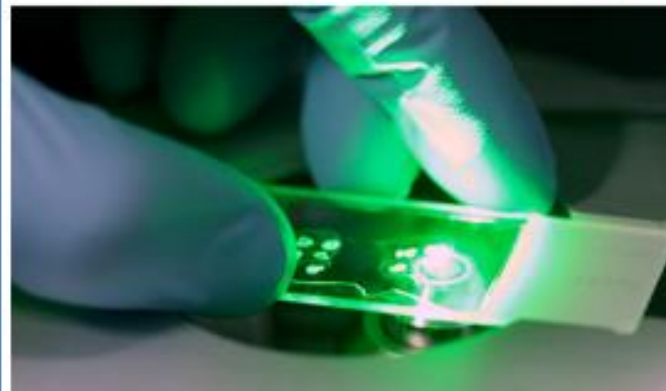


# The F99/K00 D-SPAN Award Webinar

- Thank you for joining the webinar. We will begin shortly.
- Listen to the webinar via your computer speakers or dial in using the telephone number provided on the screen.
- Type any questions into the Q&A box. Questions will be addressed after the presentation.
- The recording and webinar resource materials will be available in a few weeks.

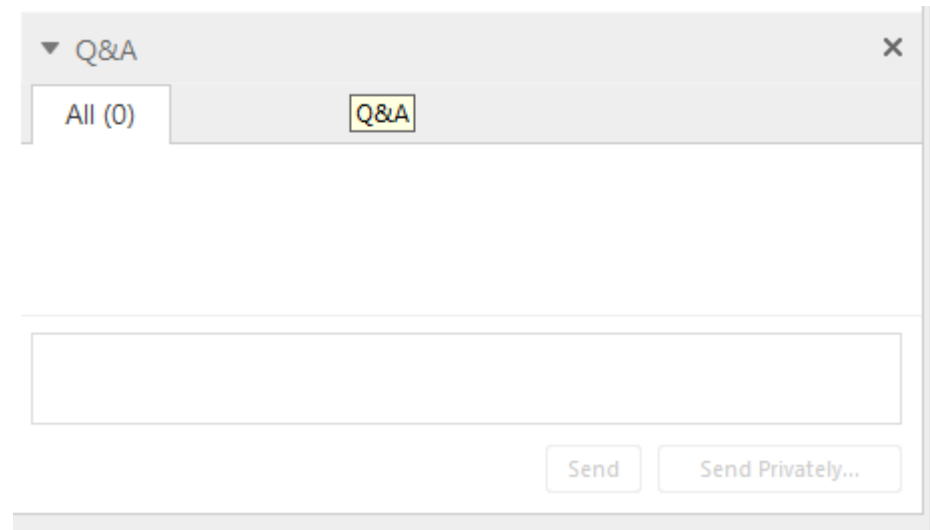


**NIH Blueprint  
Diversity  
Specialized  
Predoctoral to  
Postdoctoral  
Advancement in  
Neuroscience  
(D-SPAN) Award  
(F99/K00)**

January 18, 2017

# Questions

- You will be muted during the webinar
- Type your questions into the Q&A box
- Q&A will be at the end of the webinar



The screenshot shows a Q&A interface. At the top, there is a header with a dropdown arrow and the text 'Q&A', and a close button 'x'. Below the header, there are two tabs: 'All (0)' and 'Q&A'. The 'Q&A' tab is selected. Below the tabs is a large text input field. At the bottom right of the input field, there are two buttons: 'Send' and 'Send Privately...'.

# Outline of the Webinar

- Introductions
- Overview NIH Blueprint
- F99/K00 Eligibility Requirements
- Program Goals
- Application Components
- Review Criteria
- Q&A

# Speakers



**Nancy Desmond, PhD**

Associate Director  
Research Training & Career Development  
Chief, Neuroendocrinology &  
Neuroimmunology Program  
Division of Neuroscience & Basic  
Behavioral Science  
NIMH/NIH



**Michelle Jones-London, PhD**

Chief  
Office of Programs to Enhance  
Neuroscience Workforce Diversity  
(OPEN)  
NINDS/NIH



National Institute of  
Neurological Disorders  
and Stroke

# Introduction to the F99/K00 Mechanism

**Michelle Jones-London**

Chief, Office of Programs to Enhance  
Neuroscience Workforce Diversity  
NINDS



# Background

- The current research environment is often perceived as very challenging (e.g., Developing a 21st Century Neuroscience Workforce, IOM).
  - Attrition of talent occurs at each career transition as the goal of a research career is reconsidered.
- In 2014, ~11% of those enrolled in U.S. neuroscience graduate programs were from diverse groups.\*
- A diverse workforce results in higher-quality scientific research through greater innovation, creativity, and discovery (Nelson and Quick, 2012; Page, 2007).
- One strategic goal of the NIH Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity (COSWD) is to “create seamless transitions for biomedical career advancement and progression.”

\*National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics. 2015. *Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering: 2015*. Special Report NSF 15-311. Arlington, VA. Available [here](#).



# NIH Blueprint: NIH Neuroscience Partnership

- The NIH Blueprint is a collaborative and coordinated effort across 13 NIH Institutes and Centers (see components of participating organizations in FOA)
- D-SPAN is intended for individuals who have demonstrated an interest in a neuroscience research career in [NIH Blueprint](#) mission-relevant areas and/or [BRAIN Initiative](#) research areas
- D-SPAN is cross-cutting and will benefit the entire neuroscience community.
- D-SPAN will build a diverse neuroscience pipeline to academic/research careers with potential benefit to all neuroscience ICs.

## Participating NIH Institutes and Centers

- NEI
- NIA
- NIAAA
- NIBIB
- NICHD
- NIDCR
- NIDA
- NIEHS
- NIMH
- NINDS
- NINR
- NCCIH
- OBSSR



# What is D-SPAN?

- Goals of D-SPAN
  - Create a defined pathway for a critical juncture in the training pipeline—the transition from predoc to postdoc.
  - Encourage and retain outstanding, diverse graduate students who have demonstrated ability and interest in careers as independent neuroscience researchers
  - Spans career stages to
    - minimize transition barriers
    - enhance self-efficacy by providing a clear pathway to the postdoctorate
    - empower diverse trainees, via an individual award, to develop independent research plans within a strong, mentored environment

# Eligibility

- 1. Individuals from nationally underrepresented groups in neuroscience research**
  - Groups that have been shown by the NSF to be underrepresented in health-related sciences on a national basis: *Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.*
  - Individuals with disabilities, defined as those with a *physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.*
- 2. Applicants should be 3rd or 4th year PhD students (cannot apply for K00 portion only) – must be at the dissertation phase**
- 3. US citizen or permanent resident only**
- 4. Current F31 awardees and applicants eligible**
- 5. May not be in a clinical, health-professional or dual-degree program**
- 6. MUST have mission relevance to one of the neuroscience Institutes listed on FOA!**

# Award Details

- Dual-Phase Funding:
  - 1-2 years of support for completing PhD dissertation (F99) at current (domestic/US) institution
  - Up to 4 years of support for postdoctoral training (K00) at any domestic (US) institution

# Transition from F99 to K00

- Except in unusual circumstances, the NIH Blueprint will not extend the F99 phase.
- Transition is not automatic. You must submit a K00 application.
- To activate the K00 phase, you must have been offered and accepted a neuroscience-focused postdoctoral research position.

Mechanism	F99/K00 (D-SPAN)
Career stage eligibility	Apply during graduate school, transition award to postdoc
F99 Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 2 years support in F99 phase</li> <li>• Stipend level for is the same as for the F31 <a href="#">Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA)</a> fellows.</li> <li>• Tuition and fees allowable only at this phase</li> <li>• Institutional Allowance (insurance, supplies, etc.)</li> </ul>
K00 Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 4 years in the K00 career development phase</li> <li>• Up to \$50,000 toward the salary of the career award recipient.</li> <li>• \$3,000 per year toward the research development costs of the award recipient</li> </ul>

# Letter of Intent

- You or your mentor should send a memo indicating the institution's intent of submitting an application to this funding opportunity, via email, to: [jonesmiche@ninds.nih.gov](mailto:jonesmiche@ninds.nih.gov) by March 9.
- Include the following information:
  - Name, address, email and telephone number of the nominee
  - Name of the primary sponsor
  - Likely title of the application
  - Participating institution(s)
  - Number and title of this funding opportunity

# Before You Start

1. **Define your career goals.** Explicitly define your career goals and area of research interest.
2. **Outline the techniques, skills, knowledge, and relationships necessary to achieve your career goals.** Describe the scientific and professional skills you will need as a postdoctoral researcher and beyond.
3. **Perform a skills “gap analysis.”** What skills from the above description have you already mastered? What skills need to be developed?
4. **Define your research plan.** How will the two phases of your research (F99 and K00) build off your existing strengths to provide you with skills, techniques, and data that will facilitate your success as a postdoc and independent investigator?
5. **Build a training plan that is tailored to your needs.** What activities will you perform to develop your professional skills?
6. **Assess guidance and mentorship needed.** What will you learn from each identified mentor; are all your areas of development covered?





National Institute of  
Neurological Disorders  
and Stroke

# F99/K00 Application Components

## **Nancy Desmond, PhD**

Associate Director

Research Training & Career Development

Chief, Neuroendocrinology &  
Neuroimmunology Program

Division of Neuroscience & Basic

Behavioral Science

NIMH/NIH



# General Guidance

- Read the entire FOA, including the review criteria
- Read the Fellowship (F) Instructions of the SF424 Application Guide

# Grants Application Package

There are several options to submit your application to the agency through Grants.gov. You can use the ASSIST system to prepare, submit and track your application online. You can download an application package from Grants.gov, complete the forms offline, submit the completed forms to Grants.gov and track your application in eRA Commons. Or, you can use other institutional system-to-system solutions to prepare and submit your application to Grants.gov and track your application in eRA Commons. [Learn more.](#)

[Apply Online Using ASSIST](#)

[Apply Using Downloadable Forms](#)

Problems accessing or using ASSIST should  
Problems downloading forms should be dire

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## VIEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY

RFA-NS-17-009  
NIH Blueprint Diversity Specialized Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Advancement in Neuroscience (D-SPAN) Award (F99/K00)  
Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

« Back | Link

SYNOPSIS | VERSION HISTORY | RELATED DOCUMENTS | **PACKAGE**

Select Grant Opportunity Package [Print Package List](#) ?

**READ BELOW BEFORE YOU APPLY FOR THIS GRANT!**  
Before you can view and complete an application package, you **MUST** have Adobe Reader installed. Packages are posted in Adobe Reader format. You may receive a validation error using incompatible versions of Adobe Reader. To prevent a validation error, it is now recommended you uninstall any earlier versions of Adobe Reader and install the latest compatible version of Adobe Reader. If more than one person is working on the application package, ALL applicants must be using the same software version. [Click for more information on Adobe Reader Compatibility.](#)

Below is a list of the Opportunity Package(s) currently available for the Funding Opportunity.  
Click the corresponding link to continue.

CFDA	Competition ID	Competition Title	Opportunity Package ID	Opening Date	Closing Date	Workspace Compatible	Actions
	FORMS-D	Use for due dates on or after May 25, 2016	PKG00228941	03/08/2017	04/08/2017	Yes	<a href="#">Select Package</a>

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GRANTS.GOV Applicant Support  
1-800-518-4726  
[support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov)

# Special Instructions for the Application

- Use the SF424 (R&R) fellowship package
- The Specific Aims and Research Strategy Sections follow a non-traditional format.

# Mandatory Forms

**Select Forms to Complete**

**Mandatory** Save

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1 [SF424 \(R & R\)](#)

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2 [PHS Fellowship Supplemental Form](#)

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3 [Research and Related Senior/Key Person Profile \(Expanded\)](#)

---

4 [Research And Related Other Project Information](#)

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5 [Project/Performance Site Location\(s\)](#)

---

**Optional**

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[Planned Enrollment Report](#)

---

[PHS 398 Cumulative Inclusion Enrollment Report](#)

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<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide.html>

# Letters of Reference

- Start NOW on Letters of Reference

([How to Apply - Application Guide](#) » [Submission Process](#) » [Reference Letters](#))

- **Provide explicit instructions to your referees**
- 3 minimum, 5 maximum
- Referees should not be directly involved in the application (not sponsor or co-sponsor)
- Check the status of the letters often.
  - Late letters not accepted.
  - If letters are missing, application will not be reviewed.

# SF424 Form 1

- Item 12
  - Start Date: the start of the F99 phase
    - The earliest start date is **September** of this year (F.200.12)
  - End Date: the end of the K00 phase (F.200.12)
- Item 15: Estimated Project Funding
  - Covers both phases
  - Use budget section of RFA (F.200.15)
- Item 21: Cover Letter (F.200.21)
  - Cite RFA and include list of referees



# The PHS Supplemental Form

- Part B
  - Applicant's Background and Goals for Fellowship Training (F430.2) (**Fellowship Applicant Section**)
    - include both phases
    - Include a timeline and milestones

# Form 2. The PHS Supplemental Form

- Part C
  - Specific Aims (RFA)
  - Research Strategy (RFA)
  - Respective Contributions (F.430.5)
  - Selection of Sponsor and Institution
    - For F99 phase (F.430.6)
  - Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research (F.430.8)

# Specific Aims Page

- All applicants must use these three Specific Aims:
  - **Aim 1:** The Dissertation Research Project: progress thus far
  - **Aim 2:** The Dissertation Research Project: work to be completed during F99
  - **Aim 3:** The Postdoctoral Research Direction
- Customize introductory/additional paragraphs and any added text under each Aim so that they are specific to your project

# Research Strategy Section (6 pgs)

- The Research Strategy for the F99 is a departure from the traditional research format of “Hypothesis-Experiment-Interpretation.”
  - Relate each of the Aims to your career goals
  - Carefully consider the review criteria prior to writing
- Significance: the importance of the problem— describe this for all aims collectively or for individual aims
- Innovation: not required
- Approach: not the traditional format

# Aim 1: The Dissertation Research Project

- Aim 1: The Dissertation Research Project – goal, rationale, hypotheses, and progress thus far
  - In narrative style, describe the overall goal, rationale, hypotheses, and approaches of the dissertation research project;
  - Describe progress made thus far;
  - Highlight skills and techniques that contribute to the long-term career goal.
- This section provides the background and significance of the dissertation project.
- It is appropriate to include the research results to date, but write in a narrative style.

# Aim 2: The Dissertation Research Project

- Aim 2: The Dissertation Research Project – work to be completed
  - Provide a detailed description of the research to be completed in the F99 phase, including experimental design, anticipated results, and potential follow-up studies.
  - Highlight new skills to be learned.

# Aim 3: The Postdoctoral Research Direction

- Aim 3: The Postdoctoral Research Direction
  - In narrative style, describe the research direction for the K00 phase, including technical and career development skills to be acquired, as well as a plan for identifying a postdoctoral mentor



# The PHS Supplemental Form

- Part D: Sponsor and Co-Sponsor Statements (F99 Phase; F430.9.A-E, RFA)
  - 6 pages total, inclusive of co-sponsors
  - Research Support Available
  - Sponsor/Co-Sponsor's Previous Fellows/Trainees
  - Training Plan, Environment, Research Facilities
  - Number of Fellows/Trainees to be Supervised During the Fellowship
  - Applicant's Qualifications and Potential for a Research Career

# The PHS Supplemental Form

- Part D: Letters of Support from Collaborators, Contributors, and Consultants
  - Letters of Support are not the same as Reference Letters
    - Collaborators are people who will provide something you need for your research;
    - Biosketches of collaborators are optional.
  - Members of an Advisory Committee must provide letters of support
    - Include relevant information applicable to the fellow's planned research training and future goals.
- Co-sponsor information belongs in the Sponsor Information section, not here.

# The PHS Supplemental Form

- Part E: Description of Institutional Environment and Commitment to Training (F.430.11)
  - As RFA describes, include the “Educational Information” section described in F.430.11 in the “Other Attachments” with your nomination letter (RFA, Additional Educational Information)

# The PHS Supplemental Form

- Part F: Other Research Training Plan Section
  - Human Subjects, Vertebrate Animals sections (Follow instructions: F430.12-22)
  - Resource Sharing Plan (F430.23)
    - You must include this section.
    - Includes: 1) [Data Sharing Plan](#); 2) [Sharing Model Organisms](#); and 3) [Genomic Data Sharing Plan](#).
  - Additional Information (Follow F430.25-32)

# The PHS Supplemental Form

- Part G: Budget – be sure to check the box for tuition and fees.
- Part H: Appendix – Do not use the Appendix to circumvent the page limitations.

# R&R Senior/Key Person Profile

- Applicant (F.420)
  - Your role is PD/PI
  - Use the Predoctoral Fellowship Applicant Biographical Sketch
  - Review the Sample Biosketch.  
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>
  - It is OK for fellows to list manuscripts in preparation, submitted, or in revision
- Sponsor (F.420)
  - Role is “Other Professional”
  - Enter “Sponsor” or “Co- Sponsor” in the Other Project Role category field.

# R&R Other Project Information

- R&R Other Project Information (F.220 and RFA)
- Item 6. International activities
  - Although foreign institutions are not allowed to apply, foreign components are permitted
- Item 12. Other Attachments
  - Nomination Letter and Additional Educational Information (RFA),
  - Certification Letter (RFA)



# Nomination Letter

- An institutional nomination letter confirming that the applicant is at the dissertation phase and in the PhD program in a neuroscience field and desires a career as an independent investigator in neuroscience research.
- The name of the primary sponsor and an affirmation of the institution's commitment to the applicant's training and research career goals should also be included in this letter.
- The letter should be provided by the head of the graduate program and be signed by this individual and the institution's Authorized Organizational Representative.
- This letter is limited to 1 page.

# Additional Educational Information

- A description of the applicant's graduate program that explains:
  - Structure of the program,
  - Required milestones and their usual timing,
  - Average time to degree over the past 10 years
- Frequency and method by which the program formally monitors and evaluates a student's progress
- Resources available to the applicant, including those typically associated with an Office of Graduate Education
- Describe the progress/status of the applicant in relation to the program's timeline

# Certification Letter

- Applicants are required to attach a letter from the institution certifying eligibility of the candidate for support under this program.
- The statement must include a clear description of how the appointment of the candidate will expand the pool of underrepresented individuals within science nationally.
- Populations that are nationally underrepresented for the purposes of NIH diversity programs are identified in the [Notice of Interest in Diversity](#).

# R&R Other Project Information

- R&R Other Project Information (4.4)
  - 7. Project Summary/Abstract (both phases)
  - 8. Project Narrative (both phases)
  - 9. Bibliography & References Cited
  - 10. Facilities & Other Resources (F99 phase)
  - 11. Equipment (F99 phase)
  - Post-submission update on Sponsor Research Funding

# Project/Performance Site Location(s)

- List ALL sites where research will be done
- Typically the primary site is the same as the submitting institution
- If you are doing research at an affiliate site, include the affiliate as a secondary site.



National Institute of  
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# F99/K00 Review Criteria

**Michelle Jones-London**

Chief, Office of Programs to Enhance  
Neuroscience Workforce Diversity  
NINDS



# After You Have a Draft...

- Check what you have written against the **Scored Review Criteria**
  - Applicant
  - Sponsors, Collaborators, and Consultants
  - Research Training Plan
  - Training Potential/Development Plan
  - Institutional Environment & Commitment to Training

# Applicant

- Are the applicant's academic record, prior training and research experience of high quality?
- Does the applicant have the potential for becoming a successful independent investigator in neuroscience?
- Does the applicant demonstrate commitment to a neuroscience research career?
- Will the research experiences in the predoctoral phase prepare the applicant to implement successfully a postdoctoral research project for the K00 phase?



# Sponsors, Collaborators, and Consultants

- Are the research qualifications of the F99 sponsor(s) and track record of mentoring individuals at a similar stage appropriate for the needs of the applicant?
- Is there evidence of a match between the research of the applicant and the sponsor(s) in the fellowship phase?
- Do the sponsor(s) demonstrate an understanding of the applicant's training needs as well as the ability and commitment to assist in meeting these needs?
- Is there evidence of adequate research funds?
- If a team of sponsors is proposed, are the roles of the individual members appropriate and clearly defined?
- Are the qualifications of any collaborator(s) and/or consultant(s) appropriate for the proposed project?

# Research Training Plan

- Is the proposed F99 research project of high scientific quality, and is it well integrated with the proposed training plan?
- Is the applicant's proposed research project sufficiently distinct from the sponsor's funded research for the applicant's career stage?
- Is the research project consistent with the applicant's stage of research development and relevant to his/her research career objectives?
- Is the proposed timeframe feasible?
- Have the applicant and/or sponsor(s) outlined feasible research milestones for the transition?
- Is the research direction outlined for the career development (K00) phase appropriate to the applicant's anticipated stage of development and as a vehicle for developing the research skills described in the career development plan?
- Have the applicant and sponsor(s) described an appropriate set of qualifications and attributes for the mentor in the career development (K00) phase?

# Training Potential/Development Plan

- Do the proposed research project and training plan have the potential to provide the applicant with the requisite skills?
- Does the training plan take advantage of the applicant's strengths and address gaps in needed skills?
- Does the training plan document a clear need for, and value of, the proposed training for the applicant?
- Does the training plan in the fellowship phase provide an appropriate foundation for transition to the career development phase?
- Are adequate plans described for monitoring and evaluating the applicant's research and career development progress?
- Have the applicant and sponsor(s) outlined appropriate skills and competencies for the scientific and career development to be expected for transition?

# Institutional Environment & Commitment to Training

- Are the research facilities, resources, and training opportunities adequate and appropriate?
- Is the intellectual environment for the applicant's scientific development in the fellowship phase of the award of high quality?
- Is adequate evidence provided that the F99-sponsoring institution is strongly committed to fostering the applicant's development and preparation for transition?
- Is there strong institutional commitment to fostering the applicant's mentored training toward his/her research career goals, in the fellowship phase of the award?
- Are any unique features of the scientific environment that would benefit the proposed research; e.g., useful collaborative arrangements or subject populations planned for in the K00 phase?

# Next Steps

- Confirm your eligibility
- Talk to your current mentor and devise a timeline to submit a competitive application by April 8
- Submit a letter of intent by March 9
- Receive feedback, revise your work and re-watch this webinar as necessary – it will be archived

# Questions?

- Initial Point of Contact:
  - Michelle Jones-London, PhD
  - National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)
  - [jonesmiche@ninds.nih.gov](mailto:jonesmiche@ninds.nih.gov)

# Q & A



**Nancy Desmond, PhD**  
Associate Director, Research  
Training & Career Development  
Chief, Neuroendocrinology &  
Neuroimmunology Program  
Division of Neuroscience &  
Basic Behavioral Science  
NIMH/NIH



**Michelle Jones-London, PhD**  
Chief  
Office of Programs to Enhance  
Neuroscience Workforce  
Diversity (OPEN)  
NINDS/NIH



**Ashlee Van't Veer, PhD**  
Program Officer, Office of  
Research Training and Career  
Development  
Division of Neuroscience and  
Basic Behavioral Science  
NIMH/NIH



**Edgardo Falcon-Morales, PhD**  
Health Program Specialist  
NINDS/NIH



**Bill Benzing, PhD**  
Scientific Review Officer  
NINDS/NIH

**Elizabeth Webber, PhD**  
Scientific Review Officer  
NINDS/NIH



**Lauren Ullrich, PhD**  
Health Program Specialist  
NINDS/NIH