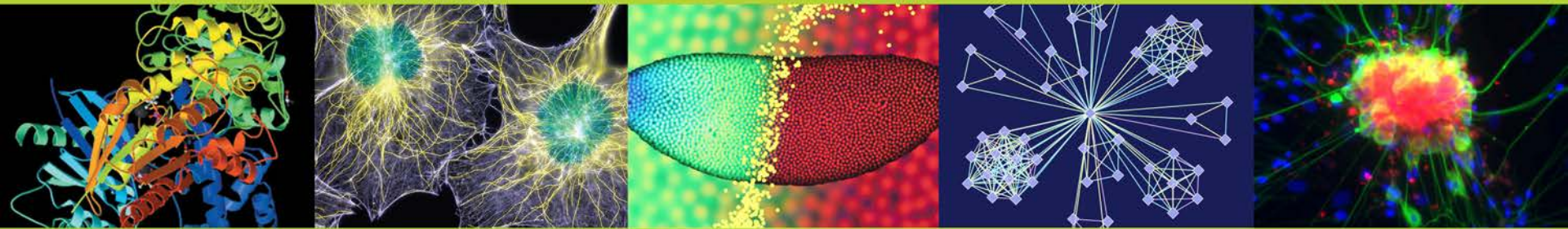National Institute of General Medical Sciences

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Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) Program

Talk Outline

- What is an AREA (R15) grant?

- Eligibility criteria

- How to talk to the NIH about applying for an R15 grant

What is an AREA (R15) grant?

- Goal of AREA program is to strengthen research environment of schools who are not major recipients of NIH funding and to expose students to meritorious research

- Budget: up to $300,000 direct costs over three years

- Currently, there are two "flavors" of R15 funding opportunity announcements:

  - "Parent" R15 FOA: PA-18-504 (most NIH Institutes/Centers)

  - AREA for Undergraduate-Focused Institutions: PAR-18-714 (NIGMS, NIDCR, NHGRI, NIAID, NLM, NCI)

Eligibility criteria for R15 grants

- Institution must award bachelor or advanced degree in biomedical or behavioral sciences

- Total NIH support at institution less than $6 million per year in 4 of the last 7 years

- Principal Investigator eligibility: PI cannot have an NIH research grant at time of R15 award

- "Parent" FOA Includes support for health professional schools, but undergraduate-focused FOA does not

- Undergraduate-focused FOA:

  o Undergraduate student enrollment must be greater than the graduate student enrollment – at the institutional or academic components level

  o The research team must be composed primarily of undergraduate students

Who should you talk to at NIH?

- Program Officer (PO): Helps investigators apply for grants, interpret reviews, makes funding decisions, manages award in noncompeting years

- Scientific Review Officer (SRO): Refers application to appropriate study section, identifies and recruits reviewers, assigns reviewers to your application, runs the study section meeting, produces summary statement

- Grants Management Specialist (GMS): Handles financial aspects of the grant award, non-scientific issues such as PI effort, changes in animal/human subject use, etc.

NIH National Institute of General Medical Sciences

When should you contact NIH staff?

- Program Officer: Before you submit an application and after the summary statement is available, anytime after application is recommended for funding

- Scientific Review Officer: After you submit an application and before the summary statement is available

- Grants Management Specialist: After application is recommended for funding and anytime an administrative issue arises

- "Firewall" between Program and Review: POs do not review grants, SROs do not fund grants

NIH National Institute of General Medical Sciences

How to identify right NIH contact

- Colleagues, friends, other researchers in your field

- Look at the acknowledgements section of publications: who funds the work?

- NIH RePORTER searches for funded grants (http://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter.cfm)

- The Center for Scientific Review (http://public.csr.nih.gov/Pages/default.aspx) has information about study sections and the application process

- NIH Institute/Center websites, e.g. NIGMS, NCI, NIAID

Questions?

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