



June 4, 2014 ■ Issue 101

## Federal Agencies Launch Pain Research Database

The [Interagency Pain Research Portfolio](#) (IPRP), a [database](#) that provides information about pain research and training activities supported by the federal government, has been launched by six federal agencies.

Pain is a symptom of many disorders; chronic pain can present as a disease in of itself. The economic cost of pain is estimated to be hundreds of billions of dollars annually in lost wages and productivity.

Users of the database easily can search over 1,200 research projects in a multi-tiered system. In Tier 1, grants are organized as basic, translational (research that can be applied to diseases), or clinical research projects. In Tier 2, grants are sorted among 29 scientific topic areas related to pain, such as biobehavioral and psychosocial mechanisms, chronic overlapping conditions and neurobiological mechanisms.

The Tier 2 categories are also organized into nine research themes: pain mechanisms, basic to clinical, disparities, training and education, tools and instruments, risk factors and causes, surveillance and human trials, overlapping conditions, and use of services, treatments, and interventions.

The database was developed by NIH staff and members of the Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee. The database is managed by the Office of Pain Policy.

## Blood Test Can Identify Patients at Higher Risk for Cardiovascular Death

A study of 338 patients with coronary artery disease (CAD) has identified a gene expression profile associated with an elevated risk of cardiovascular death. Used with other indicators such as biochemical markers and family history, the profile - based on a simple blood test - may help identify patients who could benefit from personalized treatment and counseling designed to address risk factors.

Researchers found the risk signature by comparing gene expression profiles in 31 study subjects who died of cardiovascular causes against the profiles of living members of the study group. Twenty-five of the 31 deaths occurred in the group with the high-risk profile, though coronary

deaths were also recorded among the lower risk members of the study group. All of the patients studied had CAD, and about one in five had suffered a heart attack prior to the study.

Researchers from the Georgia Institute of Technology, Emory University and Princeton University participated in the study, which obtained gene expression profiles from blood samples taken from patients undergoing cardiac catheterization at Emory University clinics in Atlanta.

The study concluded that identifying patients at highest risk could help encourage their compliance with treatment programs, and prioritize introduction of newer therapeutics, such as cholesterol-lowering medications like PCSK9 inhibitors.

## **Save the Date**

Please note: While the information below is a list of planned programs for 2014, at this time not all programs can be accessed online for registration.

June 9	Statewide Mother Baby Summit
June 18	TeamSTEPPS Train the Trainer
Sept. 18	Adverse Drug Events
Sept. 29	Geriatric Emergency Department Guidelines

[Click here to register.](#)

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