CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF THE OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATOR AWARD (R35)

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Today’s Discussion

- Initial Report from the R35 Working Group and Identification of Some Unanswered Questions
- Discussion by the Full Council
- Re-convening of the Working Group to Finalize Recommendations
Working Group Members

- Gene Hayunga, Co-chair
- Caroline Signore, Co-chair
- Sarah Glavin
- Diana Bianchi
- Frances Jensen
- Gregory Kopf
- Ruth Lehmann
- Stephen Petrill
- George Saade
General Recommendations:

- NICHD should offer a limited number of R35 Outstanding Investigator awards to pilot the use of this mechanism.

- Because they are fundamentally different types of awards, the R35 should augment but not replace the R37 MERIT award mechanism.
Specific Recommendations

- Length: Up to 8 years
- Budget: Up to $750K/year (direct costs)
- PI effort: At least 50%
- Scientific topics: Should not be restricted to specific research areas -- any topic that is appropriate for NICHD should be eligible.

- Other considerations:
  - Should support the kind of PI who will generate new ideas.
  - Could promote high-risk or transformative research.
  - Mentorship, service, and collaboration are important.
  - Should encourage some kind of institutional commitment.
Unanswered Questions

- How many R35 awards should NICHD plan to make? What would they cost, and what effect would that have on the RPG pay line?
- What is the most appropriate career stage for R35 investigators? (e.g., 1st Type 2 renewal? PIs with longer track records? or with multiple Ro1 awards?)

*In order to answer these questions, staff at OSPAC compiled data about existing NICHD grantees to help predict how many investigators might be eligible to apply for an R35 grant.*
Potential Applicant Pool

- Targeting PIs with **only one career R01**, and that R01 is at NICHD and approaching its 2\textsuperscript{nd} renewal (only one R01 at NICHD, in year 6-10): n=45
- Targeting PIs with **multiple R01s currently active**, and one of those R01s is at NICHD and approaching its 2\textsuperscript{nd} renewal (multiple current R01s, one NICHD R01 in year 6-10): n=15
- Targeting PIs with any NICHD R01 currently active and approaching renewal, irrespective of other R01s:
  - NICHD R01 is in year 6-10: n=130
  - NICHD R01 is in year ≥6: n=245
Next Steps....

Comments,
Questions,
Discussion
For discussion....

- Comments or questions about Working Group initial report.
- Thoughts about eligibility criteria: Who would be the most appropriate investigators for the R35 award, in terms of career stage, track record, and existing grant support?
- Other considerations?