For the purpose of informing interested faculty, please be aware of the following opportunity:

**John Merck Fund: John Merck Scholars Program in the Biology of Developmental Disabilities in Children**

The John Merck Scholars Program is soliciting proposals to fund the most promising young researchers whose work illuminates neurodevelopmental disorders from the perspectives of (i) synapse formation and synaptic plasticity; (ii) learning and memory, and synaptic plasticity; (iii) perception, cognition and behavior; (iv) neurogenesis and pattern formation; and (v) genetics and early development. The program also encourage proposals that (i) investigate the possible role of environmental chemicals in the origins of developmental disabilities, or that (ii) aim to distinguish subgroups within accepted diagnostic categories through the use of sophisticated behavioral and neuroimaging tests of perception, cognition, and emotions based on concepts from modern cognitive neuroscience. Applicants should not have more than four years of experience in an independent faculty position at the start of the award.

Each applicant must submit a two-page preliminary proposal of their research activities and plans for the future, and their NIH biosketch. In the description, describe the proposed research program; how the candidate believes the work to be supported will improve the lives of children with co-occurring cognitive and emotional disorders; and the candidate’s background, plans, and aspirations. A distinguished panel of experts will review all the two-page descriptions and a limited number of full proposals will be invited. For more information about this opportunity please see the full solicitation here.

It is anticipated that $900K will be available to support up to 3 total awards for a four-year period. Complete award information is found in the full solicitation.

**Deadline for Pre-Proposal Submission to Agency:** 9/15/2009

If you have any questions regarding this announcement please contact:

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