

WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



**Institute for Population Studies,
Health Assessment, Administration,
Services and Economics
(INPHAASE)**

Request for Proposals

Time Line

4/7/2008	Issue RFP
4/21/2008 10:30 a.m.	Informational Meeting in the WSU Office of the VP for Research, 5057 Woodward Avenue, room 6202 (6 th floor). Call 577-5600 for directions
5/23/2008	Letters of Intent (LOI) due by midnight
6/11/2008	Notification of Acceptable LOI's
7/11/2008	Proposals Due by midnight
8/15/2008	Announcement of Awards

Submission of Information

Submit Letters of Intent (LOI) and Proposals to:

Shay Izzard
Office of the Vice President for Research
Wayne State University
5057 Woodward Avenue, Room 6407
Detroit, MI 48202
Email: ski@wayne.edu*

*Electronic submissions only

Questions

If you have any questions, please contact:

Dr. Gloria Heppner (heppnerg@wayne.edu) 313-577-8848 at WSU, or

Dr. Christine Cole Johnson (cjohnso1@hfhs.org) 313-874-6672 at HFHS

What is INPHAASE?

INPHAASE is the acronym of the Institute for Population Sciences, Health Assessment, Administration, Services, and Economics. INPHAASE is an inter-institutional, coordinated effort to bring together and integrate the faculty of Wayne State University (WSU) and Henry Ford Health System (HFHS) with research expertise devoted to:

- Understanding the biological and social bases for health disparities among populations of differing demographics, including ethnicity, gender, age, and economic status;
- Testing alternative strategies to overcoming reasons for these disparities; and
- Developing health and information management systems to support efforts to eliminate disparities.

The core of the activities of INPHAASE are directed toward the problems of *disease prevention and management* and *health promotion* in large urban areas, as epitomized by metropolitan Detroit, and include programs to change individual and population behavior related to health status, as well as the behavior of health care systems and providers.

What are the purposes of this 2008 RFP?

1. To spur the development of investigator-initiated research teams that are **inter-institutional in scope**, which will form the foundation of INPHAASE programs.
2. To provide seed money to research teams of investigators from HFHS and WSU, who will develop study designs and gather pilot data that will eventually lead to externally funded programs.
3. To develop concrete strategies for funding large-scale programs and projects within the INPHAASE scope.
4. In this 2008 round, the short range objective of the proposals must be to develop adjunct or data use studies associated with the National Children's Study contract. An NIH/NCS contract has recently been awarded to a Michigan collaborating group of investigators at WSU, HFHS, UM, MSU, and the Michigan Department of Community Health, with the Wayne County PI at MSU (see Appendix A). Although the NCS mechanism of funding is via a contract (in which a set of deliverables is normally specified), there is a strong emphasis on the development of adjunct or data use studies and manuscripts early on in the conduct of the study. Examples include spin off analyses of collected data (data use analyses), or adjunct studies including the addition of survey questions, appropriate linkage to other datasets for analyses, and the addition of measures using stored specimens. **THESE ANALYSES MUST BE CONDUCTED WITH FUNDS OBTAINED OUTSIDE OF THE NCS CONTRACT. DETAILS OF THE**

NCS STUDY ARE PROVIDED IN THE ATTACHED Appendix B AND ON THE NCS WEBSITE.

What are the terms of this RFP?

1. Funding period: 18 months
2. Funding: A total of \$400,000 is available. It is anticipated that 4 to 6 proposals will be awarded. There will be no funds allocated for IDC.
3. Researchers should propose the use of data NOT INITIALLY TIED TO NCS STUDY DATA, as plans for recruitment in that study have been delayed, and data will not be available for approximately 2 years. Therefore, other sets of existing data or data proposed to be collected must be used in proposals for INPHAASE funding. See Appendix A for examples of the kinds of data that will be collected in the NCS, as well as examples of adjunct studies.
4. However, because the purpose of INPHAASE funding is to tie directly to the NCS, proposals must include a specific strategy for applying for substantial external support for NCS adjunct/ancillary studies as soon as the National Children's Study can approve such proposals (see Appendix B).

What are the research areas to be considered?

Research proposals should be able to make use of data that will be available in the National Children's Study, either in Michigan or at several other NCS-funded sites. In thinking about study ideas, it is important to consider questions OTHER than the main NCS hypotheses. (Many other excellent hypotheses were proposed and can be found in working group reports available on the web site, and examples for early analyses are listed below.) To ask questions about NCS adjunct studies, an email has been provided: NCSAdjunctStudies@mail.nih.gov.

Investigators considering an INPHAASE submission are encouraged to discuss ideas with Drs. Christine Johnson [cjohnso1@hfhs.org; (313) 874-6672] or Christine Joseph [cjoseph1@hfhs.org; (313) 874-6366] at HFHS or Drs. Robert Sokol [rsokol@med.wayne.edu; (313) 577-1337] or William Lyman [wlyman@med.wayne.edu; (313) 745-2400] at WSU, who all serve as PIs of MANCS Cores in the Michigan NCS effort.

Examples of potential study ideas include but are not limited to:

- Case control studies of preterm birth (for example, contrasting a group of extremely low birth weight babies against groups of moderately low and normal

weight babies). Note that case control studies would usually be used for rare conditions that would yield low numbers of cases in moderate-sized cohort studies

- Studies related to community engagement, a strong and well documented focus of the NCS (which includes the engagement of community groups in encouraging participation, serving as sites that can provide information to potential NCS participants, etc.)
- Health system/health care delivery effects on pregnancy and infancy outcomes
- Connecting local data with other local databases for data analyses, including GIS
- Use of reproductive technology
- Descriptive studies (chemical, physical, social) of home and home environments before and during pregnancy
- Nested case-control studies (where the factors/conditions don't cross, for example in studying the effectiveness of a drug in two different hospitals, where the dosage given in each site is different so that dosage level is nested within hospital)
- Studies of pregnancy-related outcomes, including disparities. Studies of ethnicity and preeclampsia, mental health, depression, trauma, diabetes, use of medications, STDs, CVD, gall bladder disease, residential mobility, insurance
- Nutrition in pregnancy and outcome studies in mothers and babies
- Pregnancy complications and associated risk factors
- Methods studies, such as studies of recruitment strategies
- Pilot studies, such as finding toxic substances in drinking water

What are the criteria for selection? (Not specifically weighted)

1. Required: the work proposed is preparation for hypothesis-driven research that can be conducted as an adjunct study to the National Children's Study.
2. Although not required, preference will be given to proposals that:
 - Study effects of environmental and/or other factors on child development
 - Address issues of disparities among populations
 - Address issues of importance in Metropolitan Detroit
 - Demonstrate an important potential use of NCS data
3. Expertise, interest and leadership are available at both HFH and WSU, and the project integrates investigators from both organizations.
4. Mentoring plans for junior participants are in place and described in the proposal.
5. There is a high likelihood of obtaining external funding.
6. There is a high likelihood that the project will lead to strategies with real-world applications.

What can funds be used for?

1. Funds may not be used for travel.
2. Equipment (definition: \$5000 or more) is not allowed (note: computers <\$5000 and software fees are allowed).

What are the processes for application?

1. Submit Letter of intent (no more than **three** pages) that includes:
 - Short synopsis of basic idea
 - Connections to the National Children's Study
 - Plan for future external funding
 - Names of participants and evidence of HFH-WSU collaboration
 - Estimate of Total Budget
2. LOI's will be reviewed by the INPHAASE Steering Committee in regard to relevance. The Steering Committee, which consists of 3 representatives from HFHS and 3 from WSU, will select those proposals that will be invited for full application. In case of overlap among proposals, INPHAASE may suggest collaboration and ask applicants to identify a lead investigator.

3. Full applications will be submitted in NIH format. No more than 10 pages of text, including:
 - a) Title of Proposal
 - b) PI and co-PIs or co-Investigators
 - c) Abstract
 - d) Introduction/Overview/Background
 - e) Specific Aims
 - f) Rationale
 - g) Research Design
 - h) Methodology
 - i) Budget (broken down by personnel, equipment, materials and supplies)
 - j) Budget Justification (maximum one page) – not counted as part of the 10 pages
 - k) Biosketches of participants (3 page maximum per participant) – not counted as part of the 10 pages of text

4. External peer reviewers will review applications.

5. Investigators will be asked to present results of their work to joint meetings of all INPHAASE participants. Progress reports will be requested and will be monitored by the Steering Committee.

Appendix A

Background Data on MANCS, the National Children's Study and Adjunct Studies

On September 28, 2007 the Michigan Alliance for the National Children's Study (MANCS) was successful in its proposal to the NIH to become part of the first full wave of the National Children's Study that is beginning this year. With the award of an \$18.5 million 5-year contract, MANCS, a coalition of 6 Michigan institutions, joins 22 other centers nationally who will conduct the study in 26 counties. The overall MANCS PI is Nigel Paneth, MD, MPH, from Michigan State University. Additional waves of participating counties are planned. The study will be conducted initially in Wayne County. Four other Michigan counties – Genesee, Grand Traverse, Lenawee and Macomb – are expected to be added to the study over the next two to three years. The next wave to be funded will include 2-3 of these Michigan counties and the last wave is planned to include the remainder.

The National Children's Study is a congressionally mandated study of environmental (very broadly defined) effects on the health and development of children. NCS plans to enroll 100,000 children in 105 counties in the US, selected to represent the entire nation. This study will begin its research with a random sample of mothers, selected such that they are representative of the general population, prior to conception (i.e., while contemplating pregnancy) or during pregnancy, and the children will be followed until age 21. Extensive data including biological and environmental samples will be collected. No study of this scope and scale has ever been undertaken in child health research, and the potential benefits in child health are incalculable. Study plans can be found on www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov. There is also a tab on the website covering adjunct studies, including an application process.

There is a strong national emphasis on the support of adjunct studies using the data and materials generated by the NCS, or through the collection of additional data/measures. Such work could be done for Wayne County alone, eventually with other Michigan counties, or in partnership with other sites outside the state. (For example, sites affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh and University of California Irvine have already been in touch with Nigel Paneth.) There will be about 1000 mothers and children recruited in Wayne County, likely beginning in 2010. The families will be sampled such that they will be representative of Wayne County and will be selected from randomly sampled geographically based clusters of census tracts. The primary aims of the study are to evaluate environmental risk factors, defined in the broadest sense, for birth defects, pediatric obesity, neuro-developmental disorders, pediatric asthma and physical injuries. Extensive general risk factor questionnaires will be administered before pregnancy for part of the sample and for all subjects during pregnancy and several times each year. Homes will be visited to obtain environmental samples and biological specimens from the mothers and children will be obtained

longitudinally. Processes will be set in place both statewide and nationally to obtain access to data and samples. Policies regarding the collection of additional samples are in the process of being worked out, but it will undoubtedly be more challenging to propose the use of samples that will be more limited (such as serum samples from infants). Analyses of environmental samples will be available (pesticides in dust, PM and gases in air and water), but the analyses of these samples can be expected to be delayed.

At this time it is most reasonable to consider Adjunct Studies for the pre-conception, pregnancy, newborn, and early infancy timeframes – especially for proposals that address community engagement or proposals that will require data from all 1,000 participants at each site (i.e. studies that require large sample size for appropriate statistical power). Studies of these population based cohorts of mothers and fathers are also appropriate. Recruitment was scheduled to commence in July 2009 but will likely be delayed until 2010. Investigators can propose analyses of data being collected (data use study) starting at that time point. For analyses considering parental data, pregnancy, birth or early infancy outcomes, the first wave of data should be released early, with pregnancy data available for the first wave soon after a year post study initiation. Any additional data to be collected for an adjunct study related to pregnancy should ideally be in place by July 2009.

No funds will be available for Adjunct studies from the NCS contract. There will be a two stage review process where concept proposals will be approved relatively quickly by NCS committees so that this approval can be included in proposals submitted to funders. A second review will be for feasibility, ethics and related issues, but the NCS will accept the scientific review of recognized peer review processes. Adjunct studies must include a NCS investigator as a co-investigator, but an investigator at one of the involved Michigan institutions can easily become involved in MANCS and link up with a funded MANCS investigator. (Requests for data only, collected as part of the Core NCS protocol, are not considered NCS Adjunct Studies and should not be submitted to the national Adjunct Studies Team, but rather to the national NCS Data Use and Publications Subcommittee). All local preliminary applications to be submitted at the national level will be reviewed by a Michigan based NCS Committee, with local ad hoc expert reviewer(s) as necessary.

Appendix B
Details regarding NCS Adjunct Studies Overview
http://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov/adjunct_studies/

Overview

As the National Children's Study proceeds, scientific knowledge will evolve and the Study will serve as an appropriate platform upon which to build additional scientific studies. Investigators from various sectors (such as academia, government, and industry) are encouraged to propose (and obtain approval to conduct) adjunct studies. Such studies will enhance the breadth, depth, and value of the Study and will assure continued interest of a diverse group of investigators, which is critical to the overall success of the Study. To protect the quality and integrity of the Study, adjunct studies will be reviewed and approved by a defined, rigorous process. Adjunct studies will generally require outside (non-Study) funding.

Definitions

Adjunct Studies: An adjunct study involves a portion of the National Children's Study cohort, utilizing individually or in combination, any of the following: the Study participants, their bio-specimens, their environmental samples. Adjunct studies can take place at one or more Study Centers, on all or a portion of their Center participants. Generally, adjunct studies will be initiated and planned outside of the Study protocol planning process and funded with non-Study funding; that is, by such mechanisms as government grants (for example, R-O1) applied for by the initiator, by intramural federal resources, through public private partnerships, or from other sources.

Requests for just data are not considered Adjunct Studies and should not be submitted to the Adjunct Studies Team, but rather to the Data Use and Publications Subcommittee.

Outside-Initiated Additions to the Core Protocol: Formal proposals initiated from outside the National Children's Study protocol planning process that pertain to the *entire* cohort are considered modifications of or additions to the core protocol. These additions or changes, once approved, will be incorporated into the core protocol through the core protocol planning process. If such proposals add cost to the Study, they will likely require outside funding, as with adjunct studies.

Internal Adjunct Studies: In specific circumstances, the National Children's Study may require, authorize, and fund specific adjunct studies (for a portion of the cohort) to be planned outside the core protocol planning process, yet funded with Study funds. These are referred to as "Internal Adjunct Studies" to reflect internal (Study) direction, initiation, and funding despite external development.

Categories of Adjunct Studies

Without direct interaction with human subjects, analysis of any (or any combination) of the following:

- archived biologic specimens
- archived environmental samples
- current biological specimens
- current environmental samples

With direct interaction with human subjects (with or without use of biospecimens and/or environmental samples):

- "minimal risk" research (Federal Guidelines 45CFR46.404–406), e.g., observational studies and questionnaires
- "more than minimal risk" research with no prospect of direct benefit

- intervention research (with prospect of direct benefit) as an embedded case-control study
- other

Human Subject Considerations

As appropriate, any given adjunct study may or may not require separate informed consent from National Children's Study participants. The adjunct study proposal must reflect the applicant's assessment as to whether or not specific informed consent is required for that project. The review process will assess this as well. When informed consent is required, the adjunct study informed consent document will clearly identify this adjunct study as additional to the core Study and will clearly inform participants of the voluntary nature of participation in this portion of the Study.

Review of Adjunct Study Proposals

The National Children's Study Program Office/Research Partnerships Program Director coordinates a formal process for review and approval of all adjunct studies. This is a two-tier process with evaluation first of an initial brief Preliminary Application which, if it appears to be an appropriate adjunct study proposal, is then followed by a more in-depth Full Application. There are several tiers of review, some of which will occur simultaneously in order to facilitate timeliness of review. (Requests for just de-identified data do not fall within the Adjunct Studies purview.)

To assure the quality and integrity of the proposed study and to assess its impact on the core Study, specific areas of review include but are not limited to: scientific merit, scientific relevance and "fit" with the Study, burden to participants and to the Study, risk, and other human subjects issues. Highest priority shall be given to studies that (1) relate to and enhance the core Study objectives; (2) have strong scientific and public health merit; (3) have potential for positive impact on healthcare practice or policy; (4) produce minimal burden on Study participants and do not unduly complicate or compromise the core Study; and (5) require the unique characteristics of the Study cohort such that there is mutual benefit.

Upon National Children's Study approval of the Full Application, documentation of that approval will be provided to assist proposers in seeking funding. Final approval to initiate the adjunct study will be contingent upon assurance of funding and completion of required "outside" reviews (for example, IRBs, OMB, peer review) as indicated.

The areas of review on the National Children's Study Adjunct Study Application form largely mirror the major areas in NIH Research Grant applications. The adjunct study application allows for "cutting and pasting" relevant portions of those grant applications in order to minimize work. Funding details will be requested only after the proposal application is approved.

The National Children's Study (Program Office) Adjunct Studies Team shall work with investigators proposing adjunct studies to enhance opportunity for success of proposals. The Adjunct Studies Team shall monitor the status of adjunct study applications, completion of appropriate reviews and documentation, receipt of funding, and initiation of the project. Progress reports will be required periodically from each adjunct study Principal Investigator (PI).

Participation of National Children's Study Investigators as "Co-Investigators"

Every adjunct study requires the participation of a National Children's Study investigator as a co-investigator. This person's essential role is to ensure accountability to the Study for that specific adjunct

study's use of Study participants, data, bio-specimens, and/or environmental samples. Study co-investigators include Program Office or Interagency Coordinating Committee (ICC) members or Study Center PIs (or designated member of their National Children's Study team). The Study investigator must be designated as a co-investigator of the adjunct study. When an adjunct study is based at a particular Study Center or Centers, the Center PI (or designee) will generally serve as the Study co-investigator for that adjunct study.

At the time of application submission, some applicants may not know which Study Center(s) or Study co-investigators (Program Office, ICC, or Study Center) are most appropriate as collaborators for that proposal. Identifying or contacting a specific Study Center(s) and/or a potential Study co-investigator are not required prior to application submission. However, if proposers have a specific Study Center(s) and/or Study co-investigator in mind, they are encouraged to contact that Center or individual about the proposal early in the process of developing the proposal. This would be highly advantageous in facilitating the review process. As part of the review and approval process, a Center(s) and Study co-investigator will be mutually agreed upon.

Data Access and Publications

As part of the full application, the proposer must agree to comply with National Children's Study policies and procedures regarding data access and use as well as publication procedures. Access to adjunct study participants, their relevant bio-specimens, and/or environmental samples will be limited to that which is specifically pertinent to and authorized for the approved adjunct study.

Timing

The current timeline calls for the Vanguard Centers to enroll participants during the summer of 2008 for the Vanguard pilot phase that will span from summer 2008 to summer 2009. Early adjunct studies will pertain to those participants enrolling after completion of that pilot year. At this time it may be reasonable to consider Adjunct Studies for the pre-conception, pregnancy, newborn, and early infancy timeframes. Applications for adjunct studies are available on this National Children's Study Web site. The Tech Support Team is available to answer technical questions about filling out and submitting the electronic application at NCSADJtechteam@mail.nih.gov or 301-402-1978.

Questions about the Adjunct Studies Program should be addressed to the Adjunct Studies Team at NCSAdjunctStudies@mail.nih.gov.

These guidelines updated September 7, 2007.

National Children's Study Adjunct Study Application Information

Following local review the National Children's Study review process will use an electronic submissions tool, eSubmitter, for its Adjunct Studies Program. eSubmitter allows applicants to electronically complete and submit applications to the Adjunct Studies Program.

This software contains tools and information to assist you in the application submission process and allows the National Children's Study Adjunct Studies Team to effectively capture and review the proposal.

Download Adjunct Studies Application Software

To view the application for an Adjunct Study, submit your e-mail address below. You will then receive an e-mail containing login information to download the application software (eSubmitter for applicants) with the application form. You may download the application for review without initiating an application for an Adjunct Study. Applicants will be contacted only after an Adjunct Study proposal is received.

eSubmitter System Requirements

Windows Operating System

[Adobe Acrobat Reader v5.0](#) or greater (for attaching files)

Software capable of viewing HTML, such as a Web browser, Microsoft Word, or Adobe Acrobat (full install version, not the Reader)

40 MB of disk space

Background

What is the National Children's Study?

The National Children's Study will examine the effects of environmental influences on the health and development of more than 100,000 children across the United States, following them from before birth until age 21. The goal of the study is to improve the health and well-being of children.

The study defines "environment" broadly and will take a number of issues into account, including:

- Natural and man-made environment factors
- Biological and chemical factors
- Physical surroundings
- Social factors
- Behavioral influences and outcomes
- Genetics
- Cultural and family influences and differences
- Geographic locations

Researchers will analyze how these elements interact with each other and what helpful and/or harmful effects they might have on children's health. By studying children through their different phases of growth and development, researchers will be better able to understand the role of these factors on health and disease. Findings from the study will be made available as soon as possible as the research progresses. The study will also allow scientists to find the differences that exist between groups of people, in terms of their health, health care access, disease occurrence, and other issues, so that these differences or disparities can be addressed.

The National Children's Study will be one of the richest information resources available for answering questions related to children's health and development and will form the basis of child health guidance, interventions, and policy for generations to come. *It is anticipated that the preliminary results from the first years of the study will be available in 2009-2010.*

Hypotheses

Although the Study is hypothesis-driven, no single hypothesis fulfills all the goals for the Study. To determine environmental impact on the health of children, the Study includes a number of hypotheses and priority health outcomes. Together, they represent an approach to addressing the nation's most urgent public health concerns. By design, the Study hopes to be able to answer future questions about children's health that science has yet to ask.

Data Collection

- Families who are enrolled in the Study will participate in a minimum of 15 in-person visits with a local research team beginning from the first trimester of pregnancy or earlier, through 21 years of age. Some of these visits will be in the participants' homes and some will be in clinical settings, including the infant's place of delivery. For a sample of participants, data will also be collected from child care and school settings to include places where the child spends at least 30 hours per week.
- In addition to in-person visits, data will be remotely collected via telephone, computer, or mail-in questionnaires every three months through pregnancy, every six months through the first year, and then at slightly longer intervals until the child reaches 21 years of age.
- Samples collected over the course of the study will include biological samples from the mother, father, and child, as well as air, water, soil, and dust from the child's environment will be collected.

Measures and Outcomes

- The data collection will involve measures of environmental exposures that will be tracked and analyzed in relationship to health outcomes. Biological, chemical, physical, and psychosocial exposures will be collected, measured, and tracked against pregnancy and birth outcomes, stages of child development, and medical events.
- The ability to assess the influence of multiple environmental exposures on one or more outcomes is an important and unique facet of the Study.

Results

- Beginning with birth outcomes, findings will become available within two to three years after the Study is launched. Throughout the Study's duration, intermittent results will allow for continued insights that may be applied to better the health of America's children.
- The Study Plan is written as an outline so that it may evolve as the cohort ages and as new scientific developments occur. A more detailed Research Plan and Study protocol will be developed with the input of investigators from the Vanguard Centers and coordinating center.

Full Study Plan contains more detailed information:

http://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov/research/study_plan/upload/NCS-Study-Plan-2004.pdf