

Information to Help You Prepare for the ASPEN NICHD MOCK STUDY SECTION (REI) August-2010

The purpose of this session is to provide you with the experience of a NIH study section so you will understand how the review process of the grants that you submit to NIH will be reviewed, what the procedures are, the criteria, etc. You need to review the grants enclosed in this packet with the following information in mind.

In this packet are three grant applications. These are actual grant submissions that we have received permission from the applicants to use in this session. You will see that all identifiers (names, institutions, identifying portions of the CV, etc) have been removed to protect their identity. We have included all of the pages so that you can see what a grant application looks like.

For each review session, several of you will be asked to portray the roles of “Primary”, “Secondary” and “Tertiary” reviewers, where you will be expected to give a complete review of the application. You should prepare written comments for the grant that you have been assigned to review. After this, everyone will be asked to add additional comments from your review of the application. We expect that all of you will participate in the review of each application, so please come prepared.

We will be reviewing three grant applications:

- R01 Application (Research Grant Application)
- R03 Application (Small Grant Mechanism)
- K08 Application (Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award)

The Scientific Review Officer (SRO) will give an introduction and overview of the administrative aspects of the meeting at the start of the session. General guidelines for review as well as conflict of interest information will be presented in detail

As a general guideline of events for each grant review during the study section, the order is:

- Reviewer 1, 2, 3 all give their scores
- Reviewer 1 gives their critique as per the attached instructions,
please use the guidelines for the correct type of application (i.e. R01, R03, or K08)
- Reviewer 2 gives critique
- Reviewer 3 gives critique
- Statistician gives their critique
- General discussion – go around the table of reviewers (each to give input)
- Opinions from people outside the team/table
- Are there any Human subjects/animal concerns
- Are the gender and minority issues addressed?
- Are children included/addressed?
- Revote by Reviewers 1, 2, and 3
- Voting around the table (oral)
- Everyone in the room votes on sheet found in their packet
- Any budgetary concerns?

Reviewers should become fully familiar with the detailed review criteria provided in each Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) before assessing any award application in response to that announcement.

You will find review guidelines for the three types of applications

*****Please use the correct one for each application*****

The Center for Scientific Review (CSR) has produced a series of videos to give new and established investigators insight into the review process. You should visit the following web site to view the video:

<http://cms.csr.nih.gov/ResourcesforApplicants/InsidetheNIHGrantReviewProcessVideo.htm>

Another CSR web site that will be helpful:

<http://cms.csr.nih.gov/peerreviewmeetings/reviewerguidelines/>

Should you have questions, please contact Dr. Parrott at ep61h@nih.gov .

Research Project Grant (Parent R01)

Program Announcement (PA) Number: PA-10-067

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-10-067.html>

Executive Summary

- **Purpose.** The Research Project Grant (R01) is an award made to an institution/organization to support a discrete, specified, circumscribed project to be performed by the named investigator(s) in areas representing the specific interests and competencies of the investigator(s). The R01 research plan proposed by the applicant institution/organization must be related to the stated program interests of one or more of the NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) based on descriptions of their programs. All research project grant applications described in this announcement will be assigned to NIH ICs according to standard Public Health Service (PHS) referral guidelines and specific program interests. Investigators are encouraged to consult the participating NIH ICs and their Web sites (see <http://www.nih.gov/icd>).
- **Mechanism of Support.** This FOA will utilize the Research Project Grant (R01) grant mechanism.
- **Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards.** Awards issued under this FOA are contingent upon the availability of funds and the submission of a sufficient number of meritorious applications.
- **Budget and Project Period.** Costs appropriate for the project and a project duration of up to five years may be requested.
- **Application Research Strategy Length:** The R01 application Research Strategy section of the PHS398 may not exceed 12 pages, including tables, graphs, figures, diagrams, and charts. See [Table of Page Limits](#).
- **Eligible Institutions/Organizations.** Institutions/organizations listed in [Section III, 1.A.](#) are eligible to apply.
- **Eligible Project Directors/Principal Investigators (PDs/PIs).** Individuals with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research are invited to work with their institution/organization to develop an application for support. Individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups as well as individuals with disabilities are always encouraged to apply for NIH support.
- **Number of PDs/PIs.** More than one PD/PI (i.e., multiple PDs/PIs) may be designated on the application.
- **Number of Applications.** Applicants may submit more than one application, provided that each application is scientifically distinct.
- **Resubmissions.** Applicants may submit a resubmission application, but such application must include an Introduction addressing the previous peer review critique (Summary Statement). See new NIH policy on resubmission (amended) applications ([NOT-OD-09-003](#), [NOT-OD-09-016](#)).
- **Renewals.** Applicants may submit a renewal application.
- **Application Materials.** See [Section IV.1](#) for application materials.

- **General Information.** For general information on SF424 (R&R) Application and Electronic Submission, see these Web sites:
 - SF424 (R&R) Application and Electronic Submission Information:
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/index.htm>
 - General information on Electronic Submission of Grant Applications:
<http://era.nih.gov/ElectronicReceipt/>
- **Hearing Impaired.** Telecommunications for the hearing impaired are available at: TTY: (301) 451-5936

Application Review Information

Review Process

Applications submitted for this funding opportunity will be assigned on the basis of established PHS referral guidelines to the ICs for funding consideration.

Applications that are complete will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by (an) appropriate scientific review group(s) in accordance with NIH peer review procedures (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/>) using the review criteria stated below.

As part of the scientific peer review, all applications will:

- Undergo a selection process in which only those applications deemed to have the highest scientific and technical merit, generally the top half of applications under review, will be discussed and assigned an impact/priority score;
- Receive a written critique; and
- Receive a second level of review by appropriate national advisory council or Board.

The mission of the NIH is to support science in pursuit of knowledge about the biology and behavior of living systems and to apply that knowledge to extend healthy life and reduce the burdens of illness and disability. As part of this mission, applications submitted to the NIH for grants or cooperative agreements to support biomedical and behavioral research are evaluated for scientific and technical merit through the NIH peer review system.

Overall Impact. Reviewers will provide an overall impact/priority score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved, in consideration of the following five core review criteria, and additional review criteria (as applicable for the project proposed).

Core Review Criteria. Reviewers will consider each of the five review criteria below in the determination of scientific and technical merit, and give a separate score for each. An application does not need to be strong in

all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific impact. For example, a project that by its nature is not innovative may be essential to advance a field.

Significance. Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?

Investigator(s). Are the PD/PIs, collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project? If Early Stage Investigators or New Investigators, do they have appropriate experience and training? If established, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)? If the project is collaborative or multi-PD/PI, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise; are their leadership approach, governance and organizational structure appropriate for the project?

New Investigator: An NIH research grant Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) who has not yet competed successfully for a substantial, competing NIH research grant is considered a New Investigator. For example, a PD/PI who has previously received a competing NIH R01 research grant is no longer considered a New Investigator. However, a PD/PI who has received a Small Grant (R03) or an Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Award (R21) retains his or her status as a New Investigator. A complete definition of a New Investigator along with a list of NIH grants that do not disqualify a PD/PI from being considered a New Investigator can be found at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/new_investigators/resources.htm.

Early Stage Investigator (ESI): An individual who is classified as a New Investigator and is within 10 years of completing his/her terminal research degree or is within 10 years of completing medical residency (or the equivalent) is considered an Early Stage Investigator (ESI). The 10 year period after completion of the terminal degree or residency may be extended to accommodate special circumstances including various medical concerns, disability, pressing family care responsibilities, or active duty military service. If an extension of ESI status has been approved, the SRO will bring this to the reviewers' attention.

Innovation. Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?

Approach. Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility and will particularly risky aspects be managed?

If the project involves clinical research, are the plans for 1) protection of human subjects from research risks, and 2) inclusion of minorities and members of both sexes/genders, as well as the inclusion of children, justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed?

Environment. Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements?

Additional Review Criteria

As applicable for the project proposed, reviewers will consider **the following additional items in the determination of scientific and technical merit, but will not give separate scores for these items.**

Protections for Human Subjects. For research that involves human subjects but does not involve one of the six categories of research that are exempt under 45 CFR Part 46, the committee will evaluate the justification for involvement of human subjects and the proposed protections from research risk relating to their participation according to the following five review criteria: 1) risk to subjects, 2) adequacy of protection against risks, 3) potential benefits to the subjects and others, 4) importance of the knowledge to be gained, and 5) data and safety monitoring for clinical trials.

For research that involves human subjects and meets the criteria for one or more of the six categories of research that are exempt under 45 CFR Part 46, the committee will evaluate: 1) the justification for the exemption, 2) human subjects involvement and characteristics, and 3) sources of materials.

Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Children. When the proposed project involves clinical research, the committee will evaluate the proposed plans for inclusion of minorities and members of both genders, as well as the inclusion of children.

Vertebrate Animals. The committee will evaluate the involvement of live vertebrate animals as part of the scientific assessment according to the following five points: 1) proposed use of the animals, and species, strains, ages, sex, and numbers to be used; 2) justifications for the use of animals and for the appropriateness of the species and numbers proposed; 3) adequacy of veterinary care; 4) procedures for limiting discomfort, distress, pain and injury to that which is unavoidable in the conduct of scientifically sound research including the use of analgesic, anesthetic, and tranquilizing drugs and/or comfortable restraining devices; and 5) methods of euthanasia and reason for selection if not consistent with the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia.

Biohazards. Reviewers will assess whether materials or procedures proposed are potentially hazardous to research personnel and/or the environment, and if needed, determine whether adequate protection is proposed.

Resubmission Applications. When reviewing a Resubmission application (formerly called an amended application), the committee will evaluate the application as now presented, taking into consideration the responses to comments from the previous scientific review group and changes made to the project.

Renewal Applications. When reviewing a Renewal application (formerly called a competing continuation application), the committee will consider the progress made in the last funding period.

Revision Applications. When reviewing a Revision application (formerly called a competing supplement application), the committee will consider the appropriateness of the proposed expansion of the scope of the project. If the Revision application relates to a specific line of investigation presented in the original application that was not recommended for approval by the committee, then the committee will consider whether the responses to comments from the previous scientific review group are adequate and whether substantial changes are clearly evident.

Additional Review Considerations

As applicable for the project proposed, reviewers will address each of the following items, but will not give scores for these items and should not consider them in providing an overall impact/priority score.

Applications from Foreign Organizations. As applicable for the FOA or submitted application, reviewers will assess whether the project presents special opportunities for furthering research programs through the use of unusual talent, resources, populations, or environmental conditions that exist in other countries and either are not readily available in the United States or augment existing U.S. resources.

Select Agents Research. Reviewers will assess the information provided in this section of the application, including: 1) the Select Agent(s) to be used in the proposed research, 2) the registration status of all entities where Select Agent(s) will be used, 3) the procedures that will be used to monitor possession use and transfer of Select Agent(s), and 4) plans for appropriate biosafety, biocontainment, and security of the Select Agent(s).

Resource Sharing Plans. Reviewers will comment on whether the following Resource Sharing Plans, or the rationale for not sharing the following types of resources, are reasonable: 1) Data Sharing Plan (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/data_sharing/data_sharing_guidance.htm); 2) Sharing Model Organisms (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-04-042.html>); and 3) Genome Wide Association Studies (GWAS) (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-07-088.html>).

Budget and Period Support. Reviewers will consider whether the budget and the requested period of support are fully justified and reasonable in relation to the proposed research.

NIH Small Research Grant Program (Parent R03)

Program Announcement (PA) Number: PA-10-064

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-10-064.html>

Executive Summary

- **Purpose.** The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Investigator-Initiated Small Grant (R03) funding opportunity supports small research projects that can be carried out in a short period of time with limited resources. Investigator-initiated research, also known as unsolicited research, is research funded as a result of an investigator submitting a research grant application to NIH in an investigator's area of interest and competency. All investigator-initiated small grant applications described in this announcement will be assigned to NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) according to standard Public Health Service (PHS) referral guidelines and specific program interests. Investigators are strongly encouraged to consult the list of participating ICs and special research interests. The R03 grant mechanism supports different types of projects including pilot and feasibility studies; secondary analysis of existing data; small, self-contained research projects; development of research methodology; and development of new research technology. The R03 is intended to support small research projects that can be carried out in a short period of time with limited resources.
- **Mechanism of Support.** This FOA will utilize the NIH Small Research Grant (R03) award mechanism
- **Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards.** Because the nature and scope of the proposed research will vary from application to application, it is anticipated that the size and duration of each award will also vary. The total amount awarded and the number of awards will depend upon the mechanism numbers, quality, duration, and costs of the applications received.
- **Budget and Project Period.** The total project period for an application submitted in response to this funding opportunity may not exceed two years. Direct costs are limited to \$100,000 direct costs over the R03 2 year period, with no more than \$50,000 in direct costs allowed in a single year.
- **Application Research Strategy Length:** The R03 application Research Strategy section of the PHS398 may not exceed 6 pages, including tables, graphs, figures, diagrams, and charts. See [Table of Page Limits](#).
- **Eligible Institutions/Organizations.** Institutions/organizations listed in [Section III, 1.A](#), are eligible to apply.
- **Eligible Project Directors/Principal Investigators (PDs/PIs).** Individuals with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research are invited to work with their institution/organization to develop an application for support. Individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups as well as individuals with disabilities are always encouraged to apply for NIH support.
- **Number of PDs/PIs.** More than one PD/PI (i.e., multiple PDs/PIs) may be designated on the application.
- **Number of Applications.** Applicants may submit more than one application, provided that each application is scientifically distinct.

- **Resubmissions.** Applicants may submit a resubmission application, but such application must include an Introduction addressing the previous peer review critique (Summary Statement). See new NIH policy on resubmission (amended) applications ([NOT-OD-09-003](#), [NOT-OD-09-016](#)).
- **Renewals.** The R03 is not renewable.
- **Application Materials.** See [Section IV.1](#) for application materials.
- **General Information.** For general information on SF424 (R&R) Application and Electronic Submission, see these Web sites:
 - SF424 (R&R) Application and Electronic Submission Information:
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/index.htm>
 - General information on Electronic Submission of Grant Applications:
<http://era.nih.gov/ElectronicReceipt/>
- **Hearing Impaired.** Telecommunications for the hearing impaired are available at: TTY: (301) 451-5936

Section V. Application Review Information

Review Process

Applications submitted for this funding opportunity will be assigned on the basis of established PHS referral guidelines to the ICs for funding consideration.

Applications that are complete will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by (an) appropriate scientific review group(s) in accordance with NIH peer review procedures (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/>) using the review criteria stated below.

As part of the scientific peer review, all applications will:

- Undergo a selection process in which only those applications deemed to have the highest scientific and technical merit, generally the top half of applications under review, will be discussed and assigned an impact/priority score;
- Receive a written critique; and
- Receive a second level of review by appropriate national advisory council or board .

The R03 small grant supports discrete, well-defined projects that realistically can be completed in two years and that require limited levels of funding. Because the research project usually is limited, an R03 grant application may not contain extensive detail or discussion. Accordingly, reviewers should evaluate the conceptual framework and general approach to the problem. Appropriate justification for the proposed work can be provided through literature citations, data from other sources, or from investigator-generated data. Preliminary data are not required, particularly in applications proposing pilot or feasibility studies.

The mission of the NIH is to support science in pursuit of knowledge about the biology and behavior of living systems and to apply that knowledge to extend healthy life and reduce the burdens of illness and disability. As part of this mission, applications submitted to the NIH for grants or cooperative agreements to support biomedical and behavioral research are evaluated for scientific and technical merit through the NIH peer review system.

Overall Impact. Reviewers will provide an overall impact/priority score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved, in consideration of the following five core review criteria, and additional review criteria (as applicable for the project proposed).

Core Review Criteria. Reviewers will consider each of the five review criteria below in the determination of scientific and technical merit, and give a separate score for each. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific impact. For example, a project that by its nature is not innovative may be essential to advance a field.

Significance. Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?

Investigator(s). Are the PD/PIs, collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project? If Early Stage Investigators or New Investigators, do they have appropriate experience and training? If established, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)? If the project is collaborative or multi-PD/PI, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise; are their leadership approach, governance and organizational structure appropriate for the project?

Innovation. Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?

Approach. Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility and will particularly risky aspects be managed? If the project involves clinical research, are the plans for 1) protection of human subjects from research risks, and 2) inclusion of minorities and members of both sexes/genders, as well as the inclusion of children, justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed?

Environment. Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements?

Additional Review Criteria

As applicable for the project proposed, reviewers will consider **the following additional items in the determination of scientific and technical merit, but will not give separate scores for these items.**

Protections for Human Subjects. For research that involves human subjects but does not involve one of the six categories of research that are exempt under 45 CFR Part 46, the committee will evaluate the justification for involvement of human subjects and the proposed protections from research risk relating to their participation according to the following five review criteria: 1) risk to subjects, 2) adequacy of protection against risks, 3) potential benefits to the subjects and others, 4) importance of the knowledge to be gained, and 5) data and safety monitoring for clinical trials.

For research that involves human subjects and meets the criteria for one or more of the six categories of research that are exempt under 45 CFR Part 46, the committee will evaluate: 1) the justification for the exemption, 2) human subjects involvement and characteristics, and 3) sources of materials.

Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Children. When the proposed project involves clinical research, the committee will evaluate the proposed plans for inclusion of minorities and members of both genders, as well as the inclusion of children.

Vertebrate Animals. The committee will evaluate the involvement of live vertebrate animals as part of the scientific assessment according to the following five points: 1) proposed use of the animals, and species, strains, ages, sex, and numbers to be used; 2) justifications for the use of animals and for the appropriateness of the species and numbers proposed; 3) adequacy of veterinary care; 4) procedures for limiting discomfort, distress, pain and injury to that which is unavoidable in the conduct of scientifically sound research including the use of analgesic, anesthetic, and tranquilizing drugs and/or comfortable restraining devices; and 5) methods of euthanasia and reason for selection if not consistent with the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia.

Biohazards. Reviewers will assess whether materials or procedures proposed are potentially hazardous to research personnel and/or the environment, and if needed, determine whether adequate protection is proposed.

Resubmission Applications. When reviewing a Resubmission application (formerly called an amended application), the committee will evaluate the application as now presented, taking into consideration the responses to comments from the previous scientific review group and changes made to the project.

Revision Applications. When reviewing a Revision application (formerly called a competing supplement application), the committee will consider the appropriateness of the proposed expansion of the scope of the project. If the Revision application relates to a specific line of investigation presented in the original application that was not recommended for approval by the committee, then the committee will consider whether the responses to comments from the previous scientific review group are adequate and whether substantial changes are clearly evident.

Additional Review Considerations

As applicable for the project proposed, reviewers will address each of the following items, but will not give scores for these items and should not consider them in providing an overall impact/priority score.

Applications from Foreign Organizations. As applicable for the FOA or submitted application, reviewers will assess whether the project presents special opportunities for furthering research programs through the use of unusual talent, resources, populations, or environmental conditions that exist in other countries and either are not readily available in the United States or augment existing U.S. resources.

Select Agents Research. Reviewers will assess the information provided in this section of the application, including 1) the Select Agent(s) to be used in the proposed research, 2) the registration status of all entities where Select Agent(s) will be used, 3) the procedures that will be used to monitor possession use and transfer of Select Agent(s), and 4) plans for appropriate biosafety, biocontainment, and security of the Select Agent(s).

Resource Sharing Plans. Reviewers will comment on whether the following Resource Sharing Plans, or the rationale for not sharing the following types of resources, are reasonable: 1) Data Sharing Plan (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/data_sharing/data_sharing_guidance.htm); 2) Sharing Model Organisms (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-04-042.html>); and 3) Genome Wide Association Studies (GWAS) (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-07-088.html>).

Budget and Period Support. Reviewers will consider whether the budget and the requested period of support are fully justified and reasonable in relation to the proposed research.

Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award (Parent K08)

Program Announcement (PA) Number: PA-10-059

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-10-059.html>

Executive Summary

The overall goal of NIH-supported career development programs is to help ensure that a diverse pool of highly trained scientists are available in adequate numbers and in appropriate research areas to address the Nation's biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research needs.

- **Purpose.** The primary purpose of the NIH Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Awards (K08) program is to prepare qualified individuals for careers that have a significant impact on the health-related research needs of the Nation. This program represents the continuation of a long-standing NIH program that provides support and “protected time” to individuals with a clinical doctoral degree for an intensive, supervised research career development experience in the fields of biomedical and behavioral research, including translational research. Individuals with a clinical doctoral degree interested in pursuing a career in patient-oriented research should refer to the NIH Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award (Parent K23). Prospective candidates are encouraged to contact the relevant NIH staff for IC-specific programmatic and budgetary information: [Table of Institute and Center Contacts](#).
- **Mechanism of Support.** This FOA will utilize the K08 award mechanism
- **Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards.** Awards issued under this FOA are contingent upon the availability of funds and the submission of a sufficient number of meritorious applications.
- **Budget and Project Period.** Because the nature and scope of the proposed career award program will vary from application to application and the amounts provided by the participating ICs are not uniform, it is anticipated that the size and duration of each award will also vary. Although the financial plans of the ICs provide support for this program, awards pursuant to this funding opportunity are contingent upon the availability of funds and the receipt of a sufficient number of meritorious applications. Candidates can request 3-5 years of support.
- **PHS 398 Career Development Award Supplemental Form Component Sections Length:** Items 2-5 (Candidate's Background, Career Goals and Objectives, Career Development/Training Activities During Award Period, and Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research) and Item 11 (Research Strategy) are limited to a combined total of 12 pages, including tables, graphs, figures, diagrams, and charts. See http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/funding_program.htm
- **Eligible Institutions/Organizations.** Institutions/organizations listed in [Section III, 1.A](#), are eligible to apply.

- **Eligible Project Directors/Principal Investigators (PDs/PIs).** Individuals with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research are invited to work with their institution/organization to develop an application for support. Individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups as well as individuals with disabilities are always encouraged to apply for NIH support.
- **Number of PDs/PIs.** Only one PD/PI may be designated on the application.
- **Number of Applications.** Candidates may only have one individual Career Development Award application pending peer review at any time.
- **Resubmissions.** Applicants may submit a resubmission application, but such application must include an Introduction addressing the previous peer review critique (Summary Statement). See new NIH policy on resubmission (amended) applications ([NOT-OD-09-003](#), [NOT-OD-09-016](#)).
- **Renewals.** Awards are not renewable and are not transferable from one PD/PI to another.
- **Application Materials.** See [Section IV.1](#) for application materials.
- **General Information.** For general information on SF424 (R&R) Application and Electronic Submission, see these Web sites:
 - SF424 (R&R) Application and Electronic Submission Information:
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/index.htm>
 - General information on Electronic Submission of Grant Applications:
<http://era.nih.gov/ElectronicReceipt/>
- **Hearing Impaired.** Telecommunications for the hearing impaired are available at: TTY: (301) 451-5936

Application Review Information

Review Process

Applications submitted for this funding opportunity will be assigned on the basis of established PHS referral guidelines to the ICs for funding consideration.

Applications that are complete will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by (an) appropriate scientific review group(s) in accordance with NIH peer review procedures (<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/peer/>) using the review criteria stated below.

As part of the scientific peer review, all applications will:

- Undergo a selection process in which only those applications deemed to have the highest scientific and technical merit, generally the top half of applications under review, will be discussed and assigned an impact/priority score;
- Receive a written critique; and
- Receive a second level of review by appropriate national advisory council or board.

The mission of the NIH is to support science in pursuit of knowledge about the biology and behavior of living systems and to apply that knowledge to extend healthy life and reduce the burdens of illness and disability. The overall goal of NIH-supported career development programs is to help ensure that diverse pools of highly trained scientists are available in adequate numbers and in appropriate research areas to address the Nation's biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research needs. The scientific review group will address and consider the review criteria in assigning the application's overall score, weighting them as appropriate for each application.

Overall Impact. Reviewers will provide an overall impact/priority score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the candidate to maintain a strong research program, in consideration of the following five scored review criteria, and additional review criteria. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to have a major impact.

Reviewers should recognize that an individual with limited research experience is less likely to be able to prepare a research plan with the breadth and depth of that submitted by a more experienced investigator.

Scored Review Criteria. Reviewers will consider each of the five review criteria below in the determination of scientific and technical merit, and give a separate score for each.

Candidate.

- Does the candidate have the potential to develop as an independent and productive researcher?
- Is the candidate's academic, clinical, and (if relevant) research record of high quality?
- Is there evidence of the candidate's commitment to meeting the program objectives to become an independent investigator in research?
- Do the letters of reference from at least three well-established scientists address the above review criteria, and do they demonstrate evidence that the candidate has a high potential for becoming an independent investigator?

Career Development Plan.

- What is the likelihood that the plan will contribute substantially to the scientific development of the candidate leading to scientific independence?
- Is the content, scope, phasing, and duration of the career development plan appropriate when considered in the context of prior training/research experience and the stated didactic and research objectives for achieving research independence?
- Are there adequate plans for monitoring and evaluating the candidate's research and career development progress?

Research Plan.

- Are the proposed research question, design, and methodology of significant scientific and technical merit?
- Is the research plan relevant to the candidate's research career objectives?
- Is the plan for developing/enhancing the candidate's research skills appropriate and adequate?
- If applicable, are there adequate plans for data and safety monitoring of clinical trials?

Mentor(s), Consultant(s), Collaborator(s).

- Are the mentor's research qualifications in the area of the proposed research appropriate?
- Do the mentor(s) adequately address the above review criteria including the candidate's potential and his/her strengths and areas needing improvement?
- Is there adequate description of the quality and extent of the mentor's proposed role in providing guidance and advice to the candidate?
- Is there evidence of the mentor's, consultant's, collaborator's previous experience in fostering the development of independent investigators?
- Is there evidence of previous research productivity and peer-reviewed support?
- Is there active/pending support for the proposed research project appropriate and adequate?
- Is the mentor's description of the elements of the research career development activities, including formal course work adequate?
- Are there adequate plans for monitoring and evaluating the career development awardee's progress toward independence?

Environment and Institutional Commitment to the Candidate.

- Is there clear commitment of the sponsoring institution to ensure that a minimum of 75% of the candidate's effort will be devoted directly to the research described in the application, with the remaining percent effort being devoted to an appropriate balance of research, teaching, administrative, and clinical responsibilities?
- Is the institutional commitment to the career development of the candidate appropriately strong?
- Are the research facilities, resources and training opportunities, including faculty capable of productive collaboration with the candidate adequate and appropriate?
- Is the environment for scientific and professional development of the candidate of high quality?
- Is there assurance that the institution intends the candidate to be an integral part of its research program?

Additional Review Criteria

As applicable for the project proposed, reviewers will consider **the following additional items in the determination of scientific and technical merit, but will not give separate scores for these items.**

Protections for Human Subjects. For research that involves human subjects but does not involve one of the six categories of research that are exempt under 45 CFR Part 46, the committee will evaluate the justification for involvement of human subjects and the proposed protections from research risk relating to their participation according to the following five review criteria: 1) risk to subjects, 2) adequacy of protection against risks, 3) potential benefits to the subjects and others, 4) importance of the knowledge to be gained, and 5) data and safety monitoring for clinical trials.

For research that involves human subjects and meets the criteria for one or more of the six categories of research that are exempt under 45 CFR Part 46, the committee will evaluate: 1) the justification for the exemption, 2) human subjects involvement and characteristics, and 3) sources of materials.

Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Children. When the proposed project involves clinical research, the committee will evaluate the proposed plans for inclusion of minorities and members of both genders, as well as the inclusion of children.

Vertebrate Animals. The committee will evaluate the involvement of live vertebrate animals as part of the scientific assessment according to the following five points: 1) proposed use of the animals, and species, strains, ages, sex, and numbers to be used; 2) justifications for the use of animals and for the appropriateness of the species and numbers proposed; 3) adequacy of veterinary care; 4) procedures for limiting discomfort, distress, pain and injury to that which is unavoidable in the conduct of scientifically sound research including the use of analgesic, anesthetic, and tranquilizing drugs and/or comfortable restraining devices; and 5) methods of euthanasia and reason for selection if not consistent with the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia.

Biohazards. Reviewers will assess whether materials or procedures proposed are potentially hazardous to research personnel and/or the environment, and if needed, determine whether adequate protection is proposed.

Resubmission Applications. When reviewing a Resubmission application (formerly called an amended application), the committee will evaluate the application as now presented, taking into consideration the responses to comments from the previous scientific review group and changes made to the project.

Renewal Applications. Not Applicable.

Revision Applications. This criterion is generally not applicable to K awards. Under rare circumstances, when reviewing a Revision application (formerly called a competing supplement application), the committee will consider the appropriateness of the proposed expansion of the scope of the project. If the Revision application relates to a specific line of investigation presented in the original application that was not recommended for approval by the committee, then the committee will consider whether the responses to comments from the previous scientific review group are adequate and whether substantial changes are clearly evident.

Additional Review Considerations

As applicable for the project proposed, reviewers will address each of the following items, but will not give scores for these items and should not consider them in providing an overall impact/priority score.

Training in the responsible conduct of research: Reviewers will evaluate plans for instruction in responsible conduct of research as well as the past record of instruction in responsible conduct of research, where applicable. Reviewers will specifically address the five Instructional Components (Format, Subject Matter, and Frequency of instruction as detailed in [NOT-OD-10-019](#). The review of this consideration will be guided by the principles set forth in [NOT-OD-10-019](#). Plans and past record will be rated as ACCEPTABLE or UNACCEPTABLE.

Select Agents Research. Reviewers will assess the information provided in this section of the application, including 1) the Select Agent(s) to be used in the proposed research, 2) the registration status of all entities where Select Agent(s) will be used, 3) the procedures that will be used to monitor possession use and transfer of Select Agent(s), and 4) plans for appropriate biosafety, biocontainment, and security of the Select Agent(s).

Resource Sharing Plans. Reviewers will comment on whether the following Resource Sharing Plans, or the rationale for not sharing the following types of resources, are reasonable: 1) Data Sharing Plan (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/data_sharing/data_sharing_guidance.htm); 2) Sharing Model Organisms (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-04-042.html>); and 3) Genome Wide Association Studies (GWAS) (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-07-088.html>).

Budget and Period of Support. Reviewers will consider whether the budget and the requested period of career development support are fully justified and reasonable in relation to the proposed research.