Stimulating Peripheral Activity to Relieve Conditions (SPARC)

A New Common Fund Program

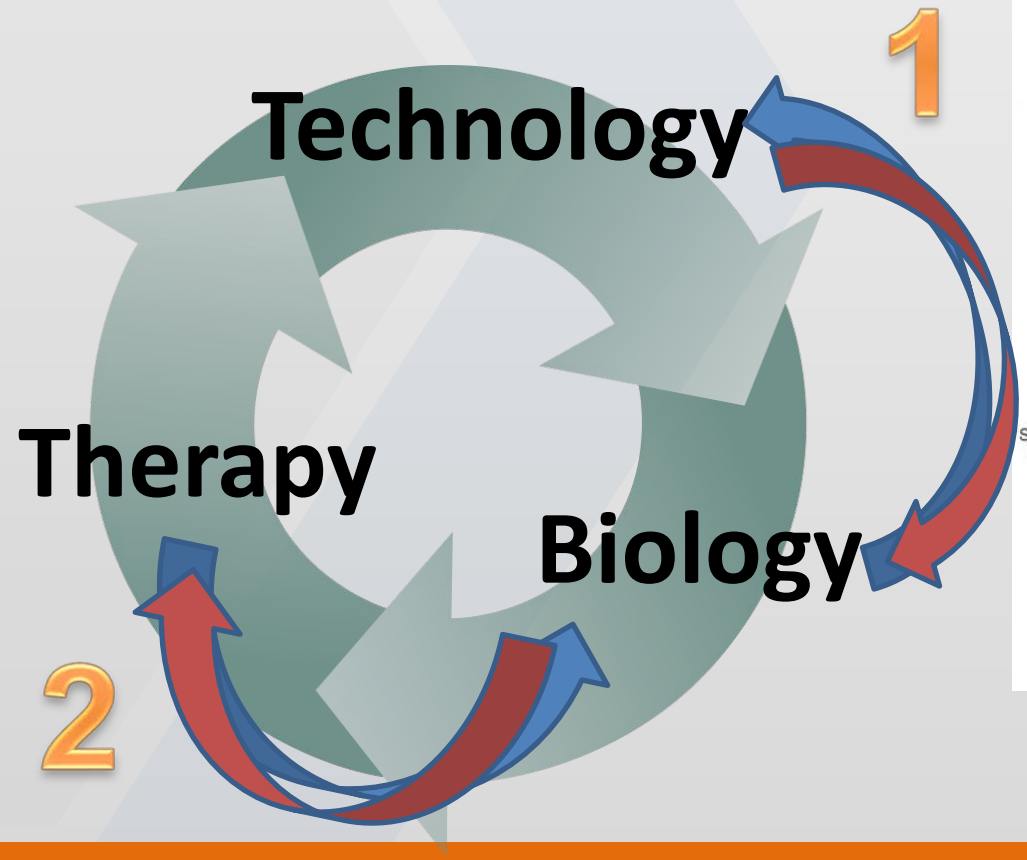
RFA-RM-15-002
Funding Opportunity Announcement

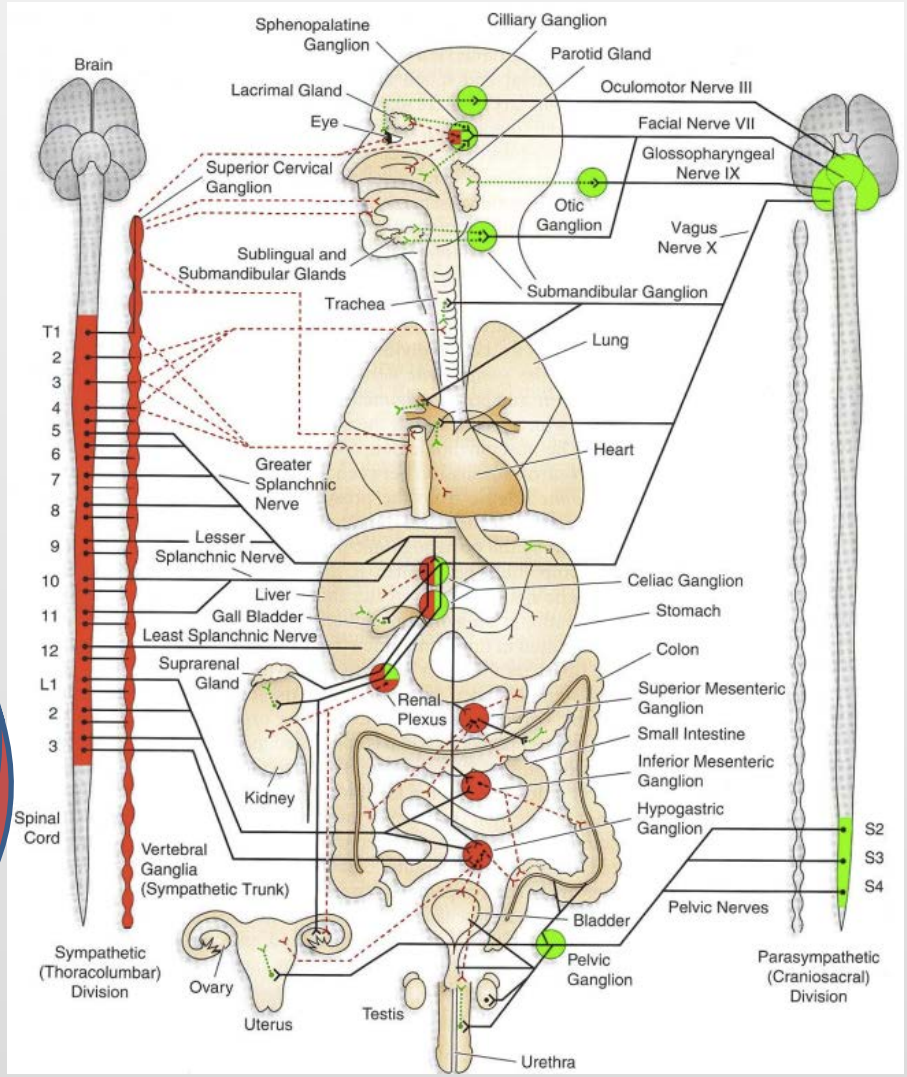
Information to Applicants

SPARC- Stimulating Peripheral Activity to Relieve Conditions

Opportunity: Neuromodulation of end-organ function holds promise in treating many diseases/conditions.

Challenge: The mechanisms of action remain poorly understood.





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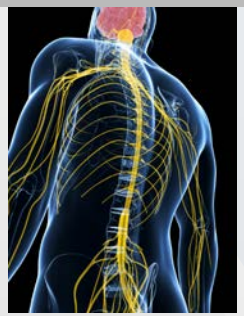

RFA-RM-15-002
Exploratory Technologies to Understand the Control of Organ Function by the Peripheral Nervous System for SPARC (U18)

- **Tools** for discovery of mechanisms (focusing on **stage 1, not stage 2** of previous slide)
- Letter of Intent Due Date: March 14, 2015
  - Please attach Specific Aims to email
- Application Due Date: April 14, 2015
- 2 year awards, up to $200K direct costs/year
- Questions: SPARC_NextGen-Tools@mail.nih.gov

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Types of Tools for Discovery

For understanding and mapping of autonomic control of internal organs in health or disease

- Tailored to specific use case/mechanism under study
  - New, novel, enhanced
  - Not general platform
- Section I bulleted list of examples
- Section IV specific instructions
  - Research strategy, U18 budget, etc.

Guidelines: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-15-002.html

Requirements

- **Must describe how the proposed technology will be tailored to investigate the mechanisms of neural control of end organ function, and how the technology will be appropriately designed to achieve these specific goals.**

- **Must define the specific technology challenge(s) that is being addressed in this exploratory project, the final end product of the proposed technology design, and how it is envisioned that the outcomes will integrate with the SPARC program - that is to inform the mechanism of neural control of end organs which will drive the design of next generation neuromodulation therapy.**

- **Must provide a timeline and milestones that describe the work that will be completed during the project period. Each milestone should include the criteria for success and the rationale.**

Other Considerations

- **Applicants interested in developing technologies specific to animal models must justify the model as one that will potentially have broad use for the SPARC program overall, within the next four years.**

NOT RESPONSIVE:

- **Applications primarily proposing SPARC data collection, curation, integration and broad sharing of neuroanatomy data and neuromodulation tools will not be considered responsive to this FOA.**

- **Projects developing new technologies, or modifying existing technologies without a targeted use case to study a mechanism of neural control of end organ function (i.e. general purpose platforms) will not be considered responsive to this FOA.**

Tips to Applicants

- End deliverable is a tool or technology, NOT a biological discovery
- Collecting feasibility data for establishing a tailored tool
  - To further develop technology in future efforts
  - To be used by biologists for knowledge discovery
- Read Section IV requirements very carefully!!

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-15-002.html

http://commonfund.nih.gov/sparc

Search: NIH SPARC

- Requests for Information (RFI)
- Workshops
- Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs)