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

**PAR-10-112: Development of Outcome Measures to Determine Success of Hearing Health Care (R01)**

The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is soliciting applications from institutions/organizations that propose to develop and evaluate a set of outcome measures to determine the success of hearing health care for adults with hearing loss. There is a compelling need to identify the variables contributing to successful hearing health care outcomes, particularly the patient-centered and instrument-centered variables contributing to successful hearing aid use. The purpose of this FOA is to develop and evaluate a set of outcome measures to determine success of HHC for adults with HL (of any level of severity) and provide guidelines on how and when outcomes should be measured.

Specific research areas of interest in pursuit of this goal include, but are not limited to those listed below:

- How do hearing-impaired individuals define “HA value” (benefit relative to the cost of the instrument)?
- What assessments (e.g., auditory, cognitive, psychosocial, other) are needed to fit a HA or guide other forms of aural rehabilitation (as evidenced by impact on outcome)?
- What assessments are needed with the audiologic test battery to guide non-medical HHC?
- What variables (technology-centered and patient-centered) predict long-term success with amplification?
- What is the minimal technology that will achieve success with HAs? Do advanced HA features enhance success?
- What is the difference in outcomes among very low cost one-size-fits-all, low-cost try-and-select, individually programmed, trainable, and full-feature high-cost amplification devices for varying patient population groups and for individual patients?
- What are the technology-centered factors (cost, appearance, and performance) that determine the penetration and utilization rate of HAs and how do these vary among various age, cultural, and socioeconomic groups?
• What is the effectiveness and patient satisfaction of low-cost (entry-level) HAs and full-feature HAs?

• What characteristics should direct-to-consumer HAs have to provide benefit and high-quality service?

• Does early intervention improve long-term outcomes (cognitive, psychosocial, economic, general health) and are individual differences related to patient-centered variables, such as age, socio-economic status (SES) and degree of hearing loss?

• What aftercare is required for various service delivery models and what is the effect on HA success?

• What are the characteristics of people who benefit from auditory training in various settings and what is the role of motivation?

• What is the impact of pre- and post-fitting counseling on long-term HA success?

• Do currently available rehabilitation methods improve long-term success with HAs?

• What is the minimal HHC delivery system needed for successful outcomes and quality care?

For detailed information about this opportunity please see the full solicitation (PAR-10-112). To find more opportunities from this agency, please see here.

Because the nature and scope of the proposed research will vary from application to application, it is anticipated that the size and duration of each award will also vary. Cost sharing is not required. Please see the full solicitation for complete award information.

Please note that there are three possible submission dates for this opportunity: October 1st, 2010, June 1st, 2011 and February 1st, 2012.

Deadline for Proposal to OR-Sponsored Programs: 9/24/2010
(Please see the solicitation for complete application & submission information.)

Please contact Sponsored Programs (4-2402) with questions regarding proposal submission requirements.

Deadline for Proposal Submission to Agency: 10/1/2010

If you have any questions regarding this announcement please contact:
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