

CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF THE OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATOR AWARD (R35)



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**National Advisory Child Health and Human
Development Council**

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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 Petrii
- George Saade

Working Group Report

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 2nd 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 2nd 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?