

OMB# 0925-0627

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

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Introduction

This survey of NIH peer reviewers is to help examine **NIH's Peer Review Process** (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/continuous_review.htm). The information you provide will be useful in assessing the 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 served as peer reviewers for NIH at least once since January 2015. We are interested in the opinions of reviewers with different levels of peer review experience. Even if you have limited experience reviewing 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 grant applicants. 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.

Your participation is greatly appreciated.

OMB No. XXXX-XXXX

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Q1	In what capacity have you ever served as a NIH peer reviewer?
	Select all that apply *
	Regular "appointed" member of a chartered Scientific Review Group (study section) who agrees to serve a fixed duration (typically 4-6 years) (may also be called a "charter" or "permanent" member)
	If not selected, skip to instructions before Q3
	Ad hoc or "temporary" reviewer. An ad hoc member of a scientific review group (study section) or Special Emphasis Panel (SEP)
	If only option selected, skip to Q4
	If neither option is selected, skip to Q5
Q2	Are you <i>currently</i> serving as an appointed reviewer on a chartered scientific review group (study section) for NIH? *
	Yes
	O No
	Back Next

Q3	As an	appointed reviewer, how many full terms (typically 4 to 6 years each) have you completed for NIH?
	\odot	0 terms
		1 term
	\odot	2 terms
	\odot	3 terms
	0	4 or more terms
Q4		which component(s) of NIH have you ever served as either an appointed reviewer or as a temporary reviewer?
		Center for Scientific Review (CSR)
		One or more NIH Institutes/Centers (ICs) (e.g., NCI, NIAID)
Q5		ow many review meetings have you served as an appointed reviewer or as a temporary reviewer for NIH in the year? (your best estimate is fine) If 0 meetings (or no option slected), skip to final Q
	0	1 meeting
	0	2 meetings If any option is selected, continue to Q6
	0	3 or more meetings
		Back Next 5%

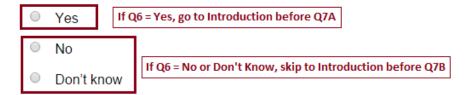


Section B: Review Process and Procedures

The next questions pertain to the NIH Biographical Sketch. NIH's Biographical Sketch format was recently modified to include items on "contributions to science." The new Biographical Sketch is available at:

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/SF424R-R biosketchsample VerC.docx

Q6 Have you had an opportunity to review applications submitted using the new Biographical Sketch format?



If no option is selected, skip to Exhibit 1



Please answer the following question based upon your experience with the new Biographical Sketch format.

Q7A To what extent was the new biographical sketch format helpful in understanding the capabilities of a researcher as they relate to the proposed project?

1= Extremely Helpful 5= Not at all Helpful

	1	2	3	4	5	Don't Know
Qualifications for the role in the proposed project	0	0		0	0	0
Scientific accomplishments	0	0	0	0	0	0
How the researcher's accomplishments advanced science	0	0	0	0	0	0
How the researcher's accomplishments led to the development of intellectual property, commercial products and other benefits	0	0	0	0	0	0
Researcher capabilities and technical expertise		0	0	0	0	0
Impediments to progress in research	0	0	0	0	0	0

Back	Next	ext
1	10/2	

'A7 To w UM2	hat extent is the <u>new</u> biographical sketch suitable for complex grant activi)?	ities (such as the P30, P50, U19, UM1,
0	Extremely suitable	
	Somewhat suitable	
0	Not at all suitable	
	Don't know (I have not reviewed complex applications)	
	nformation contained in grant applications is adequate for me to identify pured applications.	potential conflicts of interest in my
		potential conflicts of interest in my
		potential conflicts of interest in my
assiç	ned applications.	potential conflicts of interest in my
assig	ned applications. Strongly agree	potential conflicts of interest in my
assig	Strongly agree Agree	potential conflicts of interest in my
assig	Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree	If Q6 = No, continue with Q7B
assig	Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree	

Please answer the following question based upon your experience with the former Biographical Sketch format.

Q78 To what extent was the former biographical sketch format helpful in understanding the capabilities of a researcher as they relate to the proposed project?

1= Extremely Helpful 5= Not at all Helpful

	1	2	3	4	5	Don't Know
Qualifications for the role in the proposed project		0			0	0
Scientific accomplishments	0	0	0	0	0	0
How the researcher's accomplishments advanced science	0	0	0	0	0	0
How the researcher's accomplishments led to the development of intellectual property, commercial products and other benefits	0	0	0	0	0	0
Researcher capabilities and technical expertise		0	0		0	
Impediments to progress in research	0	0	0	0	0	0

Back	Next
17	%

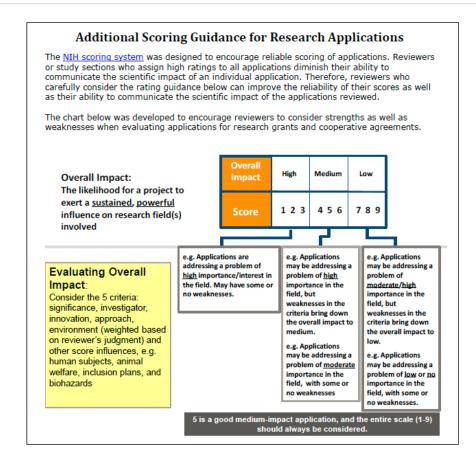
o wh M2)'	nat extent is the <u>former</u> biographical sketch suitable for complex grant activities (such as the P30, P50, U19, UM1, ?
0	Extremely suitable Somewhat suitable Not at all suitable Don't know (I have not reviewed complex applications)
	nformation contained in grant applications that include the former biographical sketch is adequate for me to fy potential conflicts of interest in my assigned applications.
	Strongly agree
	Agree
0	Agree Neither agree nor disagree
0	
	Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree
0	Neither agree nor disagree Disagree

Q9	In comparison to the former biographical sketch, do you think the new Bio effect, or weakens an applicant's chance for a successful review outcome	
	Outrot	
	Select one	
	☐ Improves If Q9 = Improves, displsy Q10	
	☐ Has no effect	
	■ Weakens If Q9 = Weakens, display Q11	
		y other option is selected (Has no effect, Don't Know) o option is selected, skip to Exhibit 1
Q10	10 Please describe briefly how the new biosketch improves applications in th	e NIH review process.
Q11	Please describe briefly how the new biosketch weakens applications in the	e NIH review process.

The next questions pertain to the table of Additional Scoring Guidance for Research Applications. Please refer to Exhibit 1 when answering the following questions:

Exhibit 1.

Text-only version





	No Cannot recall If Q12 = No, Cannot recall (or blank), Skip to Introduction before Exhibit 2 d on your most recent review experience, please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the ving statements.
	1 to 9 rating scale had sufficient range for me to communicate meaningful differences in the quality of the cations.
0	Strongly agree
0	Agree
0	Neither agree nor disagree
0	Disagree
0	Strongly disagree

0	Strongly agree
0	Agree
0	Neither agree nor disagree
0	Disagree
0	Strongly disagree
0	Not applicable. I did not use the Additional Scoring Guidance for Research Applications
	Additional Scoring Guidance for Research Applications (Exhibit 1) for the 1 to 9 rating scale was useful for ning overall impact scores during the discussions of applications at the review group meeting.
he A	Additional Scoring Guidance for Research Applications (Exhibit 1) for the 1 to 9 rating scale was useful for
he A	Additional Scoring Guidance for Research Applications (Exhibit 1) for the 1 to 9 rating scale was useful for ning overall impact scores during the discussions of applications at the review group meeting.
he A	Additional Scoring Guidance for Research Applications (Exhibit 1) for the 1 to 9 rating scale was useful for ning overall impact scores during the discussions of applications at the review group meeting. Strongly agree
he A	Additional Scoring Guidance for Research Applications (Exhibit 1) for the 1 to 9 rating scale was useful for ning overall impact scores during the discussions of applications at the review group meeting. Strongly agree Agree
he A	Additional Scoring Guidance for Research Applications (Exhibit 1) for the 1 to 9 rating scale was useful for ning overall impact scores during the discussions of applications at the review group meeting. Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree

The next questions pertain to the Structured Critique Templates. Please refer to Exhibit 2 when answering the following questions.

Exhibit 2. Example of a Structured Critique Template

RPG/R01/R03/R15/R21 Review
If you cannot access the hyperlinks below,
visit http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/critiques/rpg.htm.

Application #:

Principal Investigator(s):

Overall Impact

Reviewers will provide an overall impact score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved, in consideration of the following five scored review criteria, and additional review criteria. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific impact.

Overall Impact Write a paragraph summarizing the factors that informed your Overall Impact score.

Scored Review Criteria

Reviewers will consider each of the five review criteria below in the determination of scientific and technical merit, and give a separate score for each.

1. Significance

Strengths

Weaknesses

Based on your most recent review experience using the structured critique templates, please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	bulleted format in the structured critique templates was adequate for capturing the strengths and weaknesses o pplications.
0	Strongly agree
0	Agree
0	Neither agree nor disagree
0	Disagree
0	Strongly disagree
	Not applicable. I did not use a structured critique template. narrative overall impact statement in the structured critique template helped me communicate how the review is a contributed to the overall impact score assigned to applications.
The n	
The n	narrative overall impact statement in the structured critique template helped me communicate how the review ia contributed to the overall impact score assigned to applications.
The n	narrative overall impact statement in the structured critique template helped me communicate how the review is contributed to the overall impact score assigned to applications. Strongly agree
The n	narrative overall impact statement in the structured critique template helped me communicate how the review is contributed to the overall impact score assigned to applications. Strongly agree Agree
The n	narrative overall impact statement in the structured critique template helped me communicate how the review is contributed to the overall impact score assigned to applications. Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree

	narrative overall impact statement in the structured critique template helped me communicate why some ications were not discussed.
0	Strongly agree
	Agree
	Neither agree nor disagree
0	Disagree
	Strongly disagree
0	Not applicable. I did not use a structured critique template.
19 The	criterion scores helped me communicate why some applications were not discussed.
19 The	
	criterion scores helped me communicate why some applications were not discussed. Strongly agree Agree
0	Strongly agree
0	Strongly agree Agree
0	Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree
0	Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree
0	Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q20	My ex	opertise was necessary and appropriately used in the review process.
	0	Strongly agree
	0	Agree
	0	Neither agree nor disagree
	0	Disagree
	0	Strongly disagree
	0	Strongly agree Agree
		Strongly agree
	0	Neither agree nor disagree
		Disagree
		Disagree
	0	Strongly disagree

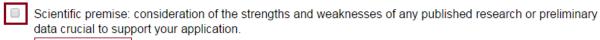
Q22		ormat and duration of the discussions were sufficient for the reviewers not assigned to evaluate an application to le to cast well-informed votes.
		Strongly agree
		Agree
		Neither agree nor disagree
		Disagree
		Strongly disagree
Q.E.S	0	propriate amount of time was spent discussing the potential impact of the applicants' research. Strongly agree
		Strongly agree
		Agree
		Neither agree nor disagree
		Disagree
		Strongly disagree
		Back Next

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.

Q24	Please select two of the four elements below that you believe are 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 in the research designs and analyses in vertebrate animal and human studies.



If selected, ask Q30

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

If selected, ask Q34

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 Q38

se select two of the four elements below that you believe are most relevant to your own field of science. You will fered follow-up questions related to the two elements you rate as most relevant.
Relevant biological variables, such as sex as they are factored in the research designs and analyses in vertebrate animal and human studies.
Scientific premise: consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of any published research or preliminary data crucial to support your application.
Rigorous Experimental Design: how the experimental design and methods proposed will achieve robust and unbiased results.
Scientific Rigor: 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 to laboratory or over time and whose qualities and/or qualifications could influence the research data. Standard laboratory reagents such as buffers and other common biologicals or chemicals not expected to vary are not considered to be key resources. Key biological and/or chemical resources are integral to the proposed research and do not need to be generated with NIH funds

Biological variables, such as sex as they are factored into research designs

Strongly disagree

	Rega	rding research in your field of science, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
Q25		rally speaking, research studies in my field of science are conducted, analyzed, and reported in a way that helps derstand how biological variables, such as sex, influence the findings.
		Strongly agree
		Agree
	0	Neither agree nor disagree
	0	Disagree
		Strongly disagree
Q26		attention to biological variables, such as sex, in designing experiments will improve the reproducibility of research gs in my field of science.
		Strongly agree
		Agree
		Neither agree nor disagree
		Disagree

	Strongly agree
	Agree
	Neither agree nor disagree
	Disagree
0	Strongly disagree
	intary training were offered on the topic of designing research studies to address the potential influence of gical variables, such as sex, I would encourage my students and laboratory personnel to participate.
	Strongly agree
	Agree
	Neither agree nor disagree
	Disagree
	Strongly disagree
\bigcirc	Not applicable – I do not have students or lab personnel

		ntific premise: consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of any published research or preliminary crucial to the support of your application.
	Rega	rding research in your field of science, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
Q30		rally speaking, the published research in my field of science includes sufficient detail to ensure that methods and s can be reproduced.
		Strongly agree
		Agree
		Neither agree nor disagree
		Disagree
		Strongly disagree
Q31		attention to the scientific premise of proposed research will improve my ability to review grant applications in my of science.
		Strongly agree
		Agree
		Neither agree nor disagree
		Disagree
	0	Strongly disagree

NIH Reviewer Survey

032	If vol	untary training were offered on the topic of developing a strong scientific premise to support the design of new
		arch studies, I would encourage my students and laboratory personnel to participate.
	0	Strongly agree
		Agree
	0	Neither agree nor disagree
	0	Disagree
	0	Strongly disagree
		Not applicable – I do not have students or lab personnel
Q33	Pleas	se tell us anything else you would like us to know about the relevance of the scientific premise to your field of ce.
		Back Next
		63%

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

	Rega	rding research in your field of science, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
Q34	More scienc	attention to rigorous experimental design will improve the reproducibility of research findings in my field of ce.
		Strongly agree
		Agree
		Neither agree nor disagree
		Disagree
		Strongly disagree
Q35		cation of the rigor of the proposed experimental design will improve my ability to review grant applications in my f science.
		Strongly agree
		Agree
		Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Q36	36 If voluntary training were offered on the topic encourage my students and laboratory person	of conducting research using robust experimental designs, I would nnel to participate
	 Strongly agree 	
	Agree	
	 Neither agree nor disagree 	
	Disagree	
	 Strongly disagree 	
	 Not applicable – I do not have students 	s or lab personnel
Q37	37 Please tell us anything else you would like us of science.	to know about the relevance of rigorous experimental design to your field
Q37		to know about the relevance of rigorous experimental design to your field
Q37		to know about the relevance of rigorous experimental design to your field
Q37		to know about the relevance of rigorous experimental design to your field Back Next

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.

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

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.

- Q38 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.
 - Strongly agree
 - Agree
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Disagree
 - Strongly disagree
- Q39 More information about the plans for authentication of key biological and/or chemical resources, provided as an additional attachment, will improve my ability to review grant applications in my field of science.
 - Strongly agree
 - Agree
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Disagree
 - Strongly disagree

 Strong additional review consideration" that will not be scored individually and Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree 	is not to be considered in the determination of the overall impact score
Neither agree nor disagreeDisagree	
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.
	Strongly agree
	Agree
	Neither agree nor disagree
	Disagree
	Strongly disagree
0	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 authentication of key biological and/or
chem	ical resources to your field of science.
chem	

	ng your most recent review experience, to what extent do you agree or disagree that reviewers were provided wit juste review guidelines, criteria and instructions to review the specific applications assigned to them?
0	Strongly agree
	Agree
	Neither agree nor disagree
0	Disagree If Q42 = Disagree or Strongly Disagree, ask Q42A Strongly disagree Else skip to Q43
Pleas	se describe briefly what review guidelines and/or criteria would have been helpful.

	new (A0) applica	ced a change to the application submission policy to allow applicants to resubmit a research idea ation following an unsuccessful resubmission (A1) application. /grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-14-074.html#sthash.Eum9uk5y.dpuf).
In you	ur opinion, how	has this new application submission policy affected the NIH peer review process?
	Helped	If Q44 = Helped, display Q44A
0	Had no effect	
	Hindered	If Q44 = Hindered, display Q44B
0	Don't know	
Pleas	e describe brief	fly how the new resubmission policy has helped NIH's peer review process.
. Ticas	ic describe brief	Ty now the new resultinission policy has helped with a peer review process.

Section C: Your Global Opinions about the NIH Peer Review Process

When answering the questions in this section, please think of the **current peer review process at NIH**, the one under which your most recent peer review service occurred.

Q45	Based upon your review experience during the past year (since n	nonth, 2014), how fair is the peer review process at
	NIH?	

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

Q46 Based upon your review experience during the past year (since month, 2014), how satisfied are you with the peer review process at NIH?

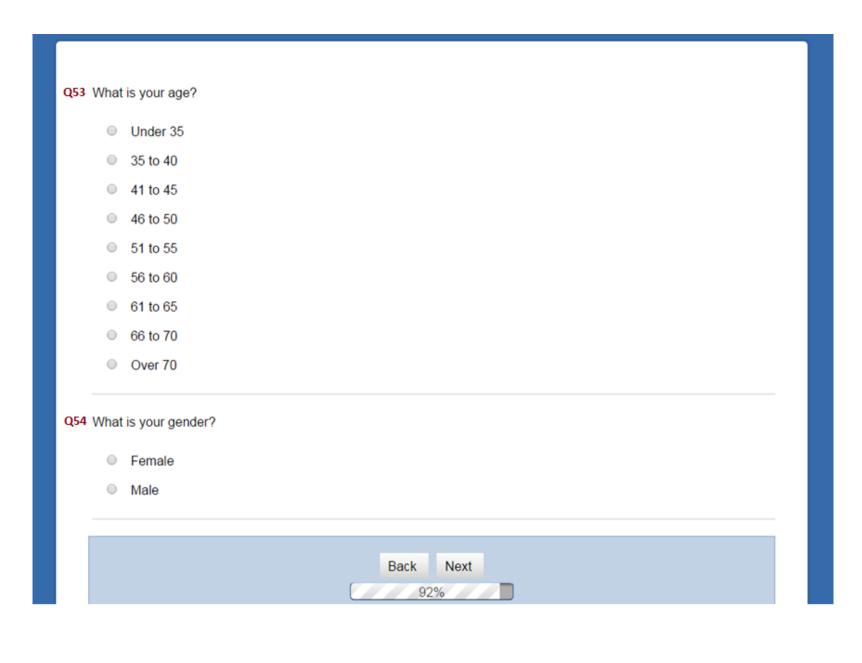
- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

	Section D: Background						
	As a reminder, the information you provide in this survey will remain anonymous. No individual respondents will be identified, and all responses will be summarized and reported in aggregate form.						
Q47	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)						
Q48	What is your job title or position?						
	Professor or equivalent rank						
	Associate Professor or equivalent rank						
	Assistant Professor or equivalent rank						
	Other (Specify)						
Q49	Have you ever submitted a research grant application to NIH as a Principal Investigator (PI) for a single-PI						
	or multiple-PI grant?						
	⊚ Yes						
	No If Q49 = No (or blank), skip to Q52						

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.

- Q50 When did you submit your first research grant application to NIH as a PI for a single-PI or multiple-PI grant?
 - 2014 to 2015
 - 2012 to 2013
 - 2010 to 2011
 - 2008 to 2009
 - 2005 to 2007
 - 2002 to 2004
 - 1999 to 2001
 - 9 1996 to 1998
 - 1993 to 1995
 - 9 1990 to 1992
 - Prior to 1990

	hich of the following fiscal years did you receive any type of NIH funding as a PI? (Please include single-PI grants multiple-PI grants.)				
agree	mples of NIH funding include research grants (R series), program project/center grants (P series), cooperative ements, career development awards (K series), research training and fellowships (T and F series), and R/STTR grants and contracts.				
Selec	t all that apply				
	FY 2014 (October 2013 to September 2014)				
	FY 2013 (October 2012 to September 2013)				
	FY 2012 (October 2011 to September 2012)				
	Did not receive NIH funding for the fiscal years listed				
52 Pleas	e indicate the degree(s) you have.				
Selec	t all that apply				
	Ph.D. or other research doctorate				
	M.D.				
	D.D.S.				
	D.V.M. or V.M.D.				
	Other (Specify)				





Q55 What	is your ethnicity?
0	Hispanic or Latino
0	Not Hispanic or Latino
Q56 What	is your race?
Selec	t all that apply
	American Indian or Alaska Native
	Asian
	Black or African American
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
	White
	Back Next



NIH Reviewer Survey

hank you very mu	ch for completing	the survey!					
you have any ide	as for improving t	he peer revie	ew process a	at NIH, please	enter your su	ggestions here	C
			100%	0/			
			1007	70			