

OMB# 0925-0627

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NIH, Project Clearance Branch, 6705 Rockledge Drive, MSC 7974, Bethesda, MD 20892-7974, ATTN: PRA (0925-0627).





Introduction

This survey of NIH grant applicants is to help examine NIH's Peer Review Process

(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/continuous_review.htm). This information you provide will be useful in assessing recent changes in Peer Review policies 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 have submitted at least one NIH research grant application since May 2014. 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 *private under the Privacy Act*. 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 along with other data to guide NIH management in the continuous refinement of the peer review process.

Next

Your participation is greatly appreciated.

OMB No. XXXX-XXXX



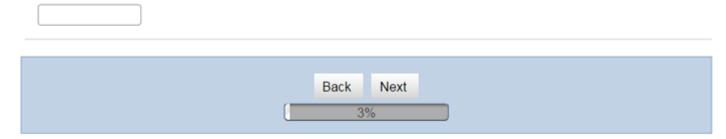
Section A: Your Most Recent Experience as an Applicant

Please think of the **most recent application** you submitted to NIH (for either 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.

Q1 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:

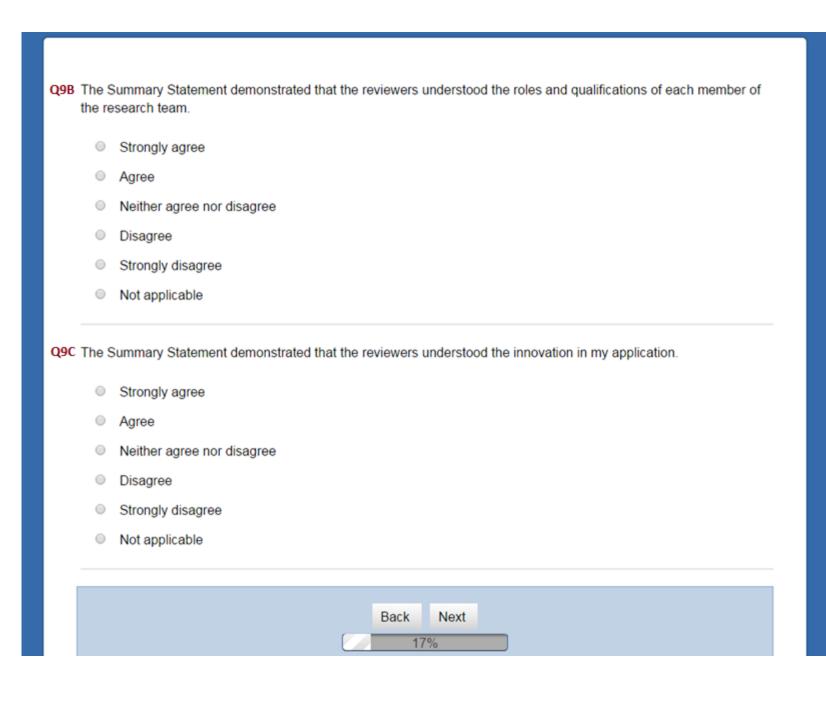


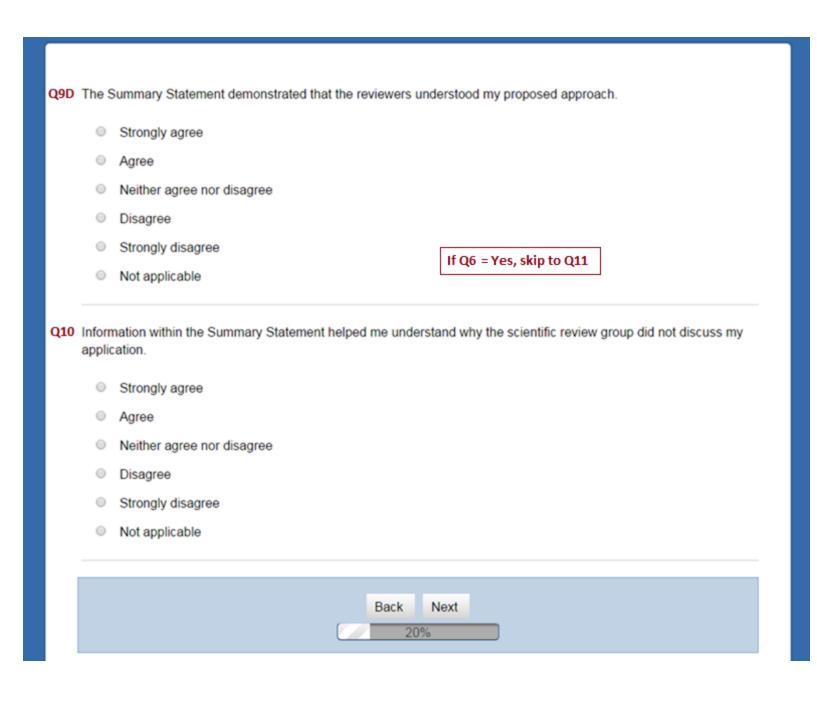
Q2 Was this the first NIH research grant application for which you were a Principal Investigator (PI)? NIH Definition of a Principal Investigator: The individual(s) judged by the applicant organization to have the appropriate level of authority and responsibility to direct the project or program supported by the grant. The applicant organization may designate multiple individuals as PDs/PIs [Program Directors/Principal Investigators] who share the authority and responsibility for leading and directing the project, intellectually and logistically. Each PD/PI is responsible and accountable to the applicant organization, or, as appropriate, to a collaborating organization, for the proper conduct of the project or program including the submission of all required reports. The presence of more than one identified PD/PI on an application or award diminishes neither the responsibility nor the accountability of any individual PD/PI. Yes No Q3 Were you identified as a New or Early Stage Investigator on this application? Note: NIH defines a **New Investigator** as an applicant who has not yet competed successfully for a significant NIH independent research award, such as an R01.An Early Stage Investigator is defined as a New Investigator who is within 10 years of completing his/her terminal research degree or is within 10 years of completing medical residency (or the equivalent). Yes Next Back 7%

	Please continue to answer the following questions focusing on your most recent NIH grant application that has been reviewed and for which a funding decision has been reached
Q4	Was this an application to conduct clinical research, defined by NIH as research involving human subjects?
	Yes
	O No
Q5	Was this a resubmission (A1) application or a new application (A0)?
	Re-submission (A1)
	 New application (A0)
Q 6	Was your application assigned a numerical overall impact score?
	Yes If Q6 is Yes, ask Q7. Else skip to Q8
	O No
Q7	Have you received a Notice of Award letter indicating that your application has been funded?
Q7	Have you received a Notice of Award letter indicating that your application has been funded? Yes

Section B: Peer Review Process and the NIH Research Grant Application

		sing on your most recently reviewed application for which a funding decision has been reached, please indicate agree or disagree with the following statements. If a statement does not apply, please select "Not applicable."		
Q8	Based on the written critiques in the Summary Statement, my application was evaluated by reviewers with the appropriate expertise.			
	0	Strongly agree		
	0	Agree		
	0	Neither agree nor disagree		
	0	Disagree		
	0	Strongly disagree		
	0	Not applicable		
		sing on your most recently reviewed application for which a funding decision has been reached, to what extent do gree or disagree with the following statements about your Summary Statement?		
Q9A	you a			
Q9A	you a	gree or disagree with the following statements about your Summary Statement?		
Q9A	you a	gree or disagree with the following statements about your Summary Statement? Summary Statement demonstrated that the reviewers understood the significance of the proposed research.		
Q9A	you a The S	gree or disagree with the following statements about your Summary Statement? Summary Statement demonstrated that the reviewers understood the significance of the proposed research. Strongly agree		
Q9A	you a	gree or disagree with the following statements about your Summary Statement? Summary Statement demonstrated that the reviewers understood the significance of the proposed research. Strongly agree Agree		
Q9A	you a	gree or disagree with the following statements about your Summary Statement? Summary Statement demonstrated that the reviewers understood the significance of the proposed research. Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree		





Q11	Inform	nation within the Summary Statement helped me decide whether or not to resubmit the application.
	0	Strongly agree
	0	Agree
	0	Neither agree nor disagree
	\odot	Disagree
		Strongly disagree
	0	Not applicable
	corre	Strongly agree
		Agree
		Neither agree nor disagree
		Disagree
		Strongly disagree
		Not applicable
		Back Next

 Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree Not applicable Q14 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the information in my summary statement was helpful for deciding next steps to take after your application has been reviewed?	
 Disagree Strongly disagree Not applicable 214 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the information in my summary statement was helpful for deciding 	
Strongly disagree Not applicable 14 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the information in my summary statement was helpful for deciding	
Not applicable 14 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the information in my summary statement was helpful for deciding	
14 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the information in my summary statement was helpful for deciding	
O Agree	
Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree If Q14 = Disagree or Strongly Disagree, ask Q14A	
Strongly disagree	

Q15	To what extent do you agree or disagree that the information on the NIH web site was helpful for deciding on the next steps to take after your application has been reviewed?				
	Strongly agree				
	Agree				
	Neither agree nor disagree				
	Disagree If Q15 = Disagree or Strongly Disagree, ask Q15A				
	Strongly disagree Else skip to Q16				
	Not applicable				
Q15A	In what way could the NIH web site be more helpful to you for deciding on the next steps to take after your application has been reviewed?				
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To what extent do you agree or disagree that the discussion with the program officer assigned to your application was helpful for deciding on the next steps to take after your application has been reviewed?
Strongly agree
 Agree
Neither agree nor disagree
Disagree If Q16 = Disagree or Strongly Disagree, ask Q16A
Strongly disagree Else skip to Q17
Not applicable
In what way could the program officer be more helpful to you for deciding on the next steps to take after your application has been reviewed?

Q17		nat extent do you agree or disagree that the discussion with other investigators within your department/scientific nunity was helpful for deciding on the next steps to take after your application has been reviewed?
	0	Strongly agree
	0	Agree
	0	Neither agree nor disagree
	0	Disagree
	0	Strongly disagree
	0	Not applicable
Q18		nat extent do you agree or disagree that the discussion with members of the key personnel named in your ation was helpful for deciding on the next steps to take after your application has been reviewed? Strongly agree
	0	Agree
	0	Neither agree nor disagree
	0	Disagree
	0	Strongly disagree
	0	Not applicable
		Back Next



lave you had an oppor	rtunity to review applications submitted using the new Biographical Sketch for	ormat?
Yes		
○ No		
O Don't know	If Q19 does NOT = Yes, skip to Intro following Q22	

Q20 In comparison to the former Biographical Sketch, do you think the new Biographical Sketch format improves, has no effect, or weakens an applicant's chance for a successful review outcome?
Improves If Q20 = Improves, display Q21
Has no effect
Weakens If Q20 = Weakens, display Q22
Don't know (I have not used the former format)
Q21 Please describe briefly how the new biosketch improves applications in the NIH review process.
Q22 Please describe briefly how the new biosketch weakens applications in the NIH review process.
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43%

The NIH is introducing several new elements in the research grant application. Their purpose is to clarify the rigor and transparency of the science proposed, and to improve the quality of the information available to reviewers and NIH staff. Each element is listed below and additional details are available by following the hyperlinks.

The first three elements, relevant biological variables, scientific premise, and rigorous experimental design, will be considered in the scoring of Significance and Approach.

The fourth element, authentication of key biological and/or chemical resources, will be an additional review consideration that will not be scored individually and will not be considered in the overall impact score.

Q23	Please select two of the four elements below that you believe is most relevant to your own field of science.	You will be
	offered follow-up questions related to the two elements you rate as most relevant.	

Relevant biological variables, such as sex as they are factored into research designs.

If selected, ask Q24

Scientific premise: consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of any published research or preliminary data crucial to the support of your application.

If selected, ask Q29

Rigorous Experimental Design: how the experimental design and methods proposed will achieve robust and unbiased results.

If selected, ask Q33

Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources: methods to ensure the identity and validity of key biological and/or chemical resources used in the proposed studies.

If selected, ask Q37

e select two of the four elements below that you believe is most relevant to your own field of science. You will be d follow-up questions related to the two elements you rate as most relevant.
Relevant biological variables, such as sex as they are factored into research designs.
Scientific premise: consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of any published research or preliminary data crucial to the support of your application.
Rigorous Experimental Design: how the experimental design and methods proposed will achieve robust and unbiased results. The strict application of the scientific method to ensure robust and unbiased experimental design, methodology, analysis, interpretation and reporting of results. This includes full transparency in reporting experimental details so that others may reproduce and extend the findings.
Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources: methods to ensure the identity and validity of key biological and/or chemical resources used in the proposed studies.
Key biological and/or chemical resources include but are not limited to cell lines, antibodies, and specialty chemicals that may differ from laboratory laboratory or over time and whose qualities and/or qualifications could influence the research data. Standard laboratory reagents such as buffers and common biologicals or chemicals not expected to vary are not considered to be key resources. Key biological and/or chemical resources are integral proposed research and do not need to be generated with NIH funds
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	Relev	ant biological variables, such as sex as they are factored into research designs:	
	Rega	rding research in your field of science, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	
Q24	Generally speaking, research studies in my field of science are conducted, analyzed, and reported in a way that helps us understand how biological variables, such as sex, influence the findings.		
	0	Strongly agree	
	0	Agree	
	0	Neither agree nor disagree	
	0	Disagree	
	0	Strongly disagree	
Q25		attention to biological variables, such as sex, in designing experiments will improve the reproducibility of research gs in my field of science.	
	0	Strongly agree	
	0	Agree	
	0	Neither agree nor disagree	
	0	Disagree	

best	arding the potential influence of biological variables, such as sex, - in my field of science, uniform standards and practices are needed to guide research design.				
0	Strongly agree				
	Agree				
	Neither agree nor disagree				
	Disagree				
	Strongly disagree				
	If voluntary training were offered on the topic of designing research studies to address the potential influence of biological variables, such as sex, I would encourage my students and laboratory personnel to participate				
0	Strongly agree				
	Agree				
	Neither agree nor disagree				
	Disagree				
	Strongly disagree				
	Not applicable – I do not have students or lab				
Plea	ise tell us anything else you would like us to know about the relevance of biological variables to your field of nce.				
	If vo biold				

Rena	rding research in your field of science, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
Rega	ruling research in your field of science, to what extent do you agree of disagree with the following statements?
	rally speaking, the published research in my field of science includes sufficient detail to ensure that methods and
resul	s can be reproduced.
0	Strongly agree
0	Agree
0	Neither agree nor disagree
0	Disagree
0	Strongly disagree
30 Unifo	rm standards and best practices are needed in my field of science to guide the development of the scientific ise
0	Strongly agree
0	Agree
0	Neither agree nor disagree
0	Disagree
0	Strongly disagree

Q31		untary training were offered on the topic of developing a strong scientific premise to support the design of new rch studies, I would encourage my students and laboratory personnel to participate
	0	Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree Not applicable – I do not have students or lab personnel
Q32	Pleas	e tell us anything else you would like us to know about the relevance of scientific premise to your field of science.
		Back Next

Rigorous Experimental Design how the experimental design and methods proposed will achieve robust and unbiased results. Regarding research in your field of science, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Q33 More attention to rigorous experimental design will improve the reproducibility of research findings in my field of science.

Q34 Uniform standards and best practices are needed in my field of science to guide the development of a sound and

Strongly agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

rigorous experimental design.

Strongly agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Q35		untary training were offered on the topic of conducting research using robust experimental designs, I would urage my students and laboratory personnel to participate
	0	Strongly agree
		Agree
		Neither agree nor disagree
		Disagree
		Strongly disagree
		Not applicable – I do not have students or lab personnel
Q36		se tell us anything else you would like us to know about the relevance of rigorous experimental design to your of science.
		Back Next

Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical methods to ensure the identity and vallidity of key biological and/or chemical resources used in the proposed studies.

Information on authentication of key biological and/or chemical resources will be collected as an "other attachment" and will be peer reviewed as an "additional review consideration" that will not be scored individually and is not to be considered in the determination of the overall impact score.

Regarding research in your field of science, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Q37 Generally speaking, most experiments in my field of science are conducted with key biological and/or chemical resources that have been appropriately authenticated or calibrated

Q38 Uniform standards and best practices are needed in my field of science to address the authentication of key biological

Strongly agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

and/or chemical resources

Strongly agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree



	intary training were offered on the topic of authentication of key biological and/or chemical resources, I would urage my students and laboratory personnel to participate
0	Strongly agree
0	Agree
0	Neither agree nor disagree
0	Disagree
0	Strongly disagree
(i)	Not applicable – I do not have students or lab personnel
Pleas	Not applicable – I do not have students or lab personnel e tell us anything else you would like us to know about the relevance of authenticating key biological and/or ical resources to your field of science.

	n your opinion, has the new application submission policy helped, hindered, or had no effect on the NIH peer review process?							
0	Helped	If Q41 = Helped, ask Q41A						
0	Had no effec	t						
0	Hindered	If Q41 = Hindered, ask Q41B						
	Don't know							
Pleas	se describe bri	efly how the new resubmission policy has helped NIH's peer review process.						
Pleas	se describe bri	efly how the new resubmission policy has hindered NIH's peer review process.						

Section C: Global 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.

Q42 Based on your most recently reviewed NIH grant application, how fair is the peer review process at NIH?

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

Q43 Based on your most recently reviewed NIH grant application, how satisfied are you with the peer review process at NIH?

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

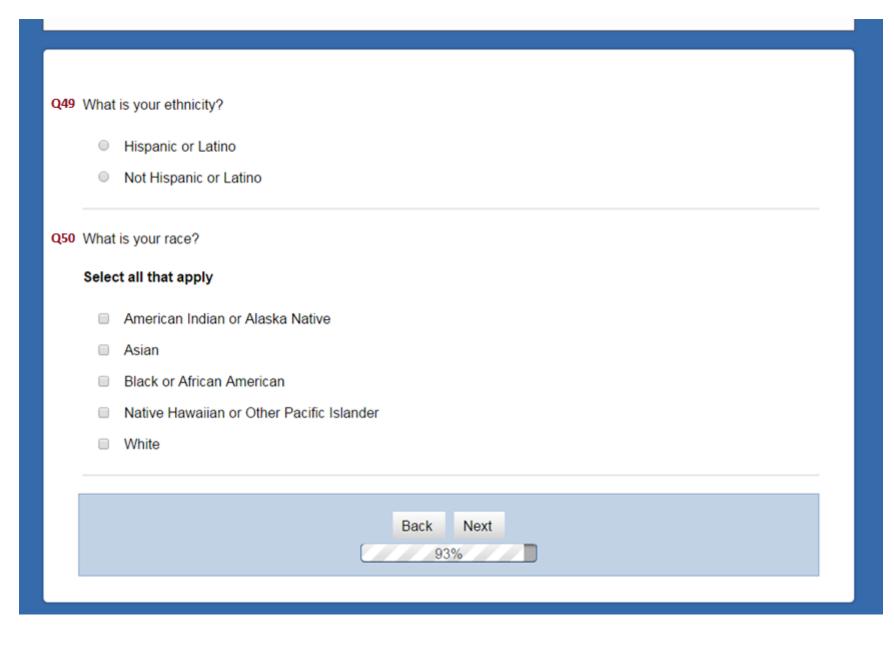
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What	type of organization do you work for?
Sele	ct all that apply
	Institution of higher education (including a university foundation)
0	Hospital/medical center (including teaching hospitals)
	Independent research foundation or other non-profit institution
	Private sector/for-profit organization (including small businesses)
	Federal, state, or local government agency
	Other (Specify):

0	rofessor or equivalent rank
0	ssociate Professor or equivalent rank
0	ssistant Professor or equivalent rank
0	ther (Specify):
	ndicate the degree(s) you have.
Sele	II that apply
Sele	II that apply h.D. or other research doctorate
Sele	h.D. or other research doctorate

Q47 What is your age? Under 35 35 to 40 41 to 45 46 to 50 9 51 to 55 56 to 60 61 to 65 66 to 70 Over 70 Q48 What is your gender? Female Male Back Next 90%





NIH Applicant Survey

ank you very much for completing the survey! ou have any ideas for improving the peer review process at NIH, please enter your suggestions here:								
Turnave any lucas i	in improving the	peer revie	w process	s at Will, pr		your sugge	30013 11616	-
			100	0%				