Opportunities for Funding Cross-Disciplinary Pelvic Research

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Key Messages

• THERE ARE NO SECRET ANSWERS
  • What excites you is far more important than what the NIH is interested in?
  • NIH Program Officers are your friend — USE US
  • Research will require multiple funding sources across your career
  • Communicate clearly and tell a coherent “story” — you are marketing yourself and your science — write for a well-educated lay person
  • Serve on Review Groups — avoid scarcity mentality
Are you a good candidate to be a career as a NIH funded researcher?

**YES if you...**

- Have a “fire” in your belly to answer a question
- Are curious
- Take criticism well
- Are patient and persistent
- Like to work as a part of a team
- Like being outside comfort zone
- Like writing and networking
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How the NIH works

Great idea

Application

NIH

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National Institutes of Health

Office of the Director

- National Institute on Aging
- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
- National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases
- National Cancer Institute
- National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders
- National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research
- National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
- National Institute on Drug Abuse
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- National Eye Institute

- National Institute of General Medical Sciences
- National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
- National Human Genome Research Institute
- National Institute of Mental Health
- National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
- National Institute of Nursing Research

- National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities
- National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine
- Fogarty International Center
- National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences
- National Library of Medicine
- National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering
The MISSION of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) is to conduct and support medical research and research training and to disseminate science-based information on diabetes and other endocrine and metabolic diseases; digestive diseases, nutritional disorders, and obesity; and kidney, urologic, and hematologic diseases, to improve people’s health and quality of life.

Benign urological conditions

Benign prostatic hyperplasia, urinary incontinence, urinary tract infections, stones, erectile dysfunction, urologic chronic pelvic pain syndromes (including interstitial cystitis and chronic prostatitis), congenital urologic disorders, repair and regeneration of lower urinary tract organs, and normal and abnormal lower urinary tract development and physiology
NIDDK Benign Urology Program

• 72 Million dollars in 2015
• How 2015 money was spent
  – 41% R01
  – 2% R21
  – 24% U01
  – 8% Training
  – 19% Centers (Ps and U54)
  – 7% SBIR/STTR (Small Business)

• *Hope* to maintain pay line of 13(18 ESI) in 2017
The Women’s Urology program supports basic, translational, and clinical studies related to the normal and abnormal function of the lower urinary tract. Research studies are conducted with both children and adults on the etiology, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of such clinical disorders as urinary incontinence, interstitial cystitis, overactive bladder, and urinary tract infections, including acute and chronic cystitis. The program maintains an active outreach component for health care providers, patients, and the public. The goal is to raise awareness about advances in the treatment and prevention of noncancerous urologic disorders in women to improve the quality of life for individuals with these conditions.
NIH 101

• Extramural Research Roles
  – Program Officers
  – Scientific Review Officers
  – Grants Management Specialists

• Funding Opportunity Announcements – NIH Guide
  – Unsolicited (PA)
  – Solicited (RFA)
Assignment of Grants to Institutes

Prostate Cancer
- NCI

Prostate Enlargement
- NIDDK
- NIA

Urinary Incontinence
- NIDDK
- NICHD
- NIA
- NCCAM
- NINR

Bladder Infection
- NIA
- NINR
- NIAID
- NICHD
- NCCAM
Assignment of Grants to Institutes

Center for Scientific Review makes Institute assignments based on Referral Guidelines negotiated between Institutes.

Institutes can use Grant Mechanisms differently.
Life Cycle of a Grant

1. **PI submits application**
2. **CSR receives and makes assignments to Institute and Review Group**
3. **SRO assigns reviewers; reviews application**
4. **All reviewed grants get a Summary Statement**
5. **Top half applications are scored and get a summary of discussion**
6. **PI revises after consulting with IC PO**
7. **IC funds application**

**Key Labels:**
- **PO** – Program Officer
- **SRO** – Scientific Review Officer
- **GM** – Grants Management
- **CSR** – Center Scientific Reviewer
- **PI** – Principal Investigator
- **IC** – Institute Committee
- **PO** – Program Officer
- **SRO** – Scientific Review Officer
- **GM** – Grants Management

**Abbreviations:**
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Funding

• Pay line

• Special Emphasis Funds (within 10 points of pay line)
  – One year
  – Two year
  – Three year

• Division recommends grants for funding to our Council; Council reviews and concurs or has alternate suggestions

• NO guarantee of payment until Notice of Award goes out
Importance of R01s

• Currency of respect within NIH – for investigators and for research areas
• # of R01 applications determine whether an area has a standing integrated review group (aka study section)
• Important goal of all of our other funding opportunities to is build a research community that is competitive for R01 funding
NIDDK Urology Networks (U01)

PLUS
PREVENTION of
LUTS Consortium

MAPP
Multi-Disciplinary Approach to the
Study of Chronic Pelvic Pain

USDRN
Urinary Stone
Disease
Research Network

LURN
Symptoms of Lower
Urinary Tract
Dysfunction
Research Network
What is NIDDK Interested in?

- Advancing a Comprehensive Approach to the Study of Benign Urologic Conditions
- Interdisciplinary Research Teams
- Increasing number of investigator-initiated grants (not in response to RFA)
- U01 funded investigators successfully competing for investigator-initiated grants
Continuum of Collaborative Research

• Unidisciplinary research

• Three cross-disciplinary research orientations

  – Multidisciplinary
    • Independent, Sequential, Divisional
    • Exchange

  – Interdisciplinary
    • Joint, Interactive, Partnership
    • Dialogue, Exchange, Hybridization, Complementary

  – Transdisciplinary
    • Integrative, Interdependent, Immergent
    • Reciprocity, Discourse, Share Vocabulary, EXTENDS

Adapted from Holly J. Falk-Krzesinski, 2012; Austin et al., 2008; Nissani, 1995
Brings together

• Directors of the O’Brien Urology Centers and their project directors
• Directors of the Planning Centers for Interdisciplinary Research in Benign Urology (P20)
• Directors for the Multidisciplinary K12 Urologic Research (KURe) Career Development Program and their fellows.

to promote interactions between Centers and Programs and the sharing of resources.
Raising Awareness

• Talk to everyone you now about the importance of “pelvic research”
• Speak in plain language – make it relatable
• For conditions that have been “set aside” as life-style or quality of life issues, a top down approach from legislators is going to be required