

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

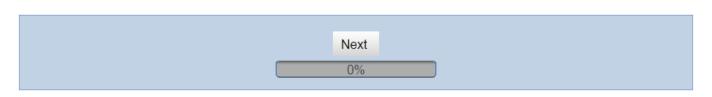
This survey of NIH Advisory Council/Board members is to help examine NIH's peer review process (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/continuous_review.htm). The information you provide will be useful in assessing recent changes in peer review policies and may be used to further improve the peer review process.

We are interested in the opinions of Advisory Council/Board members with different levels of experience with the NIH grants system. Even if you have limited experience reviewing and/or submitting NIH grant applications, **your opinions** are very important to us.

The survey should take no more than 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 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 to guide NIH management in refining enhancements to the peer review process.

Your participation is greatly appreciated.





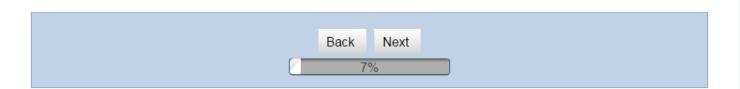
SECTION A:

General Information about Your Experience As An Advisory Council/Board Member

Q1 For this first question we are interested in the number of years you have served as a chartered Council/Board member. Please do not include time spent as a temporary member for a single meeting or working group.

How many **total years** have you served as a chartered member of one or more NIH National Advisory Councils/ Boards? (Total membership does not have to be continuous.)

- less than 1 year
- at least 1 year but less than 3 years
- at least 3 years but less than 5 years
- at least 5 years but less than 10 years
- 10 or more years
- not sure





Q2 During the two most recent council rounds, did you review the content of summary statements and/or grant applications as part of your Advisory Council/Board deliberations? If you did not review either of these materials during the two most recent rounds, please select "neither of these". Select all that apply If Q2 = 'I reviewed the content of summary statements' Skip to Q32 I reviewed the content of summary statements If Q2 does NOT = 'I reviewed the content of summary statements' I reviewed the content of grant applications skip to Introduction before Q13 Neither of these Back Next

SECTION B:

Documentation from Peer Review

Think about the **summary statements** you have reviewed in your role as an Advisory Council/Board member during the two most recent council rounds.

If you did not use summary statements in any of the activities described below during at least one council round, please select "Not applicable."

In general, to what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

- Q3 The overall impact/priority score appears consistent with the information in the Resume and Summary of Discussion section.
 - Strongly agree
 - Agree
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Disagree
 - Strongly disagree
 - Not applicable

	nformation contained in summary statement Resumes is helpful for making Advisory Council/Board nmendations.
0	Strongly agree
	Agree
	Neither agree nor disagree
	Disagree
	Strongly disagree
0	Not applicable
	Not applicable Information contained in the critiques is helpful for making Advisory Council recommendations. Strongly agree
5 The i	nformation contained in the critiques is helpful for making Advisory Council recommendations.
5 The ii	nformation contained in the critiques is helpful for making Advisory Council recommendations. Strongly agree
5 The ii	nformation contained in the critiques is helpful for making Advisory Council recommendations. Strongly agree Agree
5 The in	Information contained in the critiques is helpful for making Advisory Council recommendations. Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree



Not applicable

NIH Advisory Council Survey

		e answer the following questions about the summary statements you have reviewed in your role as an Advisory cil/ Board member during the most recent two council rounds .
Q6	The b	ulleted comments reflect complete, well-composed thoughts.
		Strongly agree
		Agree
		Neither agree nor disagree
		Disagree
		Strongly disagree

	rally speaking, the bulleted comments provided with the individual review criteria are helpful to me in standing the scientific merit of the corresponding review criteria.
0	Strongly agree
	Agree
	Neither agree nor disagree
	Disagree
	Strongly disagree
Gene	Not applicable rally speaking, individual criterion scores are consistent with the strengths and weaknesses described in the
•	Not applicable rally speaking, individual criterion scores are consistent with the strengths and weaknesses described in the
Gene	Not applicable rally speaking, individual criterion scores are consistent with the strengths and weaknesses described in the ues.
Gene	Not applicable rally speaking, individual criterion scores are consistent with the strengths and weaknesses described in the les. Strongly agree
Gene	Not applicable rally speaking, individual criterion scores are consistent with the strengths and weaknesses described in the ues. Strongly agree Agree
Gene	Not applicable rally speaking, individual criterion scores are consistent with the strengths and weaknesses described in the les. Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree



Q9 The information contained in summary statements is useful for evaluating applications from foreign institutions.			
0	Strongly agree		
	Agree		
	Neither agree nor disagree		
	Disagree		
	Strongly disagree		
	Not applicable		
	Back Next		
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Please answer the following questions about the summary statements you have reviewed in your role as an Advisory Council/Board Member during the most recent two council rounds.

Q10 The information contained in the critiques is useful for making recommendations about appeals based on errors of fact.

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

Q11 The i	nformation contained in the summary statements is useful for making recommendations about multi-component cts.
	Strongly agree
0	Agree
0	Neither agree nor disagree
0	Disagree
0	Strongly disagree
	Not applicable
	ig the most recent two council rounds, the number of ties among the overall impact/priority scores and percentile ngs for applications has NOT been a problem in making Advisory Council/Board recommendations.
	Strongly agree
	Agree
0	Neither agree nor disagree
0	Disagree
0	Strongly disagree
0	Not applicable

SECTION C:

Recent Policy Changes Affecting Peer Review

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.

	e 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. If selected, ask Q14
0	Scientific premise: consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of any published research or preliminary data crucial to the support of the application. If selected, ask Q19
	Rigorous Experimental Design: how the experimental design and methods proposed will achieve robust and unbiased results. If selected, ask Q23
	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 Q27 If Q13 = blank skin to Introduction before Q31

ase select two of the four elements below that you believe are most relevant to your own field of science. You will 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.
Scientific premise: consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of any published research or preliminary data crucial to the support of the application.
Scientific Rigor: The strict application of the scientific method to ensure robust and unbiased experimental design, methodology, analysis, interpretation a reporting of results. This includes full transparency in reporting experimental details so that others may reproduce and extend the findings.
Rigorous Experimental Design: how the experimental design and methods proposed will achieve robust and unbiased results.
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 othe 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.
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.

Relevant biological variables, such as sex, as they are factored in the research designs and analyses in vertebrate animal and human studies

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

- Q14 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.
 - Strongly agree
 - Agree
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Disagree
 - Strongly disagree





Q15	flore attention to biological variables, such as sex, in designing experiments will improve the reproducibility of research	arch
	ndings in my field of science.	

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

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Q16 More information about biological variables	s, such as sex, in the research	n design will improve my ability	to review grant
applications in my field of science.			

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable I have not reviewed grant applications

	luntary training were offered on the topic of designing research studies to address the potential influence of ogical variables, such as sex, I would encourage my students and laboratory personnel to participate.
0	Strongly agree
0	Agree
0	Neither agree nor disagree
0	Disagree
0	Strongly disagree
	Not and Earlies and the seathers and all the seathers are seathers.
	Not applicable – I do not have students or lab personnel
Q18 Pleas	se tell us anything else you would like us to know about the importance of biological variables such as sex to your of science.
Q18 Pleas	se tell us anything else you would like us to know about the importance of biological variables such as sex to your

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

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

Q19 Generally speaking, the published research in my field of science includes sufficient detail to ensure that methods and results can be reproduced.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree



Q20	lore attention to the scientific premise of proposed research will improve my ability to review grant applications in my
	eld of science.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable I have not reviewed grant applications

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	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.
	Strongly agree
0	Agree
	Neither agree nor disagree
0	Disagree
0	Strongly disagree
0	Not applicable – I do not have students or lab personnel
Q22 Pleas scien	se tell us anything else you would like us to know about the relevance of the scientific premise to your field of ice.
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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?

Q23 More attention to rigorous experimental design will improve the reproducibility of research findings in my field of science.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree



Q24	Clarification of the rigor of the proposed experimental design will improve my ability to review grant applications in my
	field of science.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable I have not reviewed grant applications

	intary training were offered on the topic of conducting research using robust experimental designs, I would urage my students and laboratory personnel to participate.
	Strongly agree
	Agree
	Neither agree nor disagree
	Disagree
	Strongly disagree
	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 rigorous experimental design to your field ence.
_	
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Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources: methods to be used to ensure the identity and validity 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?

- Q27 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



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.

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.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable I have not reviewed grant applications

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Q29		untary 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
	0	Neither agree nor disagree
	0	Disagree
	0	Strongly disagree
	0	Not applicable – I do not have students or lab personnel
Q30	Pleas	
		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.

as a new (A0) applicat	ed a change to the application submission policy to allow applicants to resubmit a research ide tion following an unsuccessful resubmission (A1) application.
(http://grants.nih.gov/g	grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-14-074.html#sthash.Eum9uk5y.dpuf).
Helped	If Q31 = 'Helped' display Q31A
Had an effect	
Hindered	If Q31 = 'Hindered' display Q31B
Don't know	
Please describe briefly	/ how the new resubmission policy has helped NIH's peer review process.
Please describe briefly	y how the new resubmission policy has helped NIH's peer review process.
Please describe briefly	y how the new resubmission policy has helped NIH's peer review process.
Please describe briefly	y how the new resubmission policy has helped NIH's peer review process.
	y how the new resubmission policy has helped NIH's peer review process. y how the new resubmission policy has hindered NIH's peer review process.

SECTION D:

Overall Evaluation of the Peer Review System

Q32 How fair was the peer review process at NIH in the two most recent council rounds?

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

Q33 How satisfied were you with the peer review process at NIH in the two most recent council rounds?

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

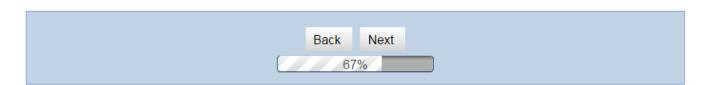
SECTION E:

Questions about Your Professional Background and Prior Experience with NIH's Extramural Programs

Q34		oproximately how many NIH study section or meetings and Special Emphasis Panels have you served as a ver during your lifetime altogether?
		Fewer than 3 times
	0	3 - 6 times
	0	7 - 15 times
		16 times or greater
		Not Sure

Q35 Have you ever applied for an NIH grant as a PI, as one of multiple PDs/PIs, or as a candidate for an individual fellowship or career award?

YesNoNot SureIf Q35 does NOT = 'Yes', skip to Q37





236	In total, for how many years have you received NIH funding as a PI, one of multiple PDs/PIs, or as a candidate for a
	individual fellowship or career award (funding does not have to be continuous)?

- Less than 1 year
- at least 1 year but less than 5 years
- at least 5 years but less than 10 years
- at least 10 years but less than 15 years
- at least 15 years but less than 20 years
- 20 or more years



Q37 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)	
	_
Back Next	



	Thank you very much for completing the survey!			
38	If you have any ideas for improving the peer review process at NIH, please enter your suggestions here:			
	Back Submit			
	97%			