

Introduction to New NIH Simplified Peer Review Framework



integrated Translational Health Research Institute of Virginia

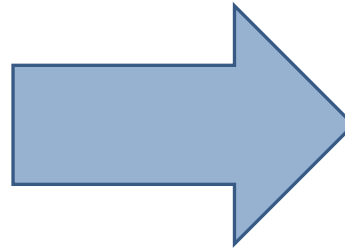
Current Peer Review Format (R's, most U's)

Review Criteria

- Significance
- Investigator
- Innovation
- Approach
- Environment

*Additional Review Criteria

- Human Subject (HS) Protections (for HS and CT)
- Vertebrate Animal Protections
- Biohazards
- Resubmission/Renewal/Revisions
- Study Timeline (for CT only)
- Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Individuals across the lifespan (for HS and CT)



Scoring

- Significance = 1-9
- Investigator = 1-9
- Innovation = 1-9
- Approach = 1-9
- Environment = 1-9
- Overall Impact = 1-9



***Not scored but can impact overall score**

The NIH Grant Application Scoring System

The NIH scoring system uses a 9-point rating scale from 1 = Exceptional to 9 = Poor for the overall impact/priority score as well as the individual review criteria. Ratings are provided only in whole numbers, not decimals.

Impact	Score	Descriptor	Additional Guidance on Strengths/Weaknesses
High	1	Exceptional	Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses
	2	Outstanding	Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses
	3	Excellent	Very strong with only some minor weaknesses
Medium	4	Very Good	Strong but with numerous minor weaknesses
	5	Good	Strong but with at least one moderate weakness
	6	Satisfactory	Some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses
Low	7	Fair	Some strengths but with at least one major weakness
	8	Marginal	A few strengths and a few major weaknesses
	9	Poor	Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses

Non-numeric score options: NR = Not Recommended for Further Consideration,
DF = Deferred, AB = Abstention, CF = Conflict, NP = Not Present, ND = Not Discussed

Minor Weakness: An easily addressable weakness that does not substantially lessen impact

Moderate Weakness: A weakness that lessens impact

Major Weakness: A weakness that severely limits impact

Simplified Peer Review Framework

- **Factor 1:** Importance of the Research (scored 1-9)
 - Significance
 - Innovation
- **Factor 2:** Rigor and Feasibility (scored 1-9)
 - Approach
- **Factor 3:** Expertise and Resources (Not scored)
(sufficient or not sufficient)
 - Investigator
 - Environment
- **Overall Impact**

Additional Review Criteria (can affect overall score)

Additional Review Criteria (Before Jan 25, 2025)

- Human Subject (HS) Protections (for HS and CT)
- Vertebrate Animal Protections
- Biohazards
- Resubmission/ Renewal/ Revisions
- Study Timeline (for CT only)
- Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Individuals across the lifespan (for HS and CT)



Revised Additional Review Criteria

- Human Subject Protections (for HS and CT)
- Vertebrate Animal Protections
- Biohazards
- Resubmission/ Renewal/ Revisions



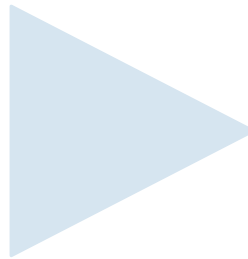
Additional Review Criteria Incorporated into Factor 2

- Study Timeline (for CT only)
- Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Individuals across the lifespan (for HS and CT)

Additional Review Consideration (no affect on overall score)

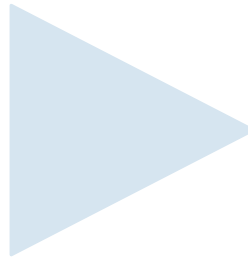
Additional Review Considerations (Before Jan 25, 2025)

- Applications from Foreign Organizations
- Select Agent Research
- Resource Sharing Plans
- Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources
- Budget and Period of Support



Revised Review Considerations

- Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources
- Budget and Period of Support



Review Shifting to NIH Staff

- Applications from Foreign Organizations
- Select Agent Research
- Resource Sharing Plans

Why the Change?

The simplified peer review framework aims to better facilitate the **mission of scientific peer review by identifying of the strongest, highest-impact research:**

- 1. Enable peer reviewers to better focus on answering key questions necessary to assess the scientific and technical merit of proposed research projects:**
 - A. Should the proposed research project be conducted?
 - B. Can the proposed research project be conducted?
- 2. Mitigate the effect of reputational bias** by refocusing the evaluation of investigator/environment to within the context of the proposed research.
- 3. Reduce reviewer burden by shifting policy compliance activities to NIH staff.**

What is the impact to the applicant?

- No change in content of application as responding to same categories of review
- Notice of Funding Opportunity will have information about review format
- NIH moving to new application **FORMS-I**, be sure to use the correct NOFO
- For most research project grants submitted after January 25, 2025: ***see below list***

R01, R03, R15, R16, R21, R33, R34, R36, R61, RC1, RC2, RC4, RF1, RL1, RL2, U01, U34, U3R, UA5, UC1, UC2, UC4, UF1, UG3, UH2, UH3, UH5,

(including the following phased awards: R21/R33, UH2/UH3, UG3/UH3, R61/R33)



Currently Not Affected

SBIR's and Multi-project grants (P's and some U's)
Career Development (K's) and Training Grant (T's & F's)

Questions?



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*Please help us continue our support for clinical and translational research by citing our grant number in relevant publications:
National Center for Advancing Translational Science of the National Institutes of Health Award UL1TR003015/ KL2TR003016.*