

Office of Sponsored Programs Newsletter

NIH Grants: Recent Trends in Funding

In a 2008 report, published by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Advancing Research in Science and Engineering, “early career investigators are waiting a long time to receive their first [NIH] grant.” Ten years ago, for example, medical school faculty (on average) received their first NIH grant at age 39, whereas now they receive their first award at age 42.4. In general, the current funding rate for new investigators is 18.5%, whereas the funding rate for established investigators is 26.1%.

Medical schools currently receive approximately 55% of NIH extramural research funding, with the percentage expected to rise to 60% in 2009. However, according to NIH, “the number of times new investigators must submit proposals has also in-



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creased” over the years. In 2008, most first-time investigators (72%) received their awards after resubmitting them more than once.

As of the January 25, 2009 due dates and beyond, NIH will accept only one resubmission to an original application, making it essential that the research plan be of exceptional quality from the beginning. As NIH states,

“Failure to receive funding after two submissions (i.e., the original and one resubmission) will mean that the applicant should substantially redesign the project rather than simply change the application in response to previous reviews.” NIH expects this will result in funding high-quality applications earlier; however, that

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Special Quotes:

- Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow; it empties today of its strength.

—C. Ten Boom

- The capacity to care gives life its deepest significance.

—Pablo Casals

- Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first hour sharpening the axe.

—Abraham Lincoln

- Most people say that it is intellect that makes a great scientist. They are wrong; it is character.

—Albert Einstein

Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) Website

Be sure to periodically check out the News and Announcements section of our website. The website address is listed in the highlighted box to the right of this article.

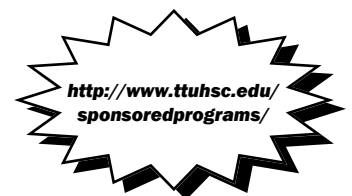
In this section, you'll find helpful information pertain-

ing to recent NIH policies, such as those pertaining to resubmissions and early stage investigators.

We've also posted recent grant deadlines in our Calendar of Deadlines section. In our Forms and Instructions

section, be sure to check out the Question and Answer document associated with Personnel Activity Forms.

As always, you can find the OSP route sheet and Quick Facts document on our website, too.



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means investigators cannot rely on several tries to impress the reviewers. Therefore, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences emphasizes the importance of actively mentoring early career investigators and makes the following recommendations:

- Research institutions should establish formal mentoring programs for junior investigators. These programs should include sessions on how to develop and write successful grant and contract proposals.
- Senior faculty members should be encouraged to mentor their junior colleagues. Statistically, effective mentoring not only increases a junior investigator's chances of receiving NIH funding, it also enhances the reputation of the university, which helps to improve faculty recruitment.
- Research institutions should carefully examine their cultural dynamics for early career investigators, especially regarding women and members of minority groups.
- Research institutions should encourage multiple PI plans.

- Research institutions should set realistic goals for early career investigators and provide adequate protected time for them to concentrate on their research.
- Researchers should prepare ahead, giving themselves at least 6 months to write a high-quality grant.
- Researchers should consider serving on an NIH study section to see firsthand what is involved in the grant review process.

NIH Grants: First No-Cost Extensions

First no-cost extensions must be requested within 60 days of the project end date. In order to request a first no-cost extension, the investigator needs to write a letter (either on department letterhead or via e-mail) to Lee.Paradise@ttuhsc.edu. The letter should contain the following information:

- The PI's name, project title, agency number, and requested end date.
- The reasons for the extension re-

quest, which should be based on scientific considerations, not monetary ones. Thus, the only reason for the request cannot be that funds remain in the grant account.

Upon receipt of the request, the no-cost extension will be processed via eRA Commons. An e-mail will be generated by eRA Commons validating that the no-cost extension has been received. NIH does not always send out a revised Notice of Award.



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Improving Heart Failure (HF) Disease Management

Award Type: NIH, R01, PA-07-355

OSP Deadline: May 29, 2009

Agency Deadline: June 5, 2009

Amount: Standard NIH rules apply. Investigators requesting no more than \$250,000 per year in direct costs may use the PHS 398 Modular Budget Form.

Award Description: Applications are encouraged from investigators who plan to examine HF disease management systems. Examples of research topics:

- Assessing the impact of HF disease management intervention
- Examining age- and gender-related factors associated with risk assessment
- Determining the biological basis and predictors of behavior interactions in chronic HF

For more details, go to: <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-355.html>.



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GOOD NEWS! American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

As per an NIH announcement issued February 20, 2009:

“On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Among the goals of the ARRA are to preserve and create jobs, promote economic recovery, and provide investments to increase economic efficiency by spurring technological advances in science and health.

NIH is grateful for the opportunity afforded by the ARRA to provide economic stimulus to the nation while furthering our mission to uncover new knowledge that will lead to better health for everyone.

NIH will receive \$10 billion through the ARRA for use over the next two years (2009 and 2010). Of this, \$1 billion will be invested in extramural construction (administered through the National Center for Research Resources), \$0.8 billion will be provided to the Office of the NIH Director for extending and developing appropriate programs, and \$7.4 billion will be provided to the NIH institutes and centers (proportional to their appropriations).

Staff throughout NIH, including at NIGMS, are working diligently to determine how to invest these resources. A major consideration is that these funds

must be distributed over 18 months to meet the goals of the ARRA.”



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Grants.gov and Electronic Submissions

Most of the federal application packages are now electronic and are in Adobe format. Some packages still use the PureEdge electronic format, but it is critically important that the most current electronic application package be downloaded and used when applying for a federal grant.

NIH has been known to modify their electronic packages between submission cycles, so it is NOT safe to assume that the package has not changed from the last time it was submitted. Therefore,

it is always best to download a new application package by going to <http://www.grants.gov/>.

Then click on:

- Apply for Grants

Then click on:

- Download a Grant Application

Then fill in the Funding Opportunity Number, which is the PA or RFA, and click the Download Package button. After you've filled out the forms and

written your grant, please submit it to the Office of Sponsored Programs with a completed OSP Route Sheet no later than five (5) working days prior to the agency deadline. The five-day advance is more important than ever, because grants.gov is frequently bottlenecked with submissions and it can take up to 2 days before we get confirmation of receipt or notification of warnings or errors. Warnings **do not** have to be addressed. However, errors **must be** corrected in order to complete the submission process.

Clinical Cancer Therapy and Prevention Research

Award Type: NIH, R01, PA-07-356

OSP Deadline: May 29, 2009

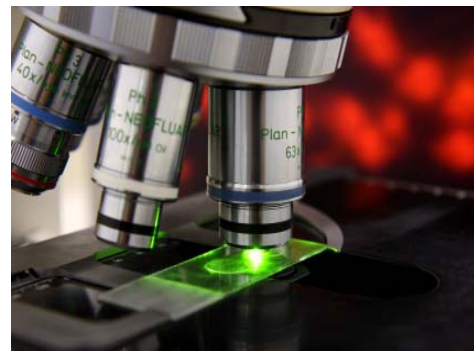
Agency Deadlines: June 5, 2009

Amount: Standard NIH rules apply. Investigators requesting no more than \$250,000 per year in direct costs may use the PHS 398 Modular Budget Form.

Award Description: NCI is seeking applications to conduct translational, clinical, therapeutic, and preventive studies and trials of neoplastic diseases in hu-

mans and encourages clinical researchers to collaborate with basic scientists to translate insights in cancer genetics and cancer biology, coupled with the development of new anti-cancer agents, into innovative cancer intervention studies and trials. The tumor specimens used must be linked to specific interventions or trials.

For more details, go to: <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-356.html>



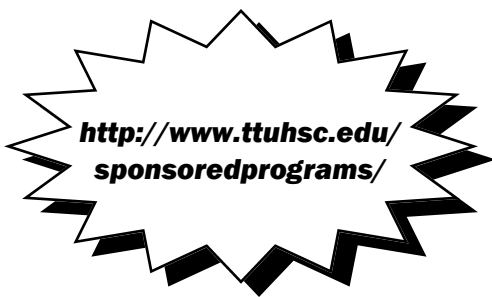
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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER



OUR MISSION

The purpose of the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) is to assist faculty and staff in identifying, obtaining, and maintaining external funding that support the TTUHSC mission of instruction, research, and patient care. Numerous resources are utilized to assist faculty in identifying possible funding opportunities, including the Community of Science (COS), the world's most comprehensive funding database with utilities for identifying collaborators and interactive CV updating. The OSP is responsible for reviewing and approving proposals seeking external funding from federal, state, and local agencies and negotiates the contractual funding agreements with such entities (with the exception of clinical trials with drug companies). Upon receipt of an award, the OSP provides assistance and oversight, including budget set-up and project revisions.

The OSP provides administrative support for two federally-mandated research committees: biohazardous materials research (IBC), and recombinant DNA research (RDRC). In addition, the OSP assists with several internal TTUHSC seed grant programs.

Selected Funding Deadlines

OSP Deadline: 2/28/2009

Sponsor Deadline: 3/5/2009

- **NIH R01 Research Grant Program** (renewals, resubmissions)

<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm>

OSP Deadline: 3/10/2009

Sponsor Deadline: 3/16/2009

- **NIH R03, R21, R34, R36** (renewals, resubmissions)

<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm>

OSP Deadline: 3/18/2009

Sponsor Deadline: 3/25/2009

- **Department of Defense: Breast Cancer Research Program — Idea Award** (pre-applications)

<http://cdmrp.army.mil/funding/bcrp.htm>

OSP Deadline: 3/25/2009

Sponsor Deadline: 4/1/2009

- **American Cancer Society: Multiple funding opportunities**

<http://www.cancer.org>

OSP Deadline: 4/22/2009

Sponsor Deadline: 4/29/2009

- **Department of Defense: Prostate Cancer Research Program — New Investigator Award** (pre-applications)

<http://cdmrp.army.mil/funding/pcrp.htm>

- **Susan G. Komen for the Cure: Multiple Opportunities**

<http://ww5.komen.org/researchgrants/grantprograms.html>