

NIH INFORMED

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Insights from NIH notices and reviewer comments, so you can focus.

AUGUST TIP

What do I do if I anticipate that reviewers will criticize some aspect of the project, but to address that aspect is beyond the scope of the proposed project?

Either address this scenario through the Future Directions section or in an Exploratory Aim.

Sometimes, a grantee predicts that reviewers will criticize some aspect of the project -- for example that the team is not proposing to stratify outcome measures by gender, race, or ethnicity. But to do so is well beyond the scope of the proposed project.

In this scenario, you might consider two possibilities: 1) You could state in a Potential Problems section and/or a Future Directions section in the Approach that the proposed budget/timeline would not yield a sample size large enough to power such substudies but that you will look for trends in the data to inform the design of a follow-up R01, in which you will certainly stratify outcomes and obtain statistically significant results. 2) You could consider an Exploratory Aim. Keep in mind that, in general, reviewers expect that each aim will yield a complete set of results that thoroughly examines some issue and that will result in publication(s). However, a final, Exploratory Aim signals to reviewers that you realize it is not a complete story unto itself, but rather it is a place where you will use your final bit of time/budget to look for trends in the data to inform the design of a follow-up R01. I more typically see the former strategy in grant applications, but I have certainly had successful grantees use the latter strategy.

Have a grant-related question? Submit what's on your mind and we'll answer it in a future newsletter.

AUGUST NEWS

- 1. NIH hosting two-part Data Management and Sharing Policy webinar series
2. NIH soliciting ideas for Common Fund programs
3. NIH soliciting input for Office of Research on Women's Health's Strategic Plan
4. The latest roundup of some NIH-sponsored COVID-19 research

1. NIH hosting two-part Data Management and Sharing Policy webinar series

NIH is hosting a free, two-part Data Management and Sharing Policy Webinar Series. The first webinar, Understanding the New NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy, will take place on August 11th from 1:30 - 3:00 pm EST. Diving Deeper into the New NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy will take place on September 22nd at the same time. For more information and register, follow this link.

2. NIH soliciting ideas for Common Fund programs

NIH is soliciting ideas for potential NIH Common Fund programs. The Common Fund's purpose is to support bold scientific programs that stimulate discovery across biomedical and behavioral research. The Common Fund programs fall into three categories: (1) Transformational Science and Discovery; (2) Catalytic Data Resources; and (3) Re-engineering the Research Enterprise. The current Request for Information (RFI) seeks ideas for new Common Fund programs for FY2025 or beyond. Ideas should keep in mind that Common Fund programs:

- Are trans-NIH (not disease-specific or relevant to the mission of only one or a few NIH Institutes and Centers)
• Require a large, coordinated effort in which many investigators undertake research projects directed at a common goal
• Have specific goals and deliverables that can be achieved in 5-10 years
• Are sufficiently large and complex (with an approximate budget of \$25-50 million/year for 5-10 years) to warrant a trans-NIH, coordinated approach

Complete information regarding this RFI and the Common Fund and the link to submit ideas can be found in the NIH Notice.

3. NIH soliciting input for Office of Research on Women's Health's Strategic Plan

NIH is soliciting input from scientists; advocacy and patient communities; and the public on topics under consideration as part of the next Strategic Plan of the Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH).

The ORWH was established to identify projects and multidisciplinary research related to women's health; encourage research on sex differences and promote coordination among research entities; assist NIH efforts to include women as participants in clinical research; and develop opportunities and support for women in biomedical careers.

Specifically, NIH requests input on the following topics: Research opportunities in the FY2019-2023 Strategic Plan for women's health research that should be modified due to scientific advancements; emerging research needs and opportunities that should be added to the plan; and cross-cutting scientific or research-related themes that should be common to all future strategic goals and objectives.

Feedback is due by September 29th. For more information on the Office of Research on Women's Health, its mission and Strategic Plan, and where to submit feedback, please follow this link.

4. The latest roundup of some NIH-sponsored COVID-19 research

Over the past year, the NIH has maintained the scientific community abreast of COVID-19 developments via a website with a multitude of information.

The site includes NIH's strategic priorities for COVID-19 research and the 2021 NIH-wide COVID-19 Strategic Plan. There are COVID-19 research initiatives and datasets, tools, and publications.

Here are some other COVID-19 related headlines:

- Statement from NIH and BARDA on the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine
• Vaccine-induced immune response to Omicron wanes substantially over time
• Food allergies and COVID-19
• Antiviral nasal spray shows promise fighting COVID-19
• Booster shots of COVID-19 vaccines effective against Omicron sub variant

Exciting News! Our new course library platform is now live!

Margaret Bouvier received her PhD in 1995 in Biomedical Sciences from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. After an NINDS post-doctoral fellowship, she worked as a staff writer for current NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins in the Office of Press, Policy, and Communications for the Human Genome Project and NHGRI. Since 2007, Meg has specialized in editing and advising on NIH submissions, and began offering virtual courses in 2015. She currently supports 2 of the top 3-ranked hospitals; 4 of the top 6 cancer hospitals; and 3 of the top 6-ranked medical schools for research in the country. She has helped clients land over \$400 million in federal funding. Meg Bouvier Medical Writing LLC is a woman-owned, small business.



Was this newsletter forwarded to you? When you join my mailing list, I'll pass along important NIH changes directly to your inbox, as well as opportunities to improve your grantsmanship skills.

