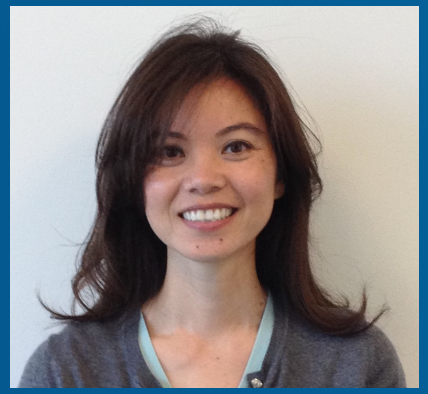
New Investigators Working Group Webinar Series

The NIH Grant Lifecycle Process: From Submission to Notice of Award (Part 2)

Wednesday, May 17, 2023, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PDT

Webinar Speakers



Que Dang, PhD
Division of AIDS

Diane Lawrence, PhD
Division of AIDS

Shiv Prasad, PhD
Center for Scientific Review

Geetha P. Bansal, PhD
Fogarty International Center

The NIH Grant Lifecycle Process: From Submission to Notice of Award

Day 1: April 26 2023; 11 am -12 pm PT (2-3 pm ET)

Day 2: May 17, 2023; 10 am -11 am PT (1-2 pm ET)

Geetha P. Bansal, Ph.D.
HIV Research and Training Programs, FIC, NIH
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NIH National Institutes of Health
Turning Discovery Into Health

NIH Center for Scientific Review

NIH Fogarty International Center

NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

Agenda: April 26, 2023

Day 1

Introduction to NIH (Que Dang)

- Institutes that support HIV research
- Who to contact at the NIH
- Introduction to the NIH grants process

Before Applying: Navigating NIH Funding Opportunities (Diane Lawrence)

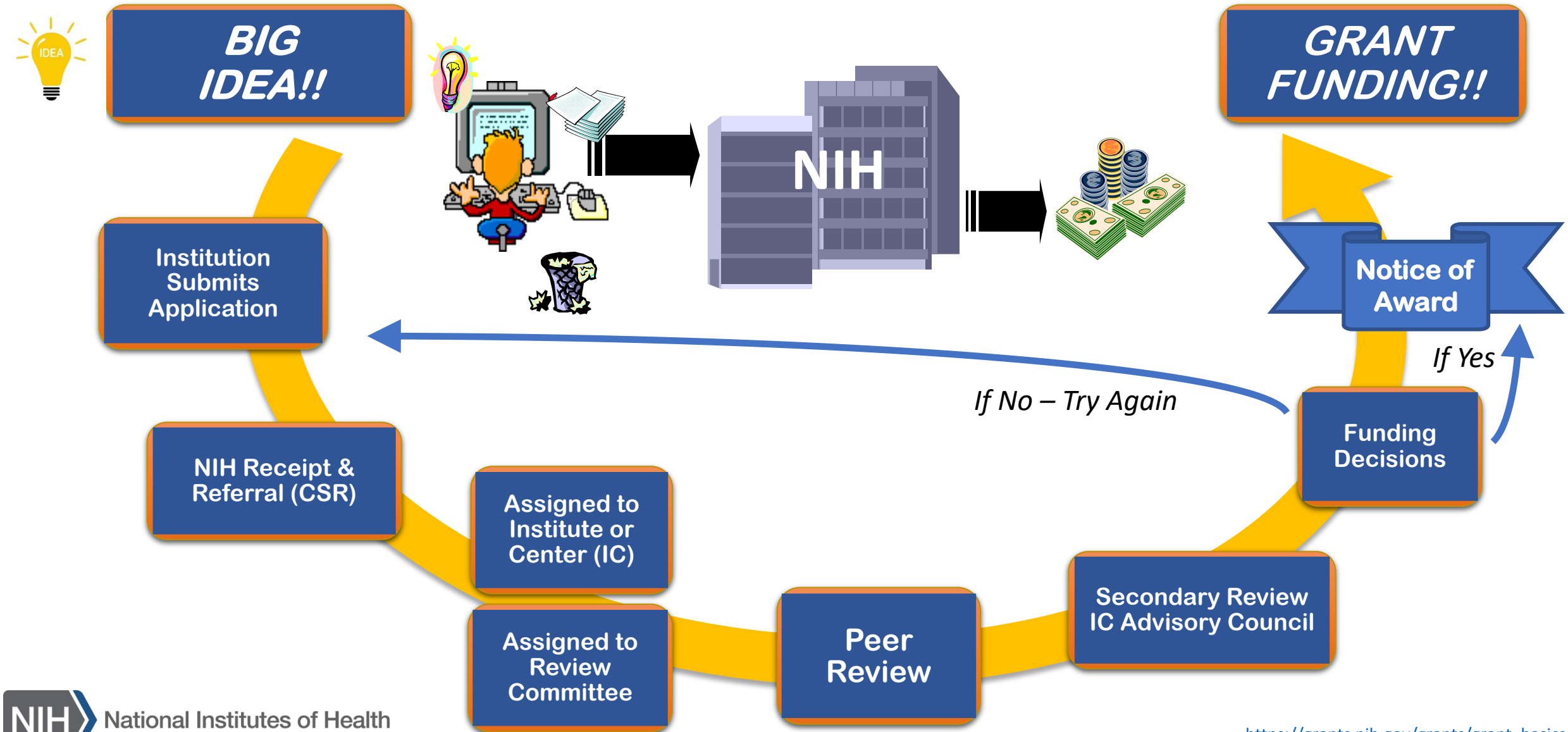
- Understanding different Institutes' missions and priorities
- Finding funding opportunities
- Grant mechanisms by career stage

Applying for a NIH Grant (Geetha Bansal)

- Eligibility for PIs and Institutions
- US vs International
- International funding opportunities

Q&A

From Application to Funding



Who At NIH Can Help Navigate the Grant Process

PROGRAM OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

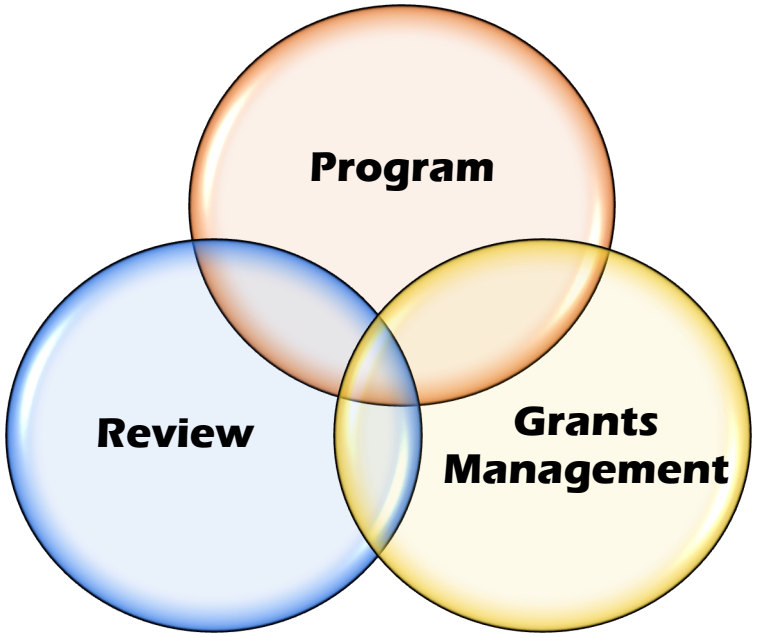
- Responsible for directing and evaluating research portfolios, and conducting scientific administration of grants
- Provide scientific expertise to NIH and applicants, and develop funding opportunities for research gap areas

SCIENTIFIC REVIEW OFFICERS

- Responsible for peer review of applications and organize first level review of grant applications
- Identify appropriate reviewers and manage reviewers' conflicts of interest
- Provide summary statement report for applications

GRANTS MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS/OFFICERS

- Responsible for fiscal management and federal policy administration of grants
- Act as focal point for administering requests for NIH prior approval or for changes in terms and conditions of award



Resources and Programs for NIH Grant Applicants

From the Center for Scientific Review (CSR) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) NIH Center for Scientific Review https://public.csr.nih.gov

CSR is the unit of NIH that oversees the first level of peer review for the majority of NIH grant applications, focusing on their scientific merit.

Note that CSR does not fund grants. In this infographic, we share some key information to assist scientists seeking NIH grants.

A GREAT PLACE TO BEGIN!

Subscribe to the *NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts* to stay abreast of new funding opportunities and policy changes that can impact your application: https://grants.nih.gov/funding/about-nih-guide-to-grants-and-contracts.htm.

For Organization Administrative Offices:

- Start today! It can take six weeks or more for the authorizing official to complete required registrations:
  - **System for Award Management (SAM)**: required to do business with the federal government
  - **eRA Commons**: required to do business with NIH
  - **Grants.gov**: required to submit grant applications through the federal-wide grant portal
  - **Small Business Administration (SBA)**: required to participate in SBIR and STTR federal funding programs*
- Authorized organization representatives must submit grant applications on behalf of scientists.
- Learn about NIH submission policies including what to do if a federal system impacts your ability to submit on time.

For Scientists:

- Identify a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) that fits your research by searching the *NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts* (see link above) and /or Grants.gov.
- If you don't have an eRA Commons account, work with your organization's account administrator to get one. eRA Commons IDs are required for all named personnel on an application and are needed to prepare your application if using the Application Submission System & Interface for Submission Tracking (ASSIST). Also, obtain an ORCiD ID at https://orcid.org.
- Work with your administrative officials on a submission plan. Discuss submission system (ASSIST, Workspace, or institutional system), roles and responsibilities, and internal deadlines.
- Upon submission, use eRA Commons Status to view your assembled application image and related documents. Work with your administrative officials to correct any issues prior to the due date.
- Continue to use eRA Commons Status to track review assignments and outcomes.

Learn More

- **Organization Registrations:** https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/prepare-to-apply-and-register/registration/org-representative-registration.htm
- **Submission Policies:** https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/due-dates-and-submission-policies/submission-policies.htm
- **Find Grant Funding:** https://grants.nih.gov/funding/searchguide/index.html#/
- **eRA Overview:** https://www.era.nih.gov/help-tutorials/era-commons/overview.htm

* Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs: https://seed.nih.gov.

ESI RESOURCES

Are You an Early Stage Investigator (ESI)?

- You can extend your ESI status for certain life events, such as COVID, having a child, and health issues: https://grants.nih.gov/policy/early-stage/index.htm.

Are You an ESI Without Tenure? Consider CSR's Early Career Reviewer (ECR) Program.

- The program helps early career scientists become more competitive as grant applicants through first-hand experience with peer review.
- Consider enrolling in the program: https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForReviewers/BecomeAReviewer/ECR.

TIPS FOR SCIENTISTS

1. **Read and carefully follow all general application guide,** NOFO-specific, and related NIH Guide notice instructions.
2. **Do not attempt to skirt page limits** by re-homing information into non-limited sections. Your application could be withdrawn.
3. **Consult with experienced colleagues,** but do not consider another investigator's application as a "written in stone" example of what to do, or not to do.
4. **Use the Assisted Referral Tool (ART)** or Matchmaker to match your abstract or specific aims to a study section/scientific review group, scientific review officer (SRO), and program officer (PO): https://art.csr.nih.gov/ART/selection.jsp; https://reporter.nih.gov/matchmaker. You can also search study sections at the CSR website at https://public.csr.nih.gov.
5. **Use the Assignment Request Form** to make suggestions for study section assignment—requests cannot be guaranteed, however. Please do not suggest reviewers. https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/phs-assignment-request.
6. **Be sure the targeted NIH institute or center (IC) participates in the NOFO;** reach out to the IC PO before applying. If we cannot assign a funding IC, your application will not move forward. **The #1 reason for withdrawal is submitting under a NOFO that the targeted IC does not participate in.**
7. **Submit early** to allow time to address unforeseen issues. Corrected submissions must be made by the deadline. The 2-day viewing window does not provide extra time beyond the deadline for corrections. CSR will not accept post-submission material to address errors or omissions.
8. Some ICs provide sample applications and related documents: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/resources/sample-applications.htm.
9. **You can use NIH RePORTER** (https://reporter.nih.gov) to search for NIH-funded colleagues from your institution. Seek them out for advice.
10. **Discuss your specific aims** with the scientific/research contact named in the NOFO; check back in before submission, in case of changes in the IC's focus.
11. When developing your application, **consider seeking advice from faculty** at your institution who have served as NIH peer reviewers. You may contact your grants office for this information. Do not contact current members of a study section to which your application is or might be assigned.

NIH SUBMISSION POLICIES

NEW!

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/due-dates-and-submission-policies/submission-policies.htm

Last Chance to Submit Data: Now you can submit new, late-breaking data up to 30 days before the review meeting: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-23-106.html.

RESOURCES

General Resources:

- Navigating NIH: https://public.csr.nih.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/outreach-navigatingNIH-flyer.pdf
- Research Training: https://researchtraining.nih.gov
- FAQs: https://public.csr.nih.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/outreach-FAQs-flyer.pdf
- Integrity and Fairness in Peer Review: https://public.csr.nih.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/outreach-bias-flyer.pdf
- Understanding Staff Roles: https://grants.nih.gov/help/ic-staff-roles

At CSR, We Care About Fairness:

- Bias Awareness and Mitigation training for reviewers and SROs
- Diversifying review panels
- Exploring blinded review processes
- Reporting avenues for unfair review (G.Fosu_AssocDir@csr.nih.gov) or review integrity breaches (csrrio@mail.nih.gov)
- Learn more: https://public.csr.nih.gov/AboutCSR/Address-Bias-in-Peer-Review

Select Grant Writing Resources:

- https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-and-write/write-your-application.htm
- NIH Grant Writing Playlist (YouTube): https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLOEUwSnjvqBJxGf6_OWtt-ueCZ-ye0bK-
- NIH Grant Fundamentals Playlist (YouTube): https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLOEUwSnjvqBKWjASuPFjwWPYKXGjsC4wj

Talk to Us

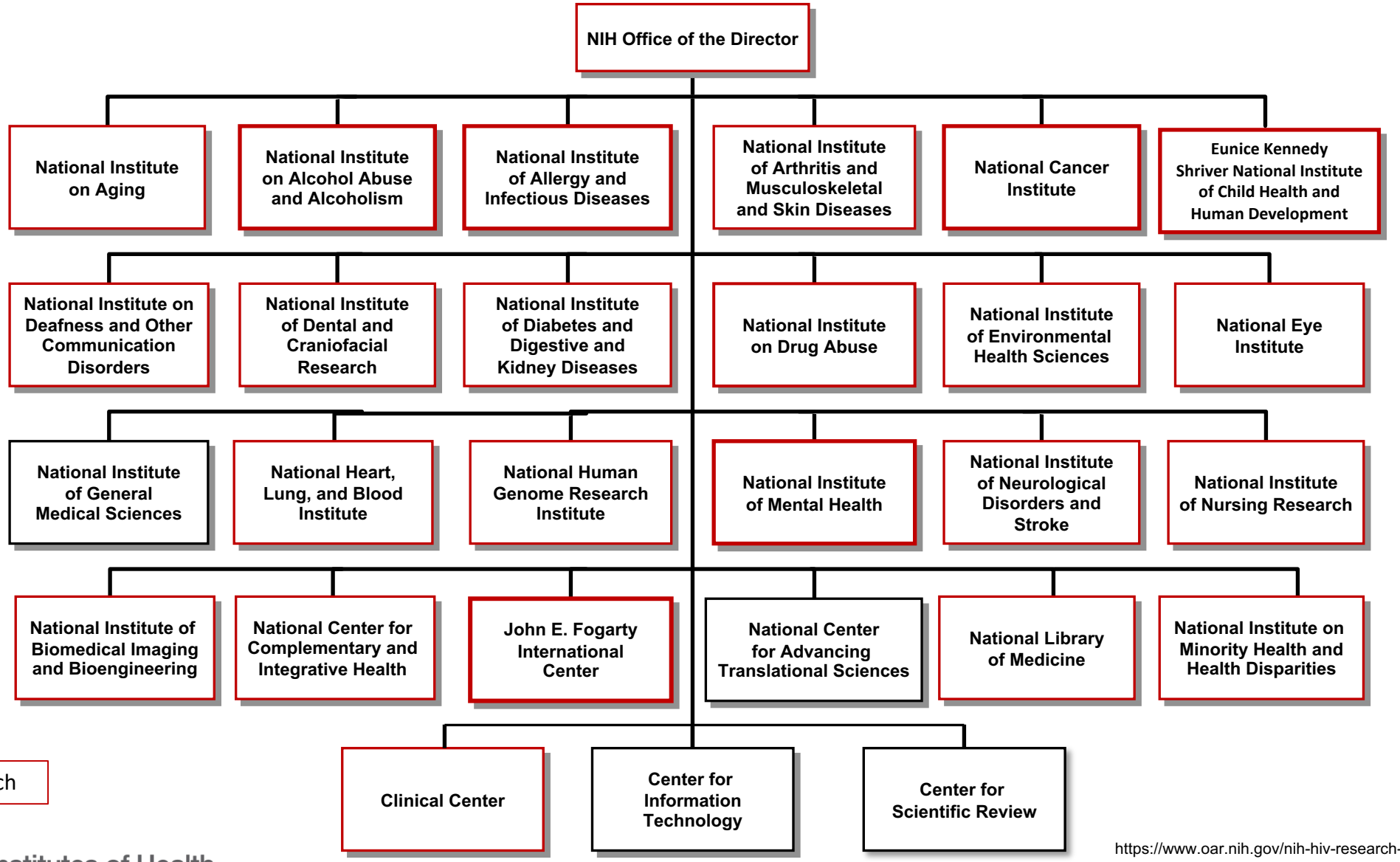
Find submission help online at **https://www.era.nih.gov/need-help** or contact CSR's Division of Receipt and Referral (**csrdrr@mail.nih.gov**) for submission and assignment questions.

Questions about review assignment or the review process: Contact your SRO (contact information on the study section webpage, or in eRA Commons following assignment).

Questions about the alignment between your grant application and an IC's funding priorities, or guidance needed after reading your summary statement: Contact the PO noted on the NOFO.

Other questions? Contact the CSR Office of Communications and Outreach, at **communications@csr.nih.gov**.

Institutes and Centers Which Have HIV Research



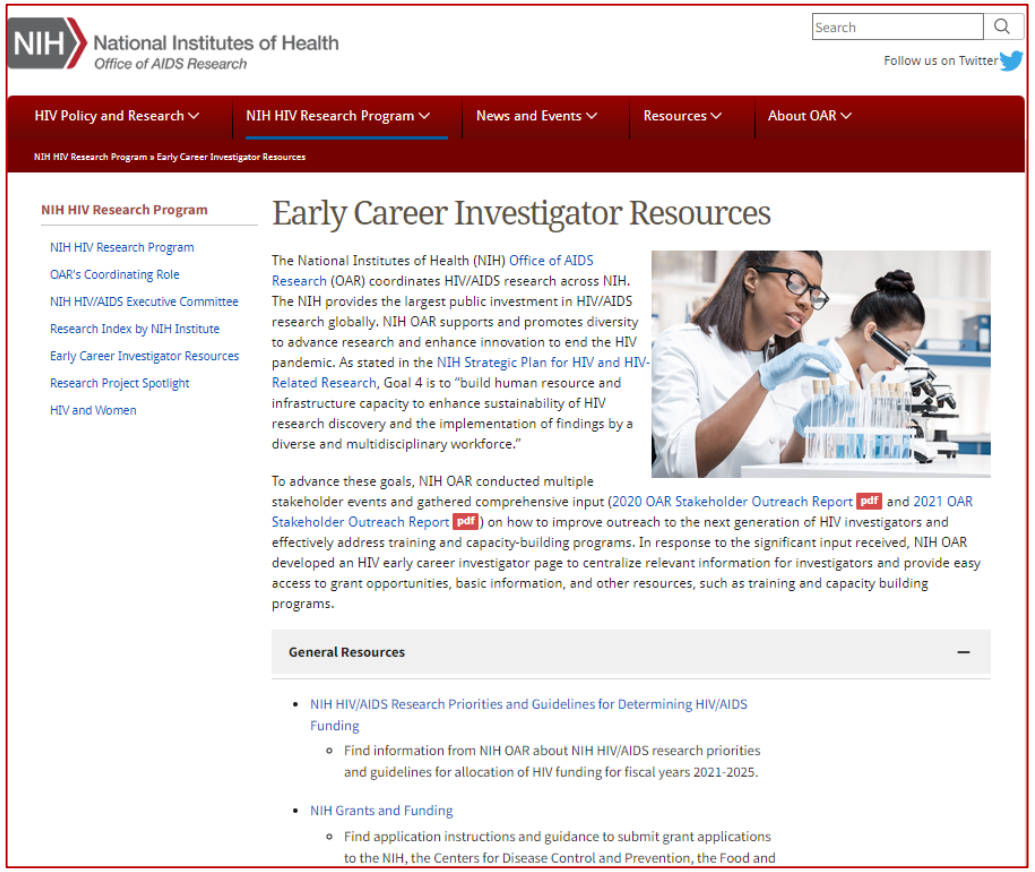
Red = funds HIV research

National Institutes of Health
Turning Discovery Into Health

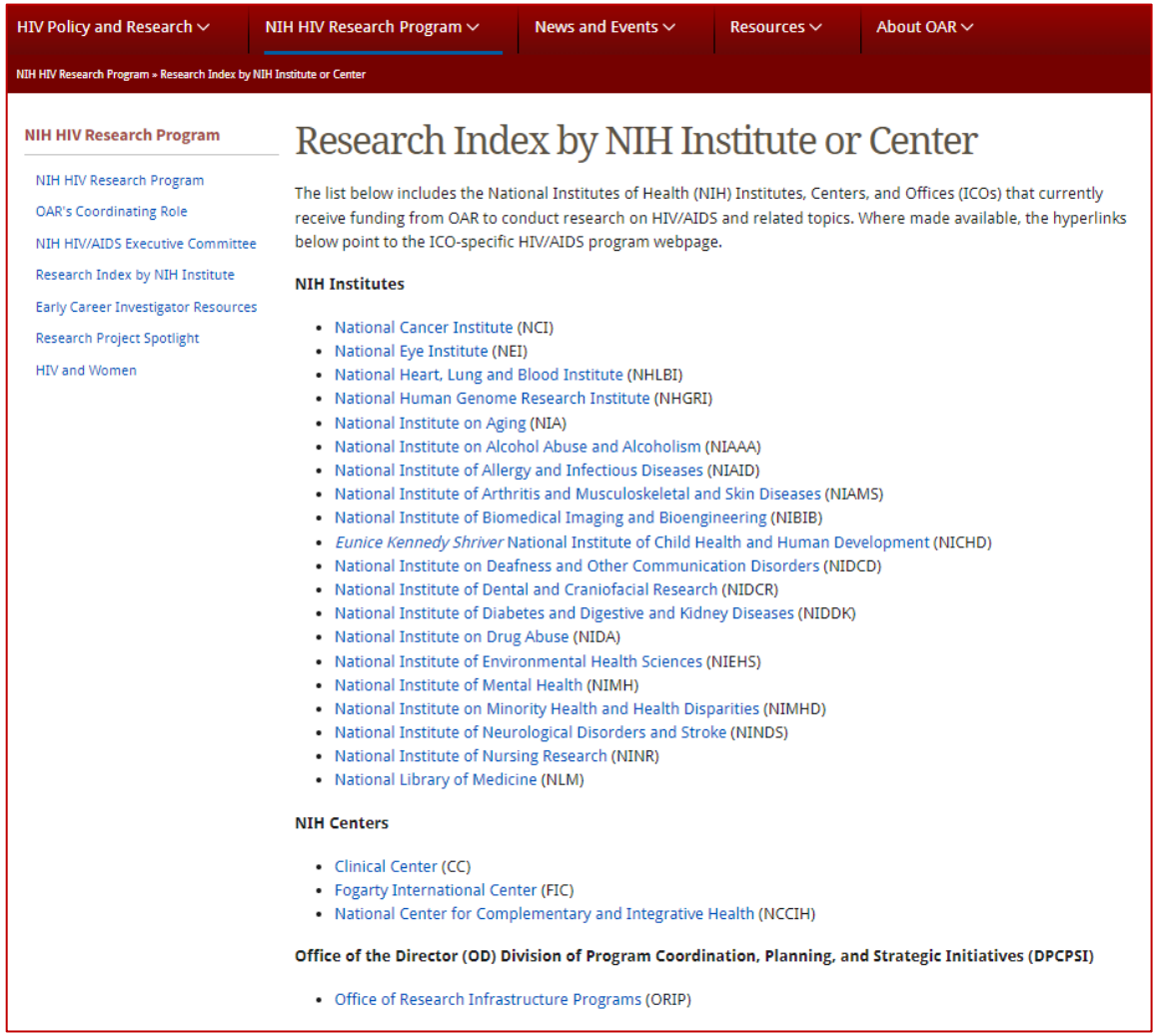
https://www.oar.nih.gov/nih-hiv-research-program/research-index-by-nih-ic

https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih/list-institutes-centers

Navigating HIV/AIDS Priorities Across NIH

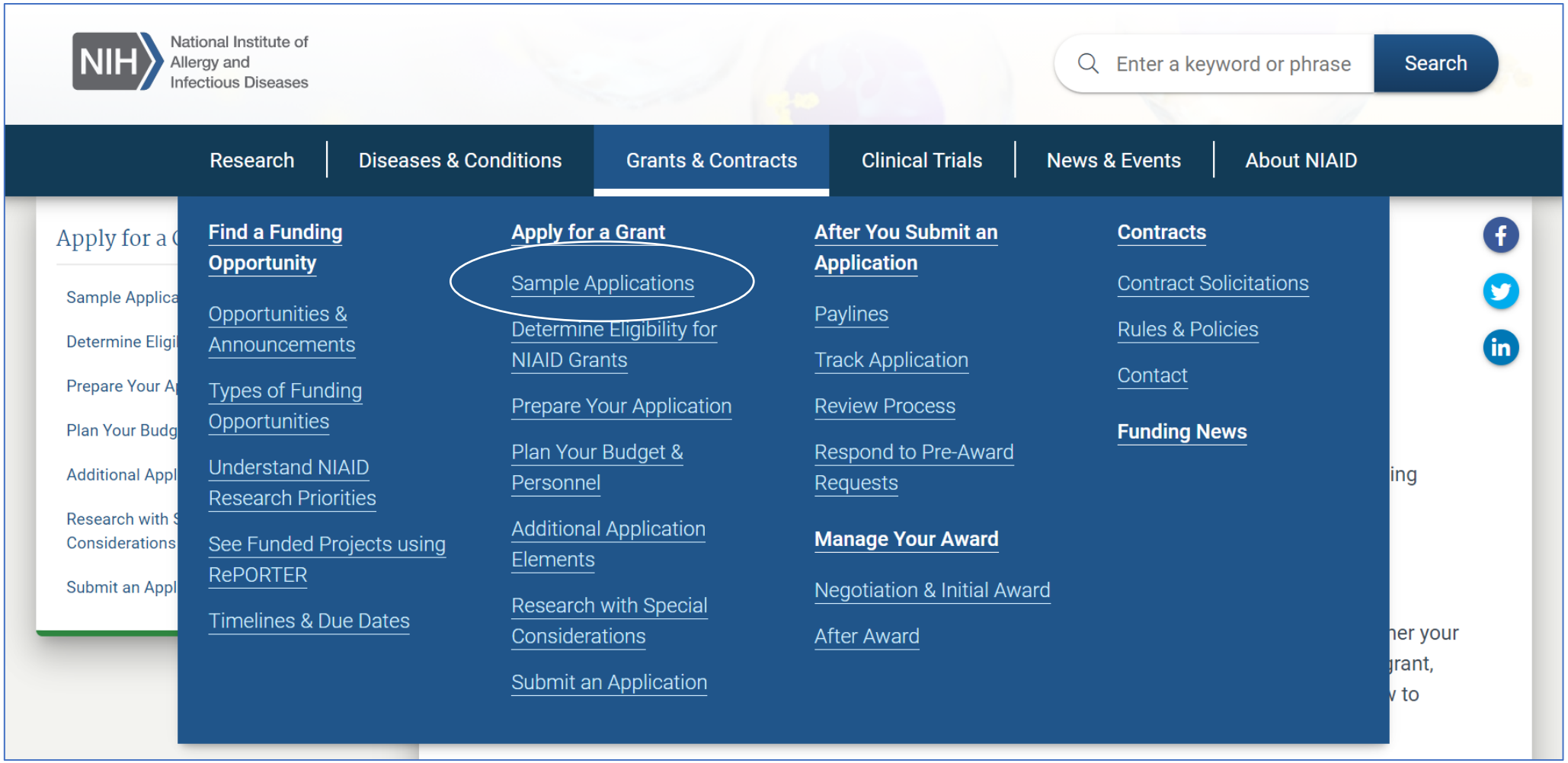


https://www.oar.nih.gov/nih-hiv-research-program



https://www.oar.nih.gov/nih-hiv-research-program/research-index-by-nih-ic

NIAID Resources



NIAID Active HIV Funding Opportunities

Title	Activity Code	Posting Date	Expiration Date
Pulmonary Outcomes and Sequelae after Treatment-TB (POST-TB) (R01 Clinical Trial Optional) - PAR-23-148	R01	March 30, 2023	May 08, 2026
Defining Mechanisms of HIV Induced Inflammation and Immune Activation During Suppressive Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) (R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) - RFA-AI-23-018	R01	March 24, 2023	August 03, 2023
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) — Administrative Supplements to Support Collaborative HIV/AIDS Research Projects at NIMHD-Funded Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) - NOT-MD-23-007	Supp	March 13, 2023	June 24, 2023
Centers for AIDS Research (P30 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) - PAR-23-116	P30	March 09, 2023	August 05, 2025

https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/opportunities

NIH Efforts to Enhance Workforce Diversity

Information about how NIH promotes a diverse scientific research workforce

Learn how diversity supports our mission, find opportunities to participate in diversity programs, meet researchers, and more. Whether you are a science student, trainee, faculty member, or someone who is interested in diversity programs, you can find what you are looking for here.

Questions, comments, and suggested resources should be directed to extramuraldiversity@mail.nih.gov, or use the Contact Us link below.

Funding Opportunities

Ending Structural Racism
nih.gov/ending-structural-racism

NIH National Institutes of Health
Diversity in Extramural Programs

Contact Us

HOME
DIVERSITY MATTERS
BUILDING PARTICIPATION
CAREER PATHWAYS
REPORTS & DATA

Home > Guide Data Table

Diversity Related Funding Opportunity Announcements

Filter by
Participating Organization: All Activity Code: All

Title	FOA Number	Issuing Organization	Activity Code
Instrumentation Grant Program for Resource-Limited Institutions (S10 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed)	PAR-23-138	NIGMS	S10
Entry-Level Modules (ELM) for Training the Genomics Research Workforce (R25-Clinical Trial Not Allowed)	PAR-23-123	NHGRI	R25
Limited Competition: The Health and Retirement Study and Harmonized Cognitive Assessment Protocol (U01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)	RFA-AG-24-010	NIA	U01
Alzheimer's Disease (AD) and AD-Related Dementias (ADRD) Real-World Data Platform (U54 Clinical Trial Optional)	RFA-AG-24-009	NIA	U54

https://extramural-diversity.nih.gov/

Fogarty Career Development Programs
K Awards

Fogarty offers two mentored global health research career development programs:

K01

Since 1999 – K01 for US investigators

International Research Scientist Development Award (IRSDA)

PAR-21-104 (Independent Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
PAR-21-105 (Independent Clinical Trial Required)

K43

Since 2015 – K43 for Low- and Middle-Income Country (LMIC) investigators

Emerging Global Leader Award (K43)

PAR-21-252 (Independent Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
PAR-21-251 (Independent Clinical Trial Required)

HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN)
ESI Workshop

HVTN Translational HIV Vaccine Early Stage Investigator Conference:
October 9-10, 2023

Registration Opens: May 1, 2023

Location: UC Davis Activities and Recreation Center, Davis, CA

Overview
This conference is intended for ESIs who focus on translational HIV research in non-human primates (NHPs), or clinical HIV and TB research.
The HVTN will offer a limited number of travel awards to attend this conference. Applications will be accepted starting May 1, 2023.

https://www.hvtn.org/events/hvtn-translational-hiv-vaccine-early-stage-investigator-esi-conference.html

Agenda: May 17, 2023

Day 2: 10 am -11 am PT (1-2 pm ET)

Day 1 Recap/Q&A (Que Dang)

The NIH Review Process (Shiv Prasad)

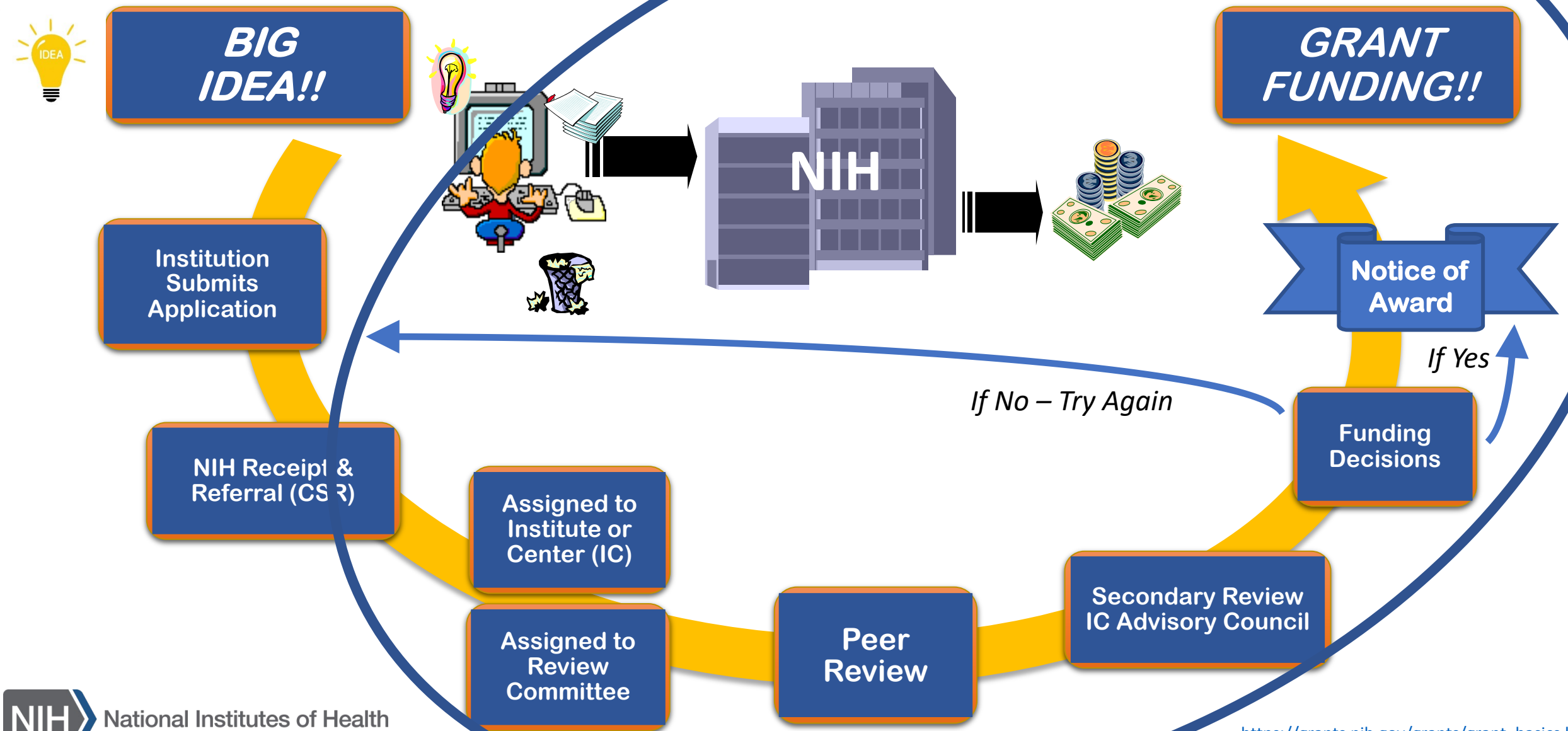
- Finding the right study section
- Reviewers and what they look for
- Common mistakes that reviewers find

After the Review (Diane Lawrence)

- Summary Statement and next steps
- Funding decisions and notice of award
- Post-award responsibilities

Q&A

From Application to Funding



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- US vs International
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QUESTIONS???

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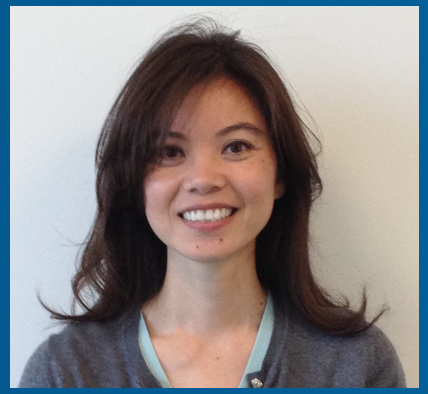

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Center for Scientific Review

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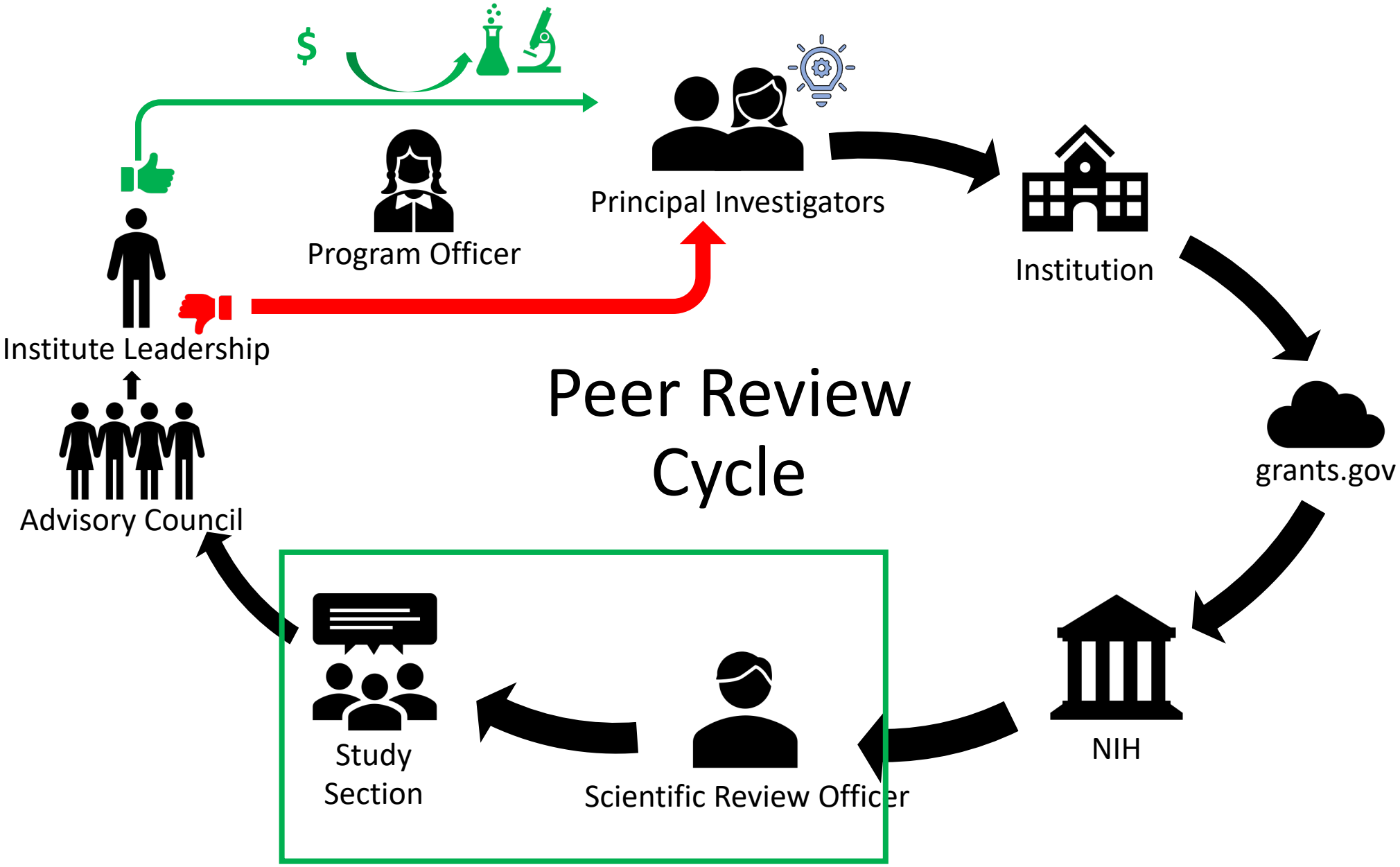
Fogarty International Center

Part 2: The Peer Review Process

HANC: New Investigators Working Group Webinar Series

Shiv A. Prasad, PhD | Scientific Review Officer | shiv.prasad@nih.gov
Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health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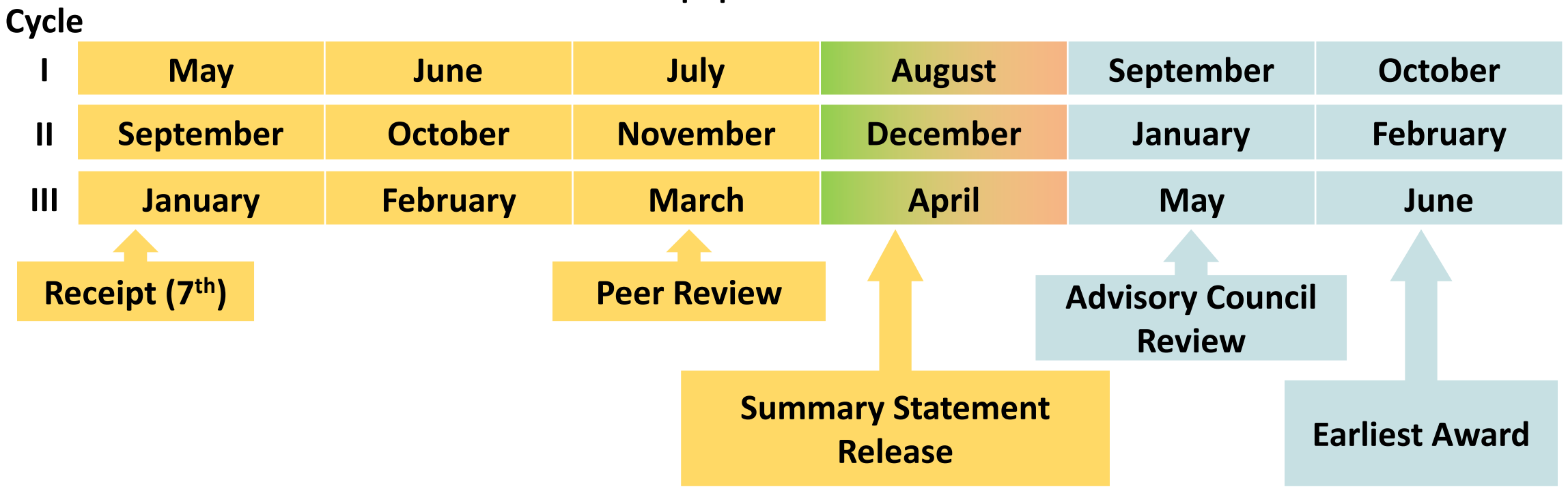
Program Officer
Principal Investigators
Institution
grants.gov
NIH
Scientific Review Officer
Study Section
Advisory Council
Institute Leadership
Peer Review Cycle

Accelerated Review of HIV/AIDS Grant Applications



HIV/AIDS receipt dates apply to:

- Parent funding opportunities (e.g. R01/R03/R21)
- New, renewal, resubmitted applications
- *Some* NOFOs (*read them carefully*)

Exceptions:

- SBIR/STTR applications
- Many NOFOs (*read them carefully*)

http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/submissionschedule.htm

Center for Scientific Review

Annually, CSR

- Reviews ~75% of 80,000+ NIH grant applications
- Conducts ~1,400 review meetings
- Engages >18,000 reviewers

https://public.csr.nih.gov/

Most Institutes Also Conduct Peer Review

NIH Office of the Director

National Institute on Aging	National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism	National Institute on Allergy and Infectious Diseases	National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases	National Cancer Institute	Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders	National Institute on Dental and Craniofacial Research	National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases	National Institute on Drug Abuse	National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences	National Eye Institute
National Institute of General Medical Sciences	National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute	National Human Genome Research Institute	National Institute of Mental Health	National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke	National Institute of Nursing Research
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering	National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health	John E. Fogarty International Center	National Center for Advancing Translational Research	National Library of Medicine	National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities

Clinical Center

Center for Information Technology

Center for Scientific Review

Funding ICO

Non-Funding ICO

CSR vs Institute Review

	CSR	Institute
Follows standard NIH review policy	**X**	**X**
Reviews Investigator-initiated/unsolicited applications (parent R01/R03/R21 notices)	**X**	
Reviews Fellowship (F) and Career (K) applications	**X**	**X**
Reviews solicited applications (PAR/PAS/RFA)	**X**	**X**
Reviews complex mechanisms (Program Projects, Cooperative Agreements)	**X**	**X**
Reviews applications for all programmatic institutes at NIH	**X**	
Reviews applications mainly for their own institutes' programs		**X**
Reviews contract proposals		**X**

Scientific Review contacts are often listed in the NOFO

Finding The Right Study Section

Peer Review: True or False?

1. Applicants can choose their study sections.

Write your answer in the chat

Finding The Right Study Section

1. Ask a Program Officer or Scientific Review Officer

2. Use the Assisted Referral Tool

NIH Center for Scientific Review — Assisted Referral Tool (ART)

3. Use Matchmaker

Matchmaker

Enter abstracts or other scientific text to find potential Program Officials, ICs, and review panels for your research.

4. Do nothing: CSR will pick the best match

Finding The Right Study Section - ART

NIH Center for Scientific Review

Assisted Referral Tool (ART)

Please make a selection:

Recommend study sections directly

You will be given a list of the best matching of the 175 active SRG panels.

Enter application text and hit the Submit button to get a list of relevant study sections in two groups, “Strong” and “Possi
alphabetically by the SRG acronym

Title Title ional but strongly recommended, as title concepts receive full weight in the models

Enter your application text here. Entering both Abstract and Specific Aims is recommended. Section subheaders and delimiters (e.g. ‘Abstract’)
RCDC Thesaurus must be detected for ART to submit your job.

Abstract and Specific Aims

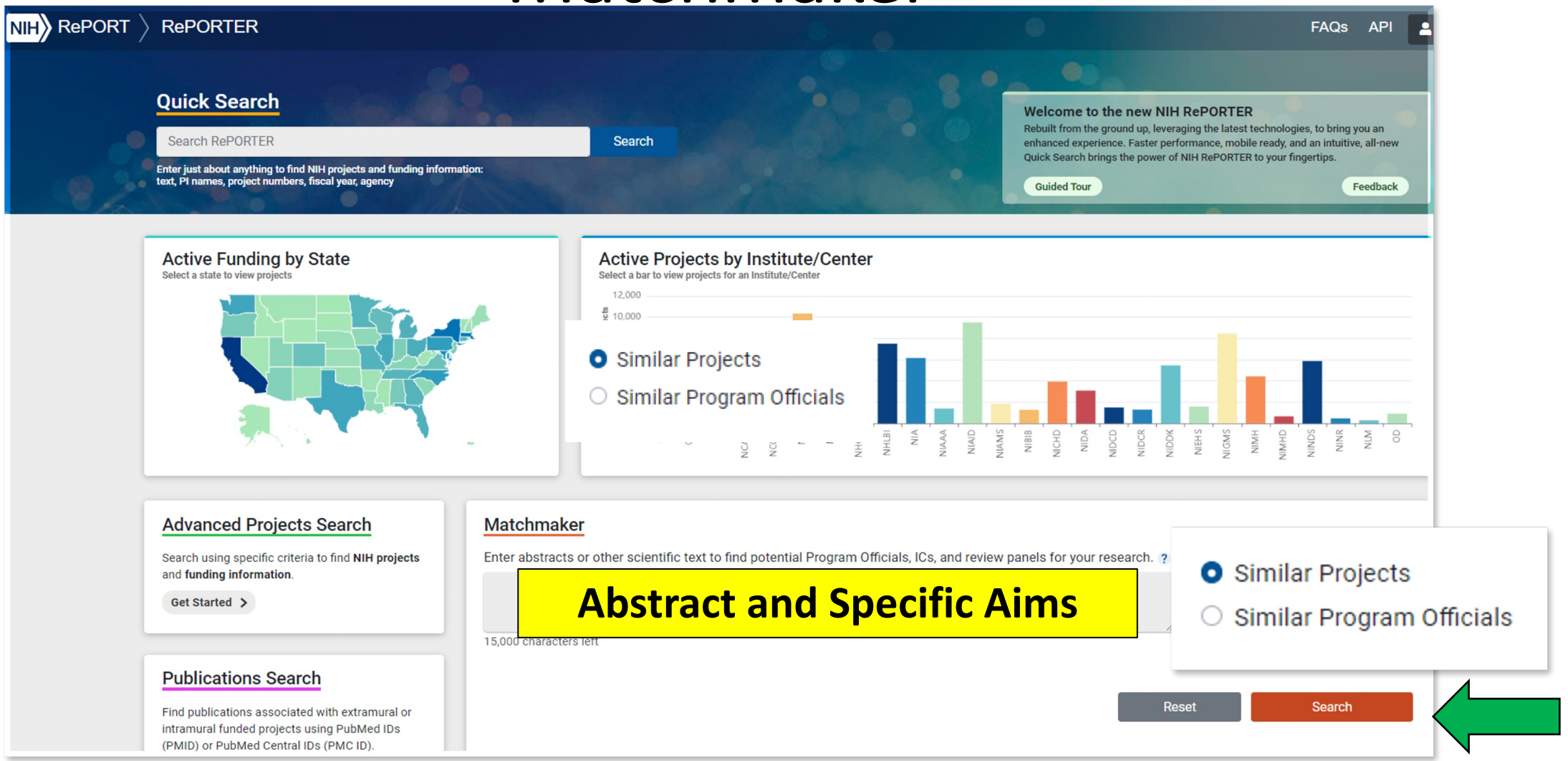
Terms will be weighted by frequency of appearance in the text above. The process is automated and confidential. ART does not track or store submitted text.
For more information consult the **User Guide**.

Submit

Relevance	SRG	RB	Membership
Strong	HCAC	IIDB	Roster
Strong	HCCS	IIDB	Roster
Strong	HIVD	IIDB	Roster
Strong	HVCD	IIDA	Roster

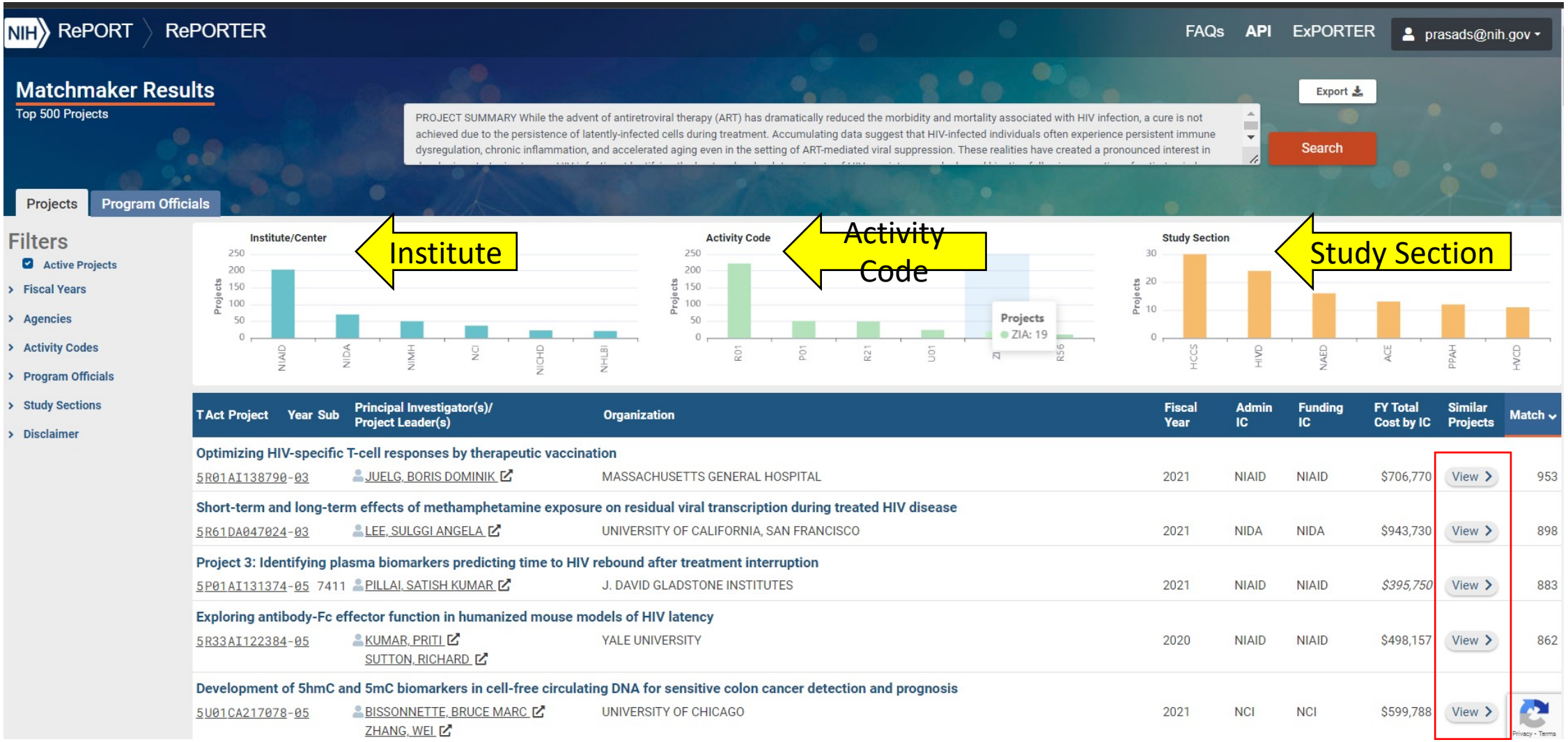
https://art.csr.nih.gov/ART/selection.jsp

Finding The Right Study Section - Matchmaker



https://reporter.nih.gov/matchmaker

Finding The Right Study Section - Matchmaker



https://reporter.nih.gov/matchmaker

Finding The Right Study Section - Matchmaker

Back to Search Results

- Description
- Details
- Sub-Projects
- Publications
- Patents
- Outcomes
- Clinical Studies
- News and More
- History
- Similar Projects

Innate Sensing of Cell-Free DNA and the Interferon-Mediated Control of HIV In Vivo

Project Number	Former Number	Contact PI/Project Leader	Awardee Organization
1R01AI172754-01A1	1R01AI172754-01	PILLAI, SATISH KUMAR	VITALANT

Other Information

FOA
PA-20-185

Study Section
HIV Immunopathogenesis and Vaccine Development Study Section[HIVD]

Fiscal Year
2023

Award Notice Date
27-March-2023

Administering Institutes or Centers
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

CFDA Code
855

DUNS Number
006902498

UEI
GKT4L2JZJ622

Project Start Date	**01-April-2023**
Project End Date	**31-March-2027**
Budget Start Date	**01-April-2023**
Budget End Date	**31-March-2024**

Project Funding Information for 2023

Total Funding
$290,874

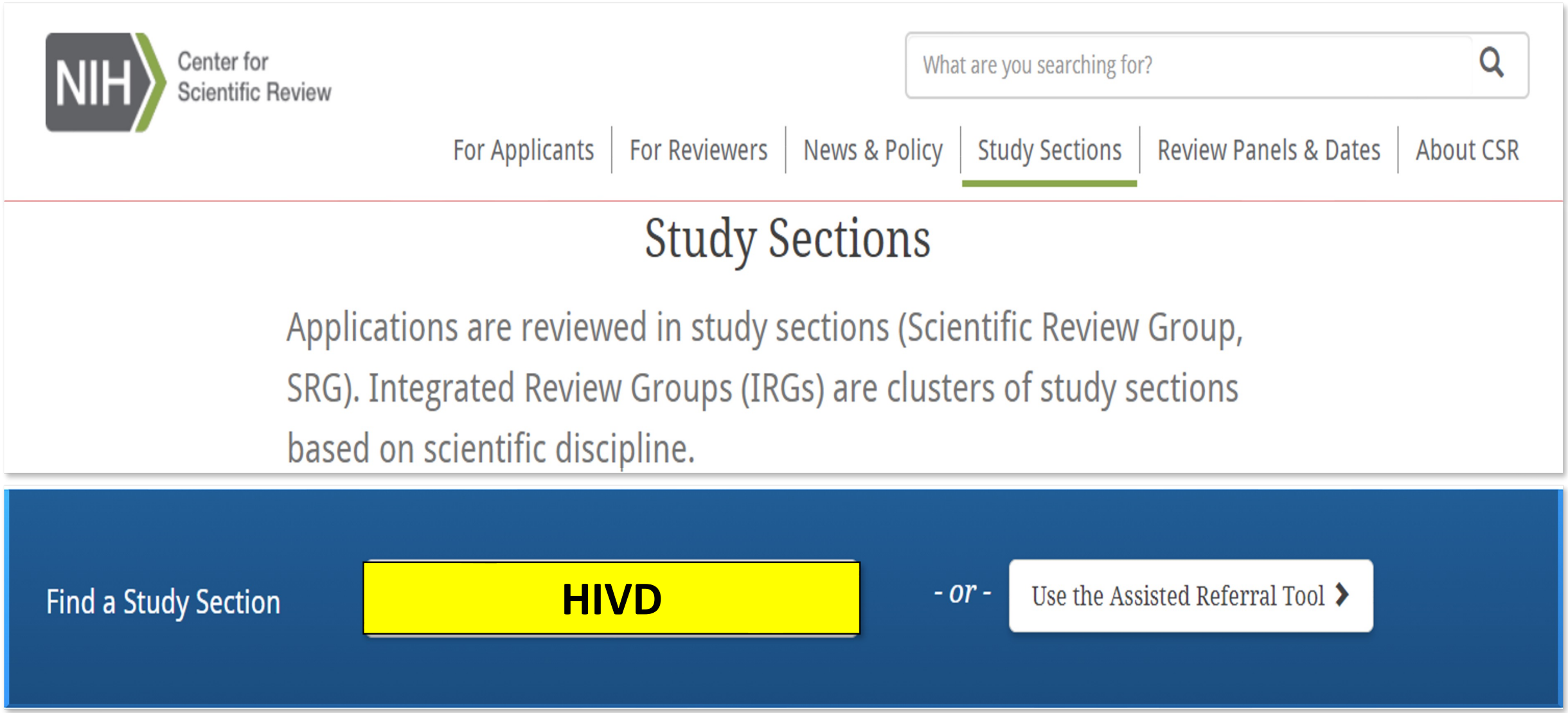
Direct Costs
$197,699

Indirect Costs
$93,175

Year	Funding IC	FY Total Cost by IC
2023	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES	$290,874

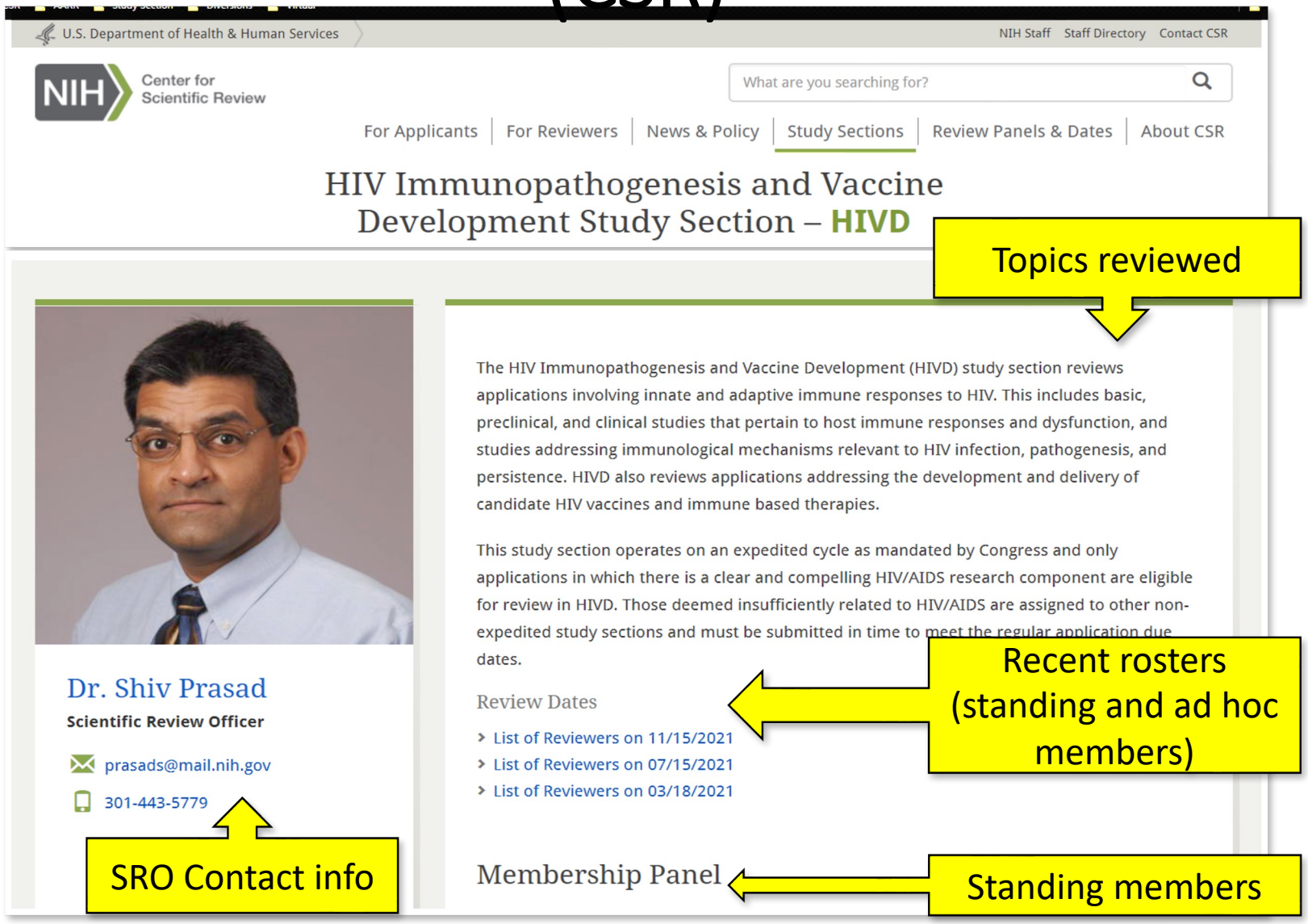
https://reporter.nih.gov/matchmaker

Finding The Right Study Section



https://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections

Study Section Descriptions (CSR)



HIV/AIDS Study Sections

Institute/Center	Study Section	Description
CSR	HCAC	HIV Coinfections and HIV Associated Cancers
	HCCS	HIV Comorbidities and Clinical Studies
	HIBI	HIV/AIDS Intra- and Inter-personal Determinants and Behavioral Interventions
	HIVD	HIV Immunopathogenesis and Vaccine Development
	HVCD	HIV Molecular Virology, Cell Biology, and Drug Development
	PPAH	Population and Public Health Approaches to HIV/AIDS
	F17A	Fellowships: HIV/AIDS Biological (Special Emphasis Panel)
	F17B	Fellowships: HIV/AIDS Behavioral (Special Emphasis Panel)
NIAID	AIDS	Career Development (K) and Training (T) Grants
Various	Special Emphasis	Usually convened once for specific topics/NOFOs

Requesting a Study Section

Home Download General Instructions - PDF Search

GENERAL APPLICATION GUIDE FOR NIH AND OTHER PHS AGENCIES

SF424 (R&R) - Forms Version E

Released: September 25, 2017

Revised: December 7, 2018

- G.100 How to use the Application Instructions
- G.110 Application Process
- G.120 Significant Changes
- G.130 Program Overview
- G.200 SF 424 (R&R) Forms
- G.210 PHS 398 Cover Page Supplement Form
- G.220 R&R Other Project Information Form
- G.230 Project Performance Site Location(s) Form

G.600 - PHS Assignment Request Form

The PHS Assignment Request Form may be used to communicate specific application assignment and review requests to the Division of Receipt and Referral (DRR) and to Scientific Review Officers (SROs).

This information will not be part of your assembled application, and it will neither be made available to program staff nor provided to reviewers. It is used specifically to convey additional, optional information about your preference(s) for assignment and review of your application to DRR and SROs.

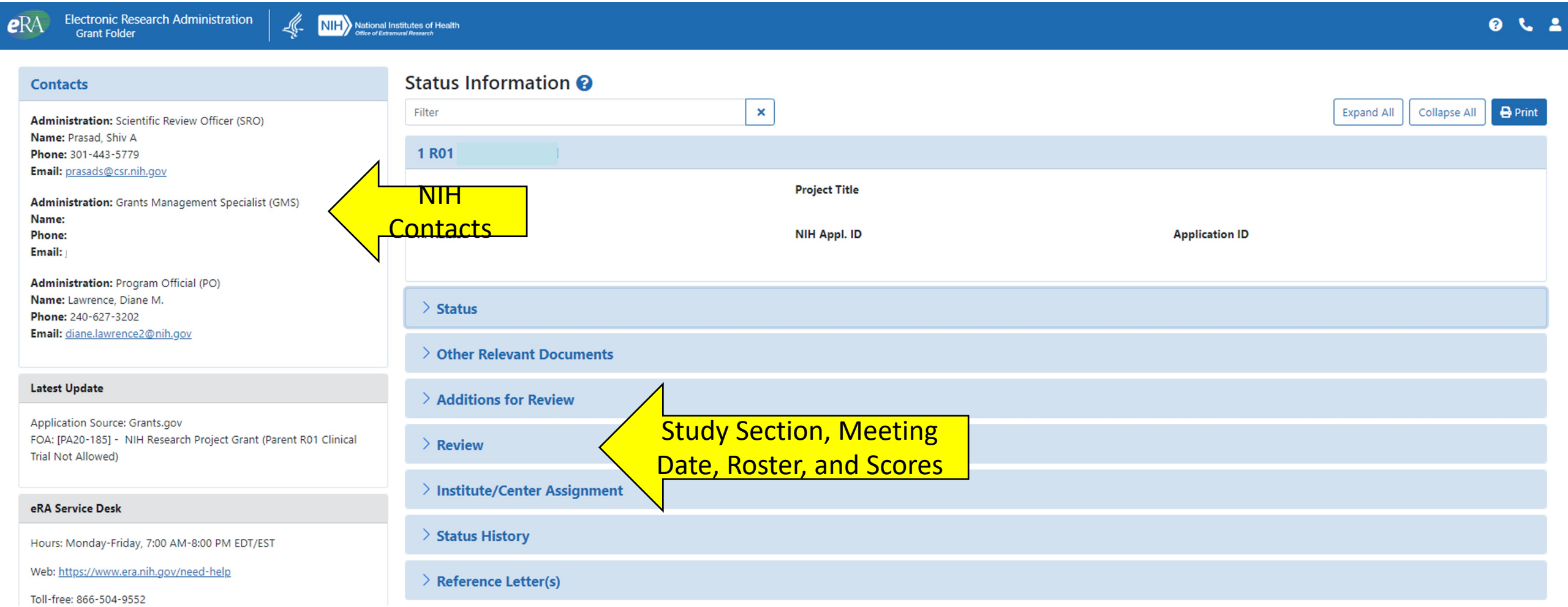
This information was previously collected in the Cover Letter Attachment, but must now be provided in the PHS Assignment Request Form.

View larger image

All study section requests are considered but CSR makes the final decision

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-e/general/g.600-phs-assignment-request-form.htm

Check the Status of Your Application in NIH eRA Commons



The Study Section

Who is the Scientific Review Officer?

- Facilitates a fair and unbiased review
- Organizes the review meeting
- Selects reviewers based on the application topics
- Instructs reviewers on review criteria, confidentiality, and conflict of interest
- Communicates results only through the summary statements (written reports of the score-driving critiques)
- Point of contact before the meeting for questions on the review process, conflict concerns

https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForReviewers/MeetingOverview/RoleofSRO

Who are the Reviewers?

Principal investigators with:

- Appropriate expertise and breadth of perspective
- NIH and/or other research support
- Mature judgment
- Impartiality
- Ability to work in a group

Reviewers adhere to NIH policies on:

- Confidentiality
- Conflict of interest

and include:

- Women and minority scientists
- Scientists from distinct geographical areas (in the US)

https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForReviewers/BecomeAReviewer/CharteredReviewers

What Do Reviewers Do?

- Volunteer their time for the benefit of science
- Read each application 1, 2, and even 3 times to understand the specific aims and research plan.
- Apply the NIH review criteria to their evaluations
- Provide written feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of each application
- Also submit applications that are reviewed (sometimes unfavorably) by their peers
- Have careers and personal lives and need to easily and quickly understand what applicants propose to do

h/t Dr. Lydie Trautmann

Peer Review: True or False?

2. There are special review criteria for New/Early Stage Investigators.

Write your answer in the chat

Review Criteria

Fellowships (F)

Overall Impact

Fellowship Applicant

Sponsors, Collaborators, & Consultants

Research Training Plan

Training Potential

Institutional Environment & Commitment to Training

Mentored Career (K) Awards

Overall Impact

Candidate

Career Development Plan/Career Goals and Objectives

Research Plan

Mentor(s), Co-Mentor(s), Consultant(s), Collaborator(s)

Environment & Institutional Commitment to the Candidate

Research (R) Grants

Overall Impact

Significance

Investigator

Innovation

Approach

Environment

Solicited research (e.g. RFAs) may have additional review criteria

What Reviewers Look for in Fellowship Applications

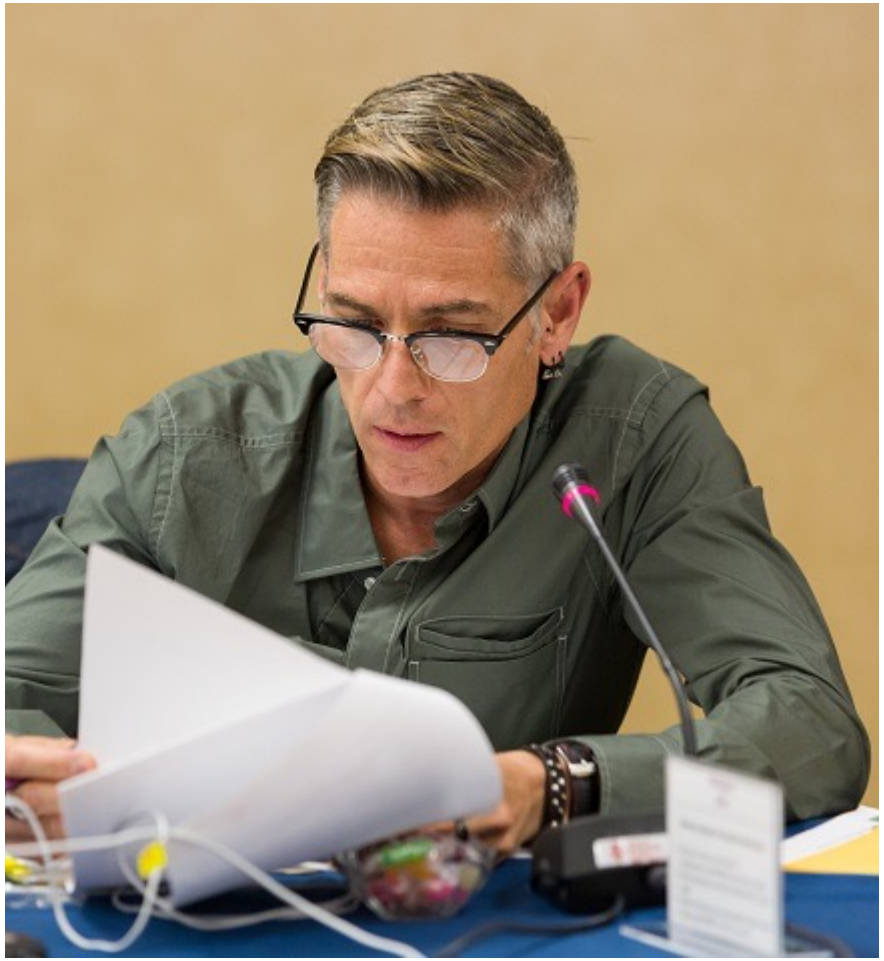
- **Clear training potential, integrated with research plan.**
- Development and expansion of skillset – training goals and objectives, timeline, how training affects future plans?
- Research project that is related to but distinct from your sponsor's research program
- Research Strategy: Feasible aims, appropriate timeframe, well designed study, potential pitfalls and alternative approaches.
- Sponsor/Co-sponsor as an active participant in training.
- Targeted, individualized training plan

What Reviewers Look for in Mentored Career Award Applications

- **Potential to develop as an independent researcher**
- Research plan that contributes to scientific development and independence: feasible aims, appropriate timeframe, well designed study, potential pitfalls and alternative approaches.
- Mentor: good fit with the research plan, mentoring experience, NIH funding
- Strong Letters of Recommendation and Support
- Institutional commitment: protected research time

What Reviewers Look For in Research Grant Applications

- **Exciting ideas with significance and impact**
- Critical analysis of the existing literature
- Clear rationale for hypotheses
- Appropriate expertise on the research team
- Novel concepts or approaches
- Organized research plan with realistic specific aims and timelines
- Rigorous experimental design and statistical analyses
- Acknowledgement of pitfalls and alternatives
- Appropriate facilities and resources
- Brevity on things that are common knowledge and details on things that are not



https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForApplicants/InitialReviewResultsAndAppeals/InsidersGuide

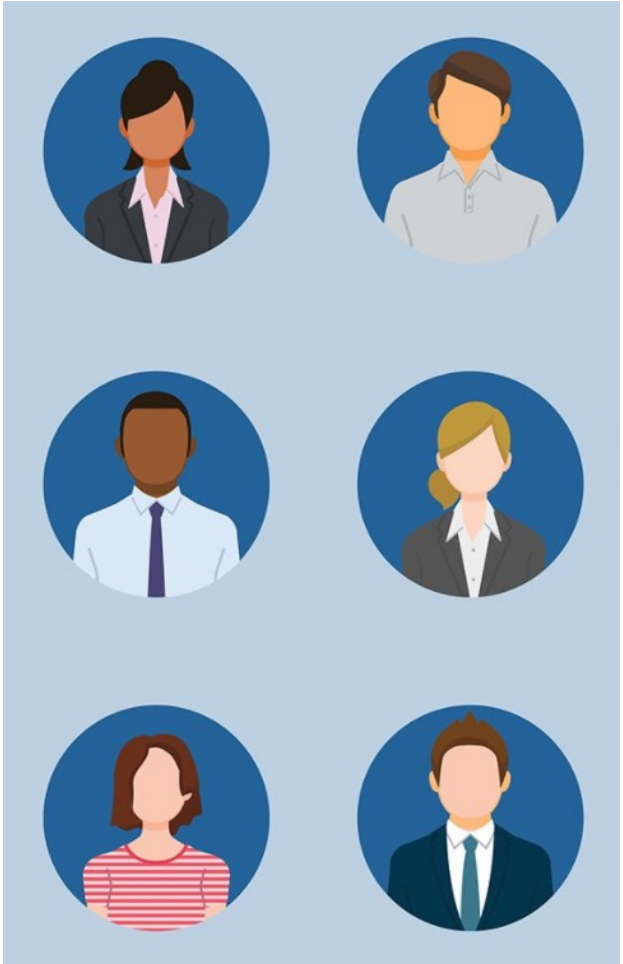
Problems that Reviewers Find

- Lack of new or original ideas
- Poor rationale for the hypothesis
- Failure to cite the relevant literature
- Lack of experience in the methodology
- Unrealistically large amount of work
- Superficial or unfocused research plan
- Lack of detail and rigor in the Approach
- Ignoring alternate hypotheses/outcomes
- No plan for future directions
- *Figures and tables that are hard to read*
- *Confusing text with multiple spelling or grammatical errors.*

https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForApplicants/InitialReviewResultsAndAppeals/InsidersGuide

New and Early Stage Investigators

- NI: Applicant without substantial NIH research grant (R01 or equivalent) support
- ESI: An NI who is within 10 years of a terminal degree or residency
- NI/ESI status applies to R01s grant applications *only*
- NI/ESI status is invalidated if the applicant is a multi-PI with an experienced investigator
- NI/ESI applications are generally clustered during review
- The review criteria are the same for all applicants, but reviewers focus on the NI/ESI's ability to conduct the proposed work.



https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForApplicants/InitialReviewResultsAndAppeals/InsidersGuide

Peer Review: True or False?

3. Only the three assigned reviewers determine the final score

Write your answer in the chat

What Happens Before the Meeting?

-4 to 6 weeks

-1 week

Meeting

Reviewers receive assignments (8-10 applications)

Three reviewers are assigned to each application

Reviewers submit, for each application:

- A *preliminary* written critique
- A *preliminary* Overall Impact score
- *Preliminary* individual review criteria scores

Each reviewer reads the preliminary critiques and scores from the other reviewers to prepare for the discussions

Reviewers may change their opinions and scores based on other comments

Chair and SRO read critiques; address any issues before the meeting

https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForReviewers/MeetingOverview/InsidersGuideReviewers

What Happens at the Meeting?

Application discussion and scoring

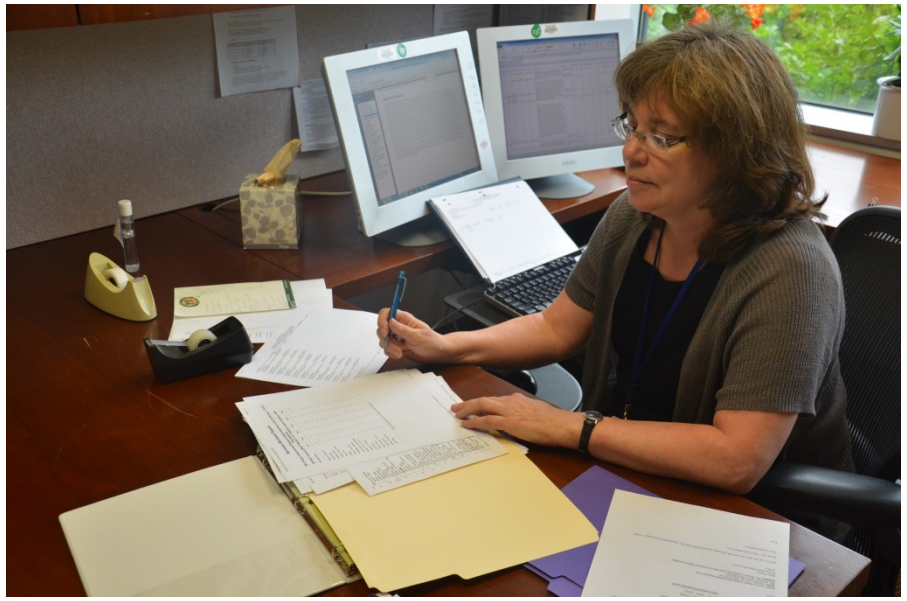
- The top 50% of the applications (by preliminary score) are discussed
- Any member in conflict with an application leaves the room
- Reviewer 1 introduces the application and presents critique
- Reviewers 2 and 3 highlight new issues that significantly impact their scores
- The Chair opens the discussion to all present
- All panelists (in the room) vote on the final Overall Impact score

After voting

- Reviewers discuss the budget and other non-scoreable items

https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForApplicants/InitialReviewResultsAndAppeals/applicationduringafterreview

What Happens After the Meeting



The SRO and review staff

- Release scores with 3 business days
- Release summary statements (with 30 days) to:
  - Applicants and their institutions
  - Program staff
- Hand over follow-up to program officers

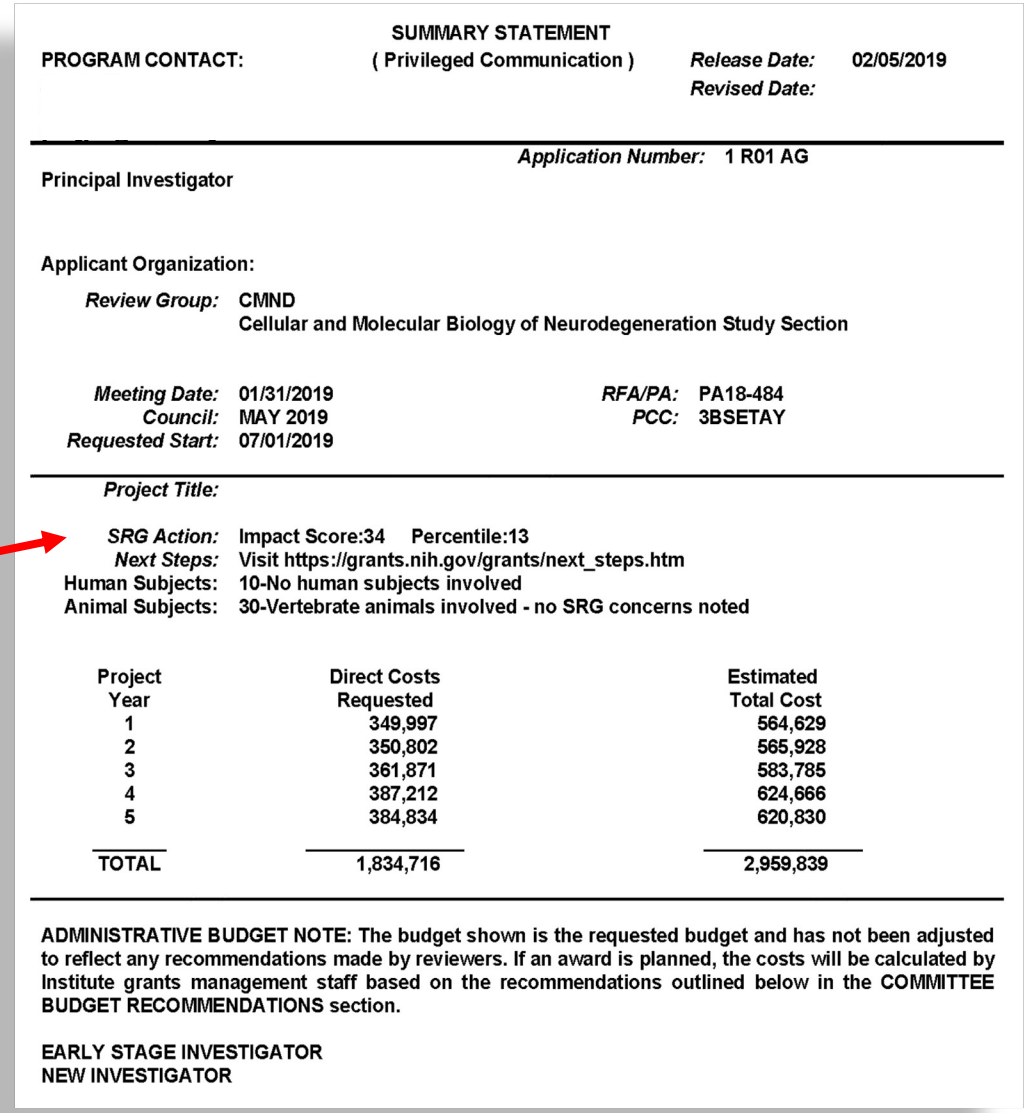
Summary Statement

The written outcome of the review that includes:

- Scores for each review criterion
- Strengths and weaknesses
- Administrative notes (if any) for missing sections, non-compliance, etc.

If your application is discussed, the summary statement will also contain:

- An impact/priority score
- A summary of the discussion
- Committee recommendations
  - Human Subjects
  - Vertebrate Animals
  - Budget



SUMMARY STATEMENT

PROGRAM CONTACT: (Privileged Communication) *Release Date:* 02/05/2019
Revised Date:

Application Number: 1 R01 AG

Principal Investigator

Applicant Organization:

Review Group: CMND
Cellular and Molecular Biology of Neurodegeneration Study Section

Meeting Date: 01/31/2019 *RFA/PA:* PA18-484
Council: MAY 2019 *PCC:* 3BSETAY
Requested Start: 07/01/2019

Project Title:

SRG Action: Impact Score:34 Percentile:13
Next Steps: Visit https://grants.nih.gov/grants/next_steps.htm
Human Subjects: 10-No human subjects involved
Animal Subjects: 30-Vertebrate animals involved - no SRG concerns noted

Project Year	Direct Costs Requested	Estimated Total Cost
1	349,997	564,629
2	350,802	565,928
3	361,871	583,785
4	387,212	624,666
5	384,834	620,830
TOTAL	1,834,716	2,959,839

ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET NOTE: The budget shown is the requested budget and has not been adjusted to reflect any recommendations made by reviewers. If an award is planned, the costs will be calculated by Institute grants management staff based on the recommendations outlined below in the COMMITTEE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS section.

EARLY STAGE INVESTIGATOR
NEW INVESTIGATOR

https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/sample-applications

Priority (Impact) and Percentile Scores

- Only discussed applications (those in the top half) receive scores
- Reviewers score on a 1-9 scale
- Priority (impact) score: average reviewer score x 10
- Most R01s are percentiled – ranked relative to other R01s reviewed in the same study section

Overall Impact	High	Medium	Low
Score	1 2 3	4 5 6	7 8 9

Summary Statement	Meaning	Applies to
Impact score and percentile ***SRG Action:*** **Impact Score:24 Percentile:2**	Discussed	Most R01s (parent NOFO) Some R21s (depends on Institute)
Impact score, no percentile ***SRG Action:*** **Impact Score:26**	Discussed	Some R01s (non-parent NOFO) Most non-R01s
No Impact score, no percentile ***SRG Action:*** **++**	Not discussed	All grant mechanisms

Peer Review: True or False?

1. Applicants can choose their study sections.

   FALSE: Applicants may recommend a study section(s), but CSR makes the final assignment.

2. There are special review criteria for New/Early Stage Investigators

   FALSE: The review criteria are the same for all applicants, but reviewers evaluate NI/ESIs on their abilities to conduct the proposed work.

3. Only the assigned reviewers (1-3) determine the final score

   FALSE: All (non-conflicted) reviewers participate in the discussion and vote on a final score.

Jumpstart Your Career: CSR Early Career Reviewer Program

- Learn how reviewers evaluate and score applications
- Develop research-evaluation and critique-writing skills
- Gain insights to make your more competitive as an applicant
- Work side-by-side with accomplished researchers in your field
- Serve the scientific community by helping NIH identify the most promising grant applications
- For qualifications and application process, please see **www.csr.nih.gov/ecr**

www.csr.nih.gov/ecr

Thank You!

@CSRpeerreview

CSRNIH

Center for Scientific Review (CSR)

https://public.csr.nih.gov/

Integrity and Fairness in Review: https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForReviewers/MeetingOverview/IntegrityInReview

Concerns over bias or respectful conduct:

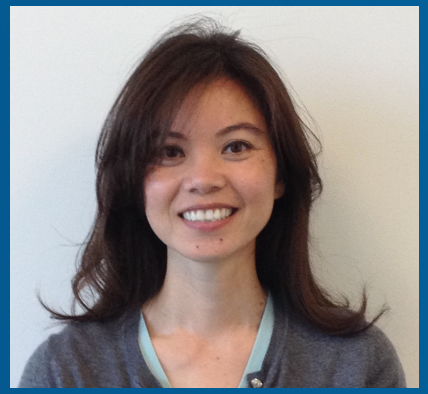
Dr. Gabriel Fosu, G.Fosu_AssocDir@csr.nih.gov
Associate Director of Diversity and Workforce Development

New Investigators Working Group Webinar Series

The NIH Grant Lifecycle Process: From Submission to Notice of Award (Part 2)

Wednesday, May 17, 2023, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PDT

Webinar Speakers



Que Dang, PhD
Division of AIDS

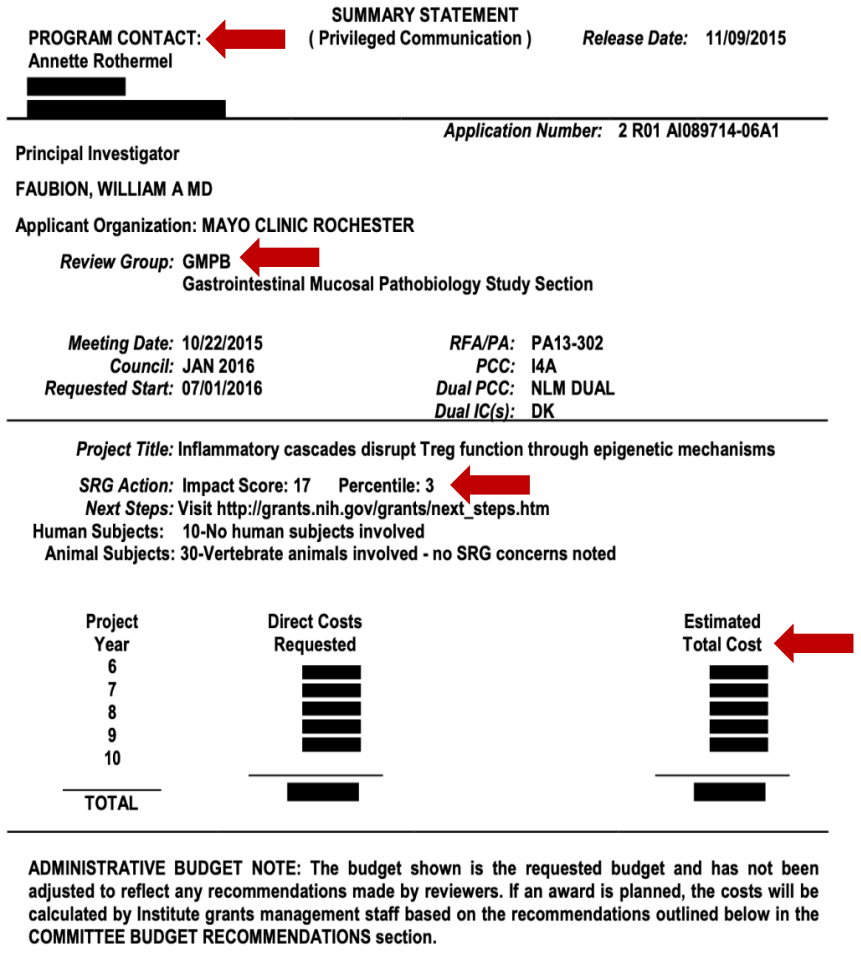
Diane Lawrence, PhD
Division of AIDS

Shiv Prasad, PhD
Center for Scientific Review

Geetha P. Bansal, PhD
Fogarty International Center

After the Review, Reach Out to Your PO!

- **Program Officers can provide guidance on:**
  - How do I interpret my score and reviewer comments in my summary statement?
  - What are my chances of getting funded?
  - How can I improve my application based on reviewer critiques?
  - What should I do next?



SUMMARY STATEMENT

PROGRAM CONTACT: Annette Rothermel

(Privileged Communication)

Release Date: 11/09/2015

[redacted]

Application Number: 2 R01 AI089714-06A1

Principal Investigator

FAUBION, WILLIAM A MD

Applicant Organization: MAYO CLINIC ROCHESTER

Review Group: GMPB

Gastrointestinal Mucosal Pathobiology Study Section

Meeting Date: 10/22/2015
Council: JAN 2016
Requested Start: 07/01/2016

RFA/PA: PA13-302
PCC: I4A
Dual PCC: NLM DUAL
Dual IC(s): DK

Project Title: Inflammatory cascades disrupt Treg function through epigenetic mechanisms

SRG Action: Impact Score: 17 Percentile: 3
Next Steps: Visit http://grants.nih.gov/grants/next_steps.htm
Human Subjects: 10-No human subjects involved
Animal Subjects: 30-Vertebrate animals involved - no SRG concerns noted

Project Year	Direct Costs Requested	Estimated Total Cost
6	[redacted]	[redacted]
7		
8		
9		
10		
TOTAL	[redacted]	[redacted]

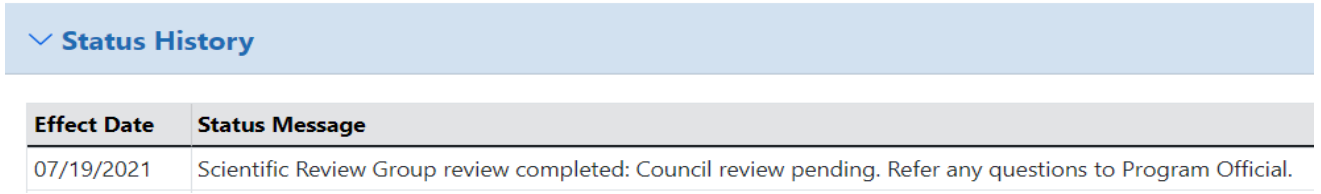
ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET NOTE: The budget shown is the requested budget and has not been adjusted to reflect any recommendations made by reviewers. If an award is planned, the costs will be calculated by Institute grants management staff based on the recommendations outlined below in the COMMITTEE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS section.

https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/sample-applications#more

What Happens After Review?

"Pre-Award" Phase

- Track the status of your application in eRA Commons



Status History

Effect Date	Status Message
07/19/2021	Scientific Review Group review completed: Council review pending. Refer any questions to Program Official.

- Respond to Just-In-Time Information ("JIT") Requests
  - Requested automatically following review
  - NIH Grants Management staff will request anything needed prior to final award decision
  - Institutional Signing Official must submit electronically; updates allowed
  - Typically includes IACUC and IRB approval dates, updated F&A rates (indirects), updated Other Support, responses to "Unacceptable" items in Summary Statement

- Respond to Program Officer Requests – corrections, clarifications, foreign

- Assigned Program Officer and Grants Management will review application and JIT for scientific/budget overlap, administrative compliance, etc.

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/tracking_application.htm
https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML5/section_2/2.5.1_just-in-time_procedures.htm

Second-Level Review: Advisory Council

- Each NIH Institute/Center must get funding recommendations from Advisory Council before grant can be awarded
- Review is for potential barriers to funding or special circumstances (foreign applications, requesting more funds than normally allowed, funding beyond payline)
- Study section concerns must be resolved before Council will recommend your application for funding
  - Contact your Program Officer if there are problematic codes on your summary statement (human or animal concerns, etc.)
- Institute leadership, not Council, makes final funding decisions

https://www.niaid.nih.gov/about/advisory-council

Understanding Paylines

NIAID Paylines for FY 2023

These paylines are for investigator-initiated applications reviewed for the September 2022, January 2023, and June 2023 Council meetings.

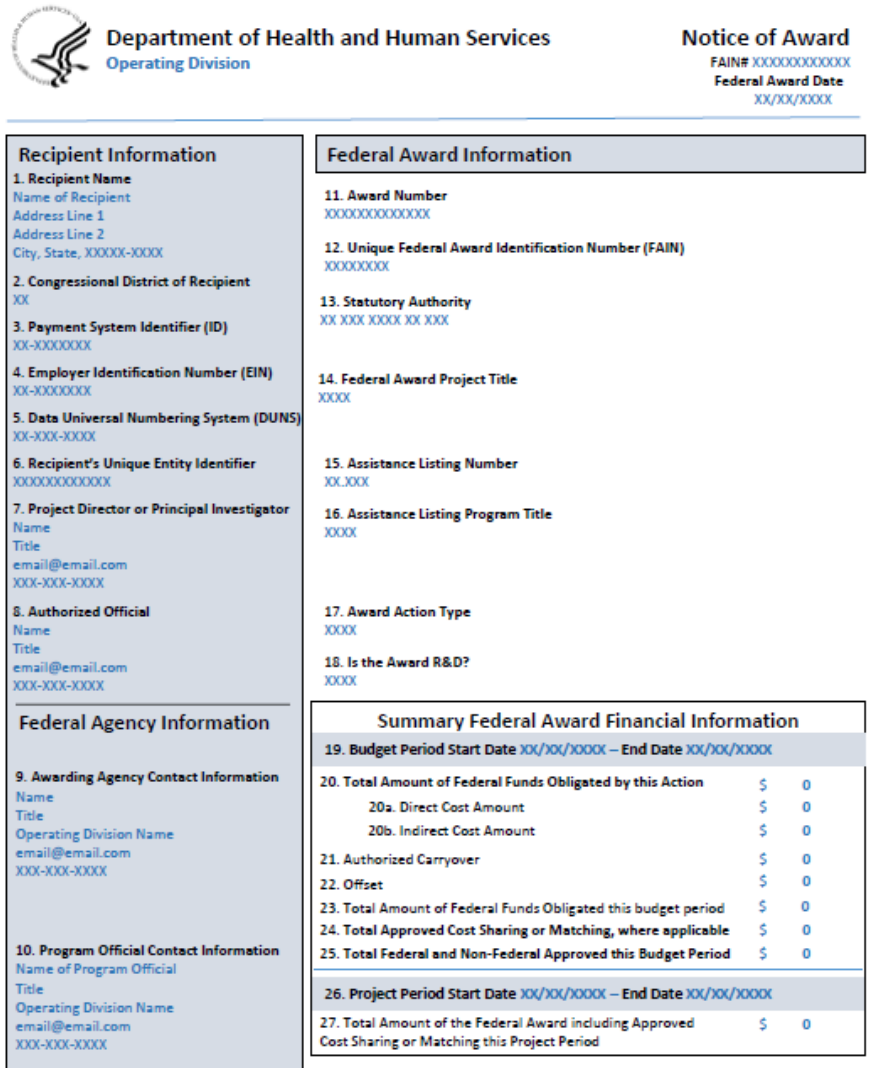
Grant Type	Payline	Status	Description
R01 (non-new PIs)	11 percentile	Interim	Research Projects for established investigators
R01 (new PIs)	15 percentile	Interim	Research Projects for new and early-stage investigators
F30	20 overall impact score	Final	NRSA Individual Predoctoral M.D./Ph.D. or Other Dual-Doctoral Degree Fellowships
F31	19 overall impact score	Final	NRSA Individual Pre
F32	22 overall impact score	Final	NRSA Ind
K (except K22 and K99)	20 overall impact score	Final	Career Dev
R03	27 overall impact score	Interim	Small Grants
R15	20 overall impact score	Interim	Research Enhancement Awards (REA)
R21	27 overall impact score	Interim	Exploratory/Developmental Grants
R41, R42	31 overall impact score	Final	STTR Phase I and II—Small Business Technology Transfer
R43, R44	34 overall impact score	Final	SBIR Phase I and II—Small Business Innovation Research

Fiscal Year 2023 =
Oct 1, 2022 – Sept 30, 2023
Council cycles: Oct 2022,
Jan 2023, May 2023

- Not all institutes use paylines.
- NIAID sets interim paylines, then final later in the fiscal year.
- For NIAID R01s, NI status usually has a better payline than established investigators for R01 applications.
- ESI status generally allows special consideration at many ICs.
- Certain FOAs do not usually have a payline – funding depends on available funds and relative merit

https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/niaid-paylines

Success! Your Grant is Approved for Funding



Department of Health and Human Services
Operating Division

Notice of Award
FAIN# XXXXXXXXXXX
Federal Award Date
XX/XX/XXXX

Recipient Information

1. Recipient Name
Name of Recipient
Address Line 1
Address Line 2
City, State, XXXXX-XXXX

2. Congressional District of Recipient
XX

3. Payment System Identifier (ID)
XX-XXXXXXX

4. Employer Identification Number (EIN)
XX-XXXXXXX

5. Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)
XX-XXX-XXXX

6. Recipient's Unique Entity Identifier
XXXXXXXXXXX

7. Project Director or Principal Investigator
Name
Title
email@email.com
XXX-XXX-XXXX

8. Authorized Official
Name
Title
email@email.com
XXX-XXX-XXXX

Federal Agency Information

9. Awarding Agency Contact Information
Name
Title
Operating Division Name
email@email.com
XXX-XXX-XXXX

10. Program Official Contact Information
Name of Program Official
Title
Operating Division Name
email@email.com
XXX-XXX-XXXX

Federal Award Information

11. Award Number
XXXXXXXXXXXX

12. Unique Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN)
XXXXXXXX

13. Statutory Authority
XX XXX XXXX XX XXX

14. Federal Award Project Title
XXXX

15. Assistance Listing Number
XX.XXX

16. Assistance Listing Program Title
XXXX

17. Award Action Type
XXXX

18. Is the Award R&D?
XXXX

Summary Federal Award Financial Information

19. Budget Period Start Date XX/XX/XXXX – End Date XX/XX/XXXX

20. Total Amount of Federal Funds Obligated by this Action	$	0
20a. Direct Cost Amount	$	0
20b. Indirect Cost Amount	$	0
21. Authorized Carryover	$	0
22. Offset	$	0
23. Total Amount of Federal Funds Obligated this budget period	$	0
24. Total Approved Cost Sharing or Matching, where applicable	$	0
25. Total Federal and Non-Federal Approved this Budget Period	$	0

26. Project Period Start Date XX/XX/XXXX – End Date XX/XX/XXXX

27. Total Amount of the Federal Award including Approved Cost Sharing or Matching this Project Period	$	0

- Funding is not guaranteed until the Notice of Award (NoA) is issued
  - Official grant award document notifying the recipient (institution)
  - Available in eRA Commons Status – List of Applications/Awards
  - Funding is (usually) for only one year at a time
- Award may not match what you requested
  - Peer review recommended cuts
  - Overlap
  - Programmatic reduction

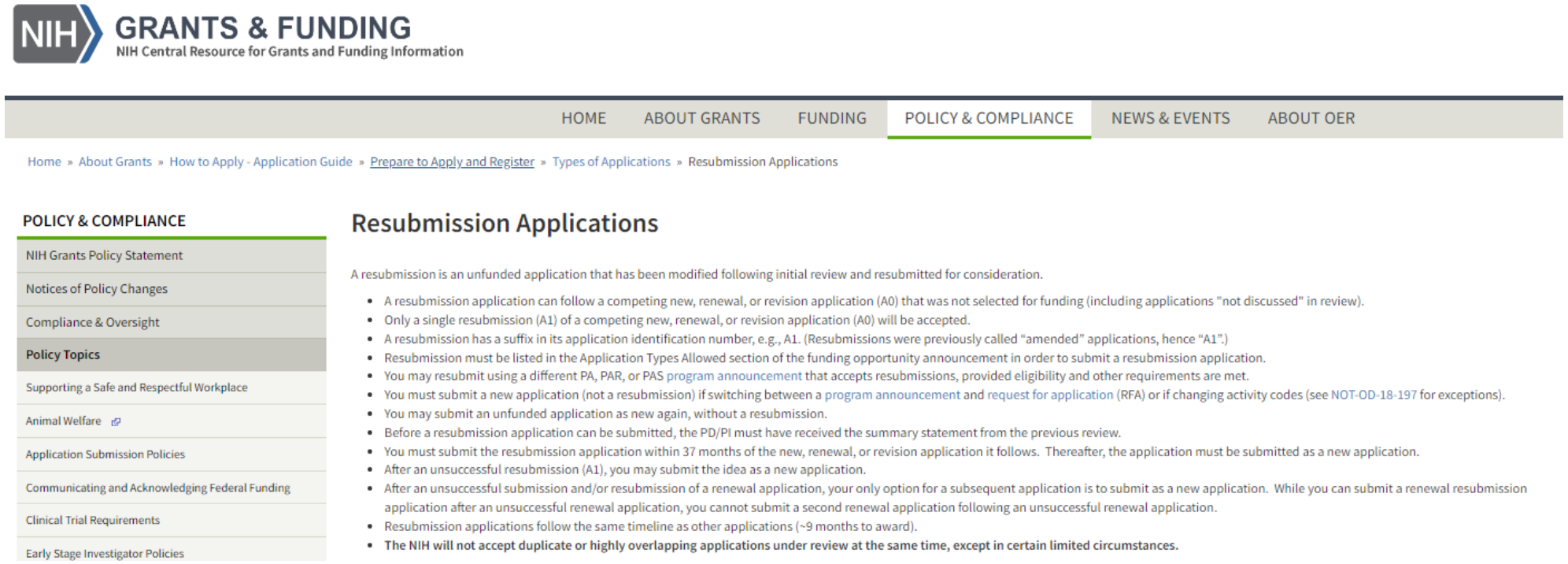
Post-Award Responsibilities

- NoA Terms and Conditions – Federal, NIH requirements
  - Standard and IC-specific information relevant to your award (policy compliance, legal obligations, use of funds, reporting requirements)
  - States what authority you have (e.g. carryforward) and what changes are allowed (e.g. rebudgeting)
- Monitoring and Research Performance Progress Reports (RPPR)
  - Annual or interim progress must be submitted as instructed in the NoA – shows updates on your project and explains any challenges
  - Reviewed by NIH Program and Grants Management staff to assess progress and confirm responsible use of funds.
  - NIH approval is required before the next funding period award is issued
  - Some changes may require prior approval from the NIH institute

If At First You Don't Succeed…

Resubmit!

- A resubmission application can follow a competing application that was not selected for funding.
- An introduction (usually 1 page) is included to tell reviewers what changes you made to address the previous critiques.
- After two attempts (A0 and A1), you may submit again as a NEW application



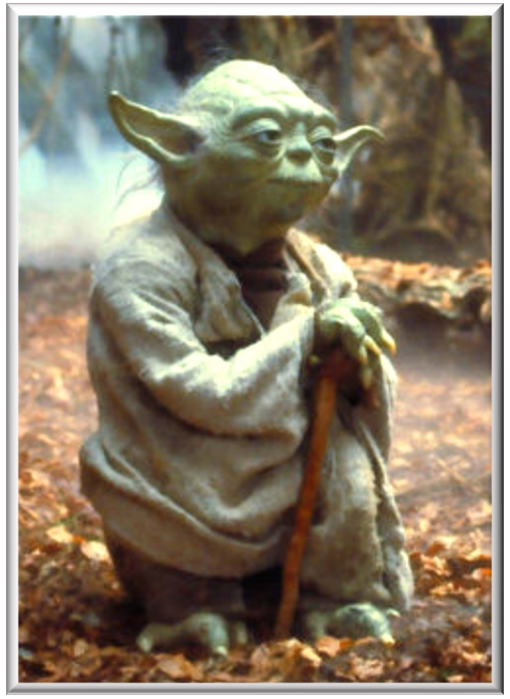
https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/amendedapps.htm

Final Recommendations

IMPORTANT:

- Understand the NIH grant application process
- Explore NIH/NIAID resources
- Network with NIH staff
  - Talk to us at meetings, on the phone, by email
  - If I don't know you, how can I help you?
- Learn what works and what doesn't in peer review
- No one is perfect - acknowledge opportunities to gain knowledge or add collaborators with specific expertise
- Critiques are not personal – reviewers want you to be successful
- Don't give up! Multiple applications may be needed
- It's all about IMPACT - be willing to critically question your research approach and future directions

Embrace Mentoring & Collaboration



"Mentor, wisely choose"
-Yoda

Independence ≠ Isolation

Mentoring is a long-term need

- Develop new skills
- Enhance your visibility, credibility
- Gain new perspectives on career and personal development
- Learn from others' experiences

Collaboration is not a weakness

- Broaden your research capacity
- Build a support network
- Accelerate your progress

Questions?

Thank you!

Geetha P. Bansal, Ph.D.

Que Dang, Ph.D.

HIV Research and Training Programs, FIC, NIH

Division of AIDS, NIAID, NIH

geetha.bansal@nih.gov

que.dang@nih.gov

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Diane M. Lawrence, Ph.D.

Division of Physiological and Pathological Sciences, CSR, NIH

Division of AIDS, NIAID, NIH

shiv.prasad@nih.gov

diane.lawrence2@nih.gov

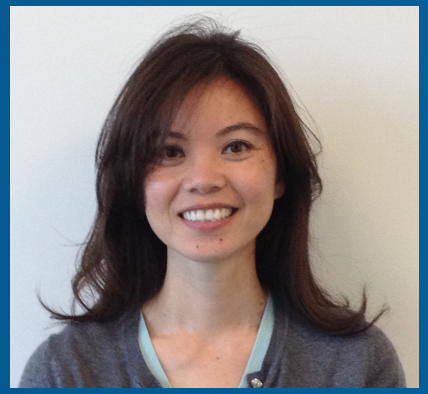
National Institutes of Health
Turning Discovery Into Health

New Investigators Working Group Webinar Series

The NIH Grant Lifecycle Process: From Submission to Notice of Award (Part 2)

Wednesday, May 17, 2023, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PDT

Webinar Speakers



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