NIA Opportunities for Early-Stage Investigators

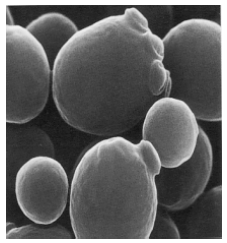
Christy Carter, PhD
Division of Aging Biology (DAB)
National Institute on Aging (NIA)

National Institute on Aging

Clin-STAR
Novermber 18, 2025

Division of Aging Biology (DAB)

MISSION: To promote, support, and advance research on aging by elucidating the molecular, cellular, and physiological mechanisms driving aging and age-related diseases and conditions.



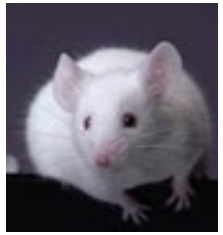
Saccharomyces cerevisiae

Cenorhabditis elegans

Drosophila melanogaster

Carpenter Ant

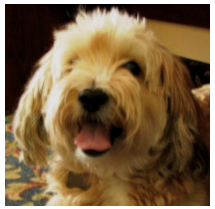
Nothobranchius furzeri



Mus musculus

Naked Mole Rat

Callithrix jacchus



Canis lupus familiaris

Homo sapiens

Gene/DNA → Chromosome → Cell → Tissue/Organ → Organism (Population)

What does DAB Support?

Basic research: discover and validate molecular and cellular mechanisms leading to an understanding of the loss of physiological functions as organisms age

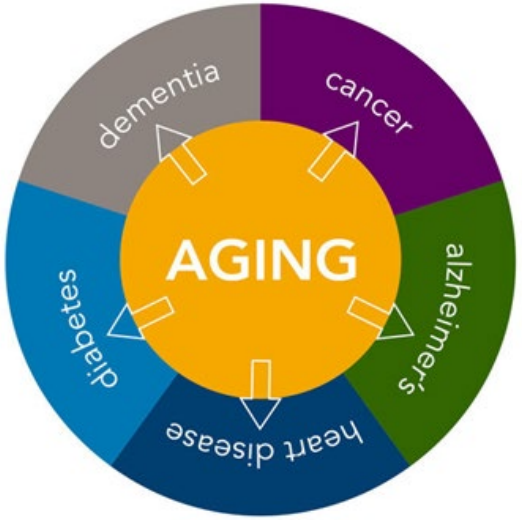
A**pplied research:** adapt or develop technologies for research in the biology of aging

T**ranslational research:** address questions about human aging through animal models, where causality can be experimentally investigated, and to identify and advance interventions that slow or reverse aging processes that may hold promise of clinical importance.

Geroscience

Examples:

- Integration among pathways, organelles, cells, and organs/tissues
- Heterogeneous animals models for robustness
- AI and machine learning
- Heterogeneity of aging and sex differences
- Tissue on a chip/Organoid
- Biomarkers of Aging



Tracy Cope
Program Analyst

Candice Beaubien
HIV/AIDS
NIA Program

Nimi Konde
Office Manager

Viviana Perez
Director

Stacy Carrington-Lawrence
Deputy Director

OFFICE OF THE DIVISION DIRECTOR

Katherine Kim
Program Analyst

Siobhan Addie
Chief of Staff

Christy Carter
Training Portfolio

CELL BIOLOGY BRANCH

Max Guo, Chief
Genetics

Yi-Ping Fu
Molecular Epidemiology

Andras Orosz
Cell Biology

Leonid Tsap
Emerging Technologies

AGING PHYSIOLOGY BRANCH

Amanda Boyce, Chief
Muscle

Hongwei Gao
Circulatory and Pulmonary

Mulualem Tilahun
Immunology

John Williams
Skeletal, Renal & Endocrine

Pragati Katiyar
Skin and Wound Healing & SenNet

Roberto Flores
Microbiome/Virome

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH BRANCH

Fei Wang, Chief
Reproductive, Regenerative, and Synthetic Biology

Tiziana Cogliati
In Vitro Model Development

Jennifer Fox
Stress and Resilience in Aging

Manuel Moro
Comparative Biology of Aging

Yanni Yee
Program Analyst,
Rodent Ordering System

How can DAB support you?

The Butler-Williams Scholars Program

- Competitive NIA Training Program for **postdocs, junior faculty and researchers new to the field** of aging.
- Emphasis on cohort networking and capacity-building
- Meet leadership, POs, mock study sections

Applications due: March, 2026
Program: August, 2025

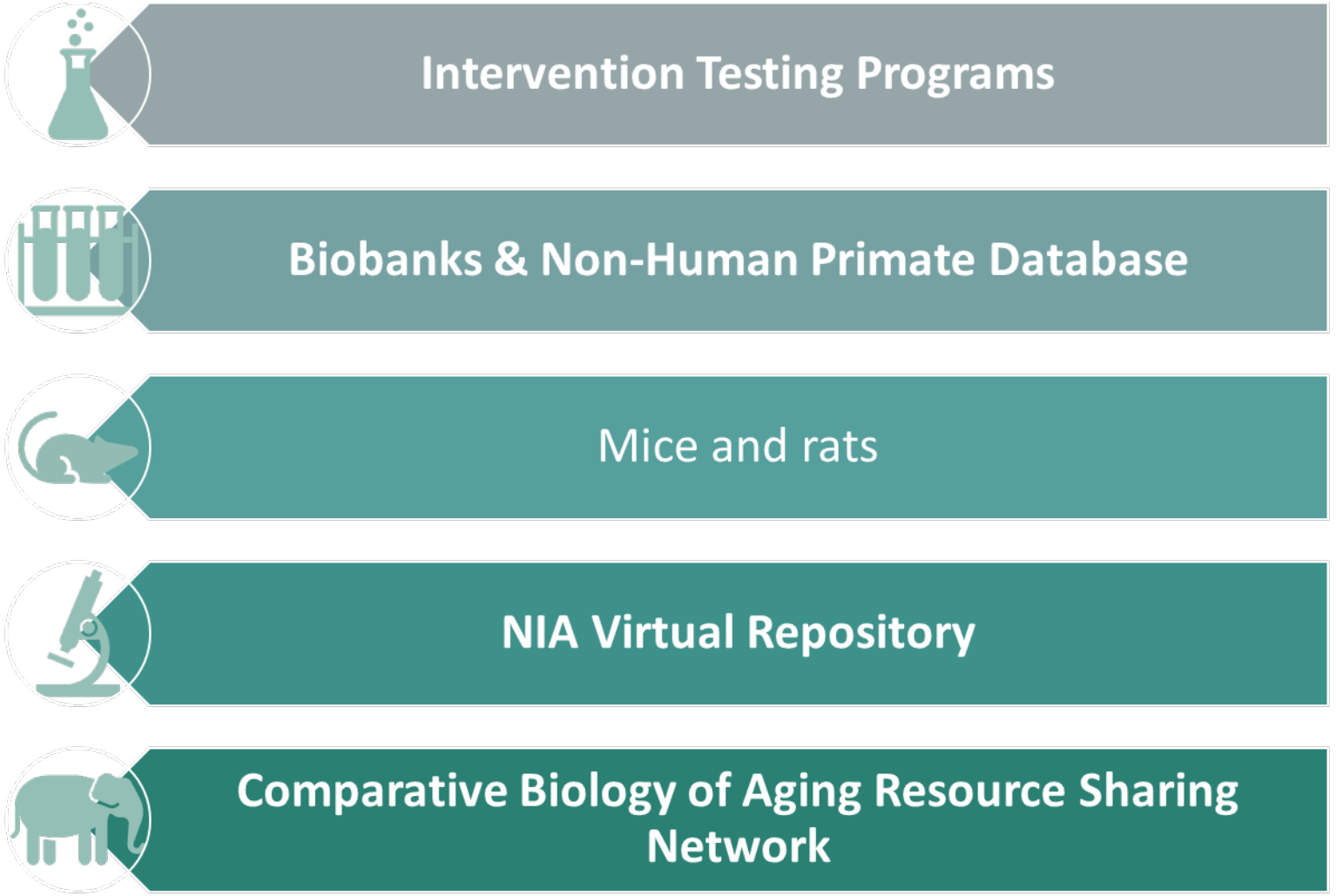
Eligibility: Ph.D., DrPH, M.D., DO, etc.
Email: NIABWSP@mail.nih.gov

NIA “Summer” Training Course in Experimental Aging Research

- Intense exposure to current concepts in experimental aging research
- 20 junior faculty and advanced fellows with at least two years postdoctoral experience in cell or molecular biology or a related field.
- Others new to the field

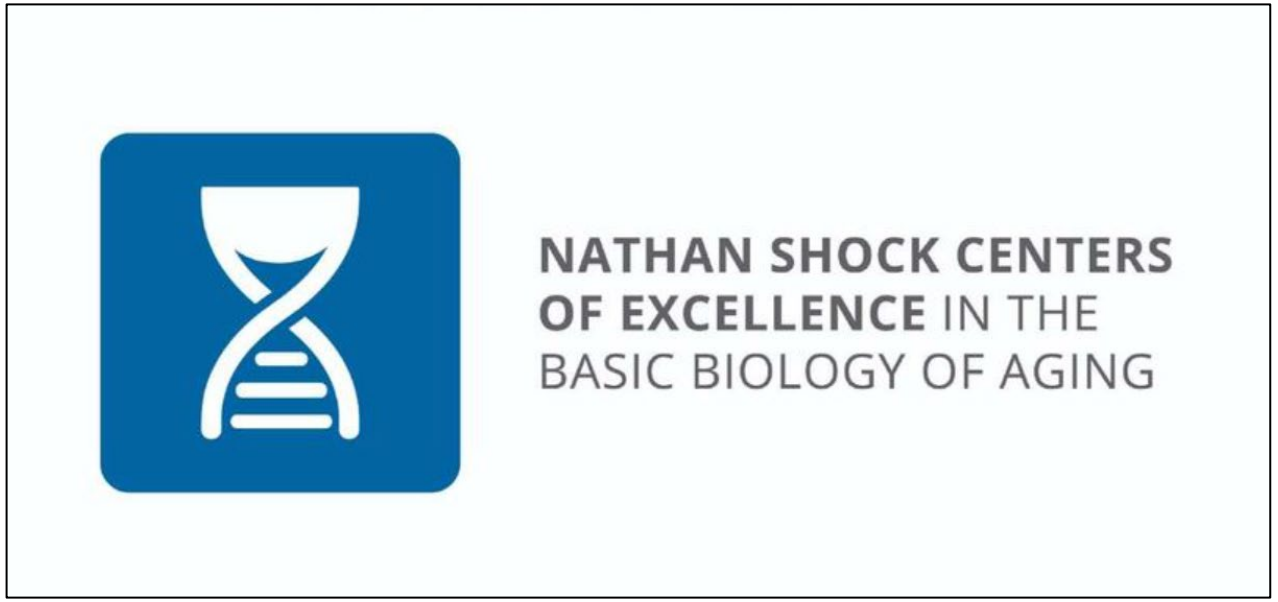
Applications due July 2026

DAB Biological Resources (TRB)



Nathan Shock Centers Resources

- Pilot funding
- Mentoring
- Tissue Specimens
- Data Analyses
- Symposia
- Webinars



https://nathanshockcenters.org/

Webinars

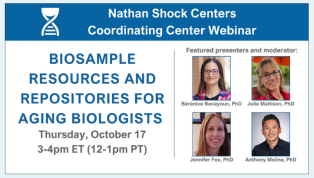
NATHAN SHOCK CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN THE BASIC BIOLOGY OF AGING

WEBINAR RECORDING AVAILABLE

NSC Webinar: Biosample Resources and Repositories for Aging Biologists

The Nathan Shock Centers Coordinating Center (NSC3) aims to connect researchers in aging biology with resources that support their work. This webinar will give brief overview of some aging biology resources from the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the Nathan Shock Centers

Watch the webinar here



Nathan Shock Center Pilot Awards: Current RFAs

This page lists all current Nathan Shock Center Pilot Award RFAs. For a full list of opportunities in the biology of aging, please visit our Opportunities page here.

- **UAB NSC Pilot/Feasibility (P/F) Project Awards** - Deadline: March 31, 2025
- **USC-Buck Nathan Shock Center Pilot Awards** - Rolling deadline
- **Albert Einstein College of Medicine Nathan Shock Center 2024 Pilot & Feasibility Project Awards for Core Use** - Rolling deadline

https://nathanshockcenters.org/

RESEARCH CENTERS COLLABORATIVE NETWORK of the National Institute on Aging, NIH

RCCN—Webinar Series

RCCN Webinar |

Strategies for Preparing Strong Career Development Applications

Tuesday, April 2, 2024
2-3pm ET (11am-12pm PT)

View webinar slides here.

Watch webinar recording here

RCCN Webinar |

Stories of Successful K Awards

Thursday, July 18, 2024
1-2pm ET (10-11am PT)

Watch webinar recording here

RCCN Webinar |

Career Development Awards at NIA/NIH

Friday, March 22, 2024
2-3pm ET (11am-12pm PT)

View webinar slides here.

Watch webinar recording here

RCCN Webinar |

NIH/NIA Grant Review Process

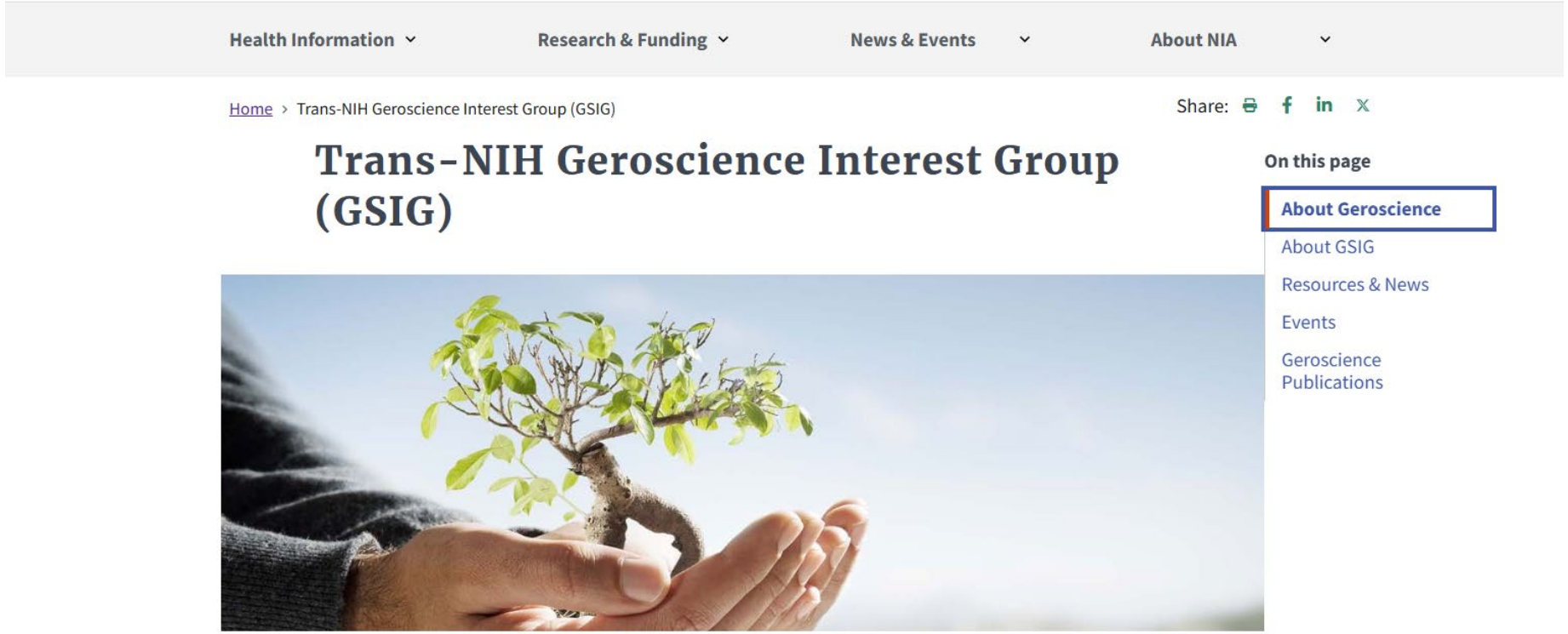
Thursday, May 24, 2024
2-3pm ET (11am-12pm PT)

View webinar slides here.

Watch recording here

https://www.rccn-aging.org/webinars

Geroscience Interest Group (GSIG)



Interested in biology of aging research and DAB activities? Sign up for our newsletter here or use the QR code.

Thank you!

Christy.Carter@nih.gov
NIATraining@mail.nih.gov

National Institute on Aging

NIA Supplements for Critical Life Events-- EXPIRED

Re-entry and Re-Integration Supplements: NOT-OD-23-170

- Support **individuals with high potential to re-enter or re-integrate** into an active research career after an interruption.

Continuity and Retention Supp: NOT-OD-23-031/32

- Support the transition and retention of investigators to **minimize departures from biomedical research workforce** during critical life events.

What about review?

NIH Staff

Program Officer

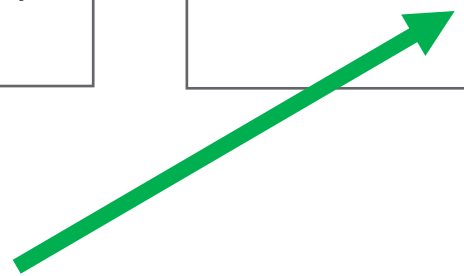
- Scientist & Administrator
- Identifies areas of scientific need
- Communicates NIH priorities to investigators and others
- Manages grants
- Communicates with IC Leadership about the science

Scientific Review Officer

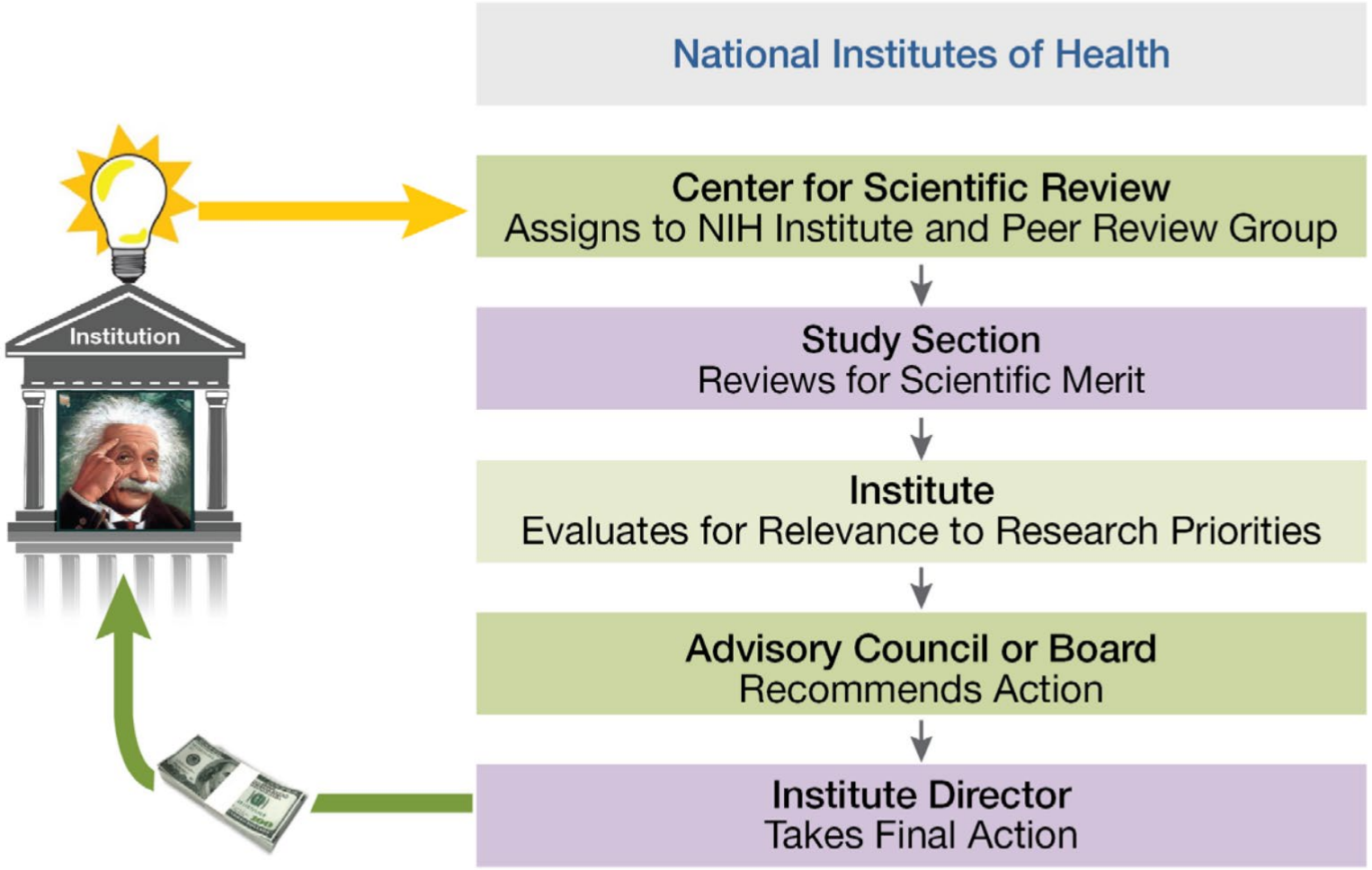
- Scientist & Administrator
- Manages grant reviews
- Appoints members to review groups & panels
- Prepares summary statements

Grants Management Officer

- Implements the funding process
- Oversees the budget
- Ensures grantee compliance with NIH policies & regulations



Peer Review and Funding of NIH Grant Applications



Choosing a Study Section

G.600 - PHS Assignment Request Form

NIH Center for Scientific Review

What are you searching for?

For Applicants | For Reviewers | Study Sections | Review Meetings | Evaluation Initiatives | About CSR

Home › For Applicants › Submission & Assignment

Request a Scientific Review Group

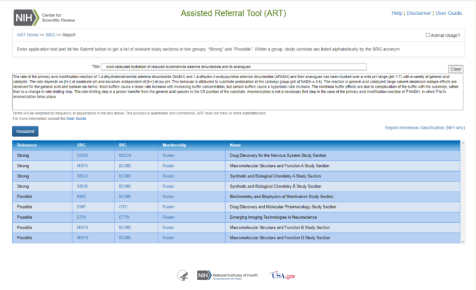
NIH encourages you to submit an **Assignment Request Form** with your application. The form allows you to:

- Express a preference for a particular scientific review group (or "study section")
- Let us know of potential reviewers who you feel might have a conflict of interest with your application
- Express a preference for a specific awarding component (an NIH Institute or Center)
- Describe the expertise needed to review your application; do **not** provide names.

ART - Assisted Referral Tool

The Assisted Referral Tool (ART) was developed by the NIH Center for Scientific Review (CSR) to recommend potentially appropriate study sections. The information you provide ART is only used to recommend study sections and is not stored or persisted. The recommendations made by ART are solely for the benefit of the user.

Assisted Referral Tool



About ART: ART User Guide

Recent updates: Data refresh-Feb 2021

- Full list of Study Sections in this release of ART

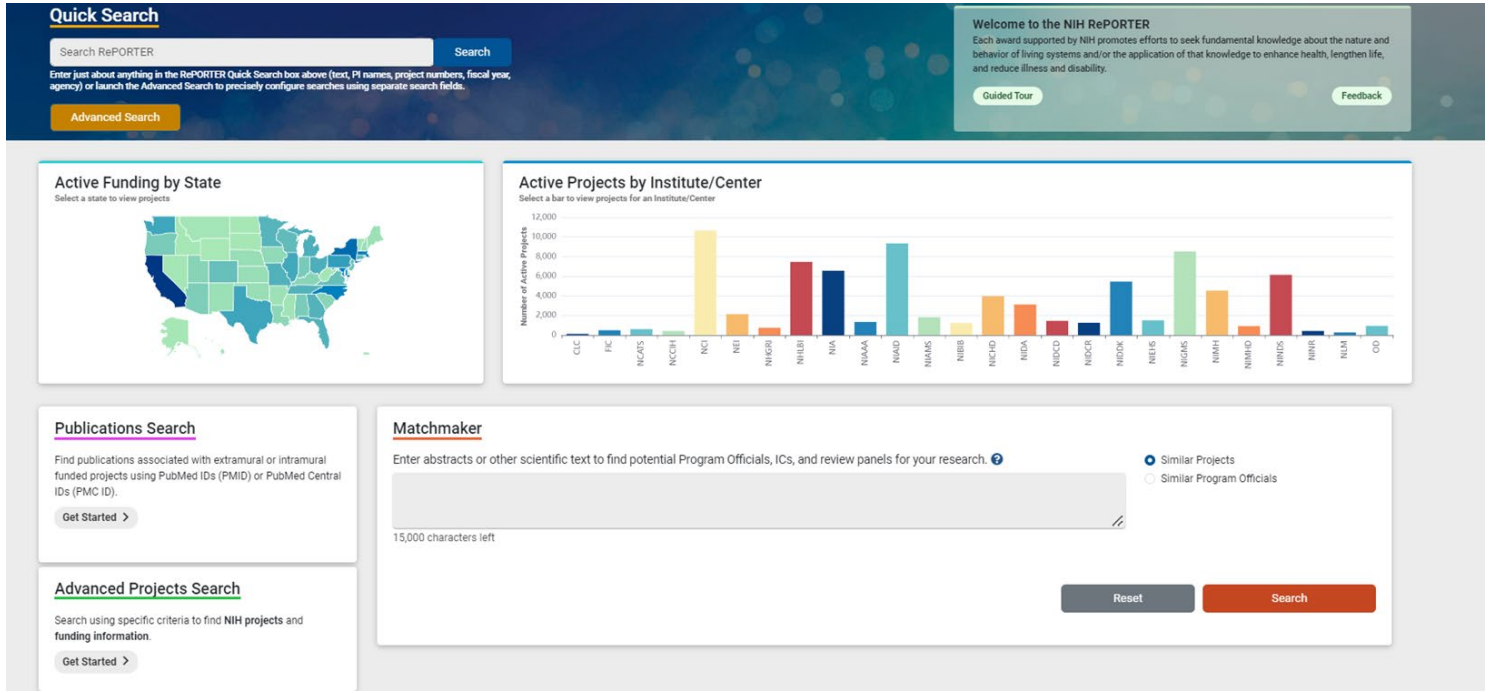
Finding an Opportunity at NIH

NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts

Database of funding opportunities, policies notices of special interest, etc.

Search the NIH Guide

Matchmaker



When should you reach out? ASAP!

- Contact POs - WELL BEFORE YOUR DEADLINE
- We cannot speak to you after submission
- Must wait until your summary statement is released
- Make sure you are eligible to apply; sometimes you need written confirmation
- There are life events that may hinder your progress; there are exceptions for this, and extensions are available