# Northwestern Stimulus Funding: Faculty Awarded Highly Competitive NIH ARRA Grants

Northwestern faculty have done exceptionally well in terms of federally sponsored research funding awarded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

Although the numbers won't be final until the full correction period is complete at the end of October, as of October 16, 166 faculty members have received 179 awards for approximately $91.9 million.

The purpose of the $787 billion Recovery package appropriated under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is to jump-start the economy to create and save jobs. Using the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and agency guidelines to calculate the numbers, Northwestern's ARRA funding created or saved more than 60 jobs for the quarter, reported Susan Ross, Evanston director of the Office for Sponsored Research.

"This first quarterly reporting cycle was a monumental effort that required the full involvement of numerous staff over an extended period of time. Many staff members in Accounting Services for Research and Sponsored Programs (ASRSP), OSR, Effort Reporting, Project Café, and HRIS were involved," says Ross.

Two newly created and highly competitive categories of NIH ARRA grants have been awarded in the million-dollar range: Challenge Grants in Health and Science Research (RC1) and Research and Research Infrastructure "Grand Opportunities," the "GO" grants program (RC2). These programs were more competitive than most because a great deal of publicity was focused on the new initiatives.

NIH Challenge Grants in Health and Science Research support research on topic areas that address specific scientific and health research challenges in biomedical and behavioral research that would benefit from significant two-year jump-start funds. Northwestern faculty received 8 RC1 awards out of a total of 880 RC1s awarded by NIH:

**Guillermo Ameer**, Feinberg School of Medicine and McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science: A Revolutionary Therapy for Atherosclerosis: Liquid Cast Arterial Stents. $994,105 from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

**John D. Crispino**, Feinberg: Identification of Altered Molecular Signature of Down Syndrome Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells. $1,012,411 from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

**Lifang Hou**, Feinberg: DNA Methylation Alterations in Response to Pesticide Exposures. $995,214 from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

**Phillip B. Messersmith**, McCormick/ Chemistry of Life Processes: Self-Healing Composites via Novel Biomolecular Design and Processing. $1,011,631 from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.

**Richard I. Morimoto**, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences: Proteostasis Sensors to Assess the Cellular Protein-Folding Capacity. $1,011,589 from the National Institute on Aging.

**Maureen E. Smith**, Feinberg: Center for Genetic Medicine, Impact of Data Access Policies on Biobank Participation. $751,075 from the National Human Genome Research Institute.

**Bonnie Spring**, Feinberg: ENGAGED: E-Networks Guiding Adherence to Goals for Exercise and Diet. $997,582 from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

**Jing Zheng**, School of Communication: Preventing Hair Cell Loss By Regulating Prestin's Function. $952,729 from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders.

GO Grants (RC2): the NIH established this new program to support projects that address large, specific biomedical and biobehavioral research projects that will benefit from significant two-year funds without the expectation of continued NIH funding beyond two years. The research projects supported by the "GO" grants program have high short-term impact, and a high likelihood of enabling growth and investment in biomedical research and development, public health, and health care delivery. Northwestern faculty received two of the RC2 awards, out of 376 awarded.

**Richard Gershon**, Feinberg: GENORM: Collection of Genotypic Data for the NIH Toolbox Norming Sample. $929,524 from the National Institute on Aging.

**Toshio Narahashi**, Feinberg: Mechanism of Alcohol and Nicotine Interaction. $1,011,810 from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

For more information about the awards and the faculty members who received them, visit the OR/ARRA web site.

## Honors

**Linda Van Eldik**, cell and molecular biology, was one of only four people to receive a **Zenith Award from the Alzheimer's Association**.

**Michelle Mok**, graduate student in materials science and engineering, received the **2009 Akzo-Nobel Award of the American Chemical Society** for her work on gradient co-polymers.

**Brian Odom**, physics and astronomy, received the prestigious **Packard Fellowship in Science and Engineering** by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.