

The first RoFAR Special Grant awarded to a Canadian scientist

A three-year project focused on the organ-protective effect of EPO will be supported with 800,000 Swiss Francs

Vancouver (Canada), 27 October 2006. In 2006, RoFAR invited investigators to submit applications for special grants for innovative projects holding the promise to transfer study results into clinical practice. RoFAR is very proud to announce that a grant of over 800,000 Swiss Francs was awarded to Dr Nicoletta Eliopoulos of the Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research of Montreal, Canada for a three-year project aimed at coupling cell therapy and gene therapy with the protective effect of erythropoietin in recovering kidney function after acute renal failure. Mouse models, which have been designed to possibly translate into clinical experimentation, will be used to perform the studies.

Dr. Eliopoulos graduated from McGill University in Montreal in 1990 with a BSc, and obtained her MSc and PhD degrees at the University of Montreal in 1993 and 1999, respectively. After that she worked as a postdoctoral fellow in the group of Dr Jacques Galipeau at the McGill University-affiliated Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research, where she has been a project director since 2005. Recently she has been investigating the delivery of EPO by genetically engineered cells in the treatment of anaemia of chronic renal disease.

In 2007, RoFAR would like to re-extend the invitation to investigators to submit applications for special grants of up to 1.6 million Swiss Francs each. Projects must include innovative basic and clinical topics. Studies providing proof of principle and/or translational research at the forefront of research, particularly studies holding the promise to transfer study results into clinical practice are preferred. Projects must be submitted by 30 June 2007 as letters of intent via the RoFAR website (www.rofar.org).

Scientists interested in applying can obtain further information by contacting the RoFAR Secretariat (admin@rofar.org).

- ends -

About the Roche Foundation for Anemia Research (RoFAR)

RoFAR, an independent, scientist-led, and internationally active Medical Research Charity, administers an initial donation of 16 million CHF provided by F. Hoffmann-La Roche (Roche) in 2004. The foundation is legally independent from Roche and is guided by a Board of eight Trustees and an independently appointed Scientific Advisory Board. RoFAR supports groundbreaking scientific work, both basic and clinical, investigating anaemia, erythropoietin and related topics, for example, hypoxia-sensing, the organ-protective role of erythropoietin, hepcidin and iron metabolism. To date, more than 7 million CHF (\$USD 5.4 million) have been awarded to 34 research projects around the world. Award winners, who receive grants of up to 200,000 CHF each, are currently exploring key scientific questions in nephrology, diabetology, haematology, oncology, ophthalmology, neurology and cardiology. Applications for RoFAR grants are sought bi-annually from established members of academic staff at universities, hospitals and research centres. These are then assessed by the RoFAR Scientific Advisory Board members with the objective of awarding projects that will open up new avenues of research. In addition to its regular research grant awards, RoFAR administers special grants for innovative proposals, involving established researchers, which provide proof of principle and/or translational research, particularly studies which have the potential to be transferred into clinical practice.

For further information please contact:

RoFAR Secretariat, PO Box 226, 6045 Meggen – Switzerland
Phone: +41 41 377 3669
E-mail: admin@rofar.org
Web: www.rofar.org