

NAVIGATING THE NIH

FACTS AND URBAN LEGENDS

OUTLINE

- GETTING STARTED – DEFINITIONS
- NIH GUIDE TO GRANTS AND CONTRACTS
- CRISP
- ASKING NIH A QUESTION
- CURRENCY OF THE NIH
- PARTNERSHIPS AND MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

THE FUNCTION OF NIH

- To gain knowledge through research and education on issues of human health
 - Priority areas assigned by government through interaction with stakeholders
 - Priority is established by the government and not the research community
 - Overall, the NIH does not exist to serve the investigator
 - The investigator serves NIH and the public

Common Problem

**The NIH is not interested in the research
I want to do!**

NIH MOTIVATES THROUGH GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

- NIH Advances Health Through Grants and Contracts
 - Grants most common and target advances in knowledge and education
 - Contracts less common and usually target specific needs (i.e. vaccines)
- Essentially ZERO NIH funding through non-grant and contract funding.

STUDY SECTIONS

- Grants are evaluated by study sections
- Composed of 25 to 50 members
- Have 3 independent reviews prior to table discussion by entire study section
- Study sections assign a priority score
 - Historical base is 100 outstanding to 500 poor
- Triage – Originally scored but not discussed by the study section
 - Lower 60% of grants
 - Do not get the scores

STUDY SECTIONS

- Triaged grants are usually not resubmitted for review
 - Allowed but not wise
- Each grant can only be submitted 3X
 - If Triaged, better to change specific aims and resubmit as new proposal
 - Why? Get three more chances for a score
 - On resubmission, previous errors or criticisms are addressed by the applicant.

STUDY SECTIONS

- Want a score on the first submission, why?
- Human nature of study sections is to better the score if criticisms are answered on the resubmission
- In a low funding environment, three submission to get funded.
- Resubmissions are labeled as A1 and A2 after the grant number.

TYPES OF GRANTS

- R01 – Investigator Initiated Research
 - Backbone of the NIH
 - \$250,000 yr direct costs/4years
 - Full Indirect Costs
- R21 – Targeted to Innovation
 - \$125,000 yr/2years (variable)
 - Full Indirect Costs
 - More popular with low funding

TYPE OF GRANTS

- R03 – Targeted Areas of High Impact
 - \$75,000 yr/2 or 3 years (variable)
 - Full Indirect Costs
 - More popular with low funding
- P and U grants – Center and Program Project grants with multiple projects around a common theme
 - Millions per year/4 or 5 years
 - Very Competitive
 - Full Indirect Costs

TYPES OF GRANTS

- R15 – Grants reserved for those states and schools with low NIH funding
 - \$150,000 over 2 to 3 years
 - Must qualify as a school
 - UND qualifies except for the Medical School
 - Must have an undergraduate component
 - Designed to stimulate research development
 - Full Indirect Costs

TYPES OF GRANTS

- R25 – Educational grants
 - \$50,000 to \$350,000 yr/4years (variable)
 - 8% Indirect costs
 - Competitiveness varies
 - Many address health disparity and diversity of work force
 - Many require a cost share by the applying agency
 - Faculty effort

Grant Submission

UNSOLICITED APPLICATIONS

- Standard submission dates 3x a year for investigator-initiated R01, R21, R03, R15 and some R25 grants
 - Your idea for your grant
 - Must fit some interest area of the NIH
 - Highly competitive with less than 1 in 10 success rate

ENHANCING YOUR CHANCES FOR FUNDING

- Occasionally NIH targets areas for priority funding and makes a dollar commitment to the funding area
- These are publicized in the NIH Guide to Grants and Contracts
 - Published Friday afternoon, 52 weeks a year.
 - Can join the list serve
 - <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/index.html>

NIH GUIDE TO GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

- Three areas of importance
- NOT
 - Important administrative notices to investigators
 - Program cancellations
 - Alterations to RFAs and PARs
 - Change in contact information
 - Scientific misconduct, conferences, etc

NIH GUIDE TO GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

- RFAs – REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
- SOLICITED
 - Most important grant notice from the NIH
 - Targets area of needed research
 - Targets a specific amount of money to the research effort
 - Usually only one call
 - Often success rates of 20% to 50% for funding

RFAs

- If one is issued that fits your area of research
 - SUBMIT AN APPLICATION!!
- Often target health disparity and work force diversity
 - Many require partnerships
 - Use RFA keywords throughout the submitted application

RFAs

- Requires a letter of intent
 - Give a well-articulated title on what the grant is to be about
 - Administration uses the Letter of Intent to begin study section recruitment
 - Define partners carefully
 - Cankdeska Cikana Community College and an NIH response that a tribal college was needed

PARs

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Targets an area of research priority
- MOST HAVE NO FUNDING SET ASIDE
- Occasionally have dedicated money
- Read the PAR Carefully
 - If \$ set aside as good as an RFA
 - If no \$, pretty much worthless, may get a very small bump in funding priority
- Can waste time of PARs

Grant Supplements

- Common on Funded RoI grants
- Supplemental funding for NIH areas of need
- Review is by NIH staff and not study section
- Recently awarded grant is most favored
- Funding also carries indirect costs

Grant Supplements

- Graduate Student support for under- represented groups
- Postdoctoral support for under-represented groups
- Re-entry of women into graduate and post-doctoral programs
- Foreign scientists
- Community Partnerships

GRANT SUPPLEMENTS

- Must compliment the parent grant
- Molecular analysis of heavy metals and cancer will not compliment a social scientist and vice versa
- High success rates for supplemental funding
- Cost effective way for NIH to address diversity issues

FINDING GRANT INFORMATION CRISP DATABASE

- NIH maintains a database on funded grants
- <http://crisp.cit.nih.gov/>
- Search by state, name, university, year, etc.
- Gives funding information
- For example

*Current and Historical Awards (1972 - 2008)
Query Form*

Enter Search Terms:			
Global Logic:	<input type="radio"/> And <input checked="" type="radio"/> Or <input type="radio"/> Phrase	Expansion Logic:	<input type="radio"/> Stem <input checked="" type="radio"/> None
Maximum Records:	250	Submit Query	Clear Query
PI Name (Last, First):		Thesaurus:	View CRISP Thesaurus
Award Type:	All Types	Activity:	All Activities
Grant Number:	Use %' for wildcard	Grant Title:	Use %' for wildcard
IRG:	All 02 ODIR	Institutes and Centers:	All NAAA - Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism NA - Aging
Institution:	Use %' for wildcard		
Fiscal Year:	2008 2007 2006 Use Ctrl to select multiple years.	State:	All Alabama Alaska
		Submit Query	Clear Query

Version 2.5.2.0





Hit List

[Back to Search Form](#)

You had 4 hits for the query:

Grant Number	PI Name	Project Title
5P20RR016471-07	SENS, DONALD	North Dakota INBRE: Health and the Environment
5R01ES015100-02	SENS, DONALD	Metallothionein Isoform 3 Urinary Marker Bladder Cancer
3R01ES015100-02S1	SENS, DONALD	Metallothionein Isoform 3 Urinary Marker Bladder Cancer
1R25ES016250-01	SENS, DONALD	Steering Undergraduate Interest in Environmental Health Sciences at the Universit

Abstract

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Grant Number: 1R25ES016250-01

Project Title: Steering Undergraduate Interest in Environmental Health Sciences at the Universit

PI Information: Name	Email	Title
SENS, DONALD A.	dsens@medicine.nodak.edu	PROFESSOR

Abstract: DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant) The University of North Dakota STEER is designed to support undergraduate training in the environmental health sciences within the University of North Dakota. The STEER training program will expand and compliment the ongoing NIH IDeA INBRE program that is focused on fostering undergraduate biomedical research at the State's primarily undergraduate institutions and the enhancement of the undergraduate pipeline to the health professional schools. The North Dakota INBRE is focused on "Health and the Environment". The present application is targeted at filling an important gap in undergraduate training in the environmental sciences not provided by the North Dakota INBRE program. This gap is the support of undergraduate environmental science training for undergraduate students at the INBRE host research-intensive institution, the University of North Dakota. The present application will use the INBRE foundation to initiate a strong undergraduate training program in environmental health science at the University of North Dakota. The research theme will be to advance the hypothesis that environmental agents which elicit human disease cause cellular alterations in cell structure and function that can be identified as predictive biomarkers of disease development and progression. To advance this theme, the students will be involved in research that studies the role of the environmental pollutants, arsenic and cadmium, in the development and progression of human bladder, breast, prostate, and renal disease. The aims of the program are: to provide an undergraduate research experience in environmental sciences to undergraduate students at the University of North Dakota; to provide an introduction to environmental health sciences to undergraduate students at the University of North Dakota; and, to use infrastructure developed in the INBRE program to support STEER programmatic efforts and vice versa over the life of the award mechanisms.

Thesaurus Terms:
There are no thesaurus terms on file for this project.

Institution: UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA
264 Centennial Dr
GRAND FORKS, ND 58202

Fiscal Year: 2008

Department: PATHOLOGY
Project Start: 01-JAN-2008
Project End: 30-NOV-2012
ICD: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES
IRG: ZES1



ASKING NIH A QUESTION

- Program officers help with grant questions
- Very helpful on RFAs and what does and does not fit a request
- BE CAREFUL HOW YOU ASK THE QUESTION - LEGAL VERSUS PRACTICAL
- Is a general clinical research center required?
- What is the chance of funding without a general clinical research center?

CURRENCY OF THE NIH

- PUBLICATIONS
- May not be necessary for the 1st grant if a disadvantaged group
- Essential for grant renewal and future success on subsequent grants
- CRISP and PubMed makes one transparent on future grants
- Search past grants and publications

CURRENCY OF THE NIH

- Dangers of the R21, R03 and R15 grant
 - Grant is of short duration, 2 to 3 years
 - Need to publish fast
 - Favors the large, established research groups over the lone investigator
- My Group; 4 faculty, 3 postdocs, 6 graduate students, 2 technicians and dedicated grant preparation

CURRENCY OF THE NIH

- Large groups shift support to assist the investigator with a new R21
 - Large publication advantage
 - Large groups protect the grant
- Publications make who you know less important at the NIH
 - Networking is great once funded
 - Not so important pre-funding

PARTNERSHIPS AND MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

- “The NIH just does not listen to what is needed”
- A common statement, but is it true?

Opportunities

- CDC Mentored Public Health Research Scientist Development Award (K01)
- RFA-CD-07-003, 3 years, \$150,000 per year.
- Purpose is to provide support and “protected time” (three years) for an intensive, supervised career development experience in the basic, behavioral, and applied sciences related to health promotion, disease prevention, injury and disability prevention, and health protection from infectious, environmental and terrorist health threats leading to research independence.

Opportunities

- Community Participation in Research (R01), PAR-07-283, \$250,000 yr/4 years
- The ultimate goal of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to support research on health promotion, disease prevention, and health disparities that is jointly conducted by communities and researchers.

Opportunities

- ***Research Infrastructure In Minority Institutions (RIMI)[P2o], RFA-MD-07-002.
- Focuses on building research capacity in predominantly minority-serving academic institutions that offer one or more associates, baccalaureate and/or master's degrees in the life sciences, behavioral sciences and/or other health related areas.
- The total amount to be awarded is \$5.1 million (total cost) per year for new and renewal applications. 400K for 4 years

Opportunities

- Short-Term Research Education Program to Increase Diversity in Health-Related Research, RFA-HL-07-013.
- Program is designed to promote diversity in undergraduate and health professional graduate student populations by providing short-term research education support to stimulate career development in cardiovascular, pulmonary, hematologic, and sleep disorders research.
- The overall goal of the program is to provide research opportunities for individuals from backgrounds who are underrepresented in biomedical and behavioral research in the future.
- Up to eight new awards per year are anticipated.

Opportunities

- *NCMHD Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) Initiative in Reducing and Eliminating Health Disparities: Intervention Research Phase (R24). RFA-MD-07-003.
- The ultimate goal of this FOA is to support disease intervention research in reducing and eliminating health disparities using community-based participatory research that is jointly conducted by health disparity communities and researchers.
- The total amount to be awarded is approximately \$12 million. The anticipated number of awards is approximately 20.

Opportunities

- *Research on Interventions that Promote Research Careers. RFA-GM-08-005.
- Propose: to support research that will test assumptions regarding existing or potential interventions that are intended to increase the preparedness for careers in biomedical and behavioral research, with a particular interest in those interventions specifically designed to increase the number of underrepresented minority students entering careers in biomedical and behavioral research.
- The total amount to be awarded is approximately \$2.4 million. Approximately 6-8 awards are anticipated.

Opportunities

- ****NIGMS' Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP) [R25], PAR-07-432.
- The goal of the PREP is to encourage individuals from underrepresented groups who have recently obtained their baccalaureate degrees to complete for Ph.D. degree programs in biomedically relevant sciences through extensive academic enhancements and research experience.
- Through this program, it is anticipated that a steady supply of Ph.D. candidates from underrepresented groups will be established. It is also the expectation and hope that some of the PREP participants will eventually become the scientists who conduct research in areas that address reducing health disparities.

Opportunities

- ****NIH Partners in Research Program (R03). RFA-OD-07-001.
- The purpose of the NIH Partners in Research program is to support two-year pilot and/or feasibility research studies of innovative activities designed to improve public understanding of biomedical and behavioral science, develop strategies for promoting collaboration between scientists and the community to improve the health of the public, and to identify the conditions (e.g., settings and approaches) that will enhance the effectiveness of such activities.
- The Office of the Director, NIH, intends to commit approximately \$3 million in total costs in FY2008 to fund 35 to 40 applications.

Opportunities

- Elimination of Health Disparities through Translation Research (R18)
 - Research Demonstration and Dissemination Projects
- Accelerate the translation of research findings into public health practice through implementation, dissemination, and diffusion research within health disparity populations.
- \$4.5 million for funding and it is anticipated that up to 9 awards will be funded.

Opportunities

- Cancer Education Grants Program (R25); PAR-08-120
- Educational programs to motivate health science students to pursue cancer related careers
- Short courses to update cancer research scientists in new scientific methods, technologies and findings
- Training of clinicians and community health care providers in evidence-based cancer prevention and control approaches
- Development of innovative education approaches to translate knowledge gained from science into public health, and community applications (delivery).
- Direct costs \$300,000 per year for 5 years.

Need Help?

- Don Sens, ND INBRE and Department of Pathology
 - dsens@medicine.nodak.edu
- Jacque Gray, UND Center for Rural Health
 - jgray@medicine.nodak.edu