



health sciences & services authority of spokane county

**News Release:**

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**HSSA to Invest \$10 Million in Health Sciences Research  
in Spokane County**

**Designed to Improve Local Economy and Health Outcomes**

SPOKANE, Wash. – The **Health Sciences & Services Authority** (HSSA) of Spokane County has issued a call for proposals to invest up to \$10 million in three research areas identified in its Health Sciences Research Strategic Investment Plan. The strategic plan was a collaborative effort between HSSA and the Empire Health Foundation (EHF) over the past several months.

“Sustainable, ongoing health sciences research will contribute to economic development and the resulting job growth in this region,” said Nancy L. Isserlis, HSSA Board Chair, “and has the potential to improve health outcomes.”

Isserlis said that establishing a critical mass of health sciences researchers in Spokane is essential to an increase in the amount of research activity in the county. Senior researchers typically enjoy higher incomes, pay technicians and staff, and bring extramural research funding to the community

“The presence of a strong research community will provide a foundation that is critical to discovery, innovation and clinical care, and for business attraction,” she said.

The three HSSA Open Grant Competitions, which are directly related to the three major priorities for funding in the Strategic Investment Plan, are as follows:

**RFP# 5: Invest in Human Capital to Accelerate Spokane’s Health Sciences Research Capacity.** The HSSA will award up to \$4.5 million during the period from 2011-2022 in response to these requests for proposals. Individual project budgets may total up to

\$500,000 per year for two years.

This RFP is open to all academic institutions with active health sciences research programs or those institutions intent on establishing an active research program within Spokane County. RFP #5 is an open grant award that will be available twice annually. Initial proposals are due by Dec. 5, 2011, and May 5, 2012, and each year thereafter on those two dates. To be eligible for funding, research faculty must devote a minimum of 65% of their time to clinical, basic, applied or translational science research; devote a maximum of 35% of their time to teaching and academic service work; and transfer up to \$1.5 million in currently active research funding to his/her new position in Spokane County. All requests for funding must document that the applicant organization will provide 1:1 matching financial support to HSSA grant funds. More information is available in the attached RFP#5.

**RFP#6: Fund Innovative Research to Expedite Commercialization and Spur Job Growth.**

The HSSA will award up to \$4.5 million during the period 2012-2022 in response to these RFPs. Individual project budgets may total up to \$500,000 over the course of the grant period. HSSA will match grant requests for up to the full amounts of Phase I and up to 50% of Phase II awards or \$500,000, which is greater, from established “proof of concept” funders such as the U.S. Health & Human Services’ Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) funding, National Institutes of Health, other federal agencies with health sciences research programs, and Innovate Washington, Life Science Discovery Fund, Gates Foundation, etc. More information is available in the attached RFP#6.

This RFP is open to any for-profit or not-for-profit organization that meets the definition of a “Small Business” by federal standards and that is domiciled in Spokane County or willing to move to Spokane County. RFP #6 is an open grant award that will be available twice annually. Initial proposals are due by Feb. 5, 2012, and second round proposals are due by August 5, 2012, and each year thereafter on those two dates.

**RFP#7: Support Innovative Research that Advances Spokane as a National Leader in Health Delivery Research.** In this RFP, the HSSA will award up to \$1 million and will consider matching grant requests for up to \$100,000 annually for three years. These applicants must be from established “proof of concept” funders such as the National Institutes of Health, Innovate Washington, Life Sciences Discovery Fund, Josiah Macy Foundation, Gates Foundation, etc. This RFP is open to all academic or health care provider institutions with active health sciences research programs or those institutions establishing an active research program within Spokane County. These 1:2 (one part organizational funding, two parts HSSA funding) must demonstrate economic benefit for the region, by reducing the cost of healthcare, reducing patient use of emergency care or hospital visits, or other community economic development benefits. More information is available in the attached RFP#7.

All applicants should submit proposals by e-mail to [grantadmin@hssaspokane.org](mailto:grantadmin@hssaspokane.org).

The HSSA may reallocate funding among these three priorities as it deems prudent over time.

HSSA and EHF together developed a Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) to increase the amount of health sciences research activity and funding in the Spokane area. The SIP recommends targeting investments of up to \$12.5 million over the next 10 years, including bringing other funders to the effort. EHF has made an initial commitment of \$850,000 through 2015 toward the SIP. The combination of HSSA and EHF, and partner investments is expected to increase the level of health science research funding in Spokane County from the National Institutes of Health and other federal and private funders from current levels of about \$12 million in 2011 to \$70 million by 2030. The SIP identified the following guiding principles:

- *Target Resources for Maximum Impact.* HSSA and EHF will focus on three strategic goals to ensure that available funds have an appreciative impact and will “move the needle” to make a difference in a highly competitive research funding environment.
- *Build on Region’s Research Strengths.* Make investments that support, grow, and shape existing research capacities in basic science and translational research to maximize the likelihood of obtaining a significant increase in research funding over the next 10 years.
- *Leverage Community Expertise and Support.* Make strategic research investments that complement the investments and priorities of other organizations working in the region.
- *Adopt a Flexible Investing Approach.* Be flexible and responsive to gain benefits from a broad range of proposals that align with the plan’s strategic priorities.

For more information about these three grant competitions, or a copy of the HSSA/EHF Health Sciences Research Strategic Implementation Plan, please find copies on the HSSA website at [www.hssaspokane.org](http://www.hssaspokane.org).

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#### About Our Board:

In addition to Nancy Isserlis, Partner, Winston & Cashatt and HSSA Board Chair, HSSA Board Members are Earl F. “Marty” Martin, Ph.D., Executive Vice President, Gonzaga University and HSSA Board Vice Chair; Michael Wilson, Interim Chief Executive, Providence Health Care and Grants Committee Chair; Jason Thackston, Vice President of Energy Delivery, Avista Corp. and Finance Committee Chair; Dr. Jeff Collins, Medical Director, Providence Health Care; Kelsey Gray, Partner, Spectrum Group; Kevin Oldenburg, Ph.D., President, MatriCal Bioscience, Inc. and David J. Vachon, Ph.D., CEO/Founder, Iasis Molecular Sciences.

**About HSSA:**

The **Health Sciences & Services Authority (HSSA) of Spokane County** was established in 2007 by the Washington legislature, authorized county-wide by Spokane County in 2008 to promote bioscience-based economic development, and began operating in 2009. Its mission is to advance new therapies and procedures to combat disease and to promote public health. HSSA invests funds to create and support a nationally competitive health sciences research cluster in Spokane County, and works to catalyze higher education research and the health sciences industry to lead to higher wage jobs, long-term sustainability and economic diversification. For more information, visit our website at [www.hssaspokane.org](http://www.hssaspokane.org).