

News from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)¹

HOW CAN I GET INFORMATION ABOUT RESEARCH PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE NIH IN MY SCIENTIFIC AREA?

Maybe you are new to a scientific area and would like to know what kinds of research the NIH is currently funding in that area. Perhaps you want to know which other researchers in your present field are funded by the NIH. Maybe you would like to see the abstract for a particular funded proposal. Maybe you want to know if there is an intramural laboratory on the NIH campus pursuing research in the area in which you are interested. The answers to these and other questions can be found in the CRISP (Computer Retrieval of Information on Scientific Projects) System, which is a database containing information on research projects supported by the United States Public Health Service (USPHS). This research database includes a range of extramural and intramural projects, including grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements funded by the NIH, the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, and the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research.

The CRISP database and instructions for its use can be found at [gopher://gopher.nih.gov/11/res/crisp/](http://gopher.nih.gov/11/res/crisp/). The database is updated weekly. It contains project titles, locations, abstracts, and principal investigators' names, and it is searchable by scientific terms, names, states, fiscal years, funding institutes, and mechanisms using boolean operators such as "and", "or", and "not". Projects are identified by the standard mechanism abbreviations including R01 (regular research grant), P01 (program project grant), Z01 (intramural program laboratory), etc., along with a five digit number unique to the funding institute. For example, a search using "bioavailability" and "drug" and "transport" yields a list of currently funded projects and their principal investigators, locations, and project abstracts. You can use specific term descriptors assigned by the Technical Information Specialists in the Research Documentation Section, Information Systems Branch, Division of Research Grants (DRG) of the

NIH. These assigned terms can be quite useful and are found in the CRISP thesaurus located at the internet site. A search on the indexing terms "oral administration" (40000273) and "drug design" (09639863) and "liver metabolism" (17558439) or "gastrointestinal drug absorption" (12488129) yields a list similar to that found above. A CRISP user will quickly learn that there are broader terms, narrower terms, and related terms in the CRISP thesaurus that can be used effectively to properly define and limit the search output.

This tool can be used by novice grant-writers to learn about how successful grantees limit the scope of the work supported by their research grant proposals. It can be used by students to examine the research support of laboratories that they are considering for post-doctoral fellowships. It can be used by experienced researchers to learn who else has recently received grant support in a scientific field. It can be used by other agencies to learn which of their awardees has gone on to receive support from the USPHS. And of course, it is used by staff to identify grantees and write balanced reports about trends in research funded by the federal government in particular scientific areas. CRISP is one of many repositories of information found at the NIH home page (<http://www.nih.gov>) as well as the NIGMS home page (<http://www.nih.gov/nigms>).

The CRISP system is also available on CD-ROM. In the future, CRISP will be accessible directly over the www and will no longer utilize gopher; this version should become available in the Fall of 1997. For comments, suggestions, or more information about CRISP, contact the Research Documentation Section, DRG, NIH at telephone (301) 435-0650, fax (301) 480-2845, or e-mail drt@cu.nih.gov.

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¹ Future topics for this column: training grants at the NIGMS, new NIH review scoring criteria, and your suggestions.

² Send comments on this column to: longr@nigms.nih.gov