



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Compounds that Enhance Cognition

The NIMH seeks to facilitate development of compounds to enhance cognition in patients with schizophrenia. The Treatment Units for Research on Neurocognition and Schizophrenia program (TURN) is an NIMH-sponsored initiative to identify compounds of interest and conduct proof of concept clinical studies on the treatment of cognitive deficits of schizophrenia. Cognitive functions that are affected include memory, attention, executive functioning and psychomotor performance. Cognitive impairments are important as treatment targets because they have a substantial impact on the functional capacity and outcome of individuals with schizophrenia and currently available medications are of limited efficacy in treating these impairments. The TURN Program constitutes the next phase of the NIMH's treatment development initiative in cognition in schizophrenia and will utilize the deliverables, including a standardized consensus clinical battery produced by the MATRICS Program (www.matrics.ucla.edu). TURN plans to continue to conduct studies of prioritized compounds at TURN's sites. Consequently, the TURN program is calling for a round of nominations of suitable candidate drugs. Compounds will be selected by a formal review process. Studies will be developed and implemented by seven investigative sites: Columbia University Medical Center (Jeffrey Lieberman); Harvard University (Donald Goff, Larry Seidman); the Nathan Kline Institute (Daniel Javitt, Karen Nolan); University of North Carolina/Duke University (Richard Keefe, Joseph McEvoy); University of Maryland (Robert Buchanan, Jim Gold); Washington University (John Csernansky, Deanna Barch); and University of California at Los Angeles (Stephen Marder, Michael Green). Further information on the TURN program is available on the website www.turns.ucla.edu.



Review Process and Criteria


All relevant candidate compounds will be reviewed by the **TURN Target and Compound Selection Committee**. Using background information gathered by the MATRICS Program (e.g. Psychopharmacology, 174(1), 2004), the Committee will determine which neurobiologic targets should be prioritized for therapeutic development, identify relevant compounds for that target and determine their relevant compounds for that target and determine their suitability and priority for clinical experimentation. Compounds will be prioritized based on their scientific rationale, the ability of the TURN Program to facilitate their development and their potential to be made available for clinical utilization in a timely fashion. Criteria for existing IND or IND readiness, and suitability for human investigation. TURN investigators will work with the compounds' sponsors to develop a mutually acceptable agreement and scientific plan for evaluating the compounds. The TURN Program Policy is sensitive to potential concerns about intellectual property and sharing of information and will provide appropriate arrangements and safeguards.

Nominations

Compounds may be nominated using the Compound Nomination Form which can either be downloaded from the TURN website (www.turns.ucla.edu) or requested by email at MC157@columbia.edu. Compounds may also be nominated by submitting the following information to Jeffrey Lieberman, MD, Chairman of the TURN Compound Selection Committee: Drug Name or ID #; Originating Company; Licensee (if different from originator); Designated Contact Person; IND Status; Regulatory Status/Phase of Development; Drug Target/Mechanism of Action; Route of Administration; Brief Description of Drug's Pharmacology; and Relevant References.

Submit Nominations to:

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Nominations of compounds should be received by January 15, 2007. Nominations received after this date may be considered for subsequent studies.