The Role of the Program Officer at NIH

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National Institute of Mental Health
Much of the biomedical research in the United States is supported by the Federal Government, primarily the National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Mission

The NIH mission is to *uncover new knowledge that will lead to better health for everyone*. NIH works toward that mission by: conducting research in its own laboratories; supporting the research of non-Federal scientists in universities, medical schools, hospitals, and research institutions throughout the country and abroad; helping in the *training* of research investigators; and fostering *communication* of medical and health sciences information.
“...the goal of NIH research is to acquire new knowledge to help prevent, detect, diagnose, and treat disease and disability...”
NIH Extramural Awarding Components

- National Cancer Institute (NCI)
- National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)
- National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)
- National Library of Medicine (NLM)
- National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)
- National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
- National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)
- National Institute on Aging (NIA)
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)
- National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS)
- National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)
- National Eye Institute (NEI)
- National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)
- National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
- National Institute for Nursing Research (NINR)
- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)
- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
- National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM)
- National Center for Research Resources (NCRR)
- National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)
- National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB)
- Fogarty International Center (FIC)
- National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD)
A Typical Institute/Center

National Advisory Council

Office of the IC Director

Board of Scientific Counselors

Extramural

Scientific Programs

Grants

Contracts

Intramural

Laboratory Studies

Clinical Studies
IC Director

Appoints all staff and recommends members of advisory bodies
Makes funding decisions based on review, council and program
Sets research directions
Now reviewed by NIH every four years
NIMH Mission

Reduce the burden of mental illness and behavioral disorders through research on mind, brain and behavior
NIMH Facts

- NIMH budget is over $1.3 billion
- 7th Largest Institute of the NIH
- Most goes into more than 4500 research and training grants around the country based on expert review that funds less than 1/5 of applications
NIH Funding in FY 2004: By Mechanism
Total = $27B

- Research Project Grants: 54%
- Cancer Prev. & Control: 2%
- Intramural Research: 10%
- Nat. Lib. Of Medicine: 1%
- Research Management: 4%
- Construction & Facilities: 1%
- R&D Contracts: 10%
- Research Training: 3%
- Other Research Grants: 6%
- Research Centers: 9%
NIH scientific success is built on funding of science projects selected through a process of severe competition (peer review). About 25% of applications are funded.
Within Each Institute Extramural Divisions are Responsible for Program Development & Implementation
NIH Process for a Research Grant

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
      - National Advisory Council
        - Recommends Action
          - Institute Director

Research Grant Application
- Initiates Research Idea
  - School or Other Research Center
    - Submits Application
      - Conducts Research
        - Allocates Funds
          - Initiates Research Idea
            - National Institutes of Health
Welcome to the NIH Guide - Articles may be Found By:

- Going directly to Articles using one of the two Comprehensive Archives below.
- Searching the Guide Archives below using key words and phrases or Volume and Number.
- Subscribing to the weekly content notifications via email using the NIH Guide Table of Contents Notification LISTSERV service.

Comprehensive Archives of Published NIH Guide Articles:

- By Year and Week Ending:

- By Announcement Category:
  - Notices  Program Announcements  Requests for Applications

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Overall Timeframe from Submission to Award

There are three overlapping cycles per year:

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<th>JAN</th>
<th>FEB</th>
<th>MAR</th>
<th>APR</th>
<th>MAY</th>
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**Cycle 1**

- Receipt
- Referral
- Review
- Council
- Award

**Cycle 2**

- Receipt
- Referral
- Review
- Council
- Award

**Cycle 3**

- Receipt
- Referral
- Review
- Council
- Award
Key Concept 2

Separation and independence of program and review. This is different from the US National Science Foundation.
NIH Layers

President of USA
Secretary of Health and Human Services
NIH Director
IC Director
Division Director
Branch Chief
Program Officer
Support extramural grants, contracts and training with the goal of improving national health.
NIH Research Support Mechanisms

• Grant: NIH supports projects proposed by a Principal Investigator
• Cooperative Agreement: NIH is partner with substantial program involvement
• Contract: NIH asks scientists to do research that NIH proposes.
• Training grant: for training of future scientists
PO Duties

- Advise grant applicants
- Attend scientific review
- Make funding recommendations
- Monitor awarded grants
- Foster specific science through initiatives and meetings
- Talk to public
- Maintain his/her own scientific expertise
Society for Neuroscience
Annual Meeting 2001
• Assess the state-of-science
• Identify research needing stimulation
• Present suggestions from individual scientists
Program Development
Identification of Priority Areas

- Staff Analysis & Evaluation
- Input from Leaders in Scientific Community, NIMH Director, and NIMH Council Members
- Recommendations from Planning Groups & Workshops
- Final decision by NIMH Director
Scientific Initiatives

PO develops Institute priority areas into concepts for Initiatives

Institute Review

National Advisory Mental Health Council

Announce to Research Community (NIH Guide)
Program Announcement (PA)

• Invites grant applications in a given research area

• May describe new or expanded interest in a particular extramural program

• May be a reminder of a continuing interest in a particular extramural program

• Generally has no funds set aside

• Applications reviewed in CSR along with unsolicited grant applications
Requests for Applications (RFAs) & Proposals (RFPs)

- Announcements describing an institute initiative in a well-defined scientific area
- Invitation to the field to submit research grant applications or contract proposals for a one-time competition
- Set-aside of funds for a certain number of awards
- Applications generally reviewed within the issuing institute
What Determines Which Awards Are Made?

• Scientific merit
• Program Considerations
• Availability of funds
Welcome to NIH
An overview and introduction to NIH including an employee directory, the Director's page and maps of the NIH "campus" in Bethesda, Maryland.

News and Events
The NIH Calendar of Events, press releases, and other news related to NIH operations.

Health Information
A selection of some NIH health resources such as NHLBI's Health Alerts, the Women's Health Initiative and other resources for consumers. This is a guide to diseases and conditions under investigation at NIH.

Funding Opportunities
Information specific to NIH grants including application kits, grants policy, the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts, award data and research contracts, and information on non-research contracts, including Requests for Applications and submission of contract proposals.

Scientific Resources
Intramural (on-site) research news and information as well as access to library catalogs and journals, research-related computer and network support.

Institutes and Offices
The NIH home page is only the beginning. Here you will find links to the many individual organizations that collectively make up the NIH. Some of these sites provide full-text consumer health information.

• NIH Guide
• Grant Policy
• Applications

• Additional Program Information
• Staff Contacts
NIH Grant related Information on the WORLD WIDE WEB
Selected Sites of Interest

• NIH MAIN:
http://www.nih.gov/

• NIH Office of Extramural Research – Opportunities/Grants Policies, Etc.:
http://www.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm

• NIH Funding Opportunities and Notices:

• Fogarty International Center:
http://www.fic.nih.gov

• Center for Scientific Review:
http://www.csr.nih.gov
Issues from this meeting

Salaries
Problem of fairness
Conflict of interest
PO return to research
Problem of renewal – competition
Evaluation
No system is perfect
Change, always change