Overview

• Staff Updates
• Funding the Best Science
• Upcoming Change:
  • Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)
Staff New to NICHD Extramural

Karen Lee - CDBB

Hazel Alsol - GMB

Bill Duval - DER

Daniel Johnston - CRB

Barbara Johnson - OCM
2016 NICHD Summer Trainees and Volunteers

Ronna Popkin - PDB

Dean Allen - NCMRR
Staff Transitions: Departures from NICHD Extramural

Tiina Urv
IDDB Program Director

Paul Gresham
OCM Senior Committee Management Specialist
Staff Transitions: Retirements in Extramural

Susan Tolivaisa
PPB
Clinical Trials Specialist

Carol Sheredos
NCMRR
Program Support Specialist
Funding the Best Science
NIH Research Project Grants
Applications, awards, and success rates
Awards made under Reimbursable Agreements, Appropriations to NIH for Superfund-related activities, Gift Funds and Breast Cancer Research Stamp Funds are not included. Research Projects (RPG) defined as activities (R00, R01, R03, R15, R21, R22, R23, R29, R33, R34, R35, R36, R37, R55, R65, R71, RL1, RL2, RL5, RL9, P01, P42, PNL, UC1, UC7, U01, U19, U34, Uh2, Uh3, Um1, DP1, DP2, DP3, DP4, DP5, RC1, RC2, RC3, RC4, UA5, UC, UC2, UC3, UC4, RF1, UF1, PM1, RM1).

FY 2009 and 2010 exclude awards made under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and all ARRA solicited applications and awards.

An estimate for FY 2015 RPG applications shows 53599 NIH applications and 3551 NICHD applications. These numbers are subject to change.

Source: NIH IMPAC, Success Rate File
Characteristics of scored applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>NICHD</th>
<th>NIH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Study</td>
<td>65% (2836)</td>
<td>36% (26855)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Study</td>
<td>35% (1517)</td>
<td>57% (42671)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requested Direct Costs ($M)</td>
<td>1.2  1.6  2.4</td>
<td>1.2  1.2  1.8</td>
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Data from M Lauer, OER, NIH
NICHD budgets higher for human studies

Data from M Lauer, OER, NIH
Data from M Lauer, OER, NIH
NIH Award Overlap Coefficients (2015)

2014, 2013 HD was 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2011 HD was 3\textsuperscript{rd}

ICs with paylines have lower coefficients
Lower the coefficient = more adherent to payline

Data from M Lauer, OER, NIH
Data Through 2013: All NIH provided by OER
Summary of NICHD funding

- Applications increasing
- Number of unique applicants increasing
- Compared to other ICs:
  - More human subjects studies and fewer animal studies
  - Higher requested budgets
    - Higher budgets for human subjects work
  - High reliance on definitive payline
- Payline decreasing
- Many applications for good science not being supported
Options for Improving the Payline

Clarify the Message

- Tighten referral guidelines
- Communicate priorities
- Tighten transfer acceptance
- Strategic use of FOAs especially for big projects
- Stricter methods for large grant acceptance
Communicate Priorities

- Each branch developing up to 7 priority topics
  - Vision Document
  - Strategic Plans
  - Portfolio Assessment

- Identifying gaps and science needed to address

- Post on branch websites
Funding the Best Science: Use Priorities

- Increase flexibility for discretionary funding
- Be more strategic about our investments:
  - Mechanisms
    - Example: Strategic use of P01 for areas in need of synergy
  - Acceptance of large grants
  - Participation in FOAs
Funding the Best Science…

to Advance Science & Health for All
Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)

Potential impact on postdocs funded on NRSA or RPG
July 6, 2015: Department of Labor (DOL)
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
Update overtime rules under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)

- FLSA last updated in 2004
- Salaried workers earning less than the 40th percentile for full-time salaried workers (DOL estimated at $50,440) will be eligible for paid overtime unless they are designated “exempt.”

- Current threshold exempt from paid overtime is a salary of $23,660 or more
- Teachers, Physicians practicing medicine, and Interns/Residents are exempt from overtime regardless of salary (‘learned professionals’)
- Comment period opened to allow comments from the community
NIH CONTEXT

- Postdocs funded on NIH research project grants (RPG) as employees earning less than the threshold would be eligible for paid overtime.

- NRSA stipends set the ‘standard’ for salaries of postdocs on RPG.

- At 2016 NRSA stipend levels, postdocs with 0-3 years postdoctoral experience employed on RPG would be below the recommended threshold of $50,440 (i.e., overtime eligible if an employee).

- Even with a recommended 2% increase in NRSA stipend in 2017, years 0-2 postdoc NRSA stipends would still be below the recommended $50,440 threshold.

- Dr. Collins engaged in discussion with DOL; supportive of an outcome fair and credible to the work they do.
Threshold for salaried employees to be exempt from paid overtime will be $47,476.

This will be effective 12/01/2016.

Postdoctoral researchers on RPG making less than $47,476 will be eligible for paid overtime.

Three years later the threshold to be exempt from paid overtime will be raised to $50,400.

Students are exempt from paid overtime.

https://www.dol.gov/featured/overtime

https://www.dol.gov/sites/default/files/overtime-highereducation2.pdf
NRSA & RPG funded postdocs & New FLSA threshold

• With the new exemption threshold of $47,476 NRSA recipients with 0, 1 or 2 years of postdoctoral experience are currently below the threshold for exemption from paid overtime

• NIH plans to increase support for NRSA stipends in FY 2017 so that all postdoctoral NRSA recipients are at or above the $47,476 exemption threshold

• Extramural institutions can decide whether to raise salaries of postdoctoral employees to the new NRSA levels or permit paid paid overtime for those earning less than $47,476
NICHD...

Fulfilling the mission through extramural research