

Goals of the Presentation

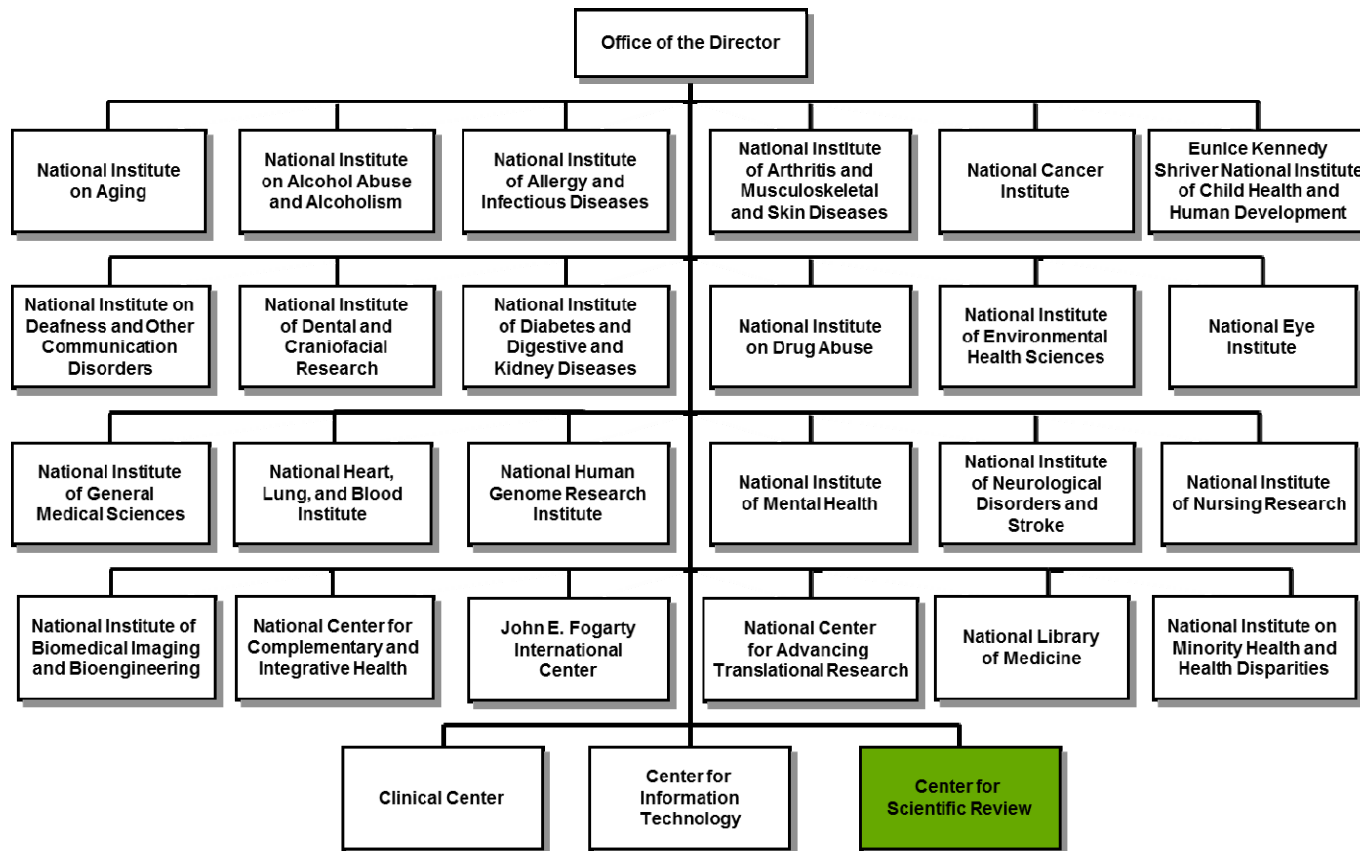
Familiarization with the NIH Review Process

- The life cycle of a Grant Application
- Receipt and Referral Process
- The Study Section
- The Review Process
- Outcome of Review
- Resources

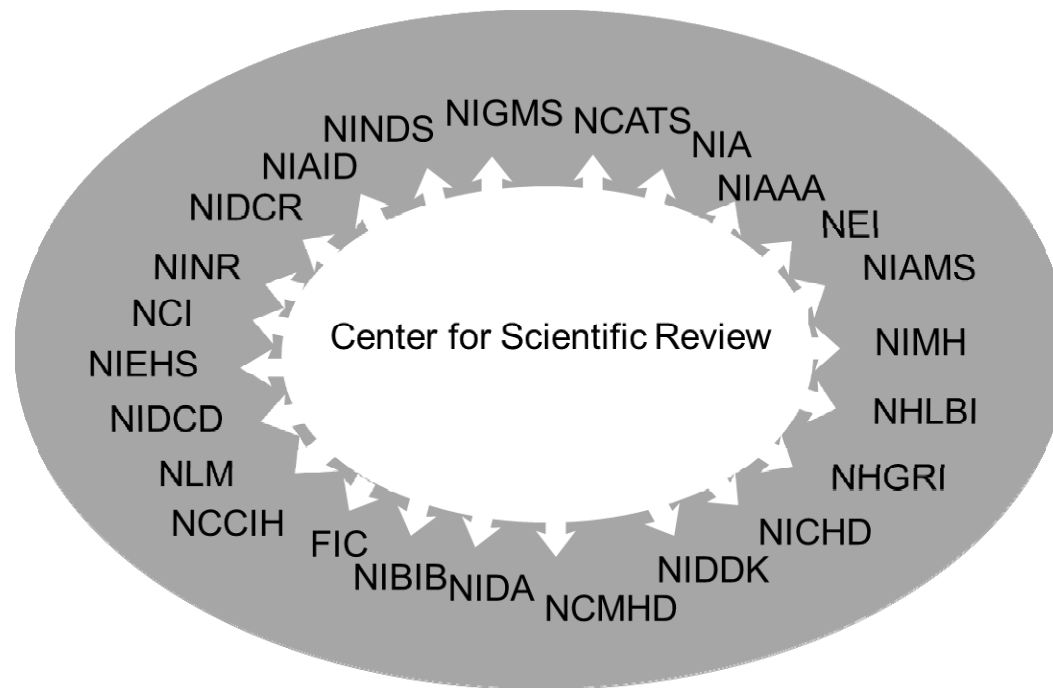
National Institutes of Health



Your Application Could Be Funded by One of 24 NIH Institutes or Centers



24 NIH Institutes and Centers Fund Grants



Separation of Levels of Review



Institutes

Program Priorities-generates
Program Announcements
RFAs

First Level of Review

Study Section (SRG)

- Scientific Merit
- Budget Recommendations

Second Level of Review

Funding

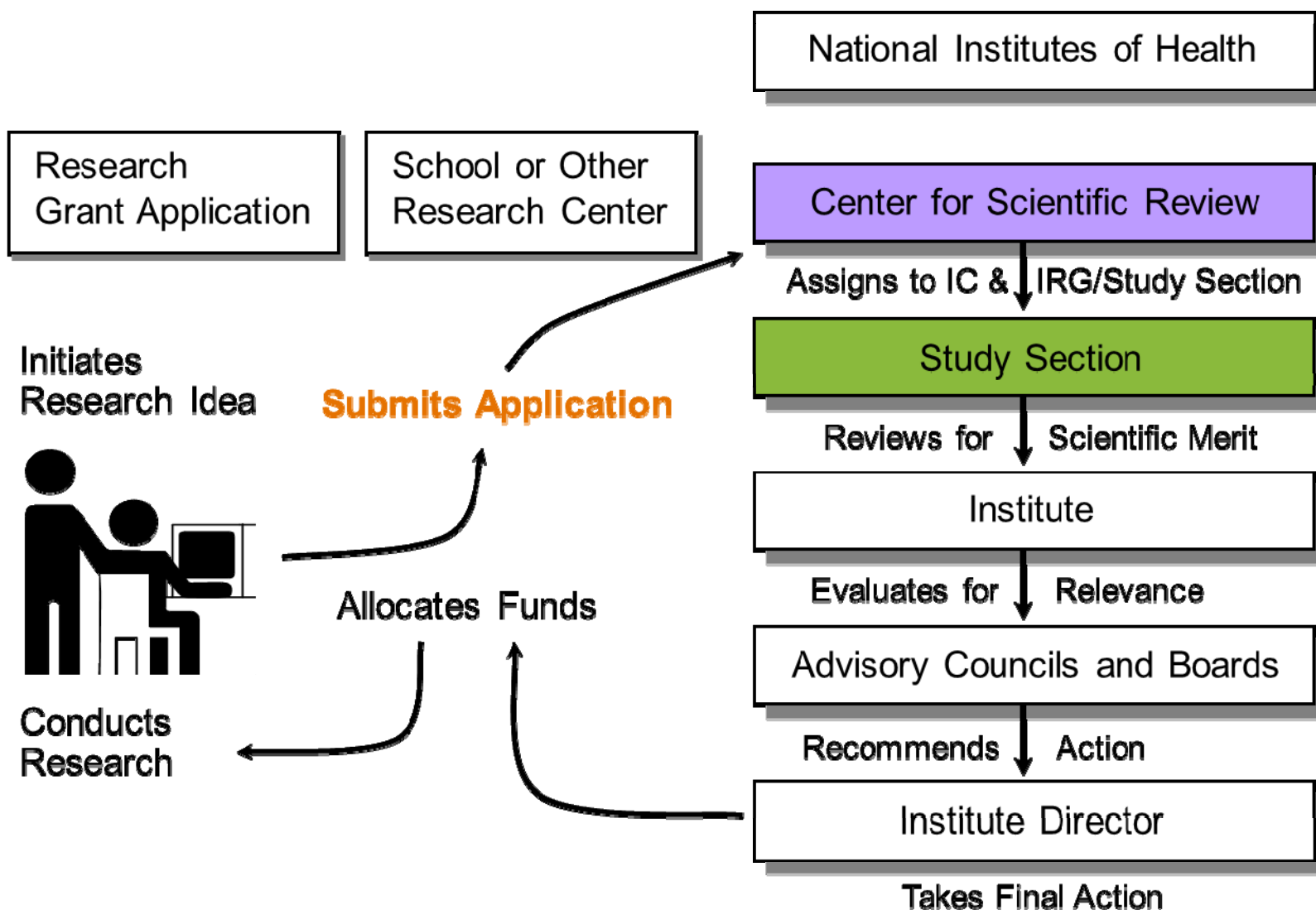
Institute Councils

- Evaluate Program
Priorities/Relevance
- Policy Considerations

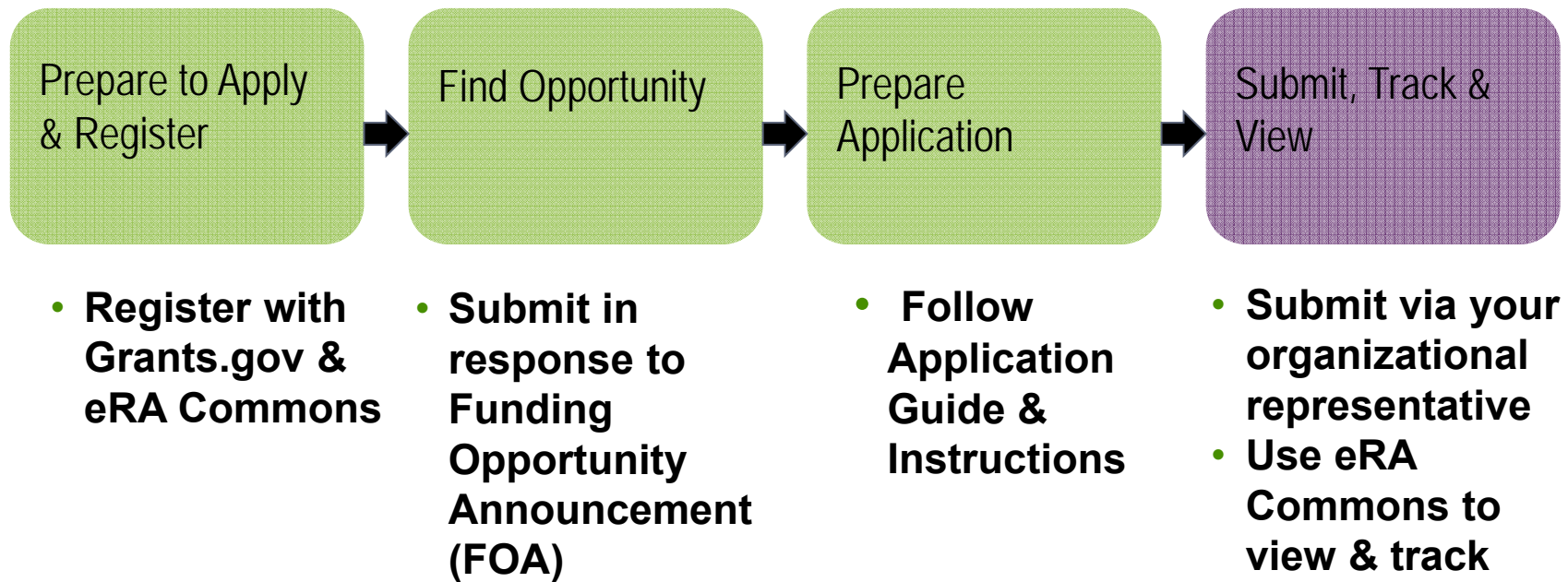


Center for
Scientific Review

Review Process for a Research Grant



Electronic Application Process (Overview)



Who Can Answer Your Questions?

Before You Submit Your Application

- A Program Officer at an NIH Institute or Center
- Scientific Review Officer

After You Submit

- Your Scientific Review Officer

After Your Review

- Your Assigned Program Officer

Your New Application Must Be Written as New

Your new (A0) application should not contain information that might bias the review or provide a competitive advantage:

You Cannot Refer to a Previous Review

- No mention of previous score
- No mention of previous reviewer comments
- No mention of how the A0 is responsive to previous review
- No marks in text to indicate changes

You Cannot Submit Elements of a Renewal

- No Progress Report
- No Progress Report Publication List

Your Application Goes to the NIH Center for Scientific Review (CSR)

Focal Point for Initial Review at NIH



- Receives all NIH applications
- Refers them to NIH Institutes/Centers and to scientific review groups
- Reviews majority of grant applications for scientific merit

CSR Mission



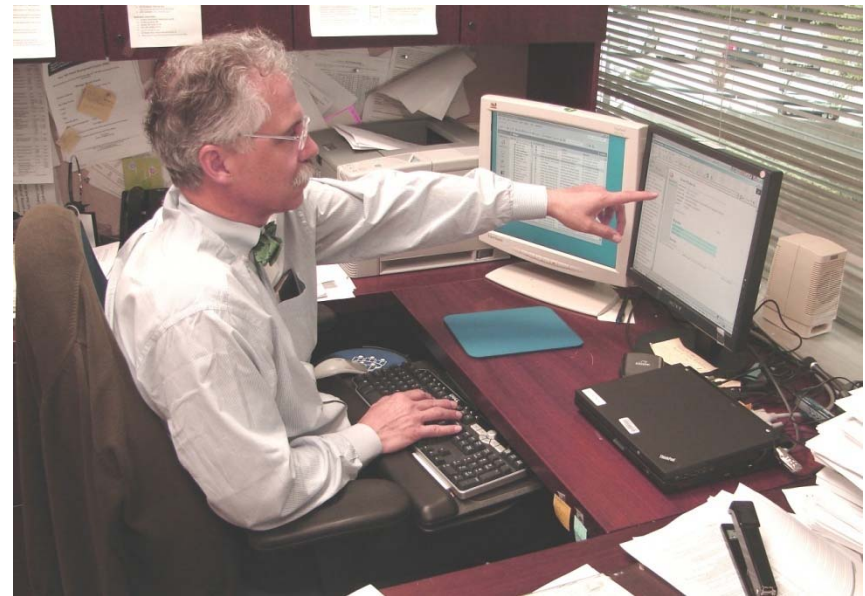
To see that NIH grant applications receive fair, independent, expert, and timely reviews – free from inappropriate influences – so NIH can fund the most promising research.

CSR Peer Review – Fiscal Year 2014

- 86,000 applications received
- 16,000 reviewers
- 237 Scientific Review Officers
- 1,500 review meetings

What does the Division of Receipt and Referral (DRR) do?

- Determines if application is
 - on time
 - formatted correctly
 - complete
- Makes Institute Assignment for funding consideration
- Makes Study Section Assignment for review



Applications Are Assigned to:

- **Institutes or Centers based on—**
 - Overall mission and guidelines of the Institute or Center
 - Specific programmatic mandates and interests of the Institute or Center
 - Dual assignments are made where applications are appropriate for more than one Institute or Center.
- **Integrated Review Groups based on—**
 - Specific review guidelines for each Integrated Review Group (IRG)

Help Your Application Get to the Right Institute



TEXT SEARCH

Text Search (Logic): ?

☒ [And](#)
☐ [Or](#)
☐ [Advanced](#)

Search in ?
☒ Projects
☐ Publications
☐ News

Limit Project search to
☐ Project Title
☐ Project Terms
☐ Project Abstracts


Limit Publication search to
Start Year
End Year

Match your application to NIH:

- Projects: Related research on the same scientific topic
- FOAs: Funding Opportunity Announcements for the topic area
- Institutes: Programs that are funding research in this topic area

<http://ProjectRePORTER.NIH.gov>

Find a Funding Opportunity (FOA)


 National Institutes of Health
Office of Extramural Research

Glossary & Acronyms

[Search](#)

[HOME](#) [ABOUT GRANTS](#) [FUNDING](#) [FORMS & DEADLINES](#) [GRANTS POLICY](#) [eRA](#) [NEWS & EVENTS](#) [ABOUT OER](#)

Grants & Funding



Advanced Funding Opportunities and Notices Search

Search Terms: (e.g. diabetes, RFA-FD-13-013)


Title Text Includes:


Status: Active ▼

Issuing Organization: Any ▼

Include Participating: ☐

Application Packages: All ▼

Released Date:  On or After

Expiration Date:  On or After


Activity Code: ▼

Activity Code Groups:


Include: ☐ Notices ☒ FOAs

Parent Announcements Only: ☐

[Search](#)



Check out our new search subscription feature on the results page. It allows you to receive emails when future postings match your search. [Learn more.](#)

 Center for Scientific Review

Help Your Application Get to the Right Study Section

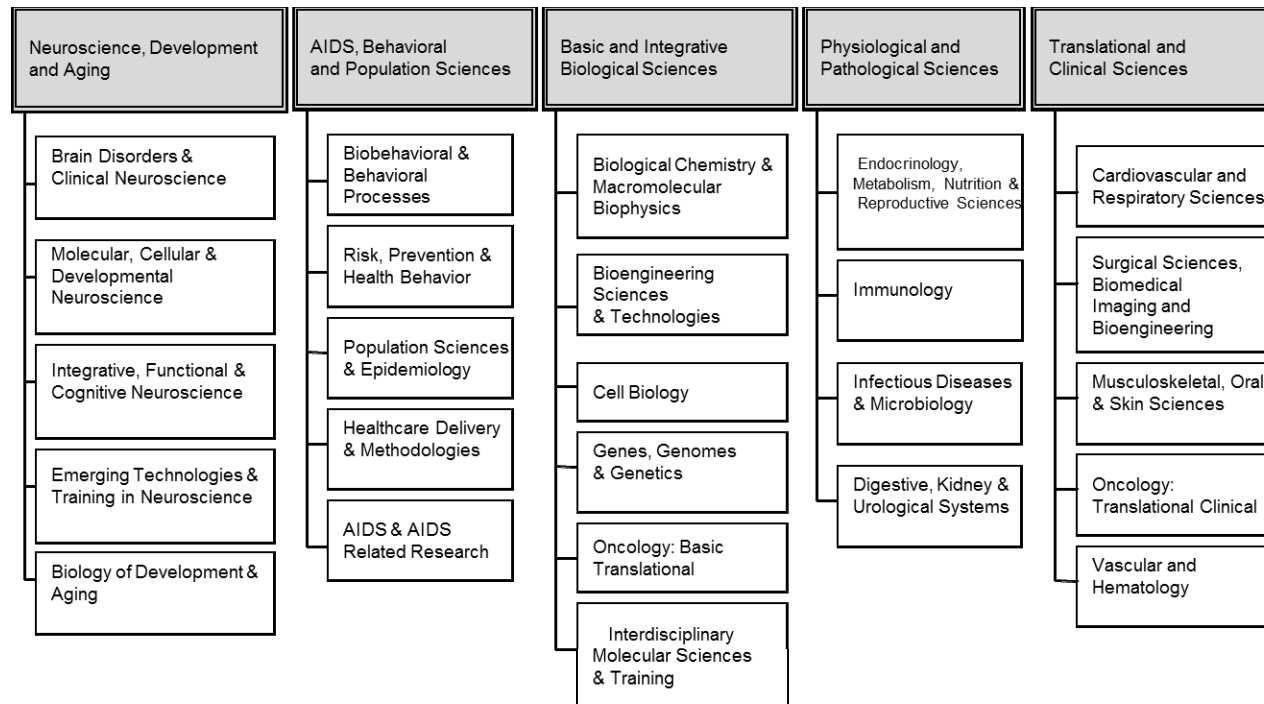


Find a Study Section

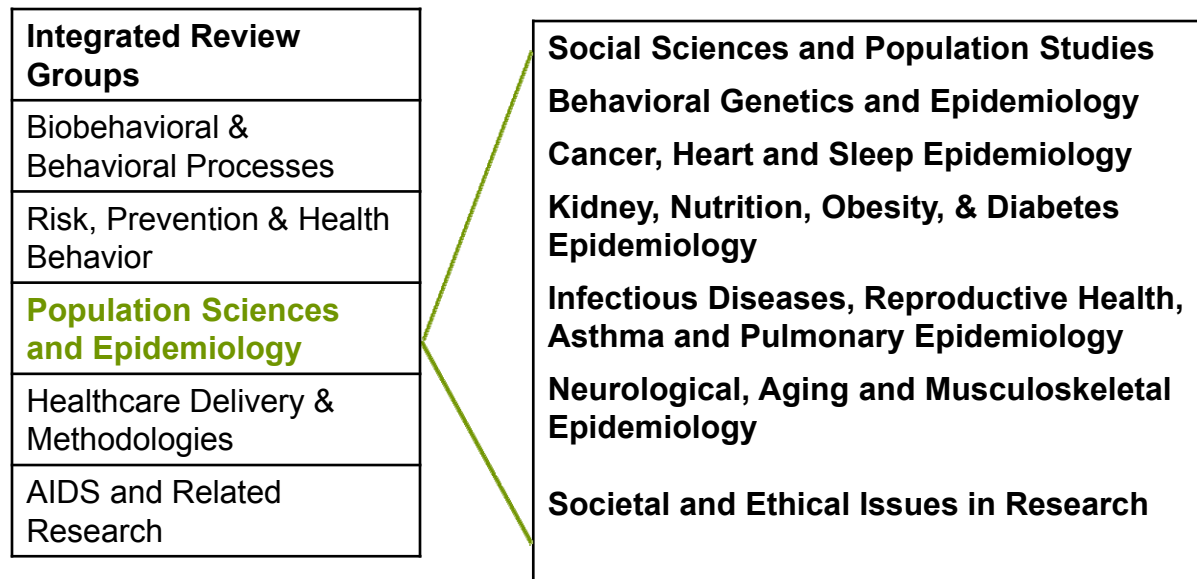
Applications are reviewed in Study Sections (Scientific Review Group, SRG). Integrated Review Groups (IRGs) are clusters of Study Sections based on scientific discipline.

<http://www.csr.nih.gov/>

Divisions and Integrated Review Groups (IRGs)

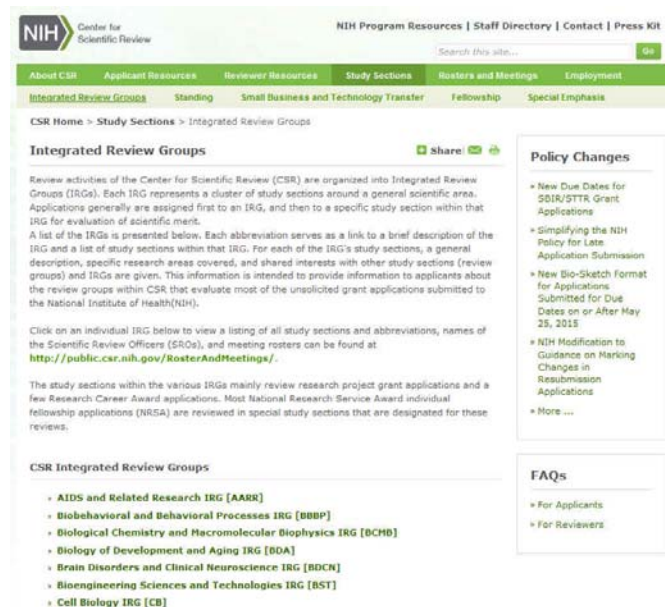


Division of AIDS, Behavioral and Population Sciences



Center for
Scientific Review

Help Your Application Get to the Right Study Section



The screenshot shows the NIH Center for Scientific Review website. The top navigation bar includes links for About CSR, Applicant Resources, Reviewer Resources, Study Sections, Rosters and Meetings, and Employment. Below this is a search bar and a secondary navigation bar with links for Integrated Review Groups, Standing, Small Business and Technology Transfer, Fellowship, and Special Emphasis. The main content area is titled "Integrated Review Groups" and includes a "Share" button. The text explains that review activities are organized into Integrated Review Groups (IRGs) and provides a list of IRGs with links to their descriptions. A "Policy Changes" sidebar on the right lists updates such as new due dates for 501R/STTR Grant Applications and a new Bio-Sketch Format. A "FAQs" sidebar at the bottom right lists questions for Applicants and Reviewers.

Integrated Review Groups

Review activities of the Center for Scientific Review (CSR) are organized into Integrated Review Groups (IRGs). Each IRG represents a cluster of study sections around a general scientific area. Applications generally are assigned first to an IRG, and then to a specific study section within that IRG for evaluation of scientific merit.

A list of the IRGs is presented below. Each abbreviation serves as a link to a brief description of the IRG and a list of study sections within that IRG. For each of the IRG's study sections, a general description, specific research areas covered, and shared interests with other study sections (review groups) and IRGs are given. This information is intended to provide information to applicants about the review groups within CSR that evaluate most of the unsolicited grant applications submitted to the National Institute of Health (NIH).

Click on an individual IRG below to view a listing of all study sections and abbreviations, names of the Scientific Review Officers (SROs), and meeting rosters can be found at <http://public.csr.nih.gov/RosterAndMeetings/>.

The study sections within the various IRGs mainly review research project grant applications and a few Research Career Award applications. Most National Research Service Award individual fellowship applications (NRSA) are reviewed in special study sections that are designated for these reviews.

CSR Integrated Review Groups

- [AIDS and Related Research IRG \[AARR\]](#)
- [Biobehavioral and Behavioral Processes IRG \[BBBP\]](#)
- [Biological Chemistry and Macromolecular Biophysics IRG \[BCHB\]](#)
- [Biology of Development and Aging IRG \[BDA\]](#)
- [Brain Disorders and Clinical Neuroscience IRG \[BDON\]](#)
- [Bioengineering Sciences and Technologies IRG \[BST\]](#)
- [Cell Biology IRG \[CB\]](#)

Policy Changes

- [New Due Dates for 501R/STTR Grant Applications](#)
- [Simplifying the NIH Policy for Late Application Submission](#)
- [New Bio-Sketch Format for Applications Submitted for Due Dates on or After May 25, 2015](#)
- [NIH Modification to Guidance on Marking Changes in Resubmission Applications](#)
- [More ...](#)

FAQs

- [For Applicants](#)
- [For Reviewers](#)

Integrated Review Group

Help Your Application Get to the Right Study Section

The screenshot shows the NIH Center for Scientific Review website. The header includes the NIH logo, the text "Center for Scientific Review", and navigation links: "NIH Program Resources | Staff Directory | Contact | Press Kit". A search bar is located below the header. The main navigation menu is green and includes links for "About CSR", "Applicant Resources", "Reviewer Resources", "Study Sections", "Rosters and Meetings", and "Employment". Below this, a secondary menu highlights "Integrated Review Groups" and includes links for "Standing", "Small Business and Technology Transfer", "Fellowship", and "Special Emphasis". The main content area is titled "Integrated Review Groups > AIDS and Related Research IRG [AARR] > AIDS Clinical Studies and Epidemiology Study Section [ACE]". It features a "Share!" button with social media icons. The text describes the ACE Study Section's focus on clinical and epidemiological aspects of HIV/AIDS. Below this, there are sections for "Rosters" (with links to "ACE Membership Roster" and "ACE Meeting Rosters") and "Topics". The "Topics" section lists several research areas, including natural history and cohort studies, transmission and prevention measures, clinical studies for diagnosis and treatment, metabolic and cardiovascular consequences of HAART, mother-to-child transmission, and development of biostatistical tools. To the right of the main content, there are two sidebars: "Policy Changes" with links to "New Due Dates for SBIR/STTR Grant Applications", "Simplifying the NIH Policy for Late Application Submission", "New Bio-Sketch Format for Applications Submitted for Due Dates on or After May 25, 2015", and "NIH Modification to Guidance on Marking Changes in Resubmission Applications"; and "FAQs" with links for "For Applicants" and "For Reviewers".

NIH Center for Scientific Review

NIH Program Resources | Staff Directory | Contact | Press Kit

Search this site...

About CSR Applicant Resources Reviewer Resources Study Sections Rosters and Meetings Employment

Integrated Review Groups Standing Small Business and Technology Transfer Fellowship Special Emphasis

Integrated Review Groups > AIDS and Related Research IRG [AARR] > AIDS Clinical Studies and Epidemiology Study Section [ACE]

AIDS Clinical Studies and Epidemiology Study Section [ACE]

The AIDS Clinical Studies and Epidemiology [ACE] Study Section reviews applications dealing with clinical and epidemiological aspects of HIV/AIDS and associated diseases in United States and international settings.

Rosters

ACE Membership Roster ACE Meeting Rosters

Topics

- Natural history and cohort studies, incidence and prevalence of AIDS and clinical ramifications of opportunistic infections and infectious diseases such as TB, malaria, IRIS and hepatitis
- Transmission, prevention measures, and long-term management of symptoms and disease of HIV infection in defined cohorts
- Clinical studies that address diagnosis and treatment of HIV/AIDS and associated complications and disease progression in children and adults.
- Metabolic, pulmonary and cardiovascular consequences of HAART in aging HIV/AIDS populations.
- Mother to child transmission/prevention in resource poor countries.
- Clinical studies to evaluate the effectiveness of new diagnostics
- Development of biostatistical tools for AIDS clinical trials including mathematical modeling of viral infection, transmission, and disease progression.

Policy Changes

- New Due Dates for SBIR/STTR Grant Applications
- Simplifying the NIH Policy for Late Application Submission
- New Bio-Sketch Format for Applications Submitted for Due Dates on or After May 25, 2015
- NIH Modification to Guidance on Marking Changes in Resubmission Applications
- More ...

FAQs

- For Applicants
- For Reviewers

Study Section

CSR Web Site

- About CSR
- Applicant Resources
- Study Sections
- Rosters and Meetings



<http://www.csr.nih.gov>

**Help Get Your Application to the
Right Institute and Study Section**

Submit a Cover Letter!



Center for
Scientific Review

Cover Letter

The cover letter should be used for a number of important purposes:

- Suggest Institute/Center assignment
- Suggest review group assignment
- Identify individuals in potential conflict and explain why
- Identify areas of expertise needed to evaluate the application
- Discuss any special situations

It is NOT appropriate to use the cover letter to suggest specific reviewers.

<http://www.csr.nih.gov/coverletter>

Suggested Cover Letter Format

- Present one request per line
- Separate positive and negative requests
- Separate IC and review requests
- Include name of IC and SRG followed by dash and acronym; do not use parentheses
- Provide explanation in separate paragraph

Sample Cover Letter

Please assign this Phase I SBIR “Drugs for Retinoblastoma Treatment” (RFA-CS-00-000) to the following:

Institutes/Centers

National Cancer Institute

National Eye Institute

Scientific Review Group

Cancer Drug Development & Therapeutics

Please do not assign this application to the following:

Scientific Review Group

Biological Chemistry, Biophysics, and Drug
Discovery

This study focuses on a new in vitro model for testing drugs for treatment of retinoblastoma, not the synthesis of new chemotherapeutic agents.

Assignment to CSR Study Sections

Within an IRG, applications are assigned to:

Standing Study Sections

- When subject matter of application matches the referral guidelines for the study section or

Special Emphasis Panels (SEPs)

- When the subject matter does not fit into any study section
- When assignment of an application to the most appropriate study section creates a conflict of interest
- When certain types of grants are sought (e.g., fellowships, SBIRs, AREAS)

Applications Are Assigned to:

- **Institutes or Centers based on—**
 - Overall mission and guidelines of the Institute or Center
 - Specific programmatic mandates and interests of the Institute or Center
 - Dual assignments are made where applications are appropriate for more than one Institute or Center.
- **Integrated Review Groups based on—**
 - Specific review guidelines for each Integrated Review Group (IRG)

Your Application Could Be Reviewed Electronically

Electronic reviews are used to facilitate reviewer participation

Electronic Review Platforms

- Telephone Assisted Meetings
- Internet Assisted Meetings
- Video Assisted Meetings



CSR Study Sections: The Meeting



- Each CSR standing Study Section has ~12-22 regular members plus temporary reviewers from the scientific community
- About 70 applications are usually reviewed by each study section in 1-2 day meetings

Before the Study Section Meeting

- Each application is assigned to 3 or more reviewers 5-6 weeks in advance
- Reviewers assess each application by providing:
 - A preliminary Overall Impact score
 - Criterion Scores for each of the 5 Core Review Criteria
 - A written critique

How Reviewers Are Selected for Study Section Service

- Demonstrated scientific expertise/research support
- Doctoral degree or equivalent
- Mature judgment
- Work effectively in a group context
- Breadth of perspective
- Impartiality
- Representation of women and minority scientists
- Geographic distribution

Where Do We Find Reviewers?

- CSR electronic resources
- Successful applicants
- Recommendations from reviewers and NIH staff
- NIH RePORTER
(<http://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter.cfm>)
- Internet
- Scientific conferences

The SRO Assigns at Least Three Reviewers to an Application



Reviewer Conflicts of Interest (COI)

What Constitutes a Reviewer COI?

- Institutional
- Family member/close friend
- Collaborator
- Longstanding scientific disagreement
- Personal bias
- Appearance of conflict

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/peer_coi.htm

Confidentiality

- Review materials and proceedings of review meetings represent privileged information for reviewers and NIH staff.
- At the end of each meeting, reviewers must destroy or return all review-related material.
- Reviewers should not discuss review proceedings with anyone except the SRO.
- Questions concerning review proceedings should be referred to the SRO.
- Applicants should never communicate directly with any members of the study section about an application.

The Study Section Meeting

- Closed Meeting
- Orientation
 - Conflict of Interest
 - Confidentiality
 - Developments of interest to the study section
 - Changes in policy or procedure
 - Roles of the persons present
 - Chair and other Reviewers
 - Program Officers (Observers)
 - SRO
- Application by Application review

Your Scientific Review Officer



During and After the Review Meeting

- Manages the meeting
- Prepares summary statements
- Provides information to NIH Institutes and Centers

Role of Study Section Chair

- Partners with their Scientific Review Officer to conduct the meeting
- Guides and summarizes study section discussion
- Ensures all study section member opinions are given careful consideration
- Manages scientific discussions at the meeting, e.g., timeliness and thoroughness

At The Meeting

Order of Review

- The average of the preliminary Overall Impact score from the assigned reviewers determines the review order
- Discussions start with the application with the best average preliminary Overall Impact score

Clustering of Review

- New Investigator R01 applications are clustered
- Clinical applications & other mechanisms may be clustered ($n \geq 20$)

Not Discussed Applications

- About half the applications will be discussed
- Applications unanimously judged by the review committee to be in the lower half are not discussed

New and Early Stage Investigators

- New Investigator (NI)
 - PD/PI who has not yet competed successfully for an R01 or other substantial NIH research grant
- Early Stage Investigator (ESI)
 - PD/PI who qualifies as a New Investigator AND is within 10 years of completing the terminal research degree or is within 10 years of completing medical residency

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/new_investigators/

Review of Each Application

- Reviewers with conflicts leave room
- Assigned reviewers state preliminary scores
- Discussion of scientific and technical merit
 - Based on the 5 review criteria
 - Assigned reviewers first then open discussion to whole committee
- Discussion of Protection of Human Subjects and Inclusion criteria
- Assigned reviewers state final score – range of scores is set
- Every eligible member scores each application
- Budget and Administrative concerns
- Ideal time for each application - 15 to 20 minutes

Additional Criteria Contribute to Overall Impact Scores

- Protections for human subjects
- Inclusions of women, minorities, and children
- Appropriate use of vertebrate animals
- Management of biohazards

Research Involving Children

Children must be considered for inclusion in all human subject research supported by NIH

- Child is defined as an individual under age 18
- If children are included, Investigator must address:
 - age range
 - expertise of investigative team
 - facilities
 - sufficient numbers
- If children are not included, must justify exclusion

Inclusion of Women and Minorities

Proposed clinical research must include:

- Plans for the inclusion of minorities and members of both genders, as well as the inclusion of children.

or

- A clear and compelling justification indicating that inclusion is inappropriate due to the health of the subjects or the purpose of the research.

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/women_min/women_min.htm

Vertebrate Animal Welfare

Important Considerations

- Proposed use of the animals, and species, strains, ages, sex, and numbers to be used
- Justifications for the use of animals and for the appropriateness of the species and numbers proposed
- Adequacy of veterinary care
- Procedures for limiting discomfort, distress, pain and injury
- Euthanasia in accord with American Veterinary Medical Association guidelines

Scoring

9-point score scale is used to provide:

- Criterion Scores for each of the 5 core review criteria
- Overall Impact/Priority Score based on but not a sum of the core criterion scores plus additional criteria

All applications receive scores:

- Not discussed applications will receive only initial criterion scores from the three assigned reviewers.
- Discussed applications also receive an averaged overall impact score from eligible (i.e., without conflicts of interest) panel members.

Scoring

- Score applications on five core criteria using a scale of 1-9
- Preliminary overall impact/priority score using 1-9 scale
- Discussed applications receive an overall score from each eligible (i.e., without conflicts of interest) panel member, and these scores will be averaged to one decimal place, and multiplied by 10. The 81 possible priority scores will thus range from 10-90.
- All applications will receive scores:
Not discussed applications will receive initial criterion scores from the three assigned reviewers.

Review Criteria

- Overall Impact
 - Assessment of the likelihood for the project to *exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved*
- Core Review Criteria
 - Significance
 - Investigator(s)
 - Innovation
 - Approach
 - Environment

Review criteria each scored from 1-9

9-Point Scoring Scale

Impact	Score	Descriptor
High Impact	1	Exceptional
	2	Outstanding
	3	Excellent
Medium Impact	4	Very Good
	5	Good
	6	Satisfactory
Low Impact	7	Fair
	8	Marginal
	9	Poor

Scoring Philosophy

Overall Impact:

The likelihood for a project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on research field(s) involved

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

Evaluating Overall Impact:

Consider the 5 criteria: significance, investigator, innovation, approach, environment (weighted based on reviewer's judgment) and other score influences (e.g. human subjects)

e.g. Applications are addressing a problem of high importance/interest in the field. May have some or no technical weaknesses.

e.g. Applications may be addressing a problem of high importance in the field, but weaknesses in the criteria bring down the overall impact to medium.

e.g. Applications may be addressing a problem of moderate importance in the field, with some or no technical weaknesses

e.g. Applications may be addressing a problem of moderate/high importance in the field, but weaknesses in the criteria bring down the overall impact to low.

e.g. Applications may be addressing a problem of low or no importance in the field, with some or no technical weaknesses.

5 is a good medium-impact application, and the entire scale (1-9) should always be considered.



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Priority Scores



- For each study section, applications in the upper half may be scored from 1-9, with 1 the best score.
- Individual scores are averaged and multiplied by 10 to give the final priority score



Center for
Scientific Review

After Your Review



Your SRO

- Prepares summary statements
- Provides information to NIH Institutes and Centers

Your Summary Statement

- Scores for each review criterion
- Critiques from assigned reviewers
- Administrative notes if any



If your application is discussed, you also will receive:

- An overall impact/priority score and percentile ranking
- A summary of review discussion
- Budget recommendations

Summary Statement

Program Officer

PROGRAM CONTACT:
 BARBARA CROFT PH.D.
 301 496-9531
 erastage@mail.nih.gov

SUMMARY STATEMENT
 (Privileged Communication)

Release Date: 04/04/2008
 Revised Date: 01/06/2009

Application Number: _____

Principal Investigator
 [_____]

Applicant Organization:
 Review Group: GCMB
 Gastrointestinal Cell and Molecular Biology Study Section

Meeting Date: 03/24/2008 RFA/PA: PA01-295
 Council: MAY 2008 PCC: 2A
 Requested Start: 07/01/2008

Project Title: _____

SRG Action: Impact/Priority Score: 20
 Human Subjects: 10-No human subjects involved
 Animal Subjects: 10-No live vertebrate animals involved for competing appl.

Project Year	Direct Costs Requested
1	250,000
2	250,000
3	250,000
4	250,000
5	250,000
TOTAL	1,250,000

Percentile: 29

Estimated Total Cost
291,200
291,200
291,200
291,200
291,200
1,456,000

 Impact/Priority Score
10-90 range

 Percentile in
whole numbers

 Indicator for Early
Stage
Investigators

Check the Status of Your Application in NIH Commons

Status Information

Status

General Grant Information

Status:

Scientific Review Group review pending. Refer any questions to the Scientific Review Administrator.

Institution Name:

School Name:

School Category:

Division Name:

Department Name:

PI Name:

Application ID:

Proposal Title:

Proposal Receipt Date:

Last Status Update Date:

Current Award Notice Date:

Application Source:

Project Period Begin Date:

Project Period End Date:

eApplication Status:

FOA:

NIH Appl. ID:

Other Relevant Documents

e-Application

Additions for Review (0 documents)

Correspondence

Referral

Date

Description

Status History

Institute or Center Assignment

Effective Date	Status Message	Institute or Center	Assignment
10/21/2013	Application entered into system	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS AND STROKE (Primary)	10/28/2013
		NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS AND STROKE (Primary)	10/21/2013
		NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS AND STROKE (Primary)	10/28/2013

Application Information

Study Section

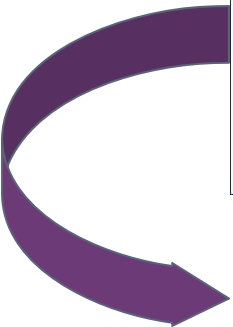
Advisory Council(AC) Information

Award Document Number:	RNS088123A	Scientific Review Group:	ZRG1 MDCN-R (86)
FSR Accepted Code:	N	Council Meeting Date(YYYY/MM):	2014/05
Snap Indicator Code:		Meeting Date:	03/06/2014
Impact Score:		Meeting Time:	08:00
Percentile:		Study Roster:	View Meeting Roster
Early Stage Investigator Eligible:			

Meeting Date

Your Application Was Reviewed What Do You Do Next?

Visit NIH's Next Steps Website



Principal Investigator JOHN LENNON		Application Number: 2 R01 MH12345-06
Applicant Organization: IMAGINE INSTITUTE		
Review Group: MSLG-AAARR-S (d0) Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel		
Meeting Date: Council: OCT 2012 Requested Start: 12/01/2012		RFA/PA: PAR22-123 PCC: B123MS
Project Title: Music to Soothe Anxieties		
SRG Action: Impact Score: 60		
Next Steps: Visit http://grants.nih.gov/grants/next_steps.htm		
Human Subjects: 10-10 human subjects involved		
Animal Subjects: 10-10 live vertebrate animals involved for competing appl.		
Project Year	Direct Costs Requested	Estimated Total Cost
6	1,000,000	2,000,000
7	1,000,000	2,000,000
8	1,016,000	2,300,000
9	1,032,000	2,340,000

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/next_steps.htm

Who Can Answer Your Questions?

Before You Submit Your Application

- A Program Officer at an NIH Institute or Center
- Scientific Review Officer

After You Submit

- Your Scientific Review Officer

After Your Review

- Your Assigned Program Officer

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services



Center for
Scientific Review



Jumpstart Your Career: CSR Early Career Reviewer Program

Early Career Reviewer Program Goals

- Train and educate qualified scientists to become critical and well-trained reviewers
- Expose investigators to the peer review experience to help make them more competitive as applicants
- Enrich the existing pool of NIH reviewers



Qualifications for the Early Career Reviewer Program

- Demonstrated training and experience in the scientific areas under review as evidenced by:
 - A faculty appointment or equivalent
 - An active independent program of research
 - At least 2 senior authored research publications in peer reviewed journals in the past 2 years
- Has not previously served on a CSR Study Section
- Has not been PI on an R01 award

ECR Service

- Attend study section meeting
- Assigned 2-4 applications as 3rd reviewer
- Write full critiques for assigned application
- Participate in one study section meeting

View the Video

Jumpstart Your Research Career with CSR's Early Career Reviewer Program



www.csr.nih.gov/video/video.asp



Center for
Scientific Review

How to Apply for the Early Career Reviewer Program

- Instructions are at www.csr.nih.gov/ECR
- If eligible, your name will be placed into our ECR database
- You will be invited to serve as an ECR when your expertise is needed for particular applications

CSR and NIH Information Sources

NIH Peer Review Information on the Web

National Institutes of Health: <http://www.nih.gov>

- **Office of Extramural Research**
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm>
- **Grants Policy**
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/policy.htm>
- **Electronic Submission**
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/electronicReceipt/index.htm>

Center for Scientific Review: <http://www.csr.nih.gov>

- **Resources for Applicants**
<http://www.csr.nih.gov/ResourcesforApplicants>
- **CSR Study Section Descriptions**
<http://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections>
- **CSR Rosters and Meeting Dates**
<http://public.csr.nih.gov/RosterAndMeetings>

CSR Web Site

- About CSR
- Applicant Resources
- Study Sections
- Rosters and Meetings



<http://www.csr.nih.gov>

Key NIH Review and Grants Web Sites

NIH Center for Scientific Review

<http://www.csr.nih.gov>



NIH Office of Extramural Research

<http://grants.nih.gov/>



The NIH Web Site



<http://www.nih.gov>

Helpful Handouts

Insider's Guide to Peer Review

Insider's Guide to Peer Review for Applicants



NIH Center for Scientific Review

To help new and established applicants submit better applications, CSR asked current and recent study section chairs to share their personal insights on producing a highly competitive NIH grant application. They responded with great enthusiasm.

Don't jump too fast into writing your application: Since the most critical parts are the summary and specific aims sections, write a one-page summary page with specific aims first and share it with someone who is experienced, has their own funding or—ideally—someone who has served on a study section. If you can't view them, start again and use the time you saved to come up with some fresh ideas.

Propose something significant: It is a real turn-off to read an application that is basically a re-hash of a previous project with a new issue. The same goes for "me too" research. Identify an area of current controversy and importance within your field. Make it something that would interest more people than you and your coworkers. Will it be important to clinicians or other investigators? Are you dealing with key questions or controversies in the field?

Good ideas don't always sell themselves: Tell me why it's important up front in the background section, and I'll be ready to roll. Tell me what's known and what isn't known and how, after you complete your studies, you'll move the field forward or answer important questions. A lot of people rarely are unaware of how absolutely important it is to tell the reviewer from the beginning why it's worth doing. If you're seeking an incremental advance over what's known, it's essential to justify it.



What Happens to Your Grant Application

What Happens to Your Grant Application
A Primer for New Applicants

The Center for Scientific Review (CSR) receives all NIH and some other Public Health Service grant applications. Most investigator-initiated applications for NIH funds are referred to CSR review groups.

Your application is assigned to a review group and an NIH Institute or Center

One or more CSR Review Officers examine your application and determine the most appropriate Integrated Review Group (IRG) to assess its scientific and technical merit. Your application is then assigned to one of the IRG's study sections. A study section typically includes 10 or more scientists from the community of productive researchers. Your application also will be assigned to the NIH Institute or Center (IC) best suited to fund your application should it have sufficient merit. When the IC has no assigned reviewers.

Review Officers follow established guidelines that define the review outcomes of each study section. These guidelines frequently overlap, and more than one study section may have the expertise to review your application. You may request to a cover note with your application for the assigned to a particular study section or IC. The CSR referral office seriously considers such requests.

The continued expertise of the scientists in a study section is intended to span the breadth and diversity of the science it covers. CSR has several temporary reviewers or assigns that review with the CSR Review Officers to help them review from outside consultants.

Checking the status of your application

As soon as your application is received and assigned to a study section, notices are posted to your online NIH Commons account. Information on the Commons and how to register is available at <http://commons.nih.gov/commons>. You may search either your study section or IC assignment by contacting the Scientific Review Office (SRO) (previously called Scientific Review Administration (SRA)) within the NIH Institute or Center referral office (202-426-9170). It usually takes weeks to enter the thousands of applications submitted each month. If a notice is not posted in your Commons account within 2 weeks of the submission date, you should contact the referral office.

Reviewers are identified


Your SRO will assign the content of your application, check for completeness, and decide which reviewers can best evaluate it. Reviewers receive a copy of your application approximately 6 weeks before their meeting. Each application is assigned to two reviewers, one at least one of them provides written critiques. These assigned reviewers lead the discussion at the meeting.

Because of the multi-month period between submission and review, applicants often wish to submit additional materials. Before you do, you should contact your SRO to see if that is possible and what kinds of limitations apply.



NIH Grant Application Useful Web Links

NIH Grant Application Submission and Review Useful Web Links




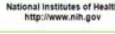

Center for Scientific Review == <http://www.csr.nih.gov> == 301-425-1115

- **NIH Peer Review Revealed Video**
<http://www.csr.nih.gov/video/review.asp>
- **CSR's Early Career Reviewer Program**
<http://www.csr.nih.gov/ECR>
- **The Peer Review Process**
<http://www.csr.nih.gov/ApplicantsandReviewers/ThePeerReviewProcess>
- **Insider's Guide to Peer Review for Applicants**
<http://www.csr.nih.gov/ApplicantsandReviewers/InsidersGuide>
- **CSR Study Section Information—Descriptions, Reviews, Meeting Dates, etc.**
<http://public.csr.nih.gov/studysections>
- **More Helpful Web Links**
<http://www.csr.nih.gov/links>

NIH Office of Extramural Research == <http://www.grants.nih.gov>

- **Overview of the NIH Grants Process**
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/grants_process.htm
- **NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts**
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/grants/index.htm>
- **Writing Your Application**
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/writing_application.htm
- **Extramural Training Opportunities**
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/extramural.htm>

The CSR/ GrantsInfo service provides information and answers to general questions on funding opportunities and grant applications, instructions, and policies. grantsinfo@grants.nih.gov or phone 301-425-3774.

National Institutes of Health
<http://www.nih.gov>

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<http://www.csr.nih.gov/publications/>

NIH Guide

For Grants and Contracts

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

- Announces NIH Scientific Initiatives
- Provides NIH Policy and Administrative Information
- Supplies links to application forms
- Available on the NIH Web Site: <http://www.nih.gov>

A Window to Your Application: eRA Commons

eRA Commons is an online interface where a grant applicant can:

- Check submitted grant application for errors and warnings and view final image
- Track review assignment, view review outcomes (score, summary statements), find contact info
- Update Personal Profile to ensure Early Stage Investigator eligibility is in place
- Submit pre-award information (just in time)
- View Notice of Award and other key documents

And much more!

<https://commons.era.nih.gov/commons/>

NIH Encourages Applicants to Describe their Research in Terms Easily Understood by Reviewers, Scientists, Congress and the Public

Titles, statements of public health relevance & abstracts should:

- Convey value of research in plain language
- Be understandable by both scientists and the public
- Clearly relay the potential impact of the research on health

The public accesses funded NIH grant info through

<http://ProjectRePORTER.NIH.gov>

Examples and more info:

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/plain_language.htm

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NIH's Resubmission Policy

After an unsuccessful new (A0) application or an unsuccessful resubmission (A1) application, you may submit a new (A0) application with the same idea as long as your summary statement has been issued.

NIH Guide Notices

- [NOT-OD-14-074](#)
- [NOT-OD-14-082](#)

Resubmission FAQs

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/resubmission_q&a.htm



View the Videos



- **NIH Peer Review Revealed**
- **Jumpstart Your Research Career with CSR's Early Career Reviewer Program**
- **NIH Tips for Applicants**
- **What Happens to Your NIH Grant Application**

<http://www.csr.nih.gov/video/video.asp>

Meet the Experts in NIH Peer Review Webinars



For Researchers Seeking:

- R01 Grants
- Fellowship Awards
- AREA/R15 Grants
- Small Business Grants

www.csr.nih.gov/webinar