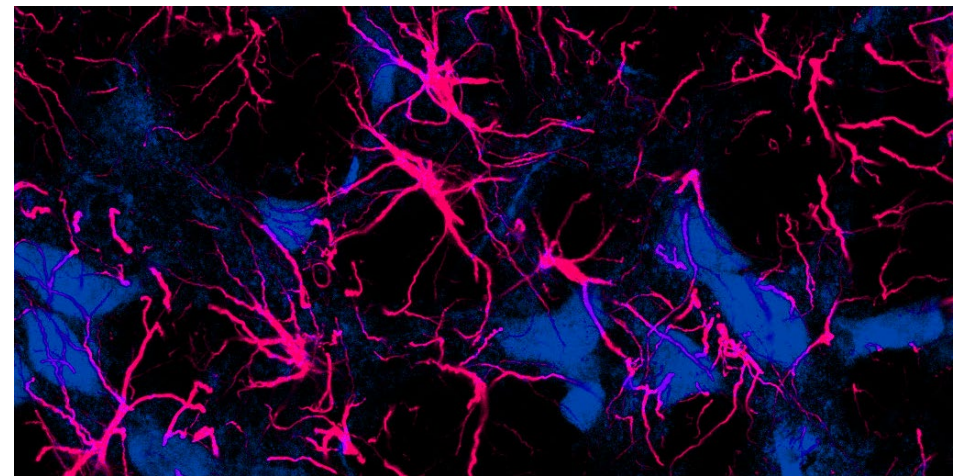
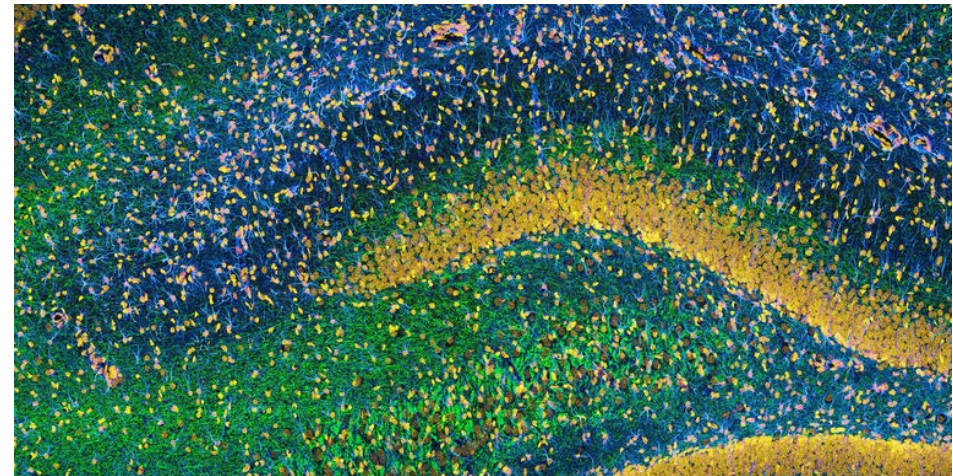
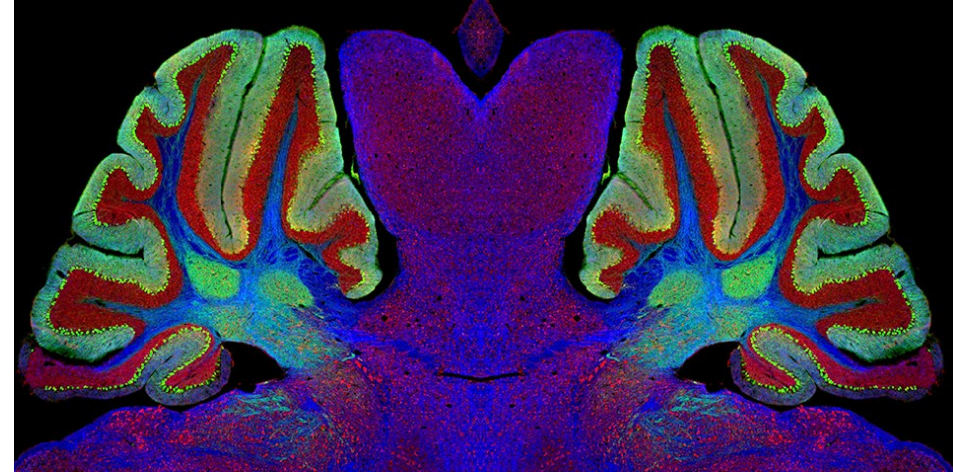




National Institute of  
Neurological Disorders  
and Stroke

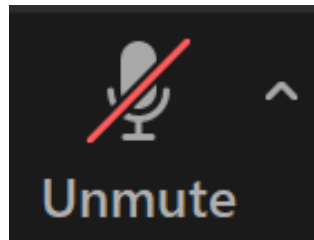
# Diversity F31 OPEN House

May 9, 2023

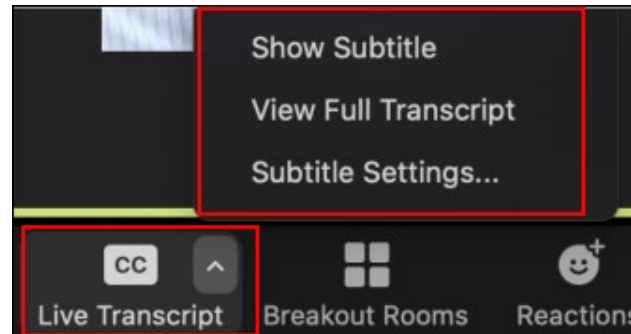


# Meeting Reminders

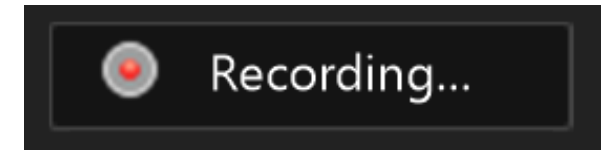
Attendees are muted



Live transcript available



Presentation is being recorded



# Goals of Today's OPEN House

1. Understand the Diversity F31 fellowship and what you need to put together a strong application
2. Meet some of the NIH Staff who are a resource to you as applicants
3. Encourage you to apply!

# Speakers



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



**Marguerite Matthews, PhD**  
Program Director  
OPEN, NINDS



**Anahid Ebrahimi, PhD**  
Health Program Specialist  
OPEN, NINDS



**Jennifer Kielczewski, PhD**  
Scientific Review Officer  
Center for Scientific Review,  
NIH



**Lauren Ullrich, PhD**  
Program Director  
OPEN, NINDS



**Michael Tennekoon, PhD**  
Health Program Specialist  
Office of Training & Workforce  
Development, NINDS

# NIH & NINDS: Who We Are



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

NCI

NEI

NHLBI

NHGRI

NIA

NIAAA

NIAID

NIAMS

NIBIB

NICHD

NIDCD

NIDCR

NIDDK

NIDA

NIEHS

NIGMS

NIMH

NIMHD

NINDS

NINR

NLM

CC

CIT

CSR

FIC

NCATS

NCCIH

# NIH & NINDS

- NIH has 27 Institutes and Centers (ICs)
  - Each IC has its own mission
  - Each IC has its own budget
  - Each IC has its own activities
  - Each IC has its own way of doing business
- The mission of NINDS is to seek fundamental knowledge about the brain and nervous system and to use that knowledge to reduce the burden of neurological disease for all people.



National Institute of  
Neurological Disorders  
and Stroke

# Finding the Right Program Official (PO)

Before you apply, talk to your “likely” PO. Options:

- Contact OPEN office!
- Contact Mentor’s PO
- Use Matchmaker function in NIH RePORTER
- Check Funding Opportunity’s “Table of IC-specific contacts”

After you apply, you will be assigned a PO

- Check eRA Commons

NIH Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools (RePORT)

Search

Home > RePORTER > Matchmaker

NIH RePORTER Version: 7.30.0

QUICK LINKS RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS WORKFORC

Use Matchmaker to find similar projects and program officials

Enter abstracts or other scientific text and Matchmaker will return lists of similar projects from RePORTER projects. These matches are based on the terms and concepts used in the submitted text. Up to 15,000 Matchmaker summarizes the projects by the program official, institute or center, review panel, and ac

Enter your Text:

Terms will be weighted by frequency of appearance in the text above, and confidential. The Matchmaker system does not track and store st

CLEAR SIMILAR PROJECTS SIM

Contacts

Administration: Scientific Review Officer (SRO)  
Name: Admin, SRO  
Phone: 301-555-5555  
Email: eRaTest@mail.nih.gov

Administration: Grants Management Specialist (GMS)  
Name: Specialist, Grant  
Phone: 301-555-5555  
Email: eRaTest@mail.nih.gov

Administration: Program Official (PO)  
Name: Official, Program  
Phone: 301-555-5555  
Email: eRaTest@mail.nih.gov

Latest Update

Application Source: Grants.gov  
FOA: [PA15-123] - Development of Innovative Methods and Algorithms for Cancer Research and Management (R21)

eRA Service Desk

Hours: Mon-Fri, 7AM-8PM EDT/EST  
Web: <http://grants.nih.gov/support>  
Toll-free: 866-504-9552  
Phone: 301-402-7469  
Contact initiated outside of business hours via Web or voice mail will be returned the next business day.

Status Information

Filter  x Expand All Collapse All

1 R21 CA123456-01

Status: Application awarded. Project Title: Algorithmic Cancer Forecasting and Disruption  
PI Name: Cantor, Georg NIH Appl. ID: 7654321 Application ID: 1 R21 CA123456-0

Status

Status: Application awarded.  
Last Status Update Date: 06/24/2014

PI Name: Cantor, Georg Institution Name: COLLABORATORIUM UNIVERSITY NIH Appl. ID: 7654  
School Name: SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICAL MEDICINE  
School Category: ORGANIZED RESEARCH UNITS  
Division Name: NONE  
Department Name: NONE

Proposal Receipt Date: 10/24/2013 Proposal Title: Prediction of Cancer Progression and Associated Markers to Innovative Disruption and Treatment

Project Period Begin Date: 07/01/2014 Current Award Notice Date: 07/28/2014  
Project Period End Date: 06/30/2018

Application Source: Grants.gov eApplication Status: Submission Complete  
FOA: [PA15-123] - Development of Innovative Methods and Algorithms for Cancer Research and Management (R21)

Other Relevant Documents

e-Application

Summary Statement

Latest NGA

Notice(s) of Grant Award (PDF) 07/28/2014 - 06/24/2014

Abstract (Awarded Grant)

Just In Time 06/13/2014 Times Revised(2)

eSubmission Cover Letter

Additions for Review

Document Event Log

Review

Application	Study Section	Advisory Council (
Award Document Number: RCA123456A	Scientific Review Group: ZRG1	Meeting Date: 06/02
FSR Accepted Code: N	Council Meeting Date (YYYY/MM): 2014/05	Meeting Time: 08:30
Snap Indicator Code: Y	Meeting Date: 02/24/2014	
Impact Score: 21	Meeting Time: 08:30	
Document ID: 130	Study Director: View Meeting Doctor	

# The NINDS Diversity Office is “OPEN”

- Our goal is to open opportunities and access to enhance the diversity of the neuroscience workforce
- We develop and implement specific funding opportunities (individual and institutional) and work across the NINDS scientific portfolio to promote inclusion
- An OPEN Pathway of programs across career stages

**From Potential to Action: NINDS Trainees Navigate Diverse Paths to Success**



<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/About-NINDS/Workforce-Diversity/Success-Stories>

<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/About-NINDS/Workforce-Diversity/Enhancing-Diversity>

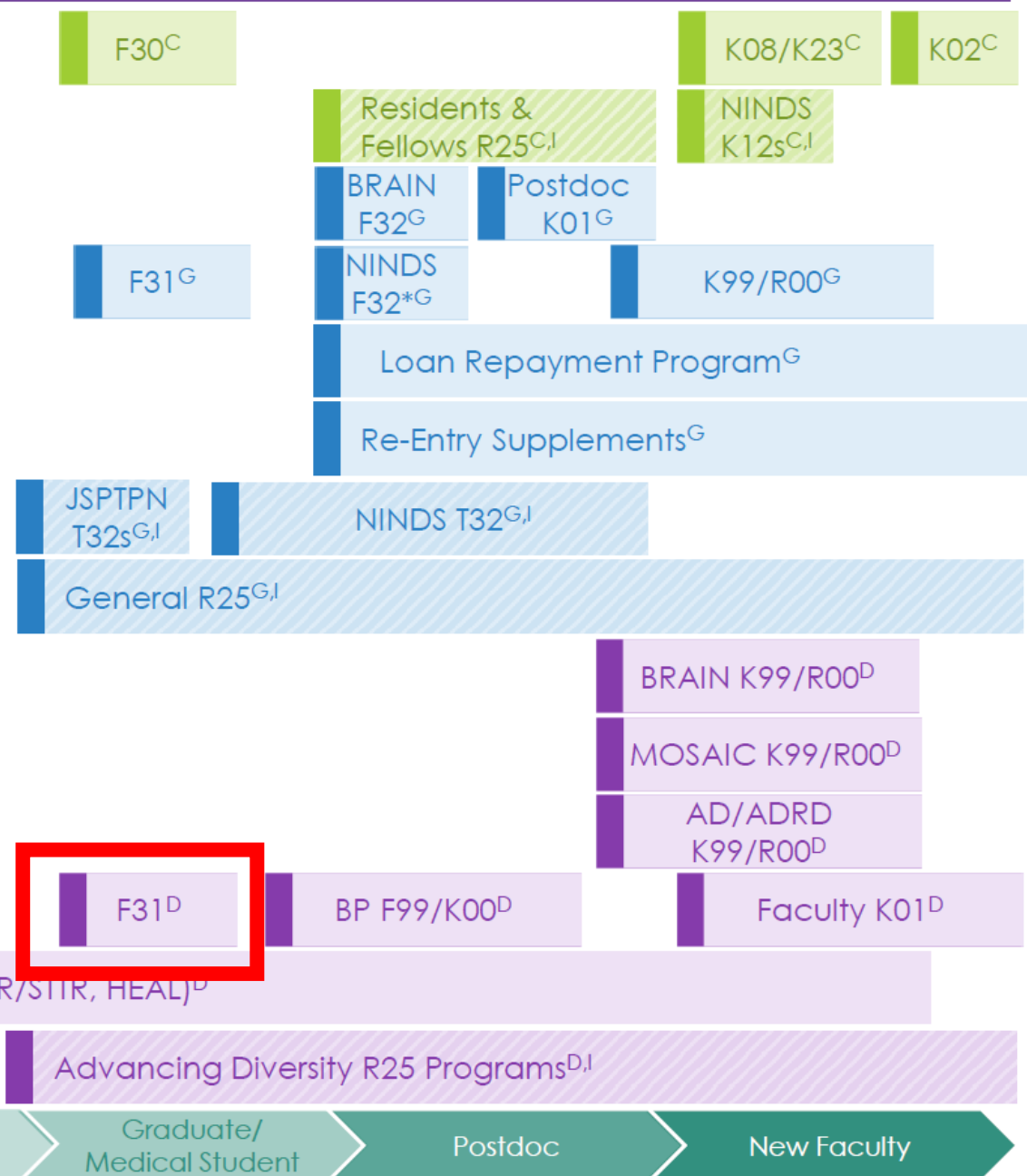


# NINDS Extramural Training and Career Development Programs

- C-Clinician-scientist
- G-General
- D-Diversity
- I-Institutional

\*Eligibility measured from date joined lab

Summer Research R25<sup>G,I</sup>



# Diversity F31 Fellowship



**Anahid Ebrahimi, PhD**  
Health Program Specialist  
OPEN, NINDS

# Diversity Predoc Fellowship (F31)

The Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) ***Individual Predoctoral Fellowship to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research (F31)*** will enable promising underrepresented predoctoral students to obtain individualized, mentored research training from outstanding faculty sponsors while conducting well-defined research projects

# Eligibility

- US citizen or permanent resident only
- For the purpose of this announcement, institutions are encouraged to recruit potential student participants from diverse backgrounds
- Must be pursuing a PhD or equivalent research degree, or a combined professional and research doctoral degree in biomedical, behavioral, health services, or clinical sciences (e.g. MD/PhD)
- Can only be supported within first 6 years of graduate school
  - **Must have a minimum 12 months remaining by award start date**

# Award Details

- Duration of support:
  - Up to 5 years of aggregate NRSA predoctoral support (up to 6 years for dual degree training, e.g., MD/PhD), including any combination of support from institutional training grants (T32) and an individual fellowship award
- Award budget:
  - Stipend
  - Tuition and fees
  - Institutional allowance (health insurance, research supplies, equipment, books, and travel to scientific meetings)

# Choosing Between General F31 & Diversity F31

- NINDS supports both the **General F31** and the **Diversity F31**
  - **Diversity F31** is for students underrepresented in biomedical research
  - **Diversity F31** funding rates are similar to
- Differences are based on career
  - **General F31**: Applicants must be in the final year of a PhD degree and have identified a specific research project and sponsor(s).
  - **Diversity F31**: Applicants may apply at any time, applications are encouraged once an applicant has identified a specific research project that will be undertaken in the sponsor's laboratory. This often occurs in the second year of a PhD program.

**You can not send the same grant to both programs and you cannot apply for both at the same time.**

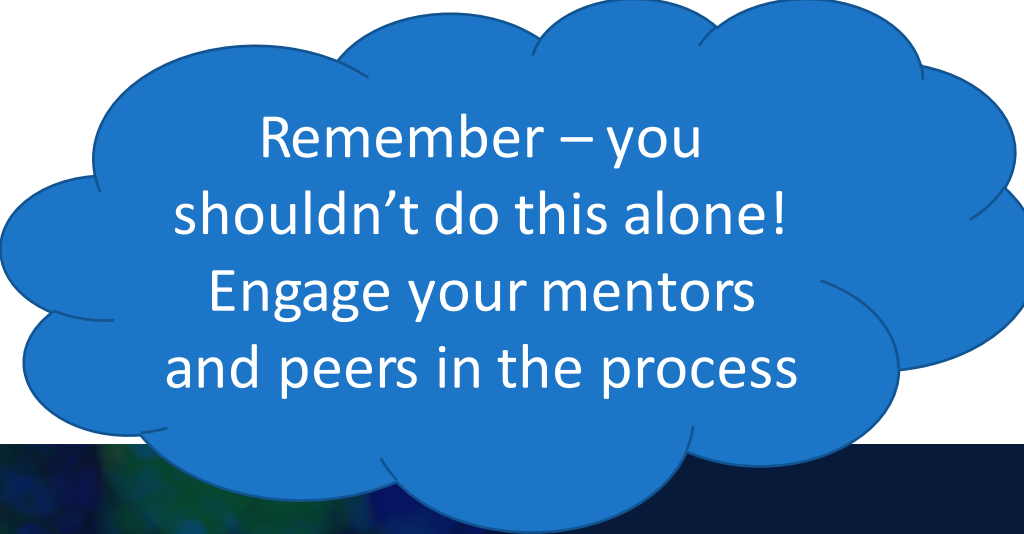


**Marguerite Matthews, PhD**  
Program Director  
OPEN, NINDS

# Putting Together Your Application

# Before You Start Your Application

Take a step back and view the process of writing the grant not only for money/funding, but as an exercise to organize a vision of your research, a timeline for your career development and as a vehicle to have focused engagement with your mentor



Remember – you shouldn't do this alone!  
Engage your mentors and peers in the process



Be specific:

My goal is \_\_\_\_\_

My research question is \_\_\_\_\_

At the end of this award, I will be ready to \_\_\_\_\_

Work backward from your end goal - where do you need to be in:

Discipline-specific knowledge, technical skills, communication skills, leadership skills, etc.

What will you learn from each identified mentor?

Are all your areas of development covered?

Be consistent

Be realistic

Be explicit

## Step 1

- Define your career goals and research interests

## Step 2

- Perform a skills “gap analysis”

## Step 3

- Build a career/training plan that is tailored to your needs
- Seek guidance and mentorship!

## Step 4

- Read instructions and put it all together!
- Get LOTS of feedback

# Select Application Materials

- Biosketch
- Applicant's Background and Goals for Fellowship Training
  - A. Doctoral Dissertation and Research Experience
  - B. Training Goals and Objectives
  - C. Activities Planned Under this Award
- Research Training Plan

# Select Application Materials

- Sponsor & Co-Sponsor Statement
  - Research Support Available
  - Sponsor's/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
- Referee letters (different from Letters of Support!)
- Description of Candidate's Contribution to Program Goals



Center for  
Scientific Review

A large graphic element consisting of a dark grey arrow pointing right, with a green arrow pointing right inside it, positioned to the left of the text.

# Review

Dr. Jennifer Kielczewski, SRO in Center for Scientific Review (CSR)

# CSR Web Site

- About CSR
- Applicant Resources
- Study Sections
- Rosters and Meetings



<http://www.csr.nih.gov>

# CSR's Mission



Center for  
Scientific Review

To ensure that NIH grant applications receive **fair**, independent, expert, and timely scientific reviews - **free from inappropriate influences** - so NIH can fund the most promising research.



bias in review? <https://public.csr.nih.gov/AboutCSR/Address-Bias-in-Peer-Review>

# General Scientific Review Officer (SRO) Duties

- Responsible for the scientific and technical review of applications
- Review applications for completeness and conformance with application requirements
- Ensure fair and unbiased evaluation of the scientific and technical merit of the proposed research
- Provide accurate Summary Statements of the review to aid funding recommendations made by National Advisory Councils and Institute Directors

# Review Process of NRSA Fellowship Applications

## Before



- Scientific Review Officer (SRO) assigns 3 reviewers to your fellowship application
- Reviewers provide scores & written critique

## During



- 70-90 total fellowship applications per fellowship panel reviewed. Discussed in clusters (F31, F31-DIV, F30, F32)
  - ~50% discussed
- For discussed applications, all panel members participate in discussion

## After

- SRO will release final scores and Summary Statements
- Applicants should contact Program Officers (PO) after reading their Summary Statement with any questions pertaining to their review



# Application Scoring- There are 5 review criteria contributing to the Overall Impact Score

Impact	Score	Descriptor
High Impact	1	Exceptional
	2	Outstanding
	3	Excellent
Medium Impact	4	Very Good
	5	Good
	6	Satisfactory
Low Impact	7	Fair
	8	Marginal
	9	Poor

- High value/benefit of training to applicant
- High potential for applicant to develop into a productive, independent scientists
- Some or no weakness in criteria

- Moderate to high value/benefit of training to applicant
- Moderate to high potential for applicant to develop further
- Weaknesses reduce to medium impact

- Low to moderate value/benefit of training to applicant
- Low to moderate potential for applicant to develop further
- Weaknesses reduce to low impact

# Fellowship Application Review Criteria - Five Criteria

1. Fellowship Applicant
2. Sponsors, Collaborators and Consultants
3. Research Training Plan
4. Training Potential
5. Institutional Environment & Commitment to Training

# Review Criteria

## 1. Applicant

- Are the applicant's academic record and research experience of high quality?
- Does the applicant have the potential to develop into an independent and productive researcher?
- Does the applicant demonstrate commitment to a research career in the future?

## 2. Sponsors, Collaborators, and Consultants

- Are the sponsor(s)' research qualifications and track record of mentoring individuals at a similar stage appropriate for the applicant's needs?
- Do the applicant's research interests match the sponsor(s)? Do(es) the sponsor(s) understand the applicant's training needs and show commitment to assist in meeting those needs?
- Is there adequate funding to support the applicant's proposed research and training for the duration of the research component of the fellowship?

# Review Criteria

## 3. Research Training Plan

- Is the research project of high scientific quality and well integrated with the proposed training plan?
- Is the proposed research project sufficiently distinct from the sponsor's funded research, and consistent with the applicant's stage of research development?
- Is the time frame feasible to accomplish the proposed training?

## 4. Training Potential

- Are the proposed research project and training plan likely to provide the applicant with the requisite individualized and mentored experiences in order to obtain appropriate skills for a research career?
- Does the training plan take advantage of the applicant's strengths and address gaps in needed skills, and document a clear need for, and value of, the proposed training?
- Will the proposed training enhance the applicant's ability to develop into a productive researcher?

# Review Criteria

## 5. Institutional Environment & Commitment to Training

- Are the research facilities, resources (e.g., equipment, laboratory space, computer time, subject populations), and training opportunities (e.g. seminars, workshops, professional development opportunities) adequate and appropriate?
- Is the institutional environment for the applicant's scientific development of high quality?
- Is there appropriate institutional commitment to fostering the applicant's mentored training.

## Additional Review Criteria

- As applicable for the project proposed, reviewers will evaluate the following additional items while determining scientific and technical merit, and in providing an overall impact score, but **will not** give separate scores for these items.
  - Protections for Human Subjects
  - Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Individuals Across the Lifespan
  - Vertebrate Animals
  - Biohazards
  - Resubmissions

# After the review... Applicants should

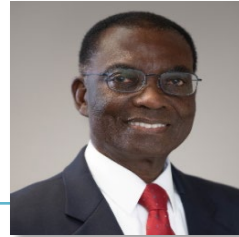
- Carefully read their Summary Statement
- Contact your Program Officer (PO) and be prepared to discuss any questions:
  - Reviewer comments from Summary Statement
  - Scores and percentiles
  - Funding prospects
  - Resubmission and other options

# After the review meeting..... Keep in mind

- Your **Program Officer (PO)** can assist with any questions regarding the review of your fellowship application (scoring, funding etc.)
- An SRO can not answer specific questions about the review of your fellowship application once the Review meeting has occurred.

# Reporting Review Concerns about Bias or Integrity

**For issues related to respectful interactions, bias or anything else that could affect the fairness of the review process, contact the CSR Associate Director of Diversity & Workforce Development at [G.Fosu\\_AssocDir@csr.nih.gov](mailto:G.Fosu_AssocDir@csr.nih.gov).**



Gabriel Fosu, Ph.D.

**For issues related to review integrity, contact your SRO, or the CSR Review Integrity Officer at [csrrio@mail.nih.gov](mailto:csrrio@mail.nih.gov), or the NIH Review Policy Officer at [reviewpolicyofficer@mail.nih.gov](mailto:reviewpolicyofficer@mail.nih.gov).**

## Existing CSR policy regarding a potentially flawed/biased review

Assessment by CSR management – is it a flawed review?

- Yes - CSR re-reviews the application in the same council round.
- No – CSR refers PI to program officer for guidance on council appeal process



# How can you stay abreast of policy changes?

Subscribe to the NIH Guide Notice – this is the primary means of communication from NIH to the external community:

<https://grants.nih.gov/policy/notices.htm>

**NIH GRANTS & FUNDING**  
NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

Search this Site  
eRA | NIH Staff | Glossary

HOME ABOUT GRANTS FUNDING **POLICY & COMPLIANCE** NEWS & EVENTS ABOUT OER

Home » Policy & Compliance » Notices of NIH Policy Changes

**POLICY & COMPLIANCE** **Notices of NIH Policy Changes**

NIH Grants Policy Statement  
**Notices of Policy Changes**  
Compliance & Oversight  
Policy Topics

Search the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts for all notices.  
**Subscribe to receive notices each week.**

Previous Years:  
[2015] [2014] [2013] [2012] [2011] [2010] [2009] [2008] [2007] [2006] [2005] [2004] [2003] [2002] [2001] [2000] [1999] [1998] [1997] [1996] [1995] [1994] [1993]

**August 2020**

August 28	Notice of Correction to Eligibility in NIH Funding Opportunity Announcements
August 28	Reminder: NIH Natural Disaster Policy – Hurricane Isaias, Derecho
August 12	Extending the Special Exception to the NIH/AHRQ/NIOSH Post-Submission Material Policy During the COVID-19 Pandemic
August 11	Temporary Extension of Eligibility for the NIH K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Anti-Sexual Harassment  
Animal Welfare  
Application Submission Policies  
Communicating and Acknowledging Federal Funding  
Clinical Trial Requirements  
Early Stage and Early Established Investigator Policies

# NIH Guide

## For Grants and Contracts

*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*

- Announces NIH scientific initiatives
- Provides NIH policy and administrative information
- Supplies links to application forms
- Available on the NIH Web Site: <http://www.nih.gov>

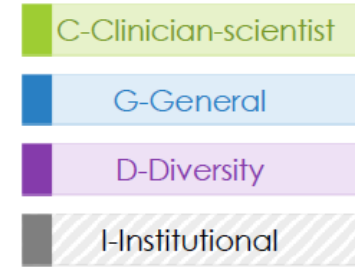
# Other funding opportunities



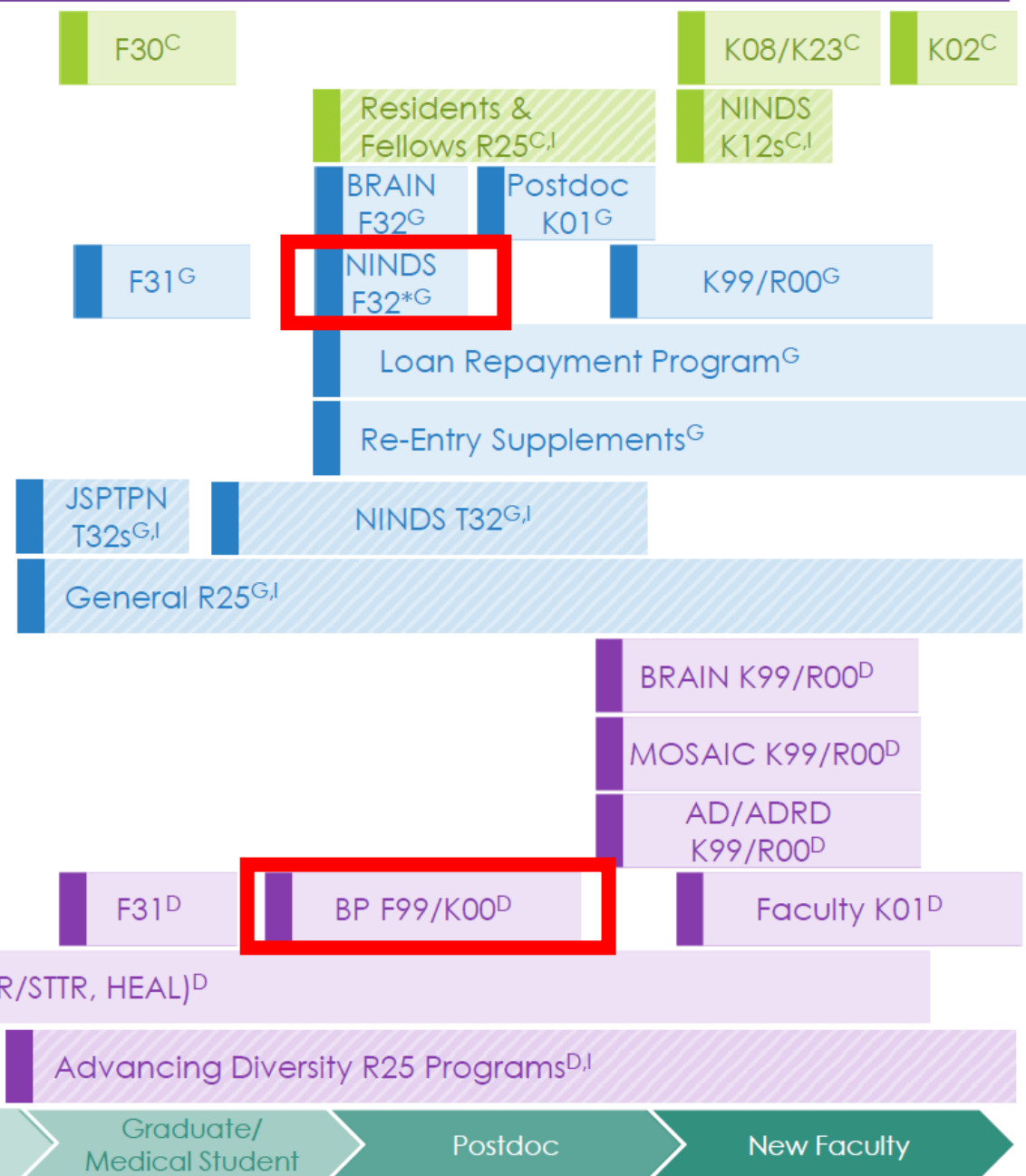
**Michael Tennekoon, PhD**  
Health Program Specialist  
Office of Training & Workforce  
Development, NINDS

**Lauren Ullrich, PhD**  
Program Director  
OPEN, NINDS

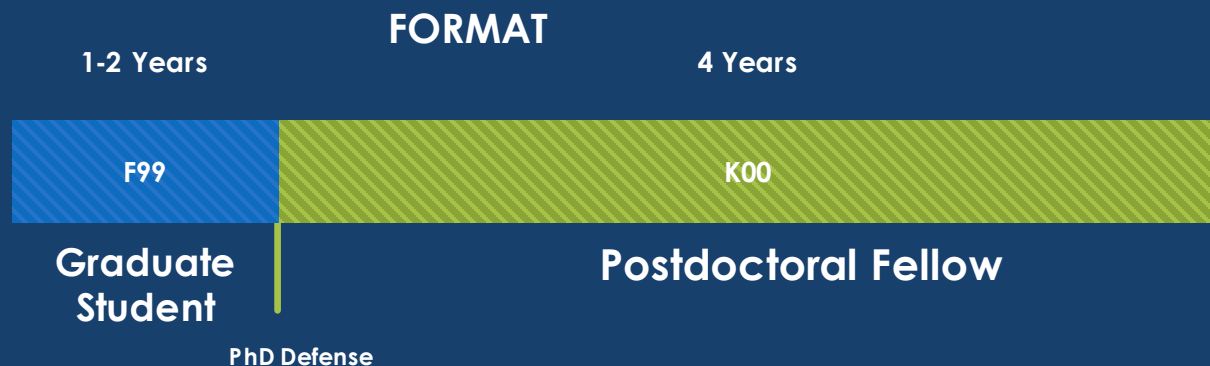
# NINDS Extramural Training and Career Development Programs



\*Eligibility measured from date joined lab



# NIH Blueprint and BRAIN Initiative Diversity Specialized Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Advancement in Neuroscience Award (F99/K00)



April 15, 2022; December 15, 2022; April 14, 2023; December 15, 2023

## PARTICIPATING INSTITUTES

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

RFA-NS-21-012

## INTENDED FOR



PhD students with 1-2 years left in a research doctoral degree program;



From diverse backgrounds (NOT-OD-20-031), such as:

- Individuals from nationally underrepresented racial and ethnic groups (African Americans, Hispanic/Latinx, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders), and
- Individuals with disabilities;
- Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.



Performing neuroscience research within the BRAIN Initiative or Blueprint missions;



At a U.S. domestic institution; and are

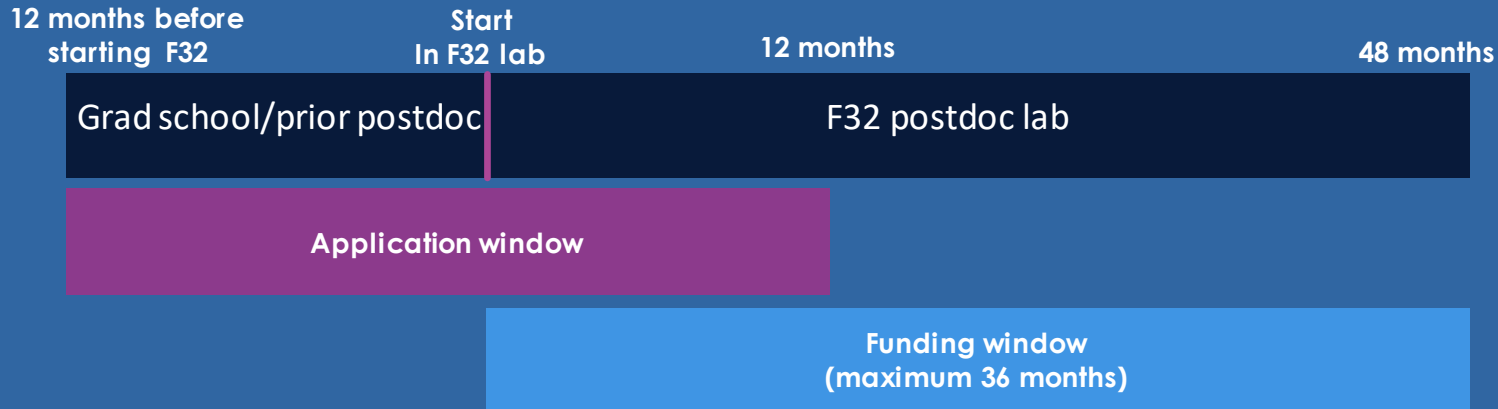


U.S. citizens or permanent residents by time of award



# NINDS Postdoctoral NRSA Fellowship (F32) – PAR-21-032

## FORMAT



February 9, 2023; June 8th, 2023; October 10th 2023  
Dates for 2024 will be published in due course

Contact: Michael Tennekoon  
Michael.tennekoon@nih.gov

## INTENDED FOR



- Postdoctoral Fellows that are early in their training;
- Can apply before joining the postdoc lab you will be doing the F32 project in
  - Preliminary data are **NOT** required!
  - **Not intended** to continue training in same research environment
  - Encourage creative, bold, innovative ideas that are an intellectual collaboration between the individual and their mentor
  - Do not wait to apply!



Performing neuroscience research within the NINDS mission (please send specific aims to Michael Tennekoon to confirm)



U.S. citizens or permanent residents by time of award



At a U.S. domestic institution or;  
**Foreign institution** – however, it must be justified as to why this work cannot be done at a U.S. Domestic institution

# OPEN Connections



## LISTSERV

<http://go.usa.gov/xkpN6>



## TWITTER

@NINDSDiversity



## PODCAST

[ninds.buzzsprout.com](http://ninds.buzzsprout.com)



## E-MAIL

NINDSDiversityTraining  
[@mail.nih.gov](mailto:@mail.nih.gov)



# Breakout Rooms



**Michelle Jones-London, PhD**

**SPONSOR/CO-SPONSOR**



**Marguerite Matthews, PhD**



**Anahid Ebrahimi, PhD**

**F31**



**Jennifer Kielczewski, PhD**

**SCIENTIFIC REVIEW**



**Lauren Ullrich, PhD**



**Michael Tennekoon, PhD**

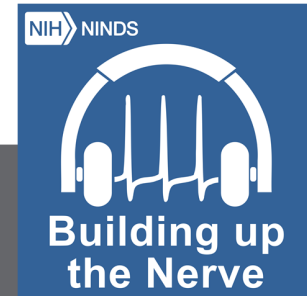
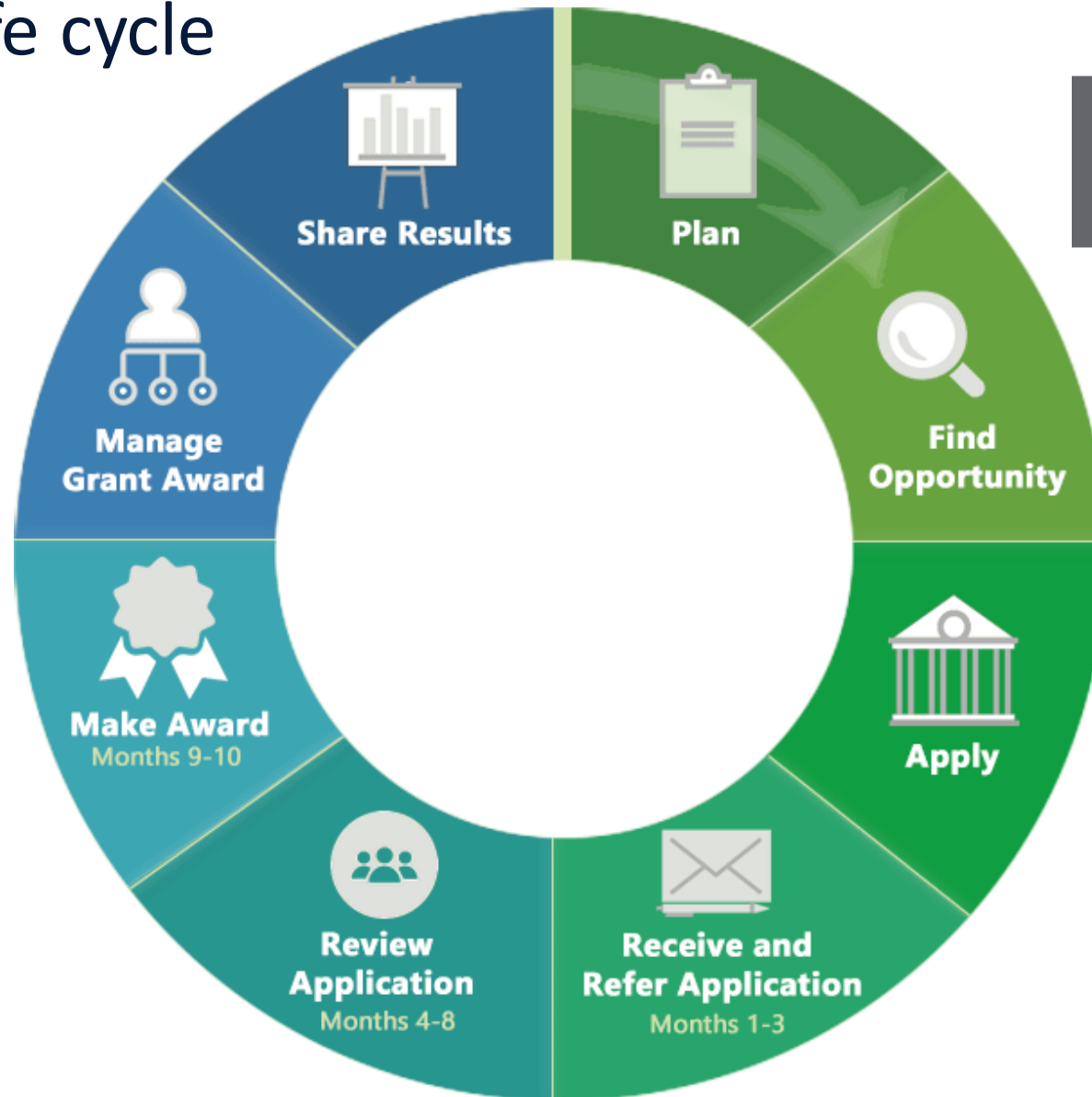
**F99/K00, NINDS F32**





# Additional Slides and Information

# The grant life cycle



## Building Up the Nerve

A NEW PODCAST FROM NINDS

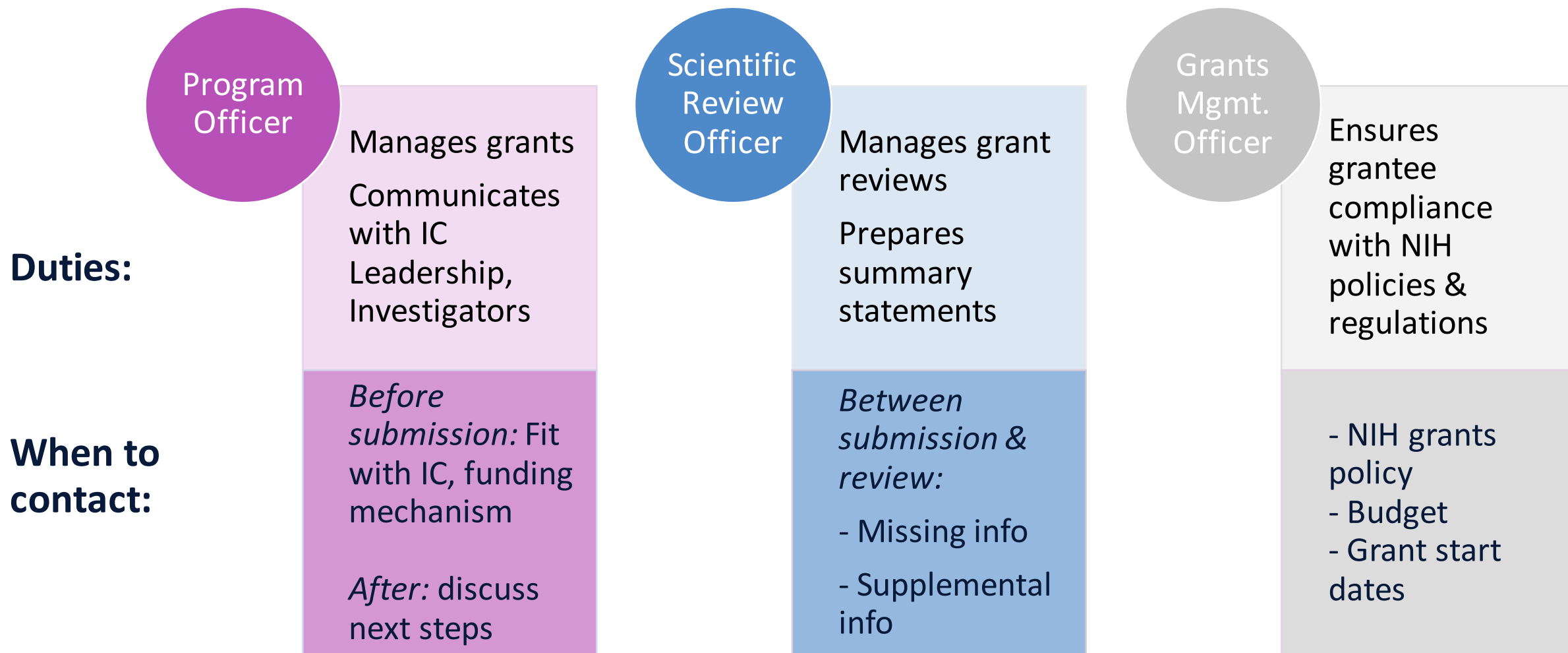
Learn how to navigate through the life cycle of a grant from idea to award with the help of the NINDS staff who make it happen.

Subscribe at [ninds.buzzsprout.com](https://ninds.buzzsprout.com)

Send questions to [NINDSNervePod@nih.gov](mailto:NINDSNervePod@nih.gov)

- Start planning early
- From “Plan” to “apply” could take 8+ Months

# Who are the people behind NIH?



# Scoring Fellowship Applications for Overall Impact

## FELLOWSHIPS & CAREER AWARDS

### Overall Impact:

The likelihood that the proposed training (F) or career development (K) will enhance the candidate's potential for a productive, independent scientific research career in a health-related field.

Overall Impact	High	Medium	Low
Score	1 2 3	4 5 6	7 8 9

<b>Evaluating Overall Impact</b> Consider the 5 criteria (weighting based on reviewer's judgment):		<i>e.g. Proposes training or career development of high value/benefit for the candidate who has high potential for developing into a productive, independent scientist. May have some or no weaknesses in the criteria.</i>	<i>e.g. Proposes training or career development of high or moderate value/benefit for the candidate who has high or moderate potential for further development, but weaknesses in the criteria reduce the overall impact to medium.</i>  <i>e.g. Proposes training or career development of moderate value/benefit for the candidate who shows moderate potential. May have some weaknesses in the criteria.</i>	<i>e.g. Proposes training or career development of moderate or low value/benefit for the candidate who has moderate or low potential for further development. Weaknesses in the criteria reduce the overall impact to low.</i>  <i>e.g. Proposes training or career development of low value/benefit for the candidate who shows low potential. May have some weaknesses in the criteria.</i>
<b>Fs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicant</li> <li>• Sponsor(s)</li> <li>• Research Training Plan</li> <li>• Training Potential</li> <li>• Institutional Environment &amp; Commitment</li> </ul>	<b>Ks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidate</li> <li>• Career Development Plan/Goals*</li> <li>• Research Plan</li> <li>• Mentor(s)**</li> <li>• Environment &amp; Institutional Commitment</li> </ul>			
and other score influences, e.g. human subjects, animal welfare, inclusion plans, and biohazards				
*K05 and K24: Plan to Provide Mentoring **K02: Consultants/Collaborators				

**5 is a good, medium-impact application. The entire scale (1-9) should always be considered.**

# Research Supplements to Promote Diversity

Administrative supplements to active NIH research grants (R, P, U) to support the training of underrepresented individuals and enhance the diversity of the research workforce

- NIH Parent FOA ([PA-21-071](#))
- Alzheimer's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease-Related Dementias ([NOT-NS-21-047](#))
- HEAL ([NOT-NS-20-023](#))
- BRAIN Initiative ([NOT-MH-19-038](#))

## For Research and Development Small Businesses

Administrative supplements to active NIH SBIR/STTR grants to enhance the diversity of the research workforce and increase the participation of women and socially and economically disadvantaged individuals in small businesses ([PA-18-837](#))

# Resources

- Watch the [2019 Applicant Assistance Webinar](#)
- Read Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) thoroughly!
- Follow Fellowship (F) Instructions in the SF424 Application Guide