

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR CO-SPONSORSHIP OF EVENTS  
ASSOCIATED WITH THE 2006 NIDDK-SPONSORED SYMPOSIUM  
ENTITLED  
FRONTIERS IN PAINFUL BLADDER SYNDROME AND INTERSTITIAL CYSTITIS**

Following on the success of the 2003 NIDDK-sponsored scientific symposium on IC, NIDDK is convening a similar and updated symposium on IC in 2006, collaborating with appropriate voluntary organizations (“Cooperating Organizations”).

**BACKGROUND:** The NIDDK is pursuing multiple efforts to combat IC. These include its IC Clinical Research Network and basic science to help further understanding of underlying causes and symptoms and thus speed new interventions. In fall 2004, the NIDDK initiated an IC Awareness Campaign to reach out to urologists and to increase general public awareness. Its National Kidney and Urologic Diseases Information Clearinghouse is the primary distribution channel for outreach materials, which include information on therapeutic options for patients.

Collaborating with appropriate voluntary organizations, an NIDDK-planned international scientific meeting for FY 2006 will focus on “Frontiers in Painful Bladder Syndrome and Interstitial Cystitis.”

**THE SYMPOSIUM:** The Symposium is an educational program directed toward scientists and clinicians, most specifically those working in the fields of urology, bladder physiology and women’s health. It is intended to expand scientific awareness of interstitial cystitis and its treatments, to provide a forum for discussion of the definition and etiology of interstitial cystitis and painful bladder syndrome, and to exchange information and ideas on current and contemplated research on and treatments of the disease and its symptoms.

**INDEPENDENTLY SPONSORED PORTIONS OF SYMPOSIUM:** With mutual agreement between a Cooperating Organization and the NIDDK, a Cooperating Organization may, as part of the meeting, sponsor specific activities, including but not limited to a reception, travel fellowships or support of designated speakers. No NIDDK resources, including staff, may be used to develop, promote or otherwise support a portion of the event that is independently sponsored by the Cooperating Organization, although official announcements and brochures may contain factual references to the schedule of the entire event, including portions sponsored by the Cooperating Organization.

The names of all Cooperating Organizations will be included in announcements and agenda with equal prominence, in an alphabetical format and identical font and size to be approved by NIDDK. Cooperating Organization may also be listed on the agenda of the Symposium in connection with factual recital of specific events sponsored by Cooperating Organization.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE SYMPOSIUM:** The NIDDK will determine the goals and scope of the programs for the Symposium. The agenda for the Symposium is being developed and will be finalized with the assistance and advice of a Scientific Planning Committee led by a Chair selected by the NIDDK. The selected Chair will be an internationally-recognized leader with extensive peer-reviewed scholarship on the topic of educational programs.

The Scientific Planning Committee will work with NIDDK to develop and finalize a proposed agenda that includes speakers, topics, format, etc. The final agenda, format, venue and dates for the Symposium and its programs must be approved by the NIDDK prior to implementation, and is dependent upon funds available. In all instances, NIDDK must abide by all legal restrictions on the use of Federal funds and all applicable appropriations law requirements.

The scientific members of the Scientific Planning Committee will be jointly selected by the Chair and the NIDDK staff, and are expected to have recognized scientific expertise in areas and disciplines to be discussed at the meeting. The voting members of the Scientific Planning committee are the Chair, the scientific members and one voting member from NIDDK staff.

The Cooperating Organization may serve as a non-voting, ex-officio member of the Scientific Planning Committee.

**Requirements for Co-Sponsorship as a Cooperating Organization:** Criteria for partnership with non-profit organizations partnering with NIDDK have been established by the NIDDK Clearinghouses. To be designated a Cooperating Organization for a NIDDK-sponsored meeting the organization must present documentation that it meets the following criteria:

- a. Maintain non-profit status as either a patient advocacy organization, educational institution, or professional organization.
- b. Exist physically (“bricks and mortar”) with a headquarters, letterhead stationary, website, etc.
- c. Operate under a stated mission consistent with partnership of NIDDK.
- d. Administer organizational, educational or outreach activities on a national or international scale.
- e. Have an established board of directors or advisory group that includes independent board-certified medical experts.

To co-sponsor an event also sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services, or any subcomponent of the Department, such as the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases of the National Institutes of Health, Cooperating

Organization must abide by the legal memorandum of August 8, 2002, entitled “Co-Sponsorship Guidance,” issued by the HHS Designated Agency Ethics Official, a copy of which is attached. Inkeeping with that Guidance, Cooperating Organization represents that neither it nor a majority of its members:

1. are seeking official action by the NIDDK;
1. are doing business with or seek to do business with the NIDDK; nor
2. have interests that may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the official duties of an employee of the NIDDK.

**CAPABILITY STATEMENTS:** The NIDDK will use the information provided in the Cooperating Organization Capability Statements received in response to this announcement to help in its considerations. It is the intention of the NIDDK that all qualified Cooperating Organizations have the opportunity to provide information to the NIDDK through their capability statements. The Capability Statement should not exceed 10 pages and should address the following selection criteria: 1. The statement should provide specific details of the event or activities that the Cooperating Organization proposes to sponsor in connection with the Symposium. 2. The statement should include a detailed plan demonstrating the ability of the Cooperating Organization to provide and implement that which it is proposing. 3. The statement must address the requirements for co-sponsorship as a Cooperating Organization. 4. The statement must address the organization’s willingness to agree to the terms of the Co-Sponsorship Agreement, which can be found at <http://TechDev.NIDDK.NIH.gov/cosponsorship.ic.pdf>

**DATES:** Only written capability statements received by the NIDDK on or before January 31, 2006 will be considered. Applicants meeting the criteria as set forth in this announcement will be notified on or about March 30, 2006.

**SUBMIT CAPABILITY STATEMENTS** to Rochelle S. Blaustein, J.D., Director, Technology Transfer and Development, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, 9000 Rockville Pike Building 12A, Suite 3011, MSC 5632, Bethesda, MD 20892-5632, phone: (301) 451-3636, fax: (301) 402-7461, e-mail: [rochelle.blaustein@nih.gov](mailto:rochelle.blaustein@nih.gov) For questions concerning the Symposium, contact Debuene Chang, M.D., Program Director Urology, Women’s Urological Health, , National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, (301) 594-4733, e-mail: [changtd@nidk.nih.gov](mailto:changtd@nidk.nih.gov)

A formatted version of the original, unmodified Notice of Opportunity is posted at: <http://TechDev.NIDDK.NIH.gov/ICSymposiumpub.pdf>

The Notice of Opportunity and Attachments can be found at <http://TechDev.NIDDK.NIH.gov/collabs.htm>