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### **[ORI snares stimulus funds](http://www.registerguard.com/csp/cms/sites/web/business/21544713-41/story.csp)**

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## **The Eugene research group receives four grants that will bring \$4.4 million into the community**

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Oregon Research Institute scientists are bringing \$4.4 million of federal economic stimulus money to Eugene.

The nonprofit research group received four grants through the stimulus bill, known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The grants, from the National Institutes of Health, will fund numerous two-year studies designed to contribute significantly to biomedical or behavioral science and public health, and to create or retain jobs.

The ORI projects are expected to retain at least 10 ORI employees and to provide jobs for at least a dozen other people.

“This is great news,” ORI Executive Director Cynthia Guinn said. “NIH is using the president’s stimulus package to accelerate scientific discovery and lead more quickly to solutions to today’s critical public health problems. We’re very pleased to house these research projects in Eugene.”

Guinn said the awards are a net increase for ORI.

Last year, ORI received 22 new grant awards totaling \$13.5 million. By the end of the third quarter this year, ORI already had received 17 grant awards totaling \$20.7 million.

The awards include:

Scientist Julie Rusby received a grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse to develop and evaluate a tool to measure adolescents’ moods during free time with friends. Using cell phone technology, middle schoolers will record their thoughts, feelings, and activities when prompted. This research will help identify when and how to intervene with at-risk students to prevent use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs.

A grant from the National Cancer Institute will expand on current research with Oregon schools and parents to identify and prevent problem behaviors in young children. Researcher Tony Biglan and his staff will assess the impact of an anti-tobacco program on teen social relationships. They also will

examine whether the program affects social relations in schools. Thirty Oregon high schools will be recruited to participate.

Biglan also received a stimulus grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to work with leaders in 50 high-poverty neighborhoods nationwide to design preventive programs tailored to each area's needs. Researchers in the Promise Neighborhood Consortium will help the communities design effective programs to prevent substance abuse, antisocial behavior, depression, and academic failure. The study will employ research staff in Oregon, as well as in communities across the country.

Scientist Judy Andrews received funding from the National Institute of Drug Abuse to include genetic analysis in her long-standing research. For the past 10 years Andrews and her team have studied the same group of local children to investigate the risk and protective factors associated with the development of the use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco. A subset of the 1,075 young adults, now in their late teens and early 20s, will participate in the new study to help scientists identify genetic biomarkers linked to stress and nicotine dependence.

ORI, the largest independent behavioral research center in Oregon, is funded almost entirely by federal research grants. It ranks third in Oregon as a recipient of NIH funds, after Oregon Health & Science University and the University of Oregon. The institute employs 250 people in the Eugene-Springfield area and has an annual budget of \$20 million. Founded in 1960, ORI has offices in Eugene and Portland, and in Albuquerque, N.M.

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