

**The American Cancer Society MEN2 Thyroid Cancer Consortium
Research Scholars/Mentored Research Scholars/Postdoctoral Fellows**

Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia (MEN) is a syndrome involving tumors in two or more endocrine tissues. There are six described MEN syndromes and MEN type 2 (MEN2) is one of the most prevalent. It is associated with high levels of the hormone calcitonin, with tumors of the thyroid, adrenal gland and nervous tissue and mutations in the gene *RET*. While research has illuminated some aspects of MEN2, more research is needed before the syndrome can be effectively controlled.

The American Cancer Society has received a generous gift to further our understanding of MEN2 and improve diagnosis and treatment of MEN2 patients. As a result of this gift, the American Cancer Society announces this **Request for Applications** for the **American Cancer Society MEN2 Thyroid Cancer Consortium**. The scope of research in this Consortium will cover all aspects of MEN2-related cancer research. While the consortium will focus on the function of *RET* as an oncogene, appropriate areas of investigation include, but are not limited to: understanding consequences of *RET* mutations, and the molecular events underlying the development of MEN2-related (thyroid and other) tumors, improved animal models of MEN2, new screening and monitoring tools, new imaging approaches, and new pharmacologic and other strategies to blunt the effects of *RET* mutations.

The MEN2 Thyroid Cancer Consortium will consist of approximately 13 investigators with complementary knowledge spanning both experimental and clinical expertise. The Consortium will consist of outstanding junior investigators and a single renowned senior scientist (separate announcement) who will be awarded the American Cancer Society MEN2 Thyroid Cancer Professorship and facilitate the interactions among the members of the program (for details see links below). Up to seven (7) Research Scholar and/or Mentored Research Scholar Grants, and up to five (5) Postdoctoral Fellowships will be awarded. Collaboration among members of the Consortium will be stimulated by annual consortium meetings attended by all members, led by the ACS Professor and organized by the ACS. The intent of the Consortium is to combine the strengths of the individual investigators in an effort to more thoroughly understand the MEN2 syndrome and to accelerate the acquisition of new insights into better prevention, detection and treatment of the disease. While collaboration and other interactions are desirable and will be strongly encouraged and facilitated, each individual funded by the Consortium will have sole responsibility for their project, as defined in the ACS Policies and Instructions, and have no direct say over any other project. It is also hoped that the Consortium will stimulate the establishment of new research programs in the area of MEN2.

RSG Qualifications: Individuals applying for a Research Scholar Grant must have an independent research or faculty position, be within six years of their first independent research or faculty appointment at the time of application, and may not already have substantial grant support. Projects in basic, preclinical, clinical, and epidemiology research are encouraged. Awards are for up to 5 years and for as much as \$200,000 per year (direct costs), plus 20% allowable indirect costs.

MRSG Qualifications: Mentored Research Scholar Grants will be awarded to junior faculty members with a doctoral degree in a clinical or cancer control research discipline (e.g., M.D., and/or Ph.D.) that are within the first four years of a full time faculty appointment or equivalent, and have no more than 4 years of postdoctoral research experience immediately prior to their faculty appointment. The successful applicant is expected to acquire the research training, mentoring and experience necessary for transition into a successful career as an independent investigator. Awards are for up to five years and for up to \$135,000 per year (direct costs), plus 8% allowable indirect costs. A maximum of \$10,000 per year for the mentor(s) (regardless of the number of mentors) is included in the \$135,000.

Postdoctoral Fellow Qualifications: Applicants must have obtained their doctoral degree prior to activation of the fellowship. Awards are for three years with progressive stipends of \$40,000, \$42,000, and \$44,000 per year, plus a \$4,000 per year institutional allowance. Individuals who have held a PhD or MD for more than 4 years at the time of application are not eligible.

Deadline: Complete applications are due by October 15, 2008. Funding will begin July 1, 2009. All applicants must be American citizens or permanent residents. For additional information regarding funding policies or to obtain an application, please go to <https://proposalcentral.altum.com> or refer to the ACS website at www.cancer.org/research: select *Funding Opportunities* followed by Index of Grants, scroll down to *Special Initiatives* and select the appropriate RFA for MEN2 Thyroid Cancer, or contact:

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