DD

DORIS DUKE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Medical Research Program

DORIS DUKE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION AWARDS $2 MILLION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF LOW-COST DIAGNOSTICS FOR HIV/AIDS CARE AND TREATMENT

Ten Teams Selected to Develop Point-of-Care Diagnostics and
Therapeutic Monitoring Tools for AIDS Patients in Low-Resource Settings

NEW YORK, N.Y., September 23, 2003 – The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation today announced the recipients of the 2003 Doris Duke Innovation in Clinical Research Awards (ICRA). The awards will provide a total of up to $2 million to 10 investigators or teams of investigators to develop "Point-of-Care" diagnostics and therapeutic monitoring tools to care for AIDS patients in resource-poor areas of the world. Each project will receive up to $200,000 over two years. A list of the applicants who have been selected to receive grants is provided below.

"The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation is pleased to support research targeted toward the development of low-cost diagnostic and monitoring tools for HIV/AIDS in low-resource settings. As the long-awaited roll-out of antiretroviral (ARV) treatment for AIDS in developing countries gathers momentum, it is essential that accurate and inexpensive tools are available for good medical management alongside the ARV drugs," said Joan E. Spero, President of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

The foundation established the ICRA program in 2000 to help catalyze breakthroughs in targeted areas of clinical research. For the 2003 program year, the foundation sought to address the need for inexpensive, simple, and accurate monitoring technologies to improve the medical management of antiretroviral therapy for HIV/AIDS in developing countries in Africa, Asia and elsewhere. Medical experts agree that judicial monitoring of CD4+-T cell numbers or viral loads is essential for effective antiretroviral treatment. Currently, the tests used in developed countries are much too costly and complex to be used in most local settings in developing countries. In those settings, physicians who have access to antiretroviral drugs often must treat their patients with minimal or no monitoring of CD4+-T cell numbers or viral load.

For the 2003 ICRA competition, the foundation received 27 letters of intent from teams of investigators and invited 22 teams to submit full proposals. A panel of eight experts from academia, industry and international health organizations reviewed the proposals and recommended projects for funding. More information on the Innovation in Clinical Research Award program can be found at **http://ddcf.aibs.org/icra**. At this time, the foundation is not planning to offer the ICRA program in 2004.

The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, wildlife conservation, medical research and the prevention of child maltreatment, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties. More information on the foundation can be found at **www.ddcf.org**.

2003 Doris Duke Innovation in Clinical Research Awards Have Been Offered to Support the Following Projects:

- **P. Robert Beatty, Ph.D.**, University of California, Berkeley (Principal Investigator); and **Eva Harris, Ph.D.**, University of California, Berkeley (Co-Investigator). Project Title: *ImmunoSensor for HIV Infections*

- **Neil T. Constantine, Ph.D.**, University of Maryland School of Medicine (Principal Investigator); **Janet M. Barletta, Ph.D.**, University of Maryland (Co-Investigator); and **Maja Sommerfelt, Ph.D.**, BionorImmuno (Co-Investigator). Project Title: *A Portable, Visually-read, Amplification-boosted Test to Monitor HIV Viral Load*

- **Mark B. Feinberg, M.D., Ph.D.**, Emory University (Principal Investigator); **Angela M. Caliendo, M.D., Ph.D.**, Emory University (Co-Investigator); and **Silvija I. Staprans, Ph.D.**, Emory University School of Medicine (Co-Investigator). Project Title: *HIV RNA and CD4 Assays for Resource-Poor Countries*

- **Mina C. Hosseinipour, M.D.**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Principal Investigator); **Susan A. Fiscus, Ph.D.**, University if North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Co-Investigator); and **Irving F. Hoffman, MPH**, University if North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Co-Investigator). Project Title: *Virologic Monitoring for the Malawian Antiretroviral Program*

- **Barry N. Kreiswirth, Ph.D.**, Public Health Research Institute. Project Title: *Rapid Mycobacterium tuberculosis Drug Susceptibility Testing*

- **Alan L. Landay, Ph.D.**, Rush Medical College (Principal Investigator); **Co-PI: Suzanne M. Crowe, MBBS (Hons) FRACP, M.D.**, Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research & Public Health (Co-Investigator); and **Tom N. Denny, B.A., M.Sc.**, Center for Laboratory Investigations (Co-Investigator). Project Title: *Novel and Improved Manual Low-cost CD4 Tests*

- **William R. Rodriguez, M.D.**, Massachusetts General Hospital (Principal Investigator); **John T. McDevitt, Ph.D.**, University of Texas at Austin (Co-Investigator); and **Bruce D. Walker, M.D.**, Harvard Medical School (Co-Investigator). Project Title: *Development of Affordable HIV Diagnostics Using Microchips*

- **Robert W. Ryder, M.D., MSc.**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Principal Investigator); and **Luc Kestens, Ph.D.**, Institute of Tropical Medicine (Co-Investigator). Project Title: *Monitoring CD4 and HIV Viral Load with a Unique Low-cost Mobile Flow Cytometer in AIDS patients in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo*

- **Milton R. Tam, Ph.D.**, Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH). Project Title: *Rapid and Simple Semi-quantitative Test Method for Monitoring CD4+ and Total Lymphocytes in Blood*

- **Steven Wolinsky, M.D.**, Northwestern University (Principal Investigator); **Chad A. Mirkin, B.S., Ph.D.**, Northwestern University (Co-Investigator); and **Yun-Wei Cao, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.**, Northwestern University (Co-Investigator). Project Title: *Electrical Detection of HIV DNA and RNA with Nanopartiocle Probes*

###