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GRIP – Unravelling kidney disease

Genzyme Renal Innovations Programme (GRIP) invites submissions for 2009 research awards

Genzyme has opened its 2009 Genzyme Renal Innovations Programme (GRIP) with an invitation to up and coming clinicians and scientists interested in conducting innovative research into kidney disease, to submit a research proposal for this year's award. Every year, the company gives 10 grants worth up to 50,000 USD per year each, for projects running from one to three years.

GRIP was established in 2001 by leading biotechnology company Genzyme to support pioneering research into kidney disease. The prestigious programme offers valuable grants for research projects aimed at advancing medical knowledge and practice in this complex field.

"Winning a GRIP award in 2004 enabled us to conduct an important research project which has helped advance our understanding of rejection in kidney transplantation," says Dr Wilson Wong, Senior Lecturer and Consultant in Nephrology and Transplantation, King's College School of Medicine at Guy's, King's and St Thomas's Hospital, London UK. "The grant provided much-valued support for innovation that has real clinical benefit with the potential to improve our management of kidney transplant recipients. The project has also been extremely productive in sparking off other research leads, and involving other young researchers in further innovative work in my laboratory."

GRIP 2009 will be officially launched at the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) conference in Philadelphia, USA. Prospective applicants must send a "Letter of Intention" by 21 January 2009 to the independent medical review board. This board, comprised of worldwide leaders in nephrology, will invite short-listed applicants to submit a detailed proposal. Overall winners will be announced in May 2009, during the World Congress of Nephrology (WCN).

The 2009 topics, which were announced at the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) annual meeting, are:

- Novel therapeutic targets for vascular calcification
- The role of Toll-like receptors in acute and chronic kidney disease
- Endothelial dysfunction in CKD
- The role of transient receptor potential channels in kidney disease
- Role of altered calcium/phosphate balance in kidney disease progression

“Kidney disease is a serious, debilitating and increasingly common condition,” said Robert Guiberteau, MD, Vice President Renal Strategy and Business Development, Genzyme. “Genzyme is committed to advancing our understanding of how best to care for people with chronic kidney disease. We are proud to support the young researchers dedicated to pushing back the frontiers of knowledge to improve patient care and quality of life.”

More information on the program and application details can be found at www.genzyme.com or via email at GRIP@genzyme.com.

For further information please contact Karen Howard on (02) 99783927

About Genzyme

One of the world's leading biotechnology companies, Genzyme is dedicated to making a major positive impact on the lives of people with serious diseases. Since 1981, the company has grown from a small start-up to a diversified enterprise with more than 10,000 employees in locations spanning the globe and 2007 revenues of \$3.8 billion. In 2007, Genzyme was chosen to receive the National Medal of Technology, the highest honour awarded by the President of the United States for technological innovation.

With many established products and services helping patients in nearly 90 countries, Genzyme is a leader in the effort to develop and apply the most advanced technologies in the life sciences. The company's products and services are focused on rare inherited disorders, kidney disease, orthopaedics, cancer, transplant and immune disease, and diagnostic testing. Genzyme's commitment to innovation continues today with a substantial development program focused on these fields, as well as cardiovascular disease, neurodegenerative diseases, and other areas of unmet medical need.