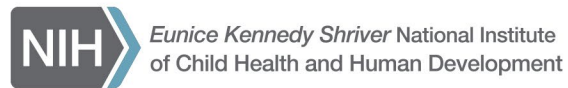


Special Council Review

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July 18, 2022





Special Council Review

- Started in 2012
- Applications from PD(s)/PI(s) who already receive large amounts must be considered by the Advisory Council
- The threshold was raised from \$1M direct costs to \$2M total costs this year
- Only includes Research Project Grants. Resource awards (such as Centers or Cores) and training awards (such as T32s) are excluded.

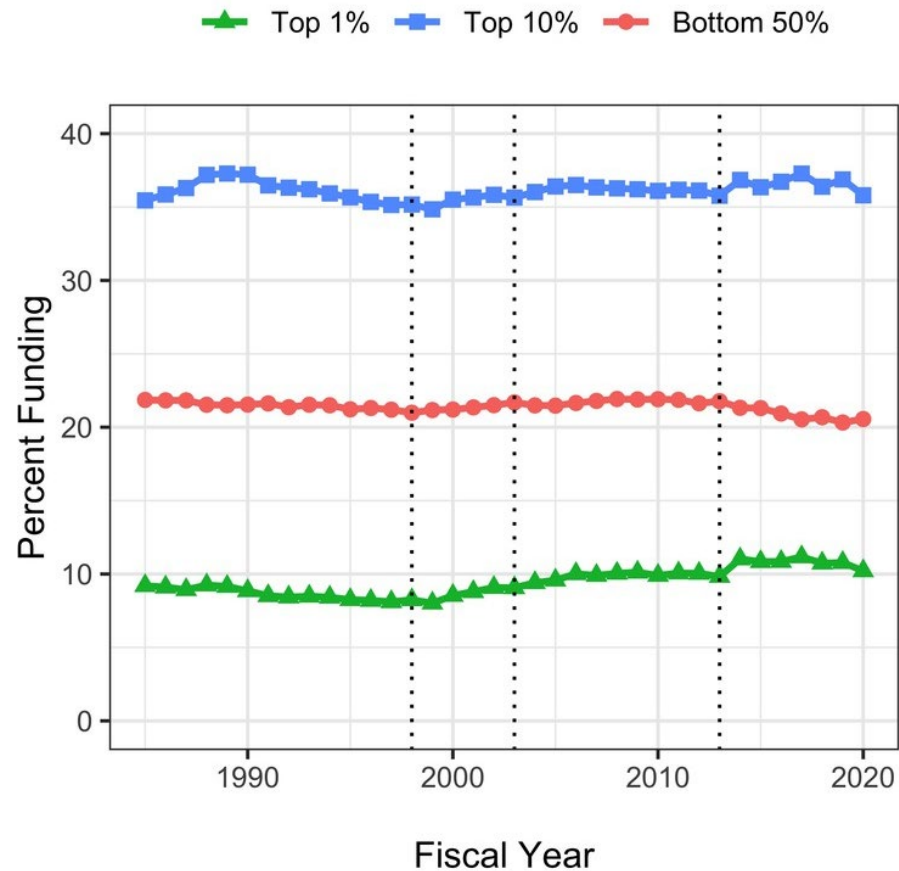


Why should we re-examine Special Council Review?

A

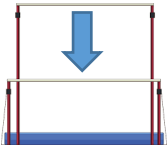
The top 10% of investigators in terms of funding are more male, more white and less Hispanic

And they receive ~40% of all NIH funding

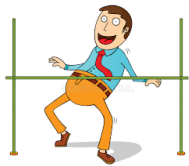




What can we do to reduce this concentration of funding?



- Lower the \$ threshold for SCR?



- Lower the payline?



- Require a higher effort level?



- Close eligibility loopholes?



What are other ICs doing?



NIGMS – moving to a broader ‘well-funded investigator’ policy that includes all funding



NINDS – lower payline, lower threshold, include MPI applications, higher minimum effort



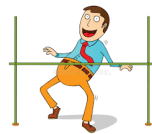
NIMH – lower payline, higher minimum effort



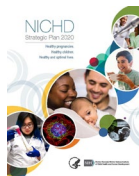
Proposed changes:

Specify criteria for bringing applications to Council

Application must meet one or more of the following criteria:



- Lower payline – outstanding score (<6th percentile)



- Represent an NICHD priority area



- Enhance workforce diversity



Proposed changes:

Limit effort and duration of well-funded status

Application must meet one or more of the following criteria:



- Require minimum 20% effort on application



- Limit time with >\$2M support to 12 months from time of award



Proposed changes

Close a major loophole



Currently: an application with multiple PIs is not flagged for SCR unless ALL the PIs have >\$2M in NIH funding

How big is this loophole?

We miss 95% of applications from PIs with >\$2M in NIH funding



Discussion