

3rd Annual Interdisciplinary Geriatric Research Forum
University of Washington
October 9, 2008

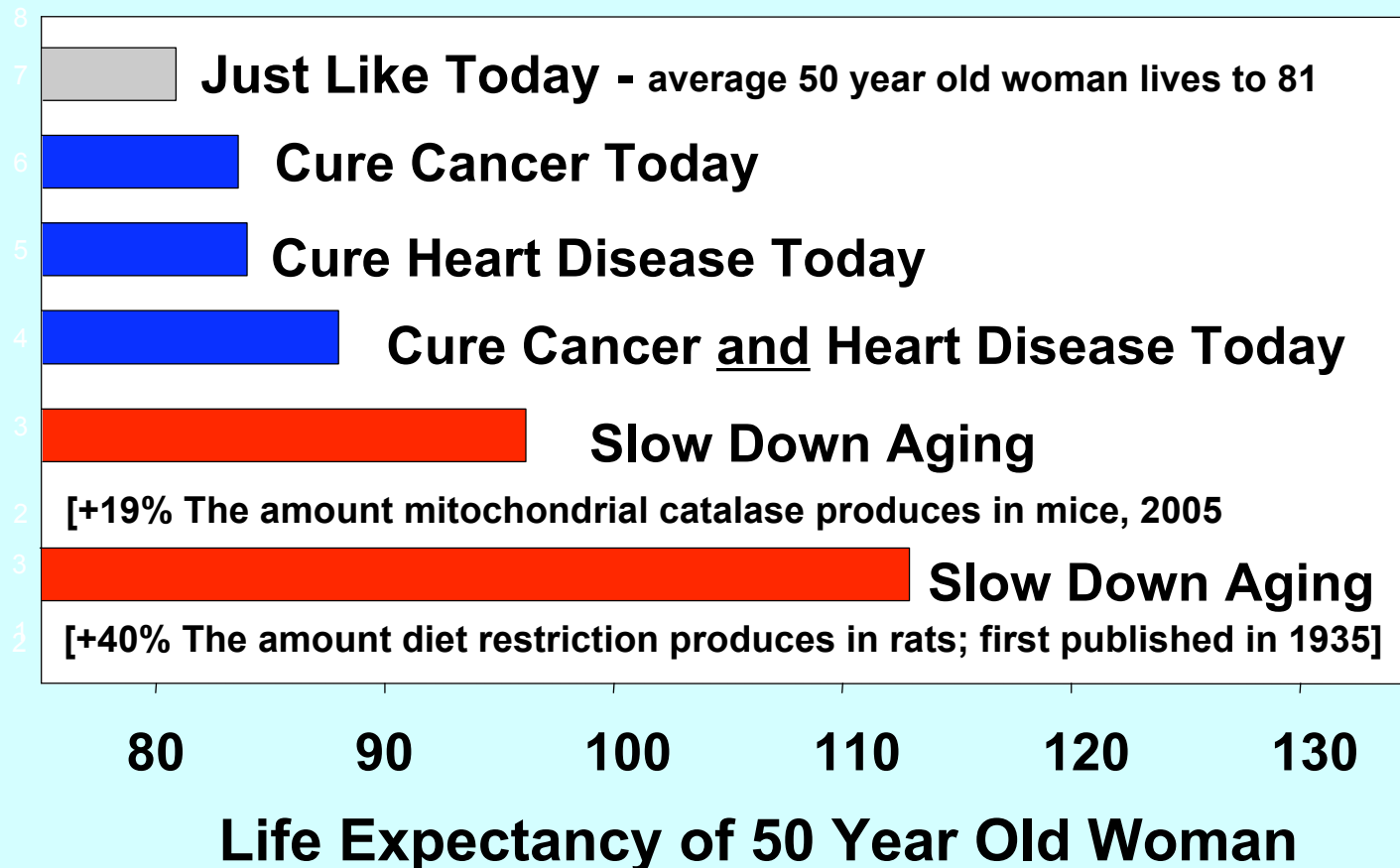
Research & Fellowship Grant Programs of the American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR)

George M. Martin, M.D.
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Professor of Pathology Emeritus, UW

AFAR Mission Statement

- To support and advance healthier aging through biomedical research

Aging Research: Biggest Bang For the Buck?



Modified from GM Martin et al., Science 299:1399, 2003
After Rich Miller & Jay Olshansky

AFAR History

- A non-profit foundation, founded in 1979 by Irving Wright (1901-1997), NY Cardiologist & Past President, American Heart Association
- Has awarded more than \$113 million to nearly 2,500 of our nation's scientists since 1981
- ~90% of AFAR Pilot Grant awardees go on to obtain federal funding
- ~96% of budget goes to grants, fellowships & conferences
- ~\$10 million in grants per year (cp. ~\$45 million for EMF & ~\$1 billion for NIA)
- Funders: Goldman-Sachs, Hartford, Starr, Glenn, Ellison, Atlantic Philanthropies, Gilbert, etc.

Some Outstanding AFAR Grantees

- Felipe Sierra, Judy Campisi, Tom Johnson
- Tuck Finch, Rich Miller, Mike Jazwinski
- Dan Promislow, Marc Tatar, Tom Rando
- Ana Maria Cuervo, Holly van Remmen
- Brad Hyman, Steve Younkin, Frank LaFerla
- Eddie Koo, Todd Golde, Scott Small
- Nir Barzilai, Norm Sharpless, Sandy Chang
- Trainees in Benzer, Ruvkun, Kenyon labs
- David Sinclair

Some Outstanding UW AFAR Grantees

- 1984: Itamar Abrass
- 1990: David Dale
- 1994: Pamela Fink
- 1994: May Reed
- 1995: John Silber
- 1996: May Reed
- 1997: Junko Oshima
- 1997: Katsutoshi Furkawa
- 1998: Tom Montine
- 1998: Pamela Souza
- 1999: Monique Cherrier

Some Outstanding UW AFAR Grantees

- 2001: Sundar Srinivasan
- 2002: Molly Shores
- 2002: Dejan Milatovic
- 2002: Jurgen Unutzer
- 2002: Al LaSpada
- 2003: Brian Kennedy
- 2003: Elizabeth Phelan
- 2003: Kelly Tremblay
- 2006: Ann O'Hare
- 2006: Matt Kaeberlein
- 2007: Matt Kaeberlein
- 2007: Sacha Dublin
- 2008: Brian Kennedy
- 2008: Suman Mayadev

AFAR: Key Management Positions

- Stephanie Lederman, Executive Director
- Diana Jacobs Kalman, Chair, Board of Directors (until 2009 or 2010)
- Terrie T. Wetle, PhD, President
- Roger McCarter, PhD, Vice-President & Chair, Scientific Review Committee
- George M. Martin, M.D., Scientific Director

Your Grants Management Friends at AFAR

Hattie Herman



**Odette van der
Willik**

AFAR Grant Programs: I, The Core AFAR Pilot Grants (16/85-2008)

AFAR provides up to \$75,000 for a one- to two-year award to junior faculty (M.D.'s and Ph.D.'s) to do research that will serve as the basis for longer term research efforts.

AFAR-supported investigators study a broad range of biomedical and clinical topics including the causes of cellular senescence, the role of estrogen in the development of osteoporosis, the genetic factors associated with Alzheimer's disease, the effects of nutrition and exercise on the aging process, and much more.

Application Deadline: December 16, 2008.

AFAR Grant Programs: II, Gilbert Foundation New Investigator Awards in Alzheimer's Disease (5/35-2008)

Supports research in areas in which more scientific investigation is needed to improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's Disease. The program also encourages junior investigators in the United States and Israel to pursue research and academic careers in the neurosciences, and Alzheimer's disease in particular.

Up to five one- to two-year awards of \$60,000 each have been awarded – perhaps more in 2009?

AFAR Grant Programs: III, Paul Beeson Career Development Awards in Geriatrics (K08, K23)

AFAR, NIA, NIH Office of Dietary Supplements, John A. Hartford Foundation, Atlantic Philanthropies, Starr Foundation and an anonymous donor are collaborating on this initiative to sustain and promote the research careers of clinically trained individuals who are pursuing research careers in aging.

Applicants may seek up to \$200,000 (direct costs) per year. Direct costs requested across all years may be no more than \$600,000 for three year awards; \$700,000 for four year awards; and \$800,000 for five year awards. Awarded amounts may be significantly lower than these amounts.

**Deadline for letter of intent is October 3, 2008 (not required)
-application receipt date is November 3, 2008.**

AFAR Grant Programs: IV, Paul Beeson Career Development Awards, Ireland

One award of up to €339,390/£228,000 each to outstanding junior physician faculty on the Island of Ireland, who are committed to pursuing academic careers in aging-related research, teaching and practice.

The application deadline for the 2008 program has passed

AFAR Grant Programs: V, Julie Martin Mid-Career Award (2/22-2008)

Sponsored by the Ellison Medical Foundation, this program encourages outstanding mid-career scientists who have not been engaged in aging research but whose research is relevant and could lead to novel approaches to aging. Also eligible are aging researchers whose research is high risk, and thus not attractive to NIH or other traditional sources, but has the potential for high payoff in advancing our understanding of basic aging.

Two four-year awards of \$550,000 will be awarded.

Application Deadline: December 16, 2008

AFAR Grant Programs: VI, Paul Glenn Foundation BIG Award (Breakthroughs in Gerontology) (2/38-2008)

To provide timely support to a pilot research program that may be of relatively high risk but which offers significant promise of yielding transforming discoveries in the fundamental biology of aging. Full-time faculty members at the rank of Assistant Professor or higher who can demonstrate a strong record of independence are eligible.

Two two-year grants of up to \$200,000 will be awarded.

Application Deadline: December 16, 2008.

AFAR Grant Programs: VII, The CART Fund-Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust (Rotarians)

Exploratory and developmental AD research projects by providing support for the early and conceptual plans of those projects that may not yet be supported by extensive preliminary data, but have the potential to substantially advance biomedical research.

Up to two \$250,000 awards will be awarded in 2009.

Application Deadline: December 1, 2008

AFAR Grant Programs: VIII, Ellison/AFAR Postdoctoral Fellows (14/150-2008)

Developed to address the current concerns about an adequate funding base for postdoctoral fellows (both MDs and PhDs) who conduct research in the fundamental mechanisms of aging. Postdoctoral fellows at all levels of training are eligible.

Up to fifteen one-year fellowships ranging from \$44,850 to \$58,850 will be awarded.

Application Deadline: December 16, 2008.

AFAR Grant Programs: IX, Medical Student Training in Aging Research (MSTAR) Program

To encourage medical students - particularly budding researchers - to consider a career in academic geriatrics, Awards short-term scholarships. AFAR has partnered with the NIA and several foundations to continue and strengthen the original Hartford/AFAR Medical Student Geriatric Scholars Program.

The application deadline for the 2008 program has passed.

AFAR Grant Programs: X, Regional Chapters (75K, with Matching Funds From AFAR)

- Ohio (for Medical Students; now closed)
- Upstate NY (office at U. Rochester)
- Southeast (Georgia, So. Carolina; office at Emory Univ.)
- Florida (new in 2008; office in Miami)
- Southern California (planning stage; office at UC-Irvine)
- The Future: Northern California, Midwest, Texas, Pacific Northwest?

AFAR Research Review Committees: I

- Reviews of grant proposals for the AFAR Core Pilot Grants, the Julie Martin Mid-Career Awards, Gilbert Foundation/AFAR New Investigator Awards in Alzheimer's Disease, and the Glenn/AFAR Breakthroughs in Gerontology (BIG):
 - Step One: Screening by members of the AFAR National Scientific Advisory Council (N= ~100).
 - Step Two: Reviews by members of the AFAR Research Review Committee (N=12) Chair: Roger McCarter, U. Penn.

AFAR Research Review Committees: II

- Ellison/AFAR Postdoctoral Fellows Selection Committee (N=10). Chair: Steve Austad, UTHSC-San Antonio
- Program Advisory Committee for the Beeson Career Development Award (N=14) Chair: Mary Tinetti, Yale
- Medical Student Training Review Committee (N=5) Chair: Anita Woods, Baylor

Tips for Applicants

- Read the section on animal research (mice) on AFAR web site before you write the application
- Those who approach research on geriatric disorders from the point of view of *early precursor processes* that are likely to reflect fundamental aspects of the biology of aging will receive much higher priorities
- Think basic, basic, basic
- Think focus, focus, focus
- Avoid overlaps of specific aims with other funded projects
- Alas, not sufficient funds for psycho-social research
- Alas, hard to come up with examples of truly interdisciplinary research outside of the neurosciences

Contacts from AFAR (New York)

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