

The Research Corner

Filip Banovac, MD



One of the critical needs in interventional radiology research is our ability to construct randomized prospective clinical trials and compete for funding through federal funding agencies.

Suresh Vedantham, MD, Associate Professor of Radiology and Surgery at Washington University SOM, is the Principal Investigator of the upcoming Acute Venous Thrombosis: Thrombus Removal with Adjunctive Catheter-Directed Thrombolysis (ATTRACT) Trial. This large multi-center clinical trial will evaluate whether catheter directed thrombolysis in the first-episode of acute proximal DVT will result in a lower incidence and severity of post-thrombotic syndrome and improved quality of life.

I asked Vedantham about his experience in coordinating a large clinical trial and the application for federal funding. As he points out the process is extensive, “It is very time consuming and realistically it takes around four–five years to coordinate.” The process starts with refining the research idea. Receiving input from other experts and peers is essential, “We started by forming

a research consensus panel under the guidance of the SIR Foundation, followed by writing of a white paper and then forming a steering committee.”

The application for funding was submitted to the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute in 2006, and after resubmission in 2007 the application received a very competitive priority score. I asked Dr. Vedantham about his experience with the NIH application process. “Large-scale trials are a long-term commitment,” one must establish him or herself as an expert in the field in order to compete for funding at NIH, “Your work and your reputation have to be defensible both inside and outside the interventional radiology community.” Vedantham received help from other IRs who had previous experience in the NIH process, and said, “I hope that in the future I can help other interventional radiologists by sharing my experiences.”

This trial will involve twenty-eight centers and close to one hundred fifty investigators, including interventional radiologists, hematologists, vascular specialists, and directors of vascular labs among others. The anticipated patient enrollment will start July or August of 2008. ❖

THE FUNDING CORNER

TITLE	GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT	APPLICATION DEADLINE DATES
Deep Vein Thrombosis and Venous Disease (R01)	http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HL-08-002.html	Applications Due: March 19, 2008
Etiology, Prevention, and Treatment of Hepatocellular Carcinoma (R01)	http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-258.html	Applications Due: February 5, 2008 June 5, 2008 October 5, 2008
Etiology, Prevention, and Treatment of Hepatocellular Carcinoma (R21)	http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-295.html	Applications Due: February 16, 2008 June 16, 2008 October 16, 2008