



NIH Director's New Innovator Award Program

June 8, 2007

Advisory Committee to the
Director

NIH Director's New Innovator Award Program Details

- Launched in February 2007 with additional resources provided in the 2007 Joint Resolution
- Open to **new investigators**
- Goal is to fund **exceptionally innovative research with potential for significant impact**
- Up to \$1.5 million direct costs over 5 years
- Expect to fund at least 14 awards in September 2007 (fully funded for 5 years with FY2007 funds)

Application Requirements

- Must propose highly innovative approaches to high impact problem that would not be likely to fare well as R01
- Preliminary data not required
- Proposed research need not be in a conventional biomedical or behavioral discipline, but must be relevant to the mission of NIH
- Awardees required to commit at least 30% of research effort to activities supported by the New Innovator Award (staff will verify at time of award)

Application Structure

- Abstract
- 10 page essay, which includes
 - Scientific problem, significance, and potential impact; suitability for New Innovator Award, rather than R01
 - Innovativeness of project; alternatives if approaches not successful
 - Qualifications of investigator; evidence for creativity and innovativeness
- 2 page biographical sketch
- List of current and pending research support

What is a New Investigator?

- Must have received most recent doctoral degree or completed medical internship and residency in 1997 or later
- Must never have been PI on an R01 or equivalent NIH grant
- Must hold independent research position at a U.S. institution as of September 20, 2007

Eligibility

- An administrative review will eliminate applicants who do not meet eligibility criteria for new, independent investigator
- Some exceptions to time requirement were granted for additional clinical training and/or exceptional circumstances

Review Criteria

- **The scientific problem to be addressed:** The biomedical or behavioral significance/importance of the problem; the likelihood that, if successful, the project will have a truly significant impact on this problem.
- **Innovativeness of the research proposed:** Evidence that the proposed approaches are significantly more innovative and creative than would normally be expected, especially for a new investigator, and evidence that the investigator has considered and addressed the potential risks and challenges.
- **Investigator qualifications:** Evidence of the investigator's creativity and potential for innovation, and the commitment of the investigator to devote 30% or more of his/her research effort on the New Innovator Award project.

Response

- Applications accepted April 25-May 22
- More than 2100 applications received!
- Applications will be reviewed electronically by 3 reviewers, broadly matched for expertise
- Each reviewer will review 30-35 applications by three criteria and also indicate their top 4 applications
- IC Directors and program staff will develop a funding plan for ACD consideration

Thanks!

- Judith Greenberg
- Faye Austin
- Shan McCollough
- OER Staff