CSR Mission: 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.

**Scored Review Criteria**
Significance • Innovation • Approach
Investigator(s) • Environment

**Additional Review Criteria (Impact Score)**
- Study Timeline (clinical trials)
- Human Subjects/Inclusion
- Vertebrate Animals
- Biohazards
- Resubmission/Renewal/Revision

**Additional Review Considerations**
- Select Agents
- Resource Sharing Plans
- Foreign Organizations
- Authentication Plan
- Budget & Period of Support

**Research Grants:** R01, R03, R15, R21, SBIR/STTR

**How To Identify Study Sections**
- Visit the CSR website for Study Section Descriptions: [https://public.csr.nih.gov](https://public.csr.nih.gov)
- CSR Assisted Referral Tool (ART): [https://art.csr.nih.gov/ART](https://art.csr.nih.gov/ART)
- NIH Reporter Matchmaker: [https://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter_matchmaker.cfm](https://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter_matchmaker.cfm)
- Use the Assignment Request Form: in application package for both Study Section and Institute requests
- Check your assignment ASAP: Contact Scientific Review Officer with questions/concerns

Visit our new website: [www.csr.nih.gov](http://www.csr.nih.gov)

Explore:
- Updated Study Section Descriptions
- Study Section Rosters
- Meeting Dates
- SRO Contact Information
- Tips for Applicants
- How to become a reviewer
  *...and more!*
Who Do I Talk To?

Before Review:
• Administrative questions: Scientific Review Officer
• Funding/Relevance questions: Program Officer
• Institute support of fellowships: Check website / Ask PO
• Study section assignment questions: Contact IRG Chief

After Review: Program Officer

COMPETITIVE APPLICATIONS are carefully crafted in all aspects of the application and clearly convey the value of the proposed research.

Documentation
• Publications
• Resources and access
• Compliant biosketches
• Human subjects, vertebrate animals, biohazards, etc.
• Budget / Resource Sharing Plans

Rigor / Reproducibility
• Rigor of the Prior Research
• Consideration of Relevant Biological Variables
• Authentication of Key Resources.

Significance
• Impact on and relevance to field
• Connection: present and future

Realistic Goals
• Clear, focused objectives
• Realistic aims & timelines
• Explained pitfalls & alternatives
• Support expertise (w/ letters)

Preparation
• Clear Organization-Headers
• Readable figures & tables
• Adequate resolution, font
• Minimize abbreviations and acronyms
• Complete & current references, numbers, labels, forms
• Proofread - no typos

Integrity

The review process requires public trust and the support of the entire research community – investigators, reviewers, study section chairs, and NIH staff. Confidentiality is critical for discussion and evaluation, and conflicts of interest are closely monitored.

Core Values of Peer Review

Expert Assessment
Transparency
Impartiality
Fairness
Integrity
Confidentiality
Efficiency