

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services



Center for  
Scientific Review

## Demystifying the NIH Peer Review Process

Karyl B. Swartz

Director, Division of AIDS, Behavioral and Population Sciences

NIH Center for Scientific Review

December 14, 2015

## 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

# NIH . . . Turning Discovery Into Health

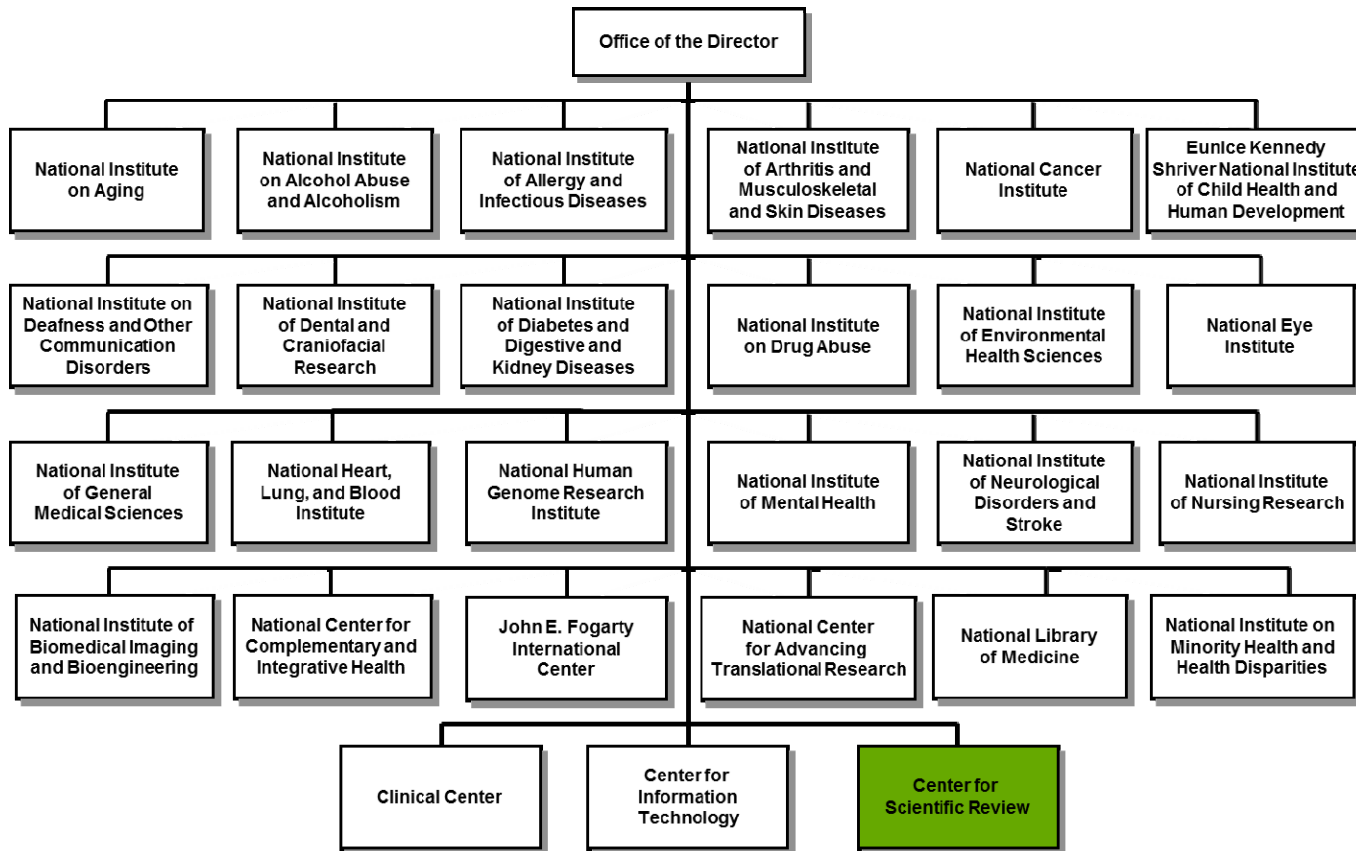


NIH's mission is to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability.

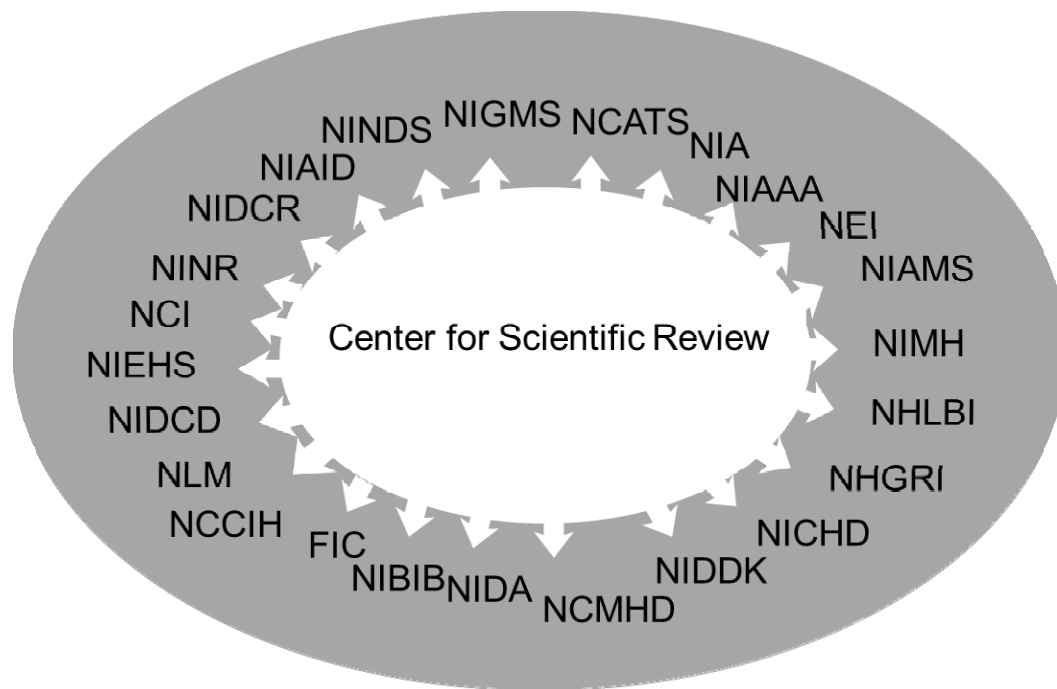
# National Institutes of Health



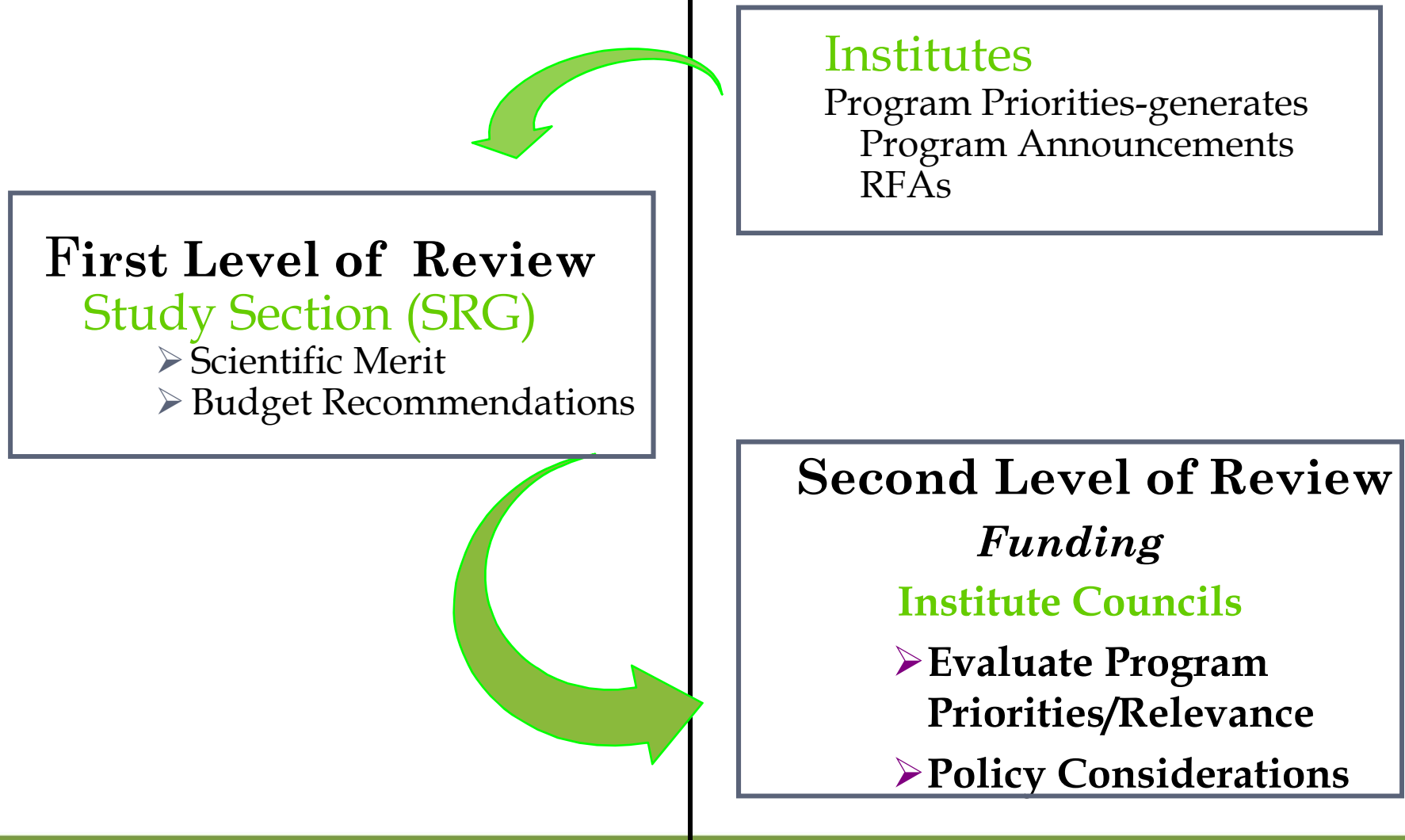
# Your Application Could Be Funded by One of 24 NIH Institutes or Centers



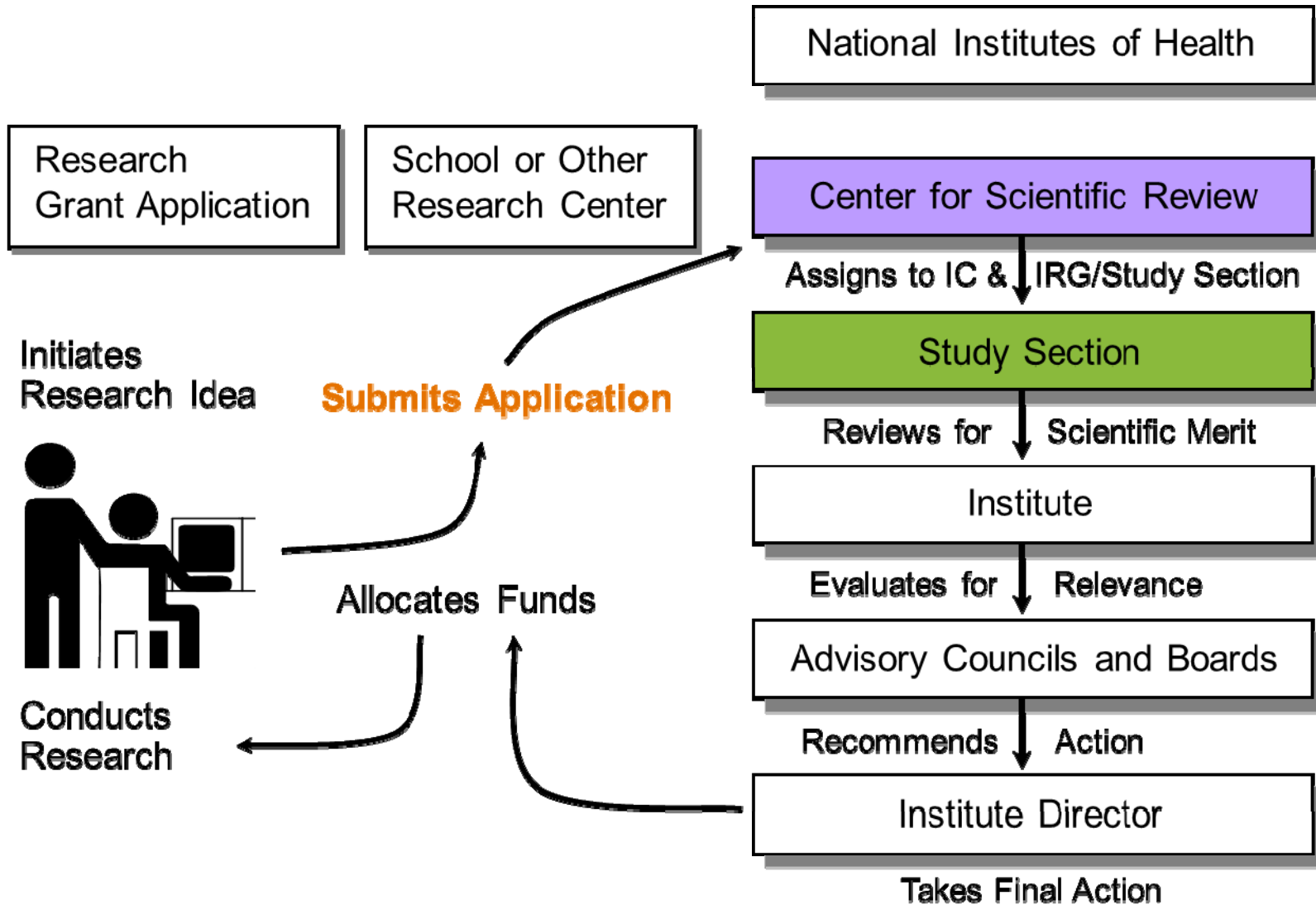
# 24 NIH Institutes and Centers Fund Grants



## Separation of Levels of Review

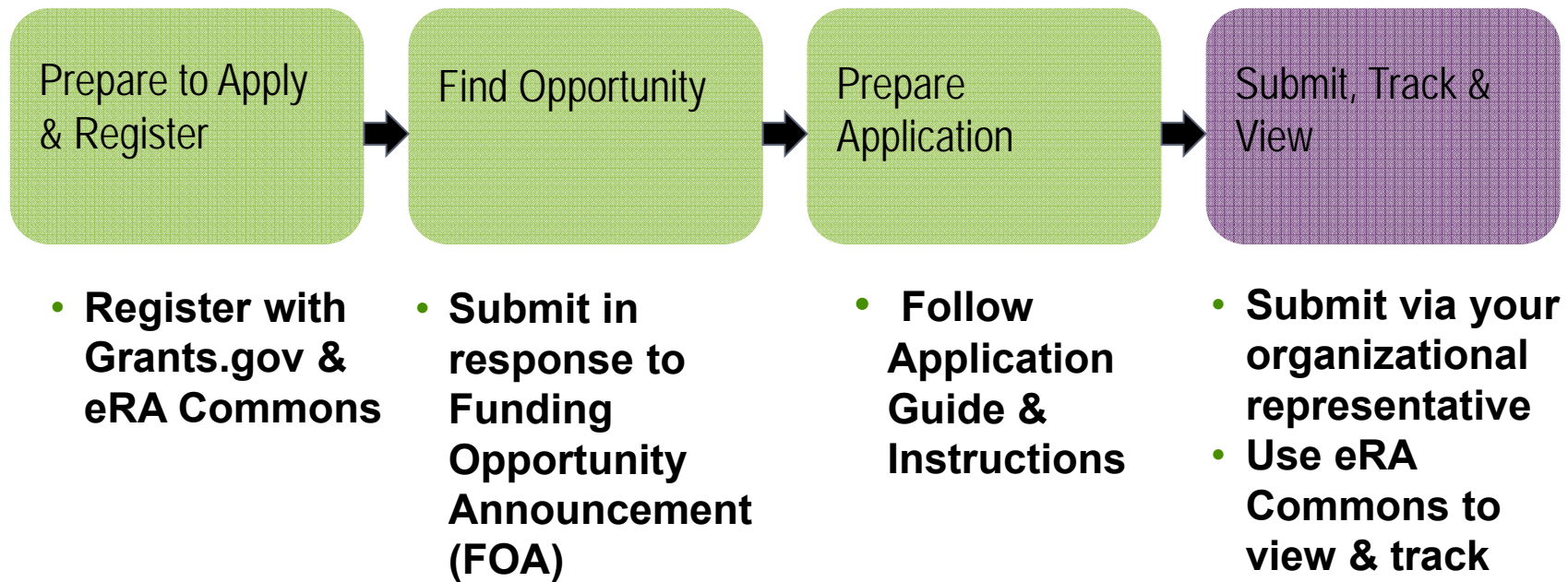


# Review Process for a Research Grant





## 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



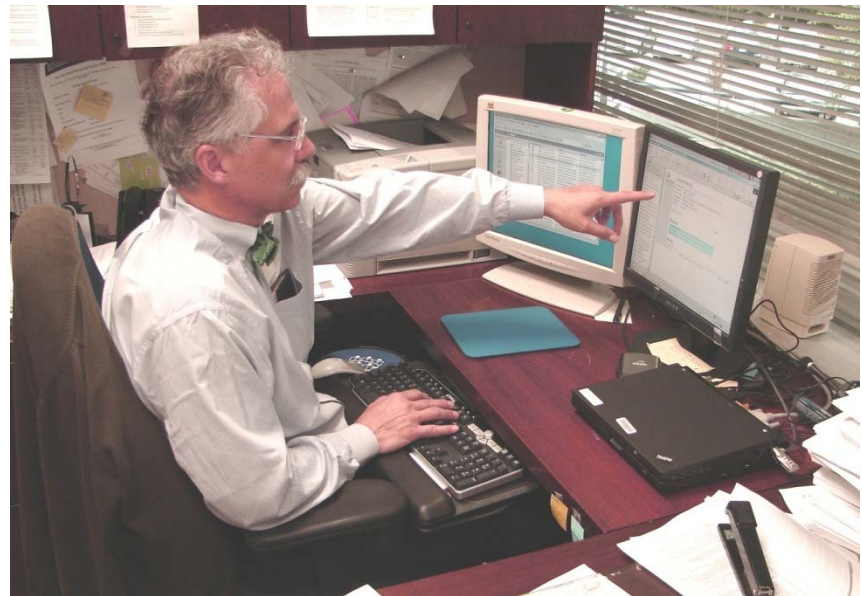
To see that NIH grant applications receive fair, independent, expert, and timely reviews – free from inappropriate influences – so NIH can fund the most promising research.

## 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

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:

Issuing Organization:

Include Participating:

Application Packages:

Released Date:   On or After


Expiration Date:   On or After

Activity Code:

Activity Code Groups:

Include:  Notices  FOAs

Parent Announcements Only:



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.](#)

## Help Your Application Get to the Right Study Section

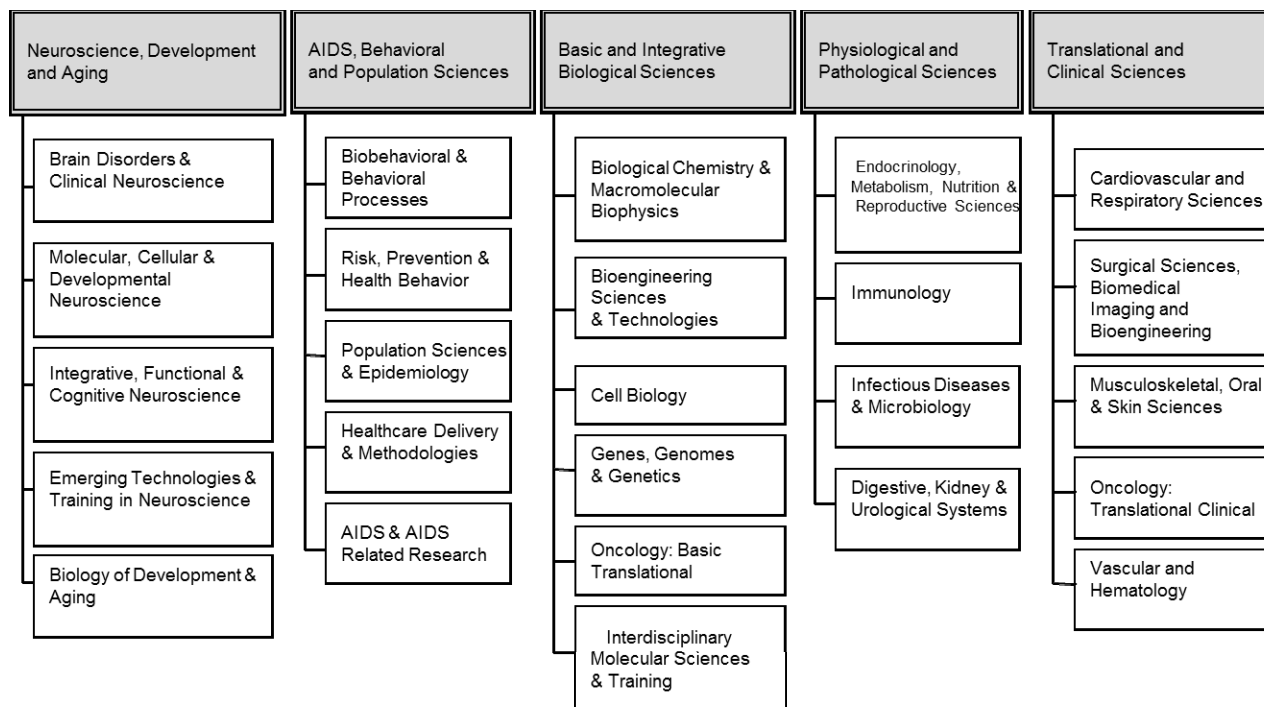


### Find a Study Section

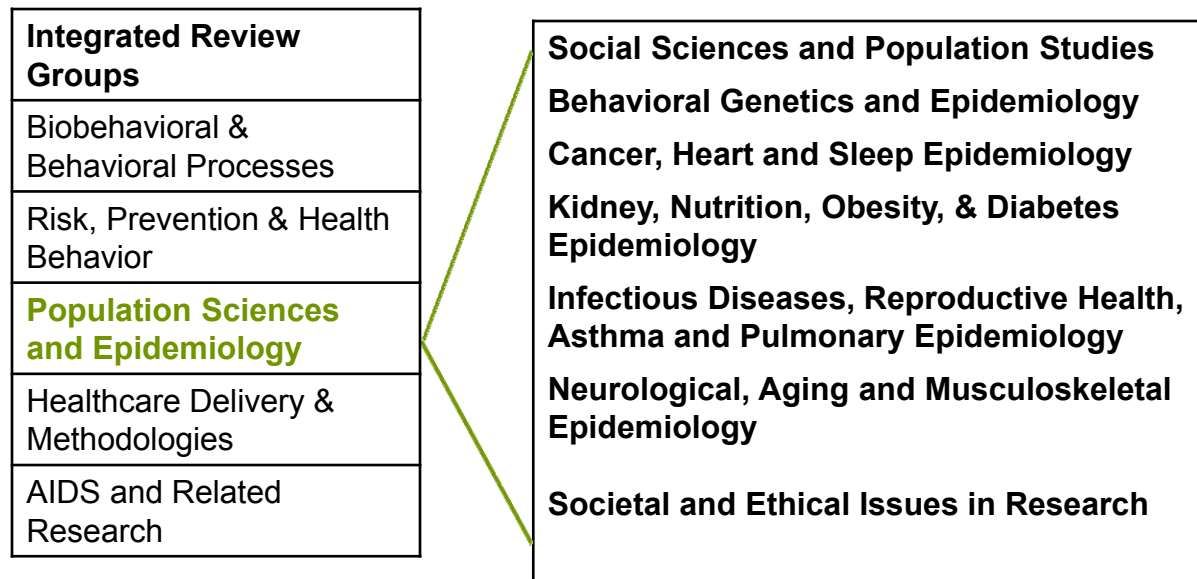
Applications are reviewed in Study Sections (Scientific Review Group, SRG). Integrated Review Groups (IRGs) are clusters of Study Sections based on scientific discipline.

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

# Divisions and Integrated Review Groups (IRGs)



## Division of AIDS, Behavioral and Population Sciences



# 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 for "NIH Program Resources | Staff Directory | Contact | Press Kit". A search bar is located below the header. The main navigation menu includes "About CSR", "Applicant Resources", "Reviewer Resources", "Study Sections", "Rosters and Meetings", and "Employment". The "Study Sections" menu is expanded, showing "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: 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 [BDCN], Bioengineering Sciences and Technologies IRG [BST], and Cell Biology IRG [CB]. There are also sections for "Policy Changes" and "FAQs".

NIH Center for Scientific Review

NIH Program Resources | Staff Directory | Contact | Press Kit

Search this site... Go

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

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

CSR Home > Study Sections > Integrated Review Groups

### 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 \[BDCN\]](#)
- [Bioengineering Sciences and Technologies IRG \[BST\]](#)
- [Cell Biology IRG \[CB\]](#)

#### Policy Changes

- [New Due Dates for SDIR/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

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 SBR/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!**

## 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](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/](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](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

<b>Overall Impact</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>Score</b>	<b>1 2 3</b>	<b>4 5 6</b>	<b>7 8 9</b>

**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.

## 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

## 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

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*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

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*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	Percentile: 29	Estimated Total Cost
1	250,000		291,200
2	250,000		291,200
3	250,000		291,200
4	250,000		291,200
5	250,000		291,200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,250,000</b>		<b>1,456,000</b>

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**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

**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			
<b>General Grant Information</b>		<b>Other Relevant Documents</b>	
Status:	Scientific Review Group review pending. Refer any questions to the Scientific Review Administrator.		<a href="#">e-Application</a>
Institution Name:			<a href="#">Additions for Review (0 documents)</a>
School Name:			
School Category:			
Division Name:	NONE		
Department Name:			
PI Name:			
Application ID:			
Proposal Title:			
Proposal Receipt Date:	10/18/2013		
Last Status Update Date:	10/31/2013		
Current Award Notice Date:			
Application Source:	Grants.gov		
Project Period Begin Date:	08/01/2014		
Project Period End Date:	07/31/2017		
eApplication Status:	Submission Complete		
FOA:	[PA13-313] - Academic Research Enhancement Award (Parent R15)		
NIH Appl. ID:			
<b>Status History</b>		<b>Institute or Center Assignment</b>	
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
<b>Application Information</b>		<b>Study Section</b>	<b>Advisory Council(AC) Information</b>
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:	<a href="#">View Meeting Roster</a>
Early Stage Investigator Eligible:			



# Your Application Was Reviewed What Do You Do Next?

Visit NIH's Next Steps Website

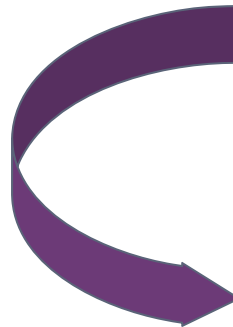
Principal Investigator: JOHN LENNON  
Applicant Organization: IMAGINE INSTITUTE  
Review Group: MSLG-AAARR-S (40)  
Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel

Meeting Date: OCT 2012  
Council: OCT 2012  
Requested Start: 12/01/2012

Application Number: 2 R01 MH12345-06  
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](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/next_steps.htm)  
Human Subjects: 10-No human subjects involved  
Animal Subjects: 10-No 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	2,200,000
8	1,016,000	2,300,000
9	1,032,000	2,340,000



[http://grants.nih.gov/grants/next\\_steps.htm](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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.csr.nih.gov/video/video.asp)

# How to Apply for the Early Career Reviewer Program

- Instructions are at [www.csr.nih.gov/ECR](http://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

## What Happens to Your Grant Application

## NIH Grant Application Useful Web Links

The image displays three handout pages from the NIH Center for Scientific Review. The first page, titled "Insider's Guide to Peer Review for Applicants", provides advice on writing a grant application, such as "Don't jump too fast into writing your application" and "Propose something significant". The second page, "What Happens to Your Grant Application", details the review process, including the role of the Center for Scientific Review (CSR) and the NIH Center for Scientific Review (NICH). The third page, "NIH Grant Application Submission and Review Useful Web Links", lists various resources like "NIH Peer Review Revealed Video" and "NIH Office of Extramural Research".

<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](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](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](http://www.csr.nih.gov/webinar)