



Office of Marketing and Communications

Media Contact:

Ronna Charles Nu'Man

404-752-1717

Rbranch@msm.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Morehouse School of Medicine Named in \$31 Million NIH Award

Awards are Part of a Projected Five-Year Program to Enhance Diversity in Biomedical Research

ATLANTA – October 24, 2014 – The National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced the inclusion of Morehouse School of Medicine award of nearly \$31 million in fiscal year 2014 funds to develop new approaches that engage researchers, including those from backgrounds underrepresented in biomedical sciences, and prepare them to thrive in the NIH-funded workforce. These awards are part of a projected five-year program to support more than 50 awardees and partnering institutions in establishing a national consortium to develop, implement, and evaluate approaches to encourage individuals to start and stay in biomedical research careers. Supported by the NIH Common Fund and all NIH 27 institutes and centers, 12 awards will be issued as part of three initiatives of the [Enhancing the Diversity of the NIH-Funded Workforce program](#).

“At the Department of Health and Human Services we believe that delivering impact begins with building strong teams that have the talent and focus necessary to get results,” said Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell. “These awards will leverage the power of our country’s diversity so that together, we can continue to advance biomedical research and unlock the cures to some of the great health challenges of our times.”

“The biomedical research enterprise must engage all sectors of the population in order to solve the most complex biological problems and discover innovative new ways to improve human health,” said NIH Director Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.

Research demonstrates that economic, social, and cultural factors have a powerful impact on the pursuit of science careers, and has provided small scale data on interventions that have the potential to transform biomedical research training if implemented widely. This body of work suggests that a fundamental shift in the way scientists are trained and mentored is required to attract and sustain the interest of people from underrepresented groups in the scientific workforce at all career stages.

“Morehouse School of Medicine, is pleased to lead the eighteen Research Centers at Minority Institutions (RCMI) Translational Research Network (RTRN), in this collaborative effort”, said Elizabeth Ofili, MD, MPH, Senior Associate Dean and Principal investigator of RTRN. “The National Research Mentoring Network (NRMN) will develop a cadre of trained mentors who will engage diverse students and trainees that are underrepresented in biomedical research.



Office of Marketing and Communications

NRMN initiative will work collaboratively with the two co-funded workforce diversity initiatives- Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD) and the Coordination and Evaluation Center (CEC) to develop and disseminate best practices in retaining a diverse and well trained biomedical research workforce, that is positioned to address the nation’s most pressing health challenges”.

About Morehouse School of Medicine

Founded in 1975, Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) is among the nation's leading educators of primary care physicians and was recognized by Annals of Internal Medicine in 2011 as the top institution in the first study of U.S. medical schools for our social mission based on our production of primary care physicians, training of underrepresented minority doctors and placement of doctors practicing in underserved communities. MSM faculty and alumni are noted for excellence in teaching, research and public policy, as well as exceptional patient care.

Morehouse School of Medicine is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award doctoral and master's degrees. For more information, please visit www.msm.edu.

Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) Translational Research Network (RTRN) is composed of the 18 RCMI across the US including Puerto Rico, funded by the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities. RTRN leverages the research infrastructures, resources, and expertise of the RCMI to accelerate the quality and pace of transformative research on diseases that disproportionately affect underserved populations and communities, through innovative discovery, training and community engagement. (<http://www2.rtrn.net>)

About the National Institutes of Health (NIH): NIH, the nation's medical research agency, includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIH is the primary federal agency conducting and supporting basic, clinical, and translational medical research, and is investigating the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit www.nih.gov.

###