NIH Grants and Grant Reviews
Overview

NIH Grant Review Panel Discussion
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Why NIH Funding?

• Largest funder of biomedical/public health research
  – $30 billion in grants per year
  – ~ 50,000 active funded grants per year
  – Longest term and largest grants
  – Indirect cost return to your institution
Why NIH Funding?

• Very competitive
  – Paylines in the 10% range
  • Benefits for New Investigators and Early Career Investigators

NIH Grant Mechanisms

• Strategy
  – Career status
  – Training, mentored, or Independent Investigator
  – Scope of Project

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/grant_basics.htm
Common NIH Mechanisms

Training grants (mentored)

- F31, F32
- T31, T32

- K99/00
- K01
Common NIH Mechanisms

Independent investigators

- R03
- R21
- R34
- R01
- K02
- [R15 (Institutional NIH limit)]
Finding a Funding Opportunity

• Search: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/index.html
• Parent Program Announcements (PA)
• Topic Specific PA
• Requests for Applications (RFA)
• PAR
• PAS

Subscribe to the Friday NIH TOC email listserve.
Talk to the program officer!

- Once you determine possible funding institutes for your research, find a funding opportunity, and have a solid idea for your study, contact the PO to discuss.
Tips

• Have a **compelling, significant** question you can answer with your project

• See what’s been funded before (NIH Reporter)

• Build a great team

• Show that you (and your team) are the person to do this project, and this is the right time to do it.

• Specific Aims must be ‘perfect’

• MUST be significant to have impact, and overall impact is the key score
Tips

• Talk to your institution often and early
  – Budget issues
• Set realistic timelines/deadlines
• Determine what others can do for the application
• Read the PA/RFA carefully, understand it
• At NIH, a solid study design is key. Shortcomings here will kill your significance and thus overall impact.
Multiple PI Option

- Can help to share credit across institutions
- Use if it makes sense
- Have a strong Multiple PI Plan
NIH Review Process

• Request best review panel for your grant
  – Several may be relevant to your research

NIH Review Process

- UWM OSP submits your grant through grants.gov
- Grant sent to review group by CSR
- Assigned to 3 or 4 reviewers in group by SRA, based on expertise
- Reviewed prior to meeting and posted via IAR in ERA Commons and given preliminary scores (criteria, overall)
- Primary, secondary, tertiary
Review Meeting

- Introductions, official language
- Triage (more ESI, NIs allowed through)
- Preliminary scoring – impact score
- Discussion – highlights
- Final Scoring, and scoring by group
NIH Review Criteria

• Overall Impact
• Significance
• Innovation
• Investigator
• Approach
• Environment

By mechanism:

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/critiques/rpg.htm
Resubmit!

• Read reviews several times, don’t take it personally!
• Discuss with mentors/colleagues/team
• Revise, or new submission?
• One page introduction to revised application
• List major criticisms – in summary of discussion
• Respond graciously
Resources

• Links throughout this presentation
• NIAID grant writing tutorials
• Sign up for NIH TOC weekly email for new funding announcements