The Early Career Reviewer Program

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Goals of today’s webinar and Q & A

• Provide brief context about CSR’s role
• Learn more about the requirements for the Early Career Reviewer Program
• Give you a chance to hear from recent ECRs about their experience serving as a reviewer
The Gateway for NIH Grant Applications

The Center for Scientific Review

- Receives all NIH grant applications
- Assigns applications to one or more NIH Institutes or Centers for potential funding
- Assigns applications to CSR or NIH Institute review groups
- Conducts initial scientific merit review of most NIH research applications - ~76% of NIH grant applications = ~ 64,000 applications/year with the help of >18,000 reviewers!!
Your application could be funded by one of 24 NIH Institutes or Centers (ICs)
Serve on a review panel – Early Career Reviewer Program

Program goals:

• Train qualified scientists to become critical and well-trained reviewers
• Expose investigators to the peer review experience so that they can write more competitive grant applications of their own
• Enrich the existing pool of NIH reviewers
Early Career Reviewer Program – the Basics

• Early career scientists can apply to CSR’s Early Career Reviewer (ECR) program.

• ECR’s serve as an ECR one time and review 2 applications as Reviewer 3.

• ECRs write full critiques and participate in the review meeting and score all applications.

Visit [https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForReviewers/BecomeAREviewer/ECR](https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForReviewers/BecomeAREviewer/ECR) for qualifications and application process.
Qualifications for the Early Career Reviewer Program

Employment

• You have at least 1 year of experience as a fulltime faculty member (assistant professor) or a researcher in a similar role.

Grant & Review History

• You have not served on an NIH study section aside from being a mail reviewer.
• You have not held an R01 or equivalent grant as a PI/PD.
• You have submitted a grant application to NIH and received the summary statement.

Research

• You have evidence of an active, independent research program.
• You have at least 2 senior-authored research publication in a peer-reviewed journal – 1 since doctoral degree, 1 in the last 2 yrs.

Visit https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForReviewers/BecomeAReviewer/ECR for qualifications and application process.
The Application Process...

• It is useful, but not required, to identify study sections (= review panels) that fit your area of expertise.

• The application process is simply a check to see that you meet the published requirements.

• Some of the checks for eligibility are automated and errors do happen. If you think you were rejected in error, please email CSREarlyCareerReviewer@mail.nih.gov.

https://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections/StandingStudySections
What happens after you apply?

• You’ll receive an email letting you know if you’ve been accepted or not.

• If you’ve been accepted into the program, your name is entered into a database which SROs can use to identify ECRs. For most study sections, SROs are required to recruit 2 ECRs for each meeting.

• Feel free to call attention to yourself by emailing the SRO – we’re happy to hear from you! You can find contact info on the study section page.

https://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections/StandingStudySections
If you are invited to serve...you will work closely with your scientific review officer (SRO).

• Your SRO will provide ample training in advance of the review meeting though a pre-meeting training session and will read your critiques in advance and provide feedback.

• Typically, you’ll receive review assignments ~ 6 weeks in advance of the review meeting.

• Your SRO will also make sure you know what to expect at the meeting.
And now to hear from some recent ECRs...

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