

## National Institutes of Health Update

### National Research Study Recruitment Registry

Earlier this month, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced the first national research study recruitment registry to match volunteers with researchers. Individuals who want to participate in research studies can go to [www.ResearchMatch.org](http://www.ResearchMatch.org) and connect online with researchers nationwide. The disease-neutral website is designed to help volunteers gain access to studies that are recruiting participants.

“This registry provides obvious benefits for nephrology researchers, but the role it could play for clinicians providing care to patients with rare diseases, for which there is not an effective treatment to offer, should not be overlooked,” notes Rajnish Mehrotra, MD, FASN, a member of the ASN Clinical Science Committee. “One suggestion could very well be to register on such a website. All primary glomerular diseases are infrequent enough such that patients, clinicians, and researchers working on such disease could benefit from using this registry.”

### Thanking President Obama for Supporting NIH Research

ASN and the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding recently thanked President Obama for his commitment to “restore science to its rightful place” and for the historic short-term support for the NIH demonstrated through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). ASN and the coalition (of which ASN is a leading member) also urged President Obama to maintain the scientific and economic momentum ARRA is generating by making NIH a priority in his 2011 budget proposal for fiscal year 2011, which begins October 1, 2010.

NIH Director Francis Collins recently stated that ARRA grants will create or retain 50,000 jobs in communities nationwide over the two-year period. This is in addition to the impact on supporting businesses that thrive when the biomedical sector grows. Moreover, NIH dollars promote global economic competitiveness, serving as a powerful catalyst for additional public and private research investment and jobs, and this nation’s commitment to basic science has made America the world leader in medical and scientific discovery.

### Funding Opportunity Announcement

NIH has established a new “Community Infrastructure” grants program. The program aims to build sustainable community-linked infrastructure to enable health science research across the country. The program was made possible by funds from ARRA. To view the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) associated with this program, visit the website at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-09-010.html>.

### NHLBI and NICHD Acting Director Appointments

NIH will transition leadership at two institutes: the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). Effective December 1, 2009, Susan B. Shurin, MD, will be Acting Director of NHLBI and Alan E. Guttmacher, MD, will be Acting Director of NICHD.

Dr. Shurin is a pediatric hematologist-oncologist who began working at NIH in 2006. She has been serving as Acting Director of NICHD since October 1, 2009, the position that Dr. Alan Guttmacher will assume. Dr. Guttmacher is a geneticist and has been at the NIH since 1999. In 2002, he became the National Human Genome Research Institute’s Deputy Director and has served as the Institute’s Acting Director since August 2008.