

# 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

<http://report.nih.gov/nihdatabook/index.aspx>

# NIH Grant Mechanisms

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

# 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
  - <http://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections/IntegratedReviewGroups/Pages/default.aspx>

# 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
  - <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/researchfunding/grant/pages/aag.aspx>
- Sign up for NIH TOC weekly email for new funding announcements