National Institutes of Health Grant Expands 15-Year Effort Initiated by Fanconi Anemia Research Fund*

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At a Fanconi Anemia Research Fund workshop in Portland, Ore., in 2007, participants agreed to collaborate on an effort to identify and test drugs that could potentially prevent complications associated with FA. Generous private donations to the Fund provided nearly $650,000 to pursue ideas developed at the workshop.

Now, a new $10.7 million grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, a branch of the National Institutes of Health, will expedite research into new and existing drugs and compounds.

The research teams are based at Oregon Health & Science University, the University of Oregon and Harvard Medical School. They will screen thousands of drug candidates in mice at OHSU, zebra fish at UO and human cell lines at Harvard.

Approximately 1,000 of the drug candidates to be screened have already been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration to treat other medical conditions. This prior FDA approval could expedite applications in FA. Another 10,000 molecules randomly modified for various biological reactions, also will be screened for therapeutic benefits.