

## OMB #0925-0648, exp. Date 5/31/2021

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 12 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regrading this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: NIH, Project Clearance Branch, 6705 Rockledge Drive, MSC 7974, Bethesda, MD 20892-7974, ATTN: PRA (0925-0648). Do not return the completed form to this address.

2019 NIH Common Fund
Stimulating Peripheral Activity to Relieve Conditions (SPARC)

## 2019 Program and Award Management Process Feedback

The purpose of this survey by the NIH Common Fund is to collect feedback about the NIH Common Fund Stimulating Peripheral Activity to Relieve Conditions (SPARC) Program and Award management process. Your feedback will help improve future SPARC Other Transaction (OT) award management processes.

Participation is voluntary and responses will be kept confidential.

You have the option to not respond to any questions that you choose. Participation or nonparticipation will not impact your relationship with the NIH. Submission of the survey will be interpreted as your informed consent to participate and that you affirm that you are at least 18 years of age.

It is estimated that this survey will take less than 12 minutes to complete.

If you have any questions about this survey, contact Ms. Kristina Faulk at (301) 402-9185 or kristina.faulk@nih.gov.

1. Overall, how would you rate the SPARC program and award management process?									
Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poo	or				
<ol> <li>Please indicate the number of times you have participated (e.g., as the principal investigator, co- investigator, major contributor, etc.) in the following types of SPARC program management processes by choosing the appropriate option for each item below.</li> </ol>									
	0	1	2	3	4 or more				
Letters of Intent (LOIs) and/or Pre- applications (OT1s) submitted	0	0	0	0	0				
Applications submitted (U18, U01, OT2 and/or OT3)	$\circ$	0	0	0	0				
Application review summaries received	0	0	0	0	0				
Initial award negotiations	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$				
Awards funded	0	0	0	0	0				
Award terminations	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$				
Award close-outs	0	0	0	0	0				

3. Please indicate the extent that you agree or disagree with the following statements about the application process (e.g., pre-applications such as an LOI or OT1, and applications such as a U01, U18, OT2 or OT3).

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
The application solicitation process clearly defined the SPARC program mission.	0	0	0	0	0	0
The application solicitation process clearly defined the initiative scientific objectives.	0	0	0	0	0	0
The application solicitation process clearly defined the application content requirements.	0	0	0	0	0	0
The application solicitation process clearly defined the application submission instructions.	0	0	0	0	0	0
The application solicitation process clearly defined the application review criteria.	0	0	0	0	0	0
The time allotted between publishing the solicitation and the application submission date was sufficient for proposal development.	0	0	0	0	0	0
NIH staff answered my questions about the application within 3-5 business days.	n O	0	0	0	0	0

4. Please indicate the extent that you agree or disagree with the following statements about the review summary that NIH provided in response to you submitting an application (e.g., pre-applications such as an LOI or OT1, and applications such as a UO1, U18, OT2 or OT3).

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
The review summary clearly explained the strengths of my application.	0	0	0	0	0	0
The review summary clearly explained the weaknesses of my application.	0	0	0	0	0	0
The review summary clearly explained the programmatic relevance of my application.	0	0	0	0	0	0
The review summary was a useful tool when answering the NIH request(s) for more information.	0	0	0	0	0	0
The review summary was a useful tool when negotiating the scope and/or milestone(s) of a potential award with NIH.	0	0	0	0	0	0
NIH staff answered my questions about the review summary within 3-5 business days.	0	0	0	0	0	0

5. Please indicate the extent that you agree or disagree with the following statements about the negotiation process.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
NIH staff clearly explained the negotiation process.	0	0	0	0	0	0
NIH staff clearly explained the federal, HHS, NIH, etc. regulations and policies governing SPARC funded projects.	0	0	0	0	0	0
NIH staff clearly explained the SPARC program mission.	0	0	0	0	0	0
NIH staff clearly explained the initiative scientific objectives.	0	0	0	0	0	0
NIH staff clearly explained the programmatic reasons for the requested scientific change(s).	0	0	0	0	0	0
NIH staff clearly explained the project weaknesses driving the requested scientific change(s).	0	0	0	0	0	0
NIH staff clearly explained the budget constraints driving the requested scientific change(s).	0	0	0	0	0	0
NIH staff clearly explained the active project management strategy employed for SPARC funded projects (e.g., frequency of progress calls, frequency of progress reports, length of budget segments, etc.).	0	0	0	0	0	0
NIH staff answered my questions about the negotiation within 3-5 business days.	0	0	0	0	0	0

6. Please indicate the extent that you agree or disagree with the following statements about the goals of the awarded project(s).

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
The project goals were appropriate as compared to those stated in the application.	0	0	0	0	0	0
The project goals evolved over the course of the project (e.g., due to the science, better understanding of the program).	0	0	0	0	0	0
The project goals helped advance the project from basic science discovery to a pre-clinical or clinical endpoint.	0	0	0	0	0	0
The project goals were feasible (e.g., the time frame was sufficient to achieve the goal(s)).	0	0	0	0	0	0

7. Please indicate the extent you agree or disagree with the following statements about the milestones of the awarded project(s).

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
The project milestones were appropriate as compared to those stated in the application.	0	0	0	0	0	0
The project milestones evolved over the course of the project (e.g., due to the science, better understanding of the program).	0	0	0	0	0	
The project milestones helped advance the project from basic science discovery to a pre-clinical or clinical endpoint.	0	0	0	0	0	0
The project milestones were feasible (e.g., time frame was sufficient to achieve the milestone(s)).	0	0	0	0	0	0
The project milestones facilitated successful completion of the project.	0	0	0	0	0	0

8. Please indicate the extent that you agree or disagree with the following statements about the active project management strategy that NIH employed for the awarded project(s) (e.g., monthly progress calls and quarterly reports).

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
The project management strategy facilitated overcoming scientific obstacles and challenges (e.g., expand project scope, triage project milestones, add scientific activities, establish collaborations, etc.).		0		0		
The project management strategy facilitated overcoming logistical issues (e.g., subcontract issues, need for a full-time project coordinator, onboard additional staff/trainees, establish an F&A rate, etc.).	0	0	0	0	0	0
The project management strategy facilitated dissemination of project deliverables and scientific achievements.	0	0	0	0	0	0
The project management strategy facilitated successful completion of the project.	0	0	0	0	0	0
The project management strategy made adapting to programmatic changes easier for my team.	0	0	0	0	0	0
The project management strategy made adapting to changes in the scientific field easier for my team.	0	0	0	0	0	0

9. Please indicate the extent that you agree or disagree with the following statements about	the award
early termination process.	

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
NIH staff defined the early termination process/requirements.	0	0	0	0	0	0
NIH staff explained the programmatic reasons for early termination.	$\circ$	$\circ$	0	0	0	$\circ$
NIH staff explained the project weaknesses driving early termination.	0	0	0	0	0	0
NIH staff provided opportunities to mitigate project risk (e.g., triage project milestones, adjust scientific activities, etc.) prior to early termination.	0	0	0	0	0	0
NIH staff answered my questions about the early termination within 3-5 business days.	0	0	0	0	0	0

10. Please indicate the extent that you agree or disagree with the following statements about the completed award close-out process.

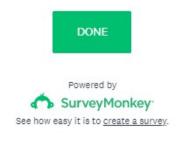
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
The NIH staff clearly defined the close-out process/requirements.	0	0	0	0	0	0
The close-out process facilitated disclosing project success (e.g., goals achieved, research products, uptake of project deliverables by non-SPARC scientists, industry partnerships, patent(s) filed, impact of project deliverables, etc.).	0	0		0	0	0
The close-out process facilitated disclosing to what extent the knowledge and products of the research transformed the way research is done and/or moving the field forward.	0	0				•
NIH staff answered my questions about the close-out process within 3-5 business days.	0	0	0	0	0	0

11. Compared to other NIH scientific programs, which of the approaches listed below made the SPARC
program management process more or less effective? (Check the appropriate box for each approach
below.)

	More Effective	Somewhat More Effective	Neither More or Less Effective	Somewhat Less Effective	Less Effective
Submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) and/or Pre- applications (OT1s)	0	0	0	0	0
Submission of applications (U18, U01, OT2 and/or OT3)	$\circ$	$\circ$	0	$\circ$	0
Review of applications	0	0	0	0	0
Negotiation of awards	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	0
Active management of awards	0	0	0	0	0
Early termination of awards	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
Close-out of completed awards	0	0	0	0	0

12. Please specify ar	ny other unique ap	proaches that you	are aware of that	t were used fo	r managing
SPARC programs.					

13. Additional comments and suggestions regarding the SPARC program and award management process are welcome (e.g., how to improve the process or issues that occurred during the process).



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