

Fellowship review..... behind the scenes at the NIH (or AHA, etc.)

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**Fellowships are training vehicles.
Science is really important,
but the “training potential” of your
experience is just as important**

Look now for upcoming opportunities!

Fellowship Applications...how to get started

- **Look for opportunities in your area of research**
- **Some local/regional (NJCCR, NJ Spinal Cord Institute, etc.)**
- **Some from professional societies**
- ****NSF, NIH, etc.**
- **Other agencies, AHA, etc.**
- **GradFund**

So you've submitted your fellowship application. What happens next?

- Proposal gets assigned to a group based on subject matter
- Next assigned to a subgroup or subsection
- Scientific Review Officer (PhD) is tasked with organization of a “study section” or grant review panel
- He/she will assign applications to reviewers based on their expertise



Reviewers must be:

- Knowledgeable/subject expert
- Impartial, unemotional
- Fair
- Objective
- Accurate
- Critical, logical
- Reliable
- Able to write a helpful, readable review
- Able to assess “novelty”



Study Section Logistics

- Reviewers will have ~ 10-12 applications to read and write reviews
- Will have ~ 4-6 weeks to do so
- Will meet in person or via teleconference
- Each application has 3 reviewers: R1, R2, R3
- Applications are scored by all. Review panel does not determine fundability, only scoring



**Only ~50% of applications will be “discussed.”
Those applications with non-competitive scores will
receive full written reviews, but will not be discussed
in order to allow more time for discussion of the
competitively scored applications.**

SCORED REVIEW CRITERIA

Fellowship Applications (F30, F31, F32)

| REVIEW CRITERIA (Provide Criterion Score for each) | ADDITIONAL REVIEW CRITERIA |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fellowship Applicant2. Sponsors, Collaborators, & Consultants3. Research Training Plan4. Training Potential5. Institutional Environment & Commitment to Training | <p>Factored into overall Impact score (<u>Don't get separate scores</u>)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Human Subjects2. Vertebrate Animals3. Biohazards4. Resubmission (for A1 applications) |
| <p>Overall Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall Impact score is NOT an average of Individual criterion scores.• It is a separate assessment of the likelihood of the fellowship to promote candidate's potential for, and commitment to, an independent scientific research career, in consideration of the scored and additional review criteria. | |

| MERIT Assessment | IMPACT on candidate's research training and career development | SCORE |
|---|--|--------------|
| Overall research training VALUE of the application | <p style="text-align: center;">HIGH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No weaknesses or negligible weakness that will not affect training</p> | 1 |
| | | 2 |
| | | 3 |
| | <p style="text-align: center;">MEDIUM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A good application with some minor weaknesses</p> | 4 |
| | | 5 |
| | | 6 |
| | <p style="text-align: center;">LOW</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Applications with moderate weakness</p> | 7 |
| | | 8 |
| | | 9 |

Overall Impact Score Guidelines

Training Value and its Impact on applicant's training and development

FELLOWSHIPS & CAREER AWARDS

Overall Impact:

The likelihood that the proposed training (F) or career development (K) will enhance the candidate's potential for a productive, independent scientific research career in a health-related field.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Overall Impact | High | Medium | Low |
| Score | 1 2 3 | 4 5 6 | 7 8 9 |

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| Evaluating Overall Impact Consider the 5 criteria (weighting based on reviewer's judgment): | | <i>e.g. Proposes training or career development of high value/benefit for the candidate who has high potential for developing into a productive, independent scientist. May have some or no weaknesses in the criteria.</i> | <i>e.g. Proposes training or career development of high or moderate value/benefit for the candidate who has high or moderate potential for further development, but weaknesses in the criteria reduce the overall impact to medium.</i> | <i>e.g. Proposes training or career development of moderate or low value/benefit for the candidate who has moderate or low potential for further development. Weaknesses in the criteria reduce the overall impact to low.</i> |
| Fs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant • Sponsor(s) • Research Training Plan • Training Potential • Institutional Environment & Commitment | Ks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate • Career Development Plan/Goals* • Research Plan • Mentor(s)** • Environment & Institutional Commitment | <i>e.g. Proposes training or career development of moderate value/benefit for the candidate who shows moderate potential. May have some weaknesses in the criteria.</i> | | <i>e.g. Proposes training or career development of low value/benefit for the candidate who shows low potential. May have some weaknesses in the criteria.</i> |
| and other score influences, e.g. human subjects, animal welfare, inclusion plans, and biohazards | | | | |
| *K05 and K24: Plan to Provide Mentoring **K02: Consultants/Collaborators | | | | |

5 is a good, medium-impact application. The entire scale (1-9) should always be considered.

Fellowship Review Focus Summary

- The review should focus on the training **VALUE** of the application and its **IMPACT** on applicant's scientific development
 - ✓ the applicant's **potential** for an independent, scientific research career
 - ✓ the applicant's **need** for the proposed training
 - ✓ the sponsor's **training experience, funding, and commitment**
 - ✓ the level of **integration of the Research and Training Plans** to provide productive research training
 - ✓ the quality of the **research environment** (Scientific programs, facilities)
 - ✓ **Overall Impact Score Decision:** the **potential of the application** to promote scientific development and **prepare the candidate** for research independence

Questions?

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