



U.S. Department of Health & Human Services



National Institutes of Health

The Nation's Medical Research Agency

GENERIC CLEARANCE UNDER OMB# 0925-0627
EXP. DATE: 2/28/2014

Enhancing Peer Review Initiative

Survey of Applicants



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Introduction

The purpose of this survey of NIH grant applicants is to help examine [NIH's Enhancing Peer Review Initiative \(http://enhancing-peer-review.nih.gov/\)](http://enhancing-peer-review.nih.gov/). The objectives of the initiative are to engage the best reviewers, improve the quality and transparency of peer review, and ensure balanced and fair reviews. This is the second annual "point in time" survey to gather applicants' opinions about the peer review process. This information will be useful in assessing the changes introduced by the Enhancing Peer Review Initiative and may be used to further improve the peer review process.

You have been randomly selected to participate in this survey from a pool of individuals who submitted at least one NIH research grant application that was reviewed between January and August of 2011. We are interested in your opinions, regardless of whether or not the application(s) you submitted during this time period was funded. Even if you have limited experience submitting grant applications, your opinions are very important to us.

The survey should take approximately 30 minutes to complete. You can stop at any point and continue at another time. There are no right or wrong answers, so please give the answer that best describes your opinion. While we would like you to answer all the questions in this survey, you may skip any questions that you do not wish to answer.

Your participation is entirely voluntary. If you choose to complete the survey, your responses will remain anonymous. Your responses will not be linked to your name and will not be made known to NIH staff or peer reviewers. They will not be used to assess the performance of individual NIH Institutes, Centers, or Scientific Review Groups. Aggregate responses will be used to guide NIH management in refining enhancements to the peer review process.

Your participation is greatly appreciated.

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SECTION A: YOUR MOST RECENT EXPERIENCE AS AN APPLICANT

Please think of the **most recent application** you submitted to NIH (either as a single-PI or multiple-PI grant) that has been reviewed **and** for which a funding decision (either not funded or funded) was reached

Please do not include applications for administrative supplements, as these undergo administrative review instead of peer review.

1. What was the activity code for this NIH research grant application? An activity code refers to the 3-character code used by NIH to identify a specific category of extramural research activity, applied to various funding mechanisms (e.g., R01, R21, K08, P01).

Enter activity code here:

2. Was this the first NIH research grant application for which you were the **Principal Investigator (PI)**?

- Yes
 No

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3. Were you identified as a **New or Early Stage Investigator** on this application?

- Yes
- No

Please continue to answer these questions focusing on your **most recent NIH grant application** that has been reviewed **and** for which a funding decision has been reached.

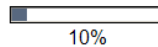
A4. Was this an application to conduct clinical research, defined by NIH as research involving human subjects?

- Yes
- No

5. Was this a resubmission (amended) application (A1)?

- Yes, A1 (re-submission)
- No, original, unamended application

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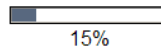


6. Approximately how many days did you spend on the following aspects of the application process?

Number of Days spent:

- a. Writing and editing the application (including locating, downloading, and completing the various required forms)?
- b. Compiling and preparing supporting documents for an Appendix?
- c. Responding to reviewer critiques (including conducting additional laboratory experiments or analyses)?

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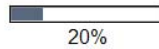


Please continue to answer these questions focusing on your most recent NIH grant application that has been reviewed and for which a funding decision has been reached.

A7. To what extent is the space provided in each of the following application sections sufficient to describe your research project?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
Specific Aims	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Biographical Sketch	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Introduction to Revised Application	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Research Strategy for basic research applications	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Research Strategy for clinical research applications	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Literature Cited	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Appendices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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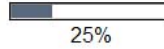




8. Was your application assigned a numerical overall impact/priority score?

- Yes
- No

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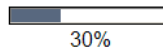
9. Have you received a Notice of Award letter indicating that your application has been funded?

- Yes
- No

10. How helpful was each of the following in understanding the overall impact/priority score assigned to your application?

	Very helpful	Moderately helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not at all helpful	Not applicable
Resume and Summary of Discussion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reviewer written critiques	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall impact statements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Discussion with my NIH Program Officer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
General information on NIH's Web sites	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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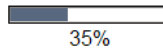


Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statements, focusing on your most recently reviewed application for which a funding decision has been reached. If a statement does not apply, please select "Not applicable."

A11. Based on the written critiques in the Summary Statement, my application was evaluated by reviewers with the appropriate expertise.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

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12. Focusing on your most recently reviewed application, for which a funding decision has been reached, to what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about your Summary Statement?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
The significance of the proposed research.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The roles and qualifications of each member of the research team.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The innovation in my application.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My proposed approach.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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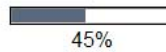
13. The bulleted comments for the individual review criteria aligned with the corresponding criterion scores.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

14. The individual criterion scores were helpful in understanding the strengths and weaknesses of the application.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

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The next three questions refer to the Summary Statement that was prepared for your most recently reviewed application for which a funding decision has been reached.

15. The Summary Statement helped me understand why the scientific review group did not discuss my application.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

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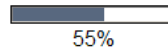
16. The Summary Statement helped me decide whether or not to resubmit the application.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

17. The Summary Statement helped me focus on problem areas in the application that could be corrected.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

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Since January of 2011, NIH's grants policy allows **submission of a single amendment** for all NIH grant applications. The purpose of the change is to enable NIH to fund high quality applications earlier, with fewer resubmissions.

A18. In your opinion, has the single resubmission policy helped, had no effect, or hindered the NIH peer review process?

- Helped
- Had no effect
- Hindered
- Don't Know

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How has the single resubmission policy helped NIH's peer review process? (300 char)

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How has the single resubmission policy hindered NIH's peer review process? (300 char)

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SECTION B: YOUR OPINIONS ABOUT THE CURRENT NIH PEER REVIEW PROCESS

When answering the questions in this section, please think about the current peer review process at NIH, the one under which your most recent NIH grant application was reviewed.

19. Overall, which peer review system do you prefer - the new system (with **enhancements**) or the old system (without enhancements)?

- New System
- Old System
- No preference between the new or the old systems
- Not applicable – no experience with old system

20. Since the shortened applications were introduced in January 2010, how fair is the peer review process at NIH?

- Very fair
- Somewhat fair
- Neither fair nor unfair
- Somewhat unfair
- Very unfair

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21. Since the shortened applications were introduced in January 2010, how satisfied are you with the peer review process at NIH?

- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

SECTION C: BACKGROUND

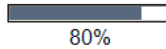
22. What type of organization do you work for?

Select all that apply

- Institution of higher education (including a university foundation)
- Hospital/medical center (including teaching hospitals)
- Independent research foundation or other non-profit institution
- Private sector/for-profit organization (including small businesses)
- Federal, state, or local government agency
- Other

Specify (150 chars)

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23. What is your job title or position?

- Professor or equivalent rank
- Associate Professor or equivalent rank
- Assistant Professor or equivalent rank
- Other

Specify (150 chars):

24. Please indicate the degree(s) you have.

Select all that apply

- Ph.D. or other research doctorate
- M.D.
- D.D.S.
- D.V.M. or V.M.D.
- Other

Specify (150 chars):

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25. What is your age?

- Under 35
- 35 - 40
- 41 - 45
- 46 - 50
- 51 - 55
- 56 - 60
- 61 - 65
- 66 - 70
- Over 70

26. What is your gender?

- Female
- Male

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27. What is your ethnicity?

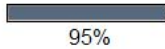
- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino

28. What is your race?

Select all that apply

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White

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Thank you very much for responding to the survey!

For more information about the peer review changes that have been implemented at NIH, please visit <http://enhancing-peer-review.nih.gov/faqs.html>.

If you have any ideas for improving the peer review process at NIH, please enter your suggestions here.

| **Save and Exit Survey**



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