. With this edition, we introduce a new section, **RESEARCH RESOURCES**, which will include information regarding access to animal models and other resources for TSC research. Please forward this newsletter to colleagues who are interested in TSC.

To be added/deleted to/from the mailing list for *TSC Alert* and/or to submit information for the August 2003 *TSC Alert* contact: [Vicky.Whittemore@tsalliance.org](mailto:Vicky.Whittemore@tsalliance.org)

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### **GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

#### **TS ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES FY2004 GRANT AWARDS**

The TS Alliance announces three grant awards for fiscal year 2004 (FY2004):

**Therapeutic Effects of Interferon Gamma and a Rapamycin Analog on Renal Disease in TSC Mice Models** (07/01/03 – 06/30/05; Total Award = \$97,500)

Postdoctoral Fellowship to Laifong Lee, Ph.D.; Sponsor: Sandra Dabora, M.D., Ph.D.  
Brigham & Women's Hospital/Harvard, Boston, MA

**Unilateral Neglect and Cognitive Rehabilitation of Lateralised and Non-lateralised Attention Deficits in TSC** (07/01/03 – 06/30/04; Total Award = \$2,500)

Predocctoral Award to Deborah McCartney; Sponsor: Petrus de Vries, M.D., Ph.D.  
Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK

**Utility of Rapamycin for the Treatment of Renal Angiomyolipoma** (07/01/03 – 06/30/04; Total Award = \$50,000)

Clinical Trial Award to John Bissler, M.D.\*, David Franz, M.D.\*, and Francis McCormick, M.D.  
\*Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and University of Cincinnati

**THE EPILEPSY FOUNDATION**

**Deadline: August 15, 2003.**

The Epilepsy Foundation supports a series of grants to advance understanding of epilepsy that will lead to better treatment, more effective prevention, and ultimately to a cure. Their grants fund a wide range of researchers including students, junior level and senior level investigators. For researchers intending to apply for a grant, please read their [guidelines for funding](#) research proposals.

The **Shire Targeted Investigations: Quality of Life** research grant is to stimulate research related to interventions that may improve some aspect of the quality of life for children with epilepsy. Applications should place an emphasis on outcome-oriented psychosocial research.

Other grant opportunities have deadlines in Fall 2003. For additional information contact:

The Epilepsy Foundation

4351 Garden City Drive

Landover, MD 20785-7223

Telephone: (800) 332-1000

Web site: <http://www.epilepsyfoundation.org/research/grants.html>

**TUBEROUS SCLEROSIS COMPLEX RESEARCH PROGRAM (TSCRCP) IN THE CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED MEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**Deadline for submission of applications: August 20, 2003**

Idea Development Awards in the TSCRCP are designed to encourage innovative research directed towards a better understanding of the roles and functions of the proteins produced by the *TSC1* and *TSC2* tumor suppressor genes. They are intended to stimulate and reward innovative research ideas that may be viewed as high risk but have the potential for high gain in scientific and clinical knowledge. Specific interests of the TSCRCP for FY03 include proposals that:

- Address the signaling pathways involving *TSC1* and *TSC2*; or
- Examine the way(s) in which the loss of *TSC1* or *TSC2* contribute(s) to disease phenotypes.

[TSRP Funding Opportunities](#) | [Synopsis of TSRP Award Mechanisms](#) | [TSRP Press Release](#)

**THE LAM FOUNDATION**

The LAM Foundation is offering postdoctoral fellowships for the study of the cellular and molecular basis of the abnormal smooth muscle proliferation that occurs in the disease Lymphangiomyomatosis (LAM). **Application deadline is September 1<sup>st</sup>** and funding begins January 15<sup>th</sup> of the following year.

For additional information, contact:  
The LAM Foundation  
Sue Byrnes, Director  
10105 Beacon Hills Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45241  
Telephone: 513-777-6889  
FAX: 513-777-4109  
E-mail: [lam@one.net](mailto:lam@one.net) Web site: <http://lam.uc.edu>

#### **BURROUGHS WELLCOME FUND – CAREER AWARDS IN THE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**

##### **Application deadline: October 1, 2003**

Career awards provide \$500,000 for five years to bridge the advanced postdoctoral years and the first years of faculty service. BWF will make approximately 12 awards in 2004. These awards are intended to foster the development of biomedical researchers who are early in their careers and help them make the critical transition to becoming independent investigators. Candidates must be citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. or Canada at the time of application. Applications must be submitted by U.S. or Canadian degree-granting institutions on behalf of individual candidates. Candidates must have completed at least 12 months but not more than 48 months of postdoctoral research training by the application deadline. Approximately half of the awards will go to researchers with a Ph.D. degree and half to those with an M.D. or M.D.-Ph.D. degree, although there is no requirement to this effect.

[http://www.bwfund.org/programs/biomedical\\_sciences/career\\_background.html](http://www.bwfund.org/programs/biomedical_sciences/career_background.html)

#### **PEW LATIN AMERICA FELLOWS PROGRAM IN THE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**

##### **Application deadline is October 1, 2003**

The Pew Latin America Fellows Program in the Biomedical Sciences provides support for young scientists from Latin America for post-doctoral training in the U.S. An award of \$50,000 will be provided as a salary stipend for the fellow during the period of training (2 years) and will be administered by the sponsoring U.S. institution. The sponsoring institution is required to supplement the salary stipend with at least \$5,000 a year and to provide full medical benefits for the fellow. Following the two year fellowship, the Program will issue an additional \$35,000 award to the sponsoring institution to purchase equipment and supplies for the fellow to establish a laboratory in his or her home country. Additional information and applications may be obtained at: <http://www.pewlatinfellows.com>

## **NIH ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

#### **RAPID ACCESS TO INTERVENTION DEVELOPMENT (RAID)**

National Cancer Institute

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-CA-03-032.html>

#### **LIMITED COMPETITION FOR IDeA NETWORKS OF BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH EXCELLENCE (INBRE)**

National Center for Research Resources

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-RR-03-008.html>

#### **DRAFT NIH STATEMENT ON SHARING AND DISTRIBUTING MOUSE RESOURCES: PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OPEN UNTIL AUGUST 1, 2003**

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-03-043.html>

**SMALL BUSINESS ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS TO THE SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR) AND SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER (STTR) PROGRAMS**

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-03-053.html>

**NIH ESTABLISHES STEERING COMMITTEE TO STREAMLINE DECISION MAKING**

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Elias A. Zerhouni announced the formation of an NIH Steering Committee - with a rotating membership of ten directors derived from and representing the 27 NIH Institutes and Centers - to give "crisp strategic direction" to the agency and streamline its decision making processes. The committee will be chaired by the NIH director.

As the agency has grown in size and complexity in recent years, there has been an increased need for a more efficient means of trans-NIH coordination. The new committee will help develop and oversee policies common across the NIH.

The three largest institutes of NIH will have permanent seats. These will be taken by Andrew von Eschenbach, M.D., Director of the National Cancer Institute; Claude Lenfant, M.D., Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; and Anthony Fauci, M.D., Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

The other seven members will be chosen to represent the remaining institutes. These members will serve three-year terms on a staggered, rotating basis. The initial membership will be as follows: Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D., National Human Genome Research Institute; Richard Hodes, M.D., National Institute on Aging; Stephen Katz, M.D., Ph.D., National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases; Donald Lindberg, M.D., National Library of Medicine; Stephen Straus, M.D., National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine; Lawrence Tabak, D.D.S., Ph.D., National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research; and Nora Volkow, M.D., National Institute on Drug Abuse. Dr. Zerhouni will chair the committee as NIH Director, and Deputy NIH Director Raynard Kington, M.D., Ph.D., will serve as an ex-officio member and chair the committee in the absence of the NIH Director.

The NIH Director and Institute and Center Directors will continue to formulate their specific scientific directions and priorities, as well as operational oversight of their respective institutes and centers. The steering committee will focus on NIH-wide policies and necessary operational decisions.

**FOGARTY INTERNATIONAL CENTER ANNOUNCES NEW GLOBAL HEALTH INFORMATICS TRAINING PROGRAM**

The new ITGH Program expands on the previous program by broadening the geographic scope as well as the kinds of training supported. The ITGH will support partnerships between U.S. institutions and institutions in any low- or middle-income country that has active research programs in global health that are currently supported by the NIH. The program encourages collaborations between computer scientists and biomedical and behavioral scientists. Areas for training are broadly defined as any informatics skills that contribute to biomedical or behavioral research in global health. These include, but are not limited to, data management, biostatistics, disease surveillance, and epidemiology. In this second iteration new areas of pursuit are encouraged, including bioinformatics, computer modeling, and bioimaging analysis. Informatics training must be integrated with ongoing research programs so that both informatics capacity and biomedical research at the institution are enhanced, and projects supported under this program should lead to the development of sustainable training opportunities for informatics in the foreign country after the conclusion of the project. Applications for Informatics Training for Global Health are **due by Oct. 23, 2003**. The Request for Applications for this program may be found at <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-TW-03-008.html>

## **INTERNATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH PORTFOLIO: NEW ON-LINE TOOL WILL AID IN CANCER RESEARCH COLLABORATION AND PLANNING**

Cancer researchers around the world now have a powerful new tool at their fingertips that provides instant access to information on ongoing cancer research supported by cancer funding organizations within the United States and the United Kingdom.

The on-line database will allow scientists to identify possible collaborators, plan their next research applications based on current research, and facilitate a dialogue among cancer researchers. Moreover, access to information on ongoing investigations will aid cancer-funding organizations in strategic planning for future research spending.

The International Cancer Research Portfolio (ICRP) currently holds nearly 13,000 records, providing information on the funding organization, awardee institution, principal investigator, and a detailed abstract of the research.

Created by three members of the Common Scientific Outline Partners (CSO), a collaborative group of United States and United Kingdom cancer-funding organizations, the ICRP (<http://www.cancerportfolio.org>) is a Web-based database that contains details of the current cancer research funded by the U.S. National Cancer Institute (NCI), a component of the National Institutes of Health of the Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Defense Office of Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP), and the U.K. National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) member organizations.

The ICRP initiative is the product of the efforts of a group of eight U.S. cancer funding organizations and 15 member organizations of the National Cancer Research Institute of the U.K., who came together in September 2000 and agreed to adopt a common coding system for classifying cancer research. Established by NCI to encourage meaningful comparison of research funded by different organizations, the CSO has provided a way for public and private international cancer research organizations to classify their research across seven broad areas of science. The CSO Partners believe that this system will facilitate planning of cancer research and make sure that valuable research funds are used with maximum impact to benefit cancer patients.

For information about cancer, visit NCI's Web site at <http://www.cancer.gov>

## **RESEARCH RESOURCES:**

### **TSC1 KNOCKOUT MICE NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH NCI**

TSC1 knockout mice developed and characterized in the David Kwiatkowski, M.D., Ph.D. laboratory at Brigham & Women's University in Boston are now available through the shared National Cancer Institute animal facility in Frederick, Maryland. For more information and to obtain animals contact:

Mary Ann Sandeen [msandeen@ncifcrf.gov](mailto:msandeen@ncifcrf.gov)  
MMHCC (Mouse Model Human Cancer Consortium)  
c/o Receiving and Quarantine Facility  
NCI-Frederick,  
Bldg 429 Miller Dr.  
Frederick, MD 21702

### **TSC2 KNOCKOUT MICE UNDER DEVELOPMENT AT THE JACKSON LABORATORY**

The TSC2 knockout mice have been transferred from David Kwiatkowski's laboratory at the Brigham & Women's Hospital to The Jackson Laboratory. A description of the new strains under development process and associated time requirements are described in "Frequently Asked Questions" at <http://jaxmice.jax.org/support/faq/index.html>

Investigators who are interested in obtaining this strain should register their interest on The Jackson Laboratory Strains Under Development web page. This will ensure that they receive advance notification of pending availability. The URL for the strain Data Sheet with a link to register interest is: <http://jaxmice.jax.org/micedata.shtml?004686>

If you have any questions contact:

Phyllis A. Mobraaten [pam@jax.org](mailto:pam@jax.org)

GEMMS Product Coordinator

JAX Research Systems/IMR, The Jackson Laboratory

610 Main Street, Bar Harbor, ME 04609

Phone: 207-288-6247

Fax: 207-288-6723

### **THE ROTHBERG INSTITUTE FOR CHILDHOOD DISEASES: AT THE INTERSECTION OF MODERN BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY AND COMPUTER SCIENCE**

The Rothberg Institute for Childhood Diseases (TRI) is a non-profit research institute dedicated to the discovery, development, and commercialization of novel chemical and biological entities for the treatment of Tuberous Sclerosis Complex (TSC) and other orphan childhood diseases. The Institute addresses the unmet medical needs of families with children suffering from rare diseases. One of the goals of TRI is to leverage the creativity of academic science and medicine, while maintaining the focus of a corporation.

The vision of TRI is to situate their program at the intersection of modern biology, chemistry and computer science. TRI's mission is to implement modern scientific methods to discover novel chemical entities useful in the treatment of TSC and other orphan childhood diseases. Standard development of validated lead compounds emerging from their discovery program will culminate in the submission of Investigational New Drug (IND) applications and subsequent clinical trials.

TRI has three ongoing directives: 1) the development and implementation of cell-based assays for the identification of chemical 'hits' relevant to TSC biology followed by the subsequent validation of these as potential therapeutics. 2) The "Community TSC" distributed computing platform using *in silico* drug discovery to augment their wet-lab efforts. 3) Finally, in conjunction with the TS Alliance, TRI sponsors and coordinated the TSC related research of eight external investigators under the Rothberg Courage Award program.

TRI incorporates the talents found within the academic community via funding by the TS Alliance of a select group of academic laboratories. The Harvard Consortium component of the Rothberg Courage Award Program, led by Drs. Lewis Cantley and Timothy Mitchison, was completed in May 2002 and work began shortly thereafter. The consortium includes several leaders in the fields of signal transduction and TSC: John Blenis, David Kwiatkowski, and Norbert Perrimon. The Harvard group joins active collaborators: Elizabeth Henske of Fox Chase Cancer Center, David Austin and Tian Xu of Yale University. This research complements the internal research at TRI, and adds to the general knowledge base of TSC. Solicited laboratories offer excellence in using innovative technology (e.g., mass spectroscopy, RNA interference), outstanding experience in TSC-relevant basic science, or other pivotal reagents for their research program (e.g., conditional mouse knockouts, novel chemical libraries). Within the framework of resource

utilization, the Rothberg Courage Awards allows the internal TRI research program to access to these highly specialized technologies and resources.

TRI receives additional support from its Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). The SAB includes accomplished academic and industrial scientists who have volunteered their time and energy to offer guidance, advice, and instruction to TRI scientists and programs. The SAB includes nine members: Drs. Tian Xu (Chairman), Richard Lifton, Gerald Shulman, David Austin, Richard Flavell and Pietro DeCamilli of Yale University, and Drs. Richard Shimkets, Andrew Eisen, and Dr. Martin Leach of CuraGen Corporation. As they seek to achieve expertise in high-throughput screening and hit/lead validation, and begin lead candidate optimization and *in vivo* pharmacology experiments, TRI plans to recruit additional members to the SAB that can lend expertise in these areas of drug development.

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2002, TRI formally dedicated its laboratory facility and began its internal wet-lab program. Currently, TRI's scientific facility occupies 4,000 square feet of laboratory and administrative space and employs twelve scientists and directors with the intent of adding to the team. The Board of Directors at TRI includes the Founder and Chairman, Jonathan M. Rothberg and Philip Whitcome. Leading the scientific team is John Chant, Director of Molecular Medicine, Michael Weiner, Director of Technology, and Bonnie E. Gould Rothberg, Director of Clinical Development. TRI is located on the picturesque Connecticut shoreline in Guildford, CT, overlooking the town marina and Long Island Sound. For more information about TRI and to enquire about employment opportunities, go to [www.childhooddiseases.org](http://www.childhooddiseases.org) or call 203-458-7100. For additional information about research resources for TSC research, go to: <http://www.childhooddiseases.org/rsc.html>

## TSC TISSUE AVAILABILITY:

The following tissues from individuals with TSC have been received (or will be received in the near future) by the Maryland Brain and Tissue Bank:

- Tuber
- SEGA
- Facial angiofibroma
- Renal angiomyolipoma

Please contact the Brain and Tissue Bank if you are interested in obtaining any of this tissue for your research. You may contact them by phone at: 1-800-847-1539 or via e-mail at [btbumab@umaryland.edu](mailto:btbumab@umaryland.edu). Additional information can be found on their website at: <http://som1.umaryland.edu/BTBank/main.html>

## CLINICAL TRIALS:

### **Rapamycin Clinical Trial for Renal and Lung Involvement Now Enrolling Patients**

**Contact:** Frank McCormack at [frank.mccormack@uc.edu](mailto:frank.mccormack@uc.edu); or 513-558-4831, John Bissler at [john.bissler@chmcc.org](mailto:john.bissler@chmcc.org), or David Franz at [david.franz@chmcc.org](mailto:david.franz@chmcc.org).

A clinical trial to determine if rapamycin, an FDA-approved medication currently used following transplantation to prevent organ rejection, is now underway in Cincinnati. Research funded by the TS Alliance, the LAM Foundation and the National Institutes of Health to understand the

function of the TSC1 and TSC2 genes and their protein products, tuberin and hamartin, have all contributed critical information that now makes this clinical trial a reality. In brief, Elizabeth Henske, M.D. (Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia) found that lymphangioleiomyomatosis (LAM) is caused by a loss of the protein, tuberin. Fruit fly biologists, Naoto Ito, Ph.D. and Gerald Rubin, Ph.D. (University of California at Berkeley), found that tuberin controls cell size and growth. Vera Krymskaya, Ph.D. (University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia) found that tuberin plays very similar roles in LAM cells as it does in fly cells, and that an FDA approved drug called rapamycin can mimic the function of tuberin in LAM cells. Raymond Yeung, M.D. (University of Washington, Seattle) and David Kwiatkowski, M.D., Ph.D. has found that rapamycin can shrink tumors in tuberous sclerosis animal models. Rapamycin is known to inhibit the proliferation of smooth muscle cells that contribute to recurrent blockage of coronary arteries after stent placement. Rapamycin for tuberous sclerosis and LAM is an elegant example of molecular therapy targeted at the precise cellular defect that causes disease.

Any tuberous sclerosis or sporadic LAM patient (i.e.- someone with LAM who does not have tuberous sclerosis) with an angiomyolipoma that is at least two centimeters in diameter is a candidate. Patients must be at least eighteen years of age, and capable of giving informed consent based on complete understanding of the risks involved. They are excluding patients who are on full time oxygen initially, because they may be less able to tolerate side effects. Patients must be willing to travel to Cincinnati at least six times in the first year and two times in the second year. Funding has been provided by the LAM Foundation and the Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance to enroll thirty patients initially, and they have applied for additional funding from the National Cancer Institute and the Food and Drug Administration to expand the trial.

The principal investigators of the trial are Drs. David Franz, a pediatric neurologist, John Bissler, a pediatric nephrologist, and Frank McCormack, adult pulmonary physician. The nurse clinicians are Jennifer Leonard, Gail Chuck and Cindy Tudor. The trial is two years long, one year of active treatment and frequent radiographic imaging and other testing, and one follow up year. The trial is based in the Tuberous Sclerosis Clinic at the Children's Hospital of the University of Cincinnati.

### **<http://www.clinicaltrials.com>**

CLINICALTRIALS.COM™ provides information on current clinical trials all over the country. People that visit this site are interested in participating in trials and want more information. List your trials on CLINICALTRIALS.COM™ to help enroll more people in the trials you are conducting. They provide an easy way to [Register Your Trials](#) with an on-line form for you to fill out. They will contact you within 24 hours of receiving the form.

Register your site for future clinical trials in the [Investigator Registry](#). They provide sponsor companies with investigators in different states and therapeutic areas. They will be providing a Research Center Profile in the near future so that you can post your credentials and information about your practice. Contact them at [investigator@clinicaltrials.com](mailto:investigator@clinicaltrials.com) for more information

## **NEW TSC PUBLICATIONS:**

### **The Human Phenome Project**

"A principal goal of genetic research is to identify specific genotypes that are associated with human phenotypes. It will soon be possible to conduct genome-wide genotyping on a massive scale. Our current approaches for defining and assaying phenotypes may be inadequate for making optimal use of such genotypic data. We propose an international effort to create phenomic databases, that is, comprehensive assemblages of systematically collected phenotypic

information, and to develop new approaches for analyzing such phenotypic data. We term this effort the Human Phenome Project and suggest a scientific and organizational scope to this project." **Nelson Freimer & Chiara Sabatti (2003) The Human Phenome Project. Nature Genetics 34:15-21**

### **Articles of Interest to TSC Clinicians and Researchers**

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Crozier SJ, Anthony JC, Schworer CM, Reiter AK, Anthony TG, Kimball SR, Jefferson LS (2003) Tissue Specific Regulation of Protein Synthesis by Insulin and Free Fatty Acids. *Am J Physiol Endocrinol Metab* Jul 1 [Epub ahead of print] <http://ajpendo.physiology.org/cgi/reprint/00063.2003v1>

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## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:**

### **U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee Language on TSC Research**

The following language regarding Tuberous Sclerosis Complex (TSC) was submitted by Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA) from the Committee on Appropriations, together with the bill (S.1356) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004 (see Report 108-81, Calendar No. 175 from the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session).

*Tuberous Sclerosis Complex* – Tuberous sclerosis complex, or TSC, is a genetic disorder that attacks many of the body's vital organs including brain, heart, kidneys, lungs, eyes, and skin. TSC is characterized by tumor growth and lesions of the central nervous system that can result in seizures, autism, mental retardation, and kidney failure. An estimated 50,000 Americans are thought to suffer from TSC, making it more prevalent than cystic fibrosis and Lou Gehrig's disease. But because it is not widely known by the general public, nor commonly recognized by medical professionals, the number of individuals with TSC could be far greater. The Committee is concerned that insufficient funds are being devoted to research on TSC, and that because of its far-reaching effects on multiple organ systems the key to research breakthroughs may rest with several institutes. The Committee therefore strongly urges the NIH Director to formulate an NIH-wide research agenda, including an appropriate mechanism to coordinate research efforts across institute lines, and report by April 2004.

### **TSC Research Program in the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program, DOD**

The TSCRP has been included in the initial budget reports for the DOD at a level of \$4 million for FY2004. This is a doubling of the program from the \$2 million appropriated in FY2003, but falls short of the requested \$10 million. Final discussions are taking place this week, and it is hoped that the budget will be approved before the summer session ends in July. Watch the TS Alliance website at <http://www.tsalliance.org> for updates.

## **NEWS:**

### **THE WADSWORTH FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO THE SOCIETY FOR NEUROSCIENCE TO STUDY NEUROSCIENCE DATABASES**

The Wadsworth Foundation has awarded the Society for Neuroscience a grant to survey the current state of the field of neuroscience databases and to generate a strategic plan on how best to proceed. The grant agreement outlines the plans for a 12-15 member panel of neuroscientists and database experts to meet for two 2-day sessions to generate a template for integrated brain databases. The result of the final report will lead to discussions with directors of NIH Institutes to determine next steps in funding and implementing some key elements. For more information, please contact Mary McComb, Educational Programs Manager at: [mary@sfn.org](mailto:mary@sfn.org)

## CONFERENCES:

For a complete listing of conferences, visit the TS Alliance website at:  
<http://216.33.101.121/Research/upcoming%20conferences.asp>

### **August 10-15, 2003**

#### **Drug Discovery Technology 2003**

Hynes Convention Center, Boston, MA

Information and registration online at: <http://www.drugdisc.com>

### **September 13-14, 2003**

#### **Investigating the Mind**

Kresge Auditorium at MIT, Cambridge, MA

Conference and registration information at: <http://www.InvestigatingTheMind.org/Science>

### **September 21-24, 2003**

#### **Genome Sequencing & Analysis Conference**

Savannah Int'l Trade & Convention Center, Savannah, GA

Registration online at: <http://www.tigr.org/gsac>

### **November 6-7, 2003**

#### **Digital Biology: The Emerging Paradigm**

Natcher Conference Center, Bethesda, MD

Additional Information: <http://calendar.nih.gov/cgi-bin/calendar>

### **November 14-15, 2003**

#### **A Celebration of 50 Years of DNA in Medicine – Bringing Clinical Translation of Genetic and Genomic Knowledge to Fruition at the Bedside**

Price Center Theater, UCSD, La Jolla, CA

Registration online at: <http://cme.ucsd.edu> or call 1-888-229-6263 (toll free in U.S.)

### **November 17-21, 2003**

#### **Molecular Targets and Cancer Therapeutics: Discovery, Biology, and Clinical Applications**

Hynes Convention Center, Boston, MA

Early registration and abstract deadline: August 4, 2003

Registration online at: <http://www.aacr.org/2003mtct1.asp>

### **Save the date!!! September 16-18, 2004**

#### **Tuberous Sclerosis Association International Research Conference**

Queens College, Cambridge UK

(More information coming soon!)

## **ARCHIVED ISSUES OF TSC ALERT:**

**December 2002 TSC Alert**

<http://www.tsalliance.org/research/tsc%20alert.asp>

**January 2003 TSC Alert**

<http://www.tsalliance.org/Research/TSC%20Alert012203.asp>

**February 2003 TSC Alert**

<http://www.tsalliance.org/Research/TSC%20Alert021003.asp>

**March 2003 TSC Alert**

<http://www.tsalliance.org/Research/TSC%20Alert030403.asp>

**April 2003 TSC Alert**

<http://www.tsalliance.org/Research/TSC%20Alert040103.asp>

**May 2003 TSC Alert**

<http://www.tsalliance.org/Research/TSC%20Alertdefault.asp>

**June 2003 TSC Alert – Coming Soon!**

<http://www.tsalliance.org>