After Your First Award: Next Steps in Your Journey with NIH

Nastaran (Nas) Zahir, PhD

Chief, Cancer Training Branch, Center for Cancer Training

NIH Virtual Seminar
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You Got the Grant, Now What?
Seek Leadership Training
Develop a Leadership Philosophy

- What kind of leader do you want to be?
  - Authentic
  - Positive energy
  - Accountability
  - Decisive
  - Listen and follow through
  - Visionary (goal focused, willing to risk)

What are your core values?
Be a Good Mentor

- Emulate yours
- Suggest direction
- Provide feedback and praise
- Consider the needs of the individual
- Look for growth opportunities
- Don’t be equals

How could you have been helped?
Progress Reports

We really do read them
Got Results?

Where do the data lead?
How do you get there?

- Chart your course

Do you need:
- Funding
- Collaborators
- Staff
- Equipment
- Resources
What is right for your stage?

NIH programs help to prepare the skilled, creative and diverse biomedical research workforce of tomorrow.

https://researchtraining.nih.gov/career-path
Choosing an appropriate path for funding
Already have an R01? Which path to choose next?

**Competing Renewal**

vs.

**New Application?**
Funding: Selecting the right opportunity

Finding Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs)

Moving away from PAs to NOSIs

https://www.grants.nih.gov/

PA: program announcement  
NOSI: notice of special interest
Finding Contacts & Mentors

https://reporter.nih.gov/
Foster Your Network

- Your friends may become your collaborators
- Science is a small world
- Don’t burn bridges
A Side Note About Mentors

We don’t all find good formal mentors

- mentors can be informal (family, friends, colleagues, program staff)

- Good mentors
  - your best interests
  - successful
  - honest
  - good communicators

Ask around – who believes mentoring is important?
Collaborators

- Be clear about the relationship
  - maximize your network
  - chose people you respect
  - put it in writing
  - authorship agreement
  - clear boundaries

Be careful about former mentors
Staff: Choose Your People

Who do you need?

- Technician – Do you know exactly what science you want to do?
- Student – Do you have time to dedicate to mentorship?
- Postdoc – Do you have enough projects to share ownership of ideas?

Consider active recruiting
Physical Resources

Do you need equipment, resources, subjects, or techniques to get where you want to go?

- **Equipment/Resources** – can you share or buy second hand or are there public resources?
- **Subjects** – animal models may be available if they were funded by NIH. Secondary analysis?
- **Techniques** – is there a class or another group to learn from?
Additional Funding

- Diversity supplements: to improve the diversity of the research workforce by supporting and recruiting students, postdocs, and eligible investigators from groups that are underrepresented in health-related research.

- Administrative supplements: to meet unforeseen increased costs within the scope of the approved award. And opportunities to extend research area of your project.

- Private foundations
Research Supplements to Promote Diversity

- Administrative supplements to existing NIH research grants (e.g., R,P,U) - high school to faculty level
- Supplements provide salary and fringe benefits; funds for supplies and travel
- Sets up mentoring relationships with individual development plans
- Typically 1-3 years of funding to allow the supplement awardee to gain the research experience, preliminary data, and other requirements to develop an application for other avenues of NIH funding.
- Feeder program for our Diversity Fs and Ks

IC Specific Contacts and Information
NIH Common Fund High-Risk, High-Reward Research Program for Outstanding Scientists at All Career Stages

The High-Risk, High-Reward Research program supports **exceptionally creative scientists** pursuing **highly innovative research with the potential for broad impact** in biomedical, behavioral, or social sciences within the NIH mission. Preliminary data are not required. The program’s four constituent NIH Director’s awards provide a diverse set of funding opportunities. See the individual award websites for more information and application help.

**NIH Director’s Pioneer Award**

- For scientists with outstanding records of creativity pursuing pioneering approaches to major challenges
- Open to all career stages
- Single PI only
- Must be new research direction
- Requires at least 51% research effort
- $3.5 million for 5 years

**NIH Director's New Innovator Award**

- For exceptionally creative early career scientists proposing innovative, high-impact projects
- Must be an Early Stage Investigator
- Single PI only
- Requires at least 25% research effort
- $1.5 million for 5 years

**NIH Director's Transformative Research Award**

- For individuals or teams proposing groundbreaking, unconventional research with the potential to create new scientific paradigms
- Open to all career stages
- Open to individuals or teams
- Anonymized review process
- Research effort commensurate to project needs
- Flexible budget for 5 years

**NIH Director's Early Independence Award**

- For exceptional junior scientists bypassing postdoctoral training to launch independent research careers
- Must complete doctoral degree or clinical training between June 1, 2020 and September 30, 2022
- Single PI only
- Must be in non-independent research position
- Limit of 2 applications per institution
- $1.25 million for 5 years

https://commonfund.nih.gov/highrisk
NIH Common Fund High-Risk, High-Reward Research Program

- Created to **spur scientific leaps** by taking substantial, calculated research risks with commensurate payoffs
- Scientists from diverse scientific areas, institutions, and backgrounds are **strongly encouraged** to apply
- **Annual** funding opportunities (receipt dates usually August/September)
- Focus is on **innovation and potential impact**
- **No preliminary data or detailed experimental plan** needed (really)
- Underlying logic must be compelling
- More information is available at [https://commonfund.nih.gov/highrisk](https://commonfund.nih.gov/highrisk)
NIH Loan Repayment Program (LRP)

- 2-year Research Commitment
- Up to $50,000/year
- New: ASSIST and REACH
- LRP Resources
- Extramural LRP Application Deadline November 18, 2021

https://www.lrp.nih.gov/
**LRP Subcategories**

For individuals conducting research at non-profit institutions

**Clinical Research**
- Patient-oriented research conducted with human subjects or materials of human origin (including cognitive phenomenon) on the causes and consequences of disease in humans

**Pediatric Research**
- Research related to diseases or disorders in children
- Basic research allowed

**Health Disparities Research**
- Research focusing on minority and other health disparity populations
- Basic, clinical, social and behavioral research allowed

**Contraception & Infertility Research**
- Research focusing on conditions impacting ability to conceive or bear children and provide new or improved methods of preventing pregnancy
- Applications reviewed by Eunice Kennedy Shriver NICHD

**Clinical Disadvantaged Backgrounds**
- Same as Clinical Research LRP
- Available to clinical researchers from verifiable disadvantaged backgrounds
- Applications reviewed by NIMHD

**Research in Emerging Areas Critical to Human Health (REACH)**
- Available beginning September 2021 to recruit and retain researchers pursuing major opportunities or gaps in emerging areas of human health
- NIH ICs determine gap/emerging areas of research priority areas

https://www.lrp.nih.gov/
NIH Grants Lifecycle: Who to talk with and when

**Institute: Program Officer (PO)**

- Investigator Initiates Research Idea
- Institution Submits Application to NIH
- Allocates Funds to Institution
- Conducts Research
- Investigator Initiates Research Idea

**Center for Scientific Review**

- Assign to SRO
- Assign to Institute

**Study Section: Scientific Review Officer (SRO)**

- Review for Scientific Merit
- Institute: Program Officer (PO)
- Programmatic Considerations
- Advisory Councils and Boards

**2nd Level Review: Recommendations**

- Institute Director
- Approves Funding

**Grants Management Specialist (GMS)**

- Allocates Funds to Institution
- Conducts Research

NIH Early Career Reviewer Program

The program aims to help early career scientists become more competitive as grant applicants through first-hand experience with peer review and to enrich and diversify CSR's pool of trained reviewers.

Benefits of ECR

1. Work side-by-side with some of the most accomplished researchers in your field to help NIH identify the most promising grant applications
2. Learn how reviewers determine overall impact scores
3. Improve your own grant writing skills by getting an insider's view of how grant applications are evaluated
4. Serve the scientific community by participating in NIH peer review
5. Develop research-evaluation and critique-writing skills

- this Program NOT for post-docs nor tenured (Associate) professors
- geared towards applicants who have received a Summary Statement already but not yet secured an Award

https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForReviewers/BecomeARReviewer/ECR
NIH Early Stage Investigator (ESI)

An NIH ESI is a New Investigator who has completed their terminal degree or medical residency (or the equivalent and whichever date is later) within the past ten years and has not yet been awarded a substantial, competing NIH research grant.

Some NIH Institutes offer a payline bump for ESIs

- NCI Established Investigator R01 Payline (FY21): 11th percentile
- NCI ESI R01 Payline (FY21): 16th percentile

NIH ESI policy: https://grants.nih.gov/policy/early-investigators/list-smaller-grants.htm
NCI funding policy: https://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/grantspolicies/finalfundltr.htm
NIH Support for Early Career Scientists Impacted by COVID-19

- **NOT-OD-21-052**: Requesting Extensions for Early Career Scientists Whose Career Trajectories Have Been Significantly Impacted by COVID-19
  - Eligible Candidates: Active NCI-Funded “F” and “K” Awardees
  - FY21: Cancer Training Branch funded 14 extensions totaling $770K

- **NOT-OD-21-106**: Temporary Extension of Eligibility for the NIH K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award During the COVID-19 Pandemic
  - Individuals whose final due date eligibility based on a 48 month eligibility window was either the June/July 2021 or October/November 2021 will have a 2 cycle extension of eligibility (to February/March 2022 and June/July, 2022, respectively).
  - Multiple extensions for events occurring during the same time period are not permitted.
Has your research productivity been impacted by COVID-19 during your ESI period?

- Submit a request for an extension to your NIH ESI status. Describe the nature of the disruption to your research in the request.
- NIH will consider requests to extend the ESI status period for reasons that can include the following, as determined on a case-by-case basis at the sole discretion of NIH.
  - Medical concerns
  - Disability
  - Family care responsibilities
  - Natural disasters
  - Active duty military service
- Submit an ESI Extension Request using link found in the Education section of the PI's Personal Profile in eRA Commons.

https://era.nih.gov/erahelp/ESIE_ext/Default.htm#cshid=4
NIH Anti-Harassment Policy – Current Actions

The 2018 National Academies report on sexual harassment of women in science found that “federal agencies may be perpetuating the problem of sexual harassment.” The NIH Director stated concern that NIH has been part of the problem. Thus, the NIH is working on:

- **Demonstrating accountability and transparency**
  - A clear message to institutions that NIH funds and researchers who lead the research that sexual harassment is unacceptable.

- **Clarifying expectations** for institutions and investigators to ensure safe workplace
  - Read more on the 6/14/2019 “Open Mike” blog

- **Providing clear channels of communication** to the NIH
  - For concerns related to harassment affecting NIH-funded research, a confidential email can be sent to: GranteeHarassment@od.nih.gov or call (301) 480-6701 or use the confidential webform: https://public.era.nih.gov/shape/public/notificationForm.era

- https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/tag/anti-sexual-harassment/
Final Points

- Learn the rules
- Cultivate relationships with program staff
- If a Program Officer isn’t helpful, find one who is
- Take progress reports seriously
- Be a good colleague, collaborator, and mentor.

Secret to success
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Thank you for your attention

Email: nas.zahir@nih.gov
Twitter: @nas_zahir

See NIH website for more information on grants and funding

https://www.nih.gov/grants-funding