National Institute on Aging

“NIA 101”
The grant application process

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Agenda

• Welcome to the National Institutes of Health
• National Institute on Aging – Aging Matters
• Your Application: Submission to award
• Funding Opportunities with the NIA – for junior and not-so junior faculty
FY16 Budget Status –
Funding Increases Across the Board

$32 Billion for the NIH

$200M for PMI

$85M for BRAIN

$350M for AD

• $1.6B for the NIA
• ∼4 percent increases across all ICs (not counting the $$ above) – 4.2% for the NIA
• All divisions will benefit
  ➢ DBSR
  ➢ DAB
  ➢ DGCG
  ➢ DN
What does 30+ billion dollars support?

Extramural Program (~80%)
- 50,000 competitive applications
- 300,000 researchers at
- 2500 universities, medical schools and other research facilities in every state and around the world

NIH Intramural Program (~20%)
- 6000 scientists at the NIH
- 4000 postdoctoral fellows
NIA Mission

Established in 1974 to:

• **Support and conduct research** on:
  - aging processes
  - age-related diseases
  - special problems and needs of the aged

• **Train** and develop research scientists

• **Provide** research resources

• **Disseminate information** on health and research advances
YOUNG CHILDREN AND OLDER PEOPLE AS A PERCENTAGE OF GLOBAL POPULATION

PROJECTED INCREASE IN GLOBAL POPULATION BETWEEN 2005 AND 2030, BY AGE

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• Introduction to the National Institutes of Health
• National Institute on Aging – Aging Matters
• **Your application: Submission to Award**
  • **Pre-submission**
    • Preparing your application
    • Submission and Receipt
    • Review and Award
• Funding Opportunities with the NIA – for junior and not-so junior faculty
Pre-Submission / Submission Process

Electronic Application Process

1. Prepare to Apply & Register
   - Register with Grants.gov & eRA Commons

2. Find Opportunity
   - Submit in response to F0A

3. Prepare Application
   - Follow Application Guide & Instructions

4. Submit, Track & View
   - Submit via your organization
   - Use error correction window (Before the deadline)
   - Use eRA Commons to track

NIH
National Institute on Aging
Tips for Pre-submission / Submission Success

Tip #1: Start early!

Determine which Institute or Center might be appropriate for your research

- Read IC Mission Statements
- Talk with your mentors
- Contact IC Program Officer(s)
- Determine the appropriate mechanism and F0A for your research
Tip #2: Read the FOA

Not all ICs participate in all funding opportunities
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm

Submission requirements and deadlines vary

Training and Career Development Awards have specific eligibility requirements https://researchtraining.nih.gov/
Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs)

FOAs:

- Are publicly available documents in which a Federal agency announces its intentions to award grants or cooperative agreements, usually via a competition for funds.

- FOAs include information to help applicants determine whether to apply.

- All applications must be submitted in response to a FOA.

- NIH FOAs primarily fall into the categories of
  - Program Announcements (PAs, e.g. PARs PASs)
  - Request for Applications (RFAs)
  - Parent Announcements.
NIH FOAs

RFAs
• Focus on a particular topic, single submission date, usually about three months’ notice, special review group, set-aside money

PASs
• Broader focus than RFA, multiple submission dates, regular review groups, set-aside money

PARs
• Broader focus than RFA, multiple submission dates, special review group, sometimes set-aside money
PAR with the LONGEST TITLE!

**PAR-15-175** Phenotypic and Functional Studies on FOXO3 Human Longevity Variants to Inform Potential Therapeutic Target Identification Research (R01)
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Preparing your application…

- Read application instructions
- Never assume that reviewers will know what you mean—best applications educate the reviewer
- Refer to pertinent literature
- State rationale of proposed investigation
- Pay attention to:
  - **Formatting**: Margins, font type, font size, line spacing, legible figures / monographs / tables
  - **Page limits**: 1+6/12 (fellowships/career awards)
  - **Other limits**: Biosketch, mentors letters, etc.
- Present an organized write-up, limit jargon
- Pre-review with colleagues at your organization

NIH Grant Writing Tips:  
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/grant_tips.htm
Where can I find help?

- Sponsored research office at your Institution
- Colleagues at your Institution
- Mentor(s)
- Networks and networking
- NIH Extramural staff
NIH Extramural Team:

Program

- Before submission
- After review
- Yearly progress report

Review

- After submission

Grants Management

- Preparation for award
- Notice of Award

(PO) (SRO)

(Grants specialist)
SO….

For successful application submission:

• Start Early

• Read F0A – Know what you are applying for

• Get help early and often

• Write the application, then press.....

SEND!
SUBMIT…
Now what Happens to Your Application?
National Institutes of Health

Center for Scientific Review

Assigns to IRG/Study Section & IC

Study Section

Evaluates for Scientific Merit

Institute

Evaluates for Program Relevance

Advisory Councils and Boards

Recommends Action

Institute Director

Takes final action for NIH Director

Your application
Division of Receipt and Referral (DRR)

A division of CSR
Processes ~80,000 applications per fiscal year to:

• Check for completeness
• Determine area of research
• Assign applications to specific NIH Institutes or Center for possible funding
• Assign an identification number
• Assign an application to a Review Group
PHS Assignment Request Form

To be used with applications for due dates on or after May 25, 2016 to:

- request assignment to an institute/center for funding consideration
- request assignment to a particular study section for initial peer review
- identify individuals they do not think should review their application
- identify scientific areas of expertise needed to review their application
Check your NIH eRA Commons account often.

- E-application documents
- Application number
- Locus of review – CSR or IC study section
- Review roster (30 days prior to review)
- Assigned Program Officer
- IC Assignment(s)
- Impact Score (~3 days following the review)
- Summary Statement (4-8 weeks following the review)

https://public.era.nih.gov
In summary:

Help your grant get to the right place for review and funding by:

- Contacting your assigned Program Officer
- Using a PHS Assignment Request Form
- Checking your eRA Commons account
Peer Review
NIH Peer Review Revealed

NIA Standing Review Committees

- **NIA-B (Aging Biology)**
  SRO: Bita Nakhai, Ph.D.
  - Career Development Awards (K01, K02, K07, K08, K23, K24, K25, K99/R00)
  - Dissertation Awards (R36)
  - Clinical Trials (R01, R34)
  - Conferences & Scientific Meetings (R13/U13)
  - Multi-site Grants
  - Some RFAs

- **NIA-N (Neuroscience)**
  SRO: Jeanette Johnson, Ph.D.
  - Career Development Awards (K01, K02, K07, K08, K23, K24, K25, K99/R00)
  - Dissertation Awards (R36)
  - Clinical Trials (R01, R34)
  - Conferences & Scientific Meetings (R13/U13)
  - Multi-site Grants
  - Some RFAs

- **NIA-C (Clinical Aging)**
  SRO: Alicja Markowska, Ph.D., D.Sc.
  - Career Development Awards (K01, K02, K07, K08, K23, K24, K25, K99/R00)
  - Dissertation Awards (R36)
  - Clinical Trials (R01, R34)
  - Conferences & Scientific Meetings (R13/U13)
  - Multi-site Grants
  - Some RFAs

- **NIA-S (Social and Behavioral)**
  SRO: Kimberley Firth, Ph.D.
  - Career Development Awards (K01, K02, K07, K08, K23, K24, K25, K99/R00)
  - Dissertation Awards (R36)
  - Clinical Trials (R01, R34)
  - Conferences & Scientific Meetings (R13/U13)
  - Multi-site Grants
  - Some RFAs
Standing Committees vs. SEPS

Special Emphasis Panels (SEPs) are constituted specifically to review applications that have been received in response to

• an RFA or
• Other Institute specific grant mechanisms (e.g. P01, Center Grants, Training Grants).
• Reviewers are recruited typically for a single meeting.

The NIA SRB runs over 100 SEPS per year.
Early Stage Investigators

NIH created a new ‘Early Stage Investigator’ (ESI) category designed to accelerate the early transition of new scientists to research independence by receiving their first R01 earlier.


A Program Director/Principal Investigator who qualifies as a New Investigator is considered an Early Stage Investigator (ESI) if he/she is within 10 years of completing his/her terminal research degree or is within 10 years of completing medical residency (or the equivalent).
A Program Director or Principal Investigator (PD/PI) is considered a New Investigator if he/she has not previously competed successfully as a PD/PI for a “significant independent” NIH research grant (like an R01).
Where can I find more information?

- **Applicant registration:**
  

  NIH eRA Commons [https://public.era.nih.gov](https://public.era.nih.gov)

- **Mission statements IC priorities funding** NIA website [http://www.nia.nih.gov](http://www.nia.nih.gov)

- **Application receipt and review, review rosters:**

  Center for Scientific Review [http://public.csr.nih.gov/Pages/default.aspx](http://public.csr.nih.gov/Pages/default.aspx)


- **Finding Funded Research:** [http://RePORT.NIH.Gov](http://RePORT.NIH.Gov)

- **General information for new applicants:**

- **NIH Office for Intramural Training and Education** [https://www.training.nih.gov](https://www.training.nih.gov)
Finding Funded Research:  http://RePORT.NIH.Gov

RePORT & RePORTER (Formally known as CRISP)

• Quick access to “Frequently Requested Reports” (e.g. Funding by State, Funding by Award Mechanism, etc.)
• Efficient search tools for locating data and reports
• Links to funding estimates for certain research areas, conditions, & diseases.
• Includes ARRA-specific data queries
For: grantees, grantseekers, trainees

Posts about: grantsmanship tips, changes in NIA policy, data on past and future funding, research priorities and news, concerns or misconceptions, event announcements

Would You Join the Conversation?

http://www.nia.nih.gov/research/blog
http://www.nia.nih.gov

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QUESTIONS?