

CSR News Flash

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Center for Scientific Review
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CSR Pilots a New Way to Review NIH Applications for Translational Multidisciplinary Research

The NIH Center for Scientific Review is piloting a new review panel and process to review a subset of translational multidisciplinary NIH grant applications within CSR's Division of Translational and Clinical Sciences. The goal of this effort is to provide these applications a more clinically oriented review.

The recent creation of the Division of Translational and Clinical Sciences gave CSR the opportunity to better address applications whose science cuts across IRG borders, and to better assess clinical impact by doing more to engage the appropriate clinicians and other "end users" of the science proposed.

These applications are being reviewed by a two-stage process, whereby experts in the respective fields submit written critiques, which are then reviewed by a special emphasis panel, comprising reviewers with broad scientific and clinical experience to assess the proposed research for clinical impact.

The Specific Types of Applications Included in the Pilot

A common thread of many grant applications reviewed in this division is imaging, as all of the specialties covered—musculoskeletal, cardiovascular, and oncology—are either moved forward by advances in imaging science, or use imaging science as a measure of experimental and clinical endpoint.

Applications are selected to be reviewed by the pilot panel (ZRG1 DTCS-A) using the National Cancer Institute Working Group definition of translational research: "Translational research transforms scientific discoveries arising from laboratory, clinical, or population studies into clinical applications to reduce cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality."

Selection Criteria—the Proposed Studies Must:

- Be transformative in nature (translational research)
- Include humans (NIH definition)
- Use imaging as a measure of diagnosis, intervention or treatment success/efficacy

Addressing Concerns of Applicants

When CSR refers a new application to this pilot panel, we contact the applicant and describe both the panel and the review process. Applicants may accept the assignment or request that their applications be reviewed in regular CSR study sections.

For more information, applicants are encouraged to contact Dr. Joyce Gibson Director of the Division of Translational and Clinical Sciences: joyce.gibson@nih.gov.

Monitoring the Pilot

The "success" of this pilot panel is being monitored through communication with applicants, reviewers and program staff. If widely accepted, the potential exists for continuing this review format and extending it to other multidisciplinary reviews.

About CSR

CSR organizes the peer review groups that evaluate the majority of grant applications submitted to NIH. These groups include experienced and respected researchers from across the country and abroad. Since 1946, CSR's mission has been to see that NIH grant applications receive fair, independent, expert, and timely reviews — free from inappropriate influences — so NIH can fund the most promising research. CSR also receives all incoming applications and assigns them to the NIH institutes and centers that fund grants. For more information, go to CSR's Web site—<http://www.csr.nih.gov>—or phone 301-435-1111.

About NIH

NIH — the Nation's Medical Research Agency — includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is the primary federal agency for conducting and supporting basic, clinical and translational medical research, and it investigates the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit www.nih.gov.