

Reviewer Survey
Web Survey Screenshots
DRAFT
Version 1
August 6, 2014

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Introduction

This survey of scientists is to help the National Institutes of Health (NIH) examine the preferences of prospective and current reviewers in relation to the peer review of NIH grant applications. The objectives of this survey are to better understand reviewers' incentives and optimize our efforts to identify highly qualified scientists to serve as reviewers. The information you provide will also be used to help define appropriate expectations for reviewer commitments.

You were **randomly selected** to participate in this survey from a pool of scientists who have applied for research grant funding in the past five years. We are interested in the opinions of potential reviewers with different levels of research and peer review experience. Even if you have limited experience reviewing research grant applications, **your opinions are very important to us.**

The survey should take approximately **15 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 answers that best describe 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 made known to NIH staff or grant applicants. They will not be used to assess the performance of individual NIH Institutes, Centers, Scientific Review Groups, or NIH staff, and will not affect whether you will be invited to serve as a reviewer in the future. Aggregate responses will be used to guide NIH management in refining our peer review process.

For more information about the peer review process at NIH, please visit:
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer_review_process.htm

Your participation is greatly appreciated!!!!

Form Approved
OMB Number 0925-0627
Exp. Date: April, 2017

In the past five years, have you led or worked on a research project supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH)?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

In the past five years, have you led or worked on a research project supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF)?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

In the past five years, have you led or worked on a research project supported by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

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Please describe your role on the NIH-supported research (Select all that apply)

- Principal Investigator/Project Director/Project Manager
- Subproject/Core lead
- Subcontract/Consortium lead
- Training Program Director/Principal Investigator
- Fellow/Trainee/Research Assistant on NIH grant
- Other (Please specify):

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7%

Note: Item will appear if the first item on Page 3 = Yes.

Did your role on any of the NIH-supported research projects involve the conduct of clinical research, defined by NIH as research involving human subjects?

- Yes
- No

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10%

Note: Item will appear if the first item on Page 3 = Yes.

Please describe your role on the NSF-supported research (Select all that apply)

- Principal Investigator/Project Director/Project Manager
- Subproject/Core lead
- Subcontract/Consortium lead
- Training Program Director/Principal Investigator
- Fellow/Trainee/Research Assistant on NSF grant
- Other (Please specify):

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10%

Note: Item will appear if the first item on Page 3 = No and the second item on Page 3 = Yes.

Please describe your role on the CIHR supported research (Select all that apply)

- Principal Investigator/Project Director/Project Manager
- Subproject/Core lead
- Subcontract/Consortium lead
- Training Program Director/Principal Investigator
- Fellow/Trainee/Research Assistant on CIHR grant
- Other (Please specify):

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11%

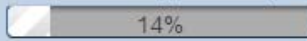
Note: Item will appear if the first and second items on Page 3 = No and the third item on Page 3 = Yes.

In the past 12 months, have you been asked to serve as a peer reviewer on a NIH [Scientific Review Group](#)?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

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Did you serve as a peer reviewer for a NIH Scientific Review Group?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

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23%

Note: Item will appear when item on Page 8 = Yes.

In the past 12 months, were you invited to serve as a peer reviewer for NSF?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

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15%

Note: Item will appear when item on Page 8 = No, Don't Know, or is not answered.

Did you serve as a peer reviewer for NSF?

- Yes
- No

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23%

Note: Item will appear when item on Page 10 = Yes.

In the past 12 months, were you invited to serve as a peer reviewer for CIHR?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

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20%

Note: Item will appear when item on Page 10 = Yes.

Did you serve as a peer reviewer for CIHR?

- Yes
- No

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24%

Note: Item will appear when item on Page 12 = Yes.

What was the nature of your most recent service as a peer reviewer?

- Temporary/Ad hoc
- Chartered/appointed member
- Mail

During the last time you served as a NIH peer reviewer, was the NIH review process more burdensome than it could be?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

In what way was the process burdensome?

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28%

Note: The first and second items will appear when item on Page 8 = Yes. The third item will appear when the second item on this page = Yes.

Prior to 12 months ago, did you serve as a peer reviewer on a NIH [Scientific Review Group](#)?

- Yes
- No

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26%

Note: Item will appear when item on Page 8 = No, Don't Know, or is not answered.

During the last time you served as a NIH peer reviewer, was the NIH review process more burdensome than it could be?

- Yes
- No

In what way was the process burdensome?

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35%

Note: The first item will appear when the item on Page 15 = Yes. The second item will appear when the first item = Yes.

What would be the main reasons for you to **accept** an invitation to review for NIH? (Please assume the topic of the applications is appropriate for your expertise and select the three reasons most relevant to you):

- Opportunity to travel
- Networking with other scientists
- Honorarium
- Grantsmanship experience
- Opportunity to contribute intellectually to my research field
- Learning the latest news about the funding agency
- Release from personal/departmental responsibilities
- Increased opportunity for tenure/promotion
- Opportunity to contribute to my scientific field
- Sense of responsibility to serve as a reviewer
- Flexible terms of service for chartered reviewers
- Continuous submission
- Other (please specify):

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32%

What would be the main reasons for you to **decline** an invitation to review for NIH? (Please assume the topic of the applications is appropriate for your expertise and select the three reasons most relevant to you.)

- Requirement to travel from home
- Time required to prepare the reviews
- Honorarium
- Competing responsibilities: personal (family, social, civic, etc.)
- Competing responsibilities: grantsmanship/research related
- Competing responsibilities: within own institution (administration, teaching, etc.)
- Quality of travel, hotel and meeting room accommodations
- Complexity of technology used in the review process
- Complexity of NIH's review policy
- Previous review service ("I've done my time")
- Disillusionment with government generally
- Other (please specify):

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36%

If you were to serve as a peer reviewer for NIH in the future, which type of review service would you prefer?

- Temporary/Ad hoc
- Chartered/appointed member
- Mail

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41%

If you were to review for NIH in the future, which of the following review formats would you prefer? (Please select 2)

- Traditional/In-person study section meeting
- Teleconference
- Video conference
- Editorial Board
- Internet Assisted Meeting (IAM)

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50%

Note: Item will appear when the item on Page 9 = Yes or the item on Page 15 = Yes.

If you were to review for NIH in the future, which of the following types of grant activities would you prefer to review?
(Please select 2)

- R01 or R01-like Research project grant applications (U01, R21, R03, R15, R34, etc.)
- Fellowships/Career awards
- Multiple project activities and Centers (P30, P50, U19)
- Small Business awards
- Other (Please describe)

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54%

Note: Item will appear when the item on Page 9 = Yes or the item on Page 15 = Yes.

For the next three questions, please respond regarding reviews of [Fellowships/Career awards](#).

How many in-person review meetings per year for [Fellowships/Career awards](#) would you consider reasonable for a scientist like you? Please assume that participation requires travel and a hotel stay 1-3 days in duration.

- 0
- 1-2
- 3-4
- ≥ 5

Again, please think about reviews of [Fellowships/Career awards](#) at an in-person meeting. How many applications per meeting do you consider reasonable for a scientist like you to read, and prepare written critiques?

- 1-3
- 4-6
- 7-9
- 10-12
- 13-16

Now please think of the editorial board meeting format, where initial reviewers do not convene to discuss the applications but read the applications, prepare critiques and assign initial scores. How many applications per meeting do you consider reasonable for a scientist like you when asked to prepare mail reviews and not travel to the meeting (as in an editorial board meeting)?

- 1-3
- 4-6
- 7-9
- 10-12
- 13-16


 52%

Note: Item “Fellowship/Career awards” will be replaced with the first item selected on Page 21. If no items were selected on Page 21, this page will be skipped.

For the next three questions, please respond regarding reviews of **Small Business** awards.

How many in-person review meetings per year for **Small Business** awards would you consider reasonable for a scientist like you? Please assume that participation requires travel and a hotel stay 1-3 days in duration.

- 0
- 1-2
- 3-4
- ≥ 5

Again, please think about reviews of **Small Business** awards at an in-person meeting. How many applications per meeting do you consider reasonable for a scientist like you to read, and prepare written critiques?

- 1-3
- 4-6
- 7-9
- 10-12
- 13-16

Now please think of the editorial board meeting format, where initial reviewers do not convene to discuss the applications but read the applications, prepare critiques and assign initial scores. How many applications per meeting do you consider reasonable for a scientist like you when asked to prepare mail reviews and not travel to the meeting (as in an editorial board meeting)?

- 1-3
- 4-6
- 7-9
- 10-12
- 13-16


 56%

Note: Item “Small Business awards” will be replaced with the second item selected on Page 21. If two items were not selected on Page 21, this page will be skipped.

Please estimate the percentage of your professional effort you currently allocate to each of the following responsibilities?

- Conducting research [\[Examples\]](#)
- Laboratory management/ Revenue oversight [\[Examples\]](#)
- Institutional administrative and teaching responsibilities [\[Examples\]](#)
- Preparing grant applications/Progress reports
- Service to science [\[Examples\]](#)
- Clinical/surgical/patient care
- Grant peer review service (for NIH and other funding agencies, organizations)
- Other

0 out of 100% Total

If you reported having Other responsibilities above, please describe:

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50%

Ideally, what percentage of your professional level of effort should you spend on grant review service?

- Less than 5%
- 5-10%
- 11-20%
- 21-30%
- Greater than 30%

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55%

When did you submit your first research grant application to NIH as a PI for a single-PI or multiple-PI grant?

- 2012 to 2014
- 2009 to 2011
- 2006 to 2008
- 2003 to 2005
- 2000 to 2002
- 1997 to 1999
- 1994 to 1996
- 1992 to 1993
- 1990 to 1991
- Prior to 1990

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62%

Note: Item will appear if the first item on Page 3 = Yes.

Does having active research support from NIH make you more or less willing to review for NIH?

- More willing
- Less willing
- It has no effect on my willingness

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67%

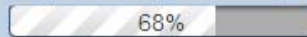
Note: Item will appear if the first item on Page 3 = Yes.

What is your job title or position?

- Professor or equivalent rank
- Associate Professor or equivalent rank
- Assistant Professor or equivalent rank
- Other (Specify):

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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):

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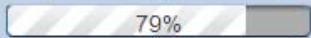
74%

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):

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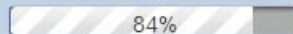
What is your age?

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

What is your gender?

- Female
- Male

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What is your ethnicity?

- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino

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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94%

COMMENTS:

In the space provided below, please feel free to leave any comments, questions or suggestions for NIH's Office of Extramural Research.

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Submit

95%

THANK YOU.

Thank you for your time. The survey is now complete. Your participation is critical for the NIH to have the most accurate information possible when making upcoming policy decisions, and we appreciate your contributions.

If you have any questions regarding this survey, please feel free to call either [RTI NAME] of RTI toll free at [DEDICATED 800 NUMBER] or ([EMAIL ADDRESS]@rti.org), or Dr. Luci Roberts in NIH's Office of Extramural Research at (301) 594-1841.

For more information about the peer review process at NIH, please visit:

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer_review_process.htm

