

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Board of Regents  
**From:** Board Office  
**Subject:** New Center for Research on Dietary Botanical Supplements, ISU  
**Date:** January 6, 2003

---

**Recommended Action:**

Receive Iowa State University's report of a new Center to be called the Center for Research on Dietary Botanical Supplements.

---

**Executive Summary:**

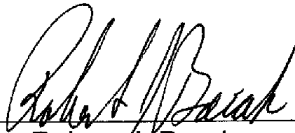
Joint ISU and SUI Center	Iowa State University and the University of Iowa report the establishment of a Center for Research on Dietary Botanical Supplements. A Center Director reporting to the ISU Center for Designing Foods to Improve Nutrition (CDFIN) will administer the unit.
Improve Understanding of Dietary Supplements	The Center will offer a pre-doctoral training program (at ISU), a professional training program (at SUI), and will provide research experiences for undergraduates in public health, biological sciences, natural sciences and statistics on both campuses. The goal of the Center is to improve understanding of botanical dietary supplements by focusing on understanding of the genetic, developmental, and environmental diversity of <i>Echinacea</i> and <i>Hypericum</i> , two herbs that grow in Iowa.
Funded by Grant	This joint effort is possible with funding from the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences/National Institutes of Health. As with other federally funded centers, it would be closed upon discontinuation of the National Institutes of Health funding unless other external funds are secured to continue its operation.
No Comparable Programs	There are no comparable programs in Iowa. The Center will bring national visibility to Iowa, as the new program is only the sixth botanical research program. The others are at the University of Arizona, Tucson; the University of California, Los Angeles; the University of Illinois, Chicago; the University of Missouri, Columbia; and Purdue University.

---

Board Questions  
for New Centers  
and Institutes

Attached to this memorandum are the University's responses to the  
Board of Regents questions for new centers and institutes.

---

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert J. Barak

h/aa/docket/2003/January/GD4r

Approved:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory S. Nichols

## Center for Research on Dietary Botanical Supplements (ISU/UI)

**1. What is the title of the proposed center or institute?**

Center for Research on Dietary Botanical Supplements (ISU/UI)

**2. What is the administrative relationship of the proposed unit to other entities on campus, such as departments or colleges?**

This center will report to the Center for Designing Foods to Improve Nutrition (CDFIN). There is precedent at ISU for centers reporting to centers. This center is a federally funded (National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences, NIEHS/National Institutes of Health (NIH)) with a relatively narrow focus that fits well within the CDFIN. CDFIN reports through the College of Family and Consumer Science, the College of Agriculture and the Plant Sciences Institute.

**3. To whom will the administrative director of the unit report?**

The Director of the Center for Research on Dietary Botanical Supplements will report to the Director, Center for Designing Foods to Improve Nutrition (CDFIN).

**4. Succinctly describe the basic purposes and objectives of the unit.**

This is primarily a research, graduate education, and professional education center that is located at ISU and the University of Iowa. The overarching objective of this center is to improve understanding of botanical dietary supplements. The center will initially focus on *Echinacea* and St. John's wort (*Hypericum*), two herbs that grow in Iowa. Studies will focus on understanding the genetic, developmental, and environmental diversity of *Echinacea* and *Hypericum*. Research will characterize the chemical constituents in these herbs and will seek to understand the constituents responsible for bioactivity and toxicity. Center researchers will determine the mechanism of action of key constituents. In addition, epidemiological studies will be conducted using national databases and Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) clinics in Iowa. Furthermore, the center will have a professional development program and will train pre-doctoral fellows in chemistry, plant biology and medicinal and nutritional science related to botanical dietary supplements. This center will serve as a national resource and interact with other institutions and NIH funded botanical centers.

**a. How will the activities of the unit relate to the general mission and teaching programs of the university?**

The center will administer a pre-doctoral training program (at ISU), a professional training program (at UI) and will provide research experiences for undergraduates in public health, biological sciences, natural sciences and statistics on both campuses.

**b. How do they relate to the strategic plan of the department and/or university?**

This center will enhance research and graduate education programming at both ISU and UI. It will provide outreach to herb growers in Iowa and to the public.

**5. Do similar units exist at other public or private colleges or universities in Iowa? If so, how does the proposed unit relate to them?**

There are no comparable programs in Iowa.

**6. What are the proposed sources and annual amounts of funding for the unit? Please itemize. (Include faculty, staff, and clerical salaries; supplies; equipment; travel; other costs)**

Budgetary Item	Source of Funds	Annual Amount
Personnel	NIEHS/NIH	\$436,000
Equipment	NIEHS/NIH	44,000
Supplies	NIEHS/NIH	100,000
Travel	NIEHS/NIH	20,000
Other	NIEHS/NIH	2,000
Sub-contract	NIEHS/NIH	225,000
Indirect costs	NIEHS/NIH	373,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>NIEHS/NIH</b>	<b>\$1,200,000</b>

NOTE: NIEHS/NIH = National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences/National Institutes of Health

**7. Which of the costs in item 6 represent new financial obligations to the general fund of the university?**

None