What Happens After Reviews are Conducted/How to Revise Your Grant

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NIH NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

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OPTIONS IF YOUR APPLICATION ISN'T FUNDED

1. **What is the role of a PO/PD?**
2. **How to Decide on Next Steps**
   - How to assess the application and critiques
   - How to revise and resubmit an applications
   - Roles of resubmission

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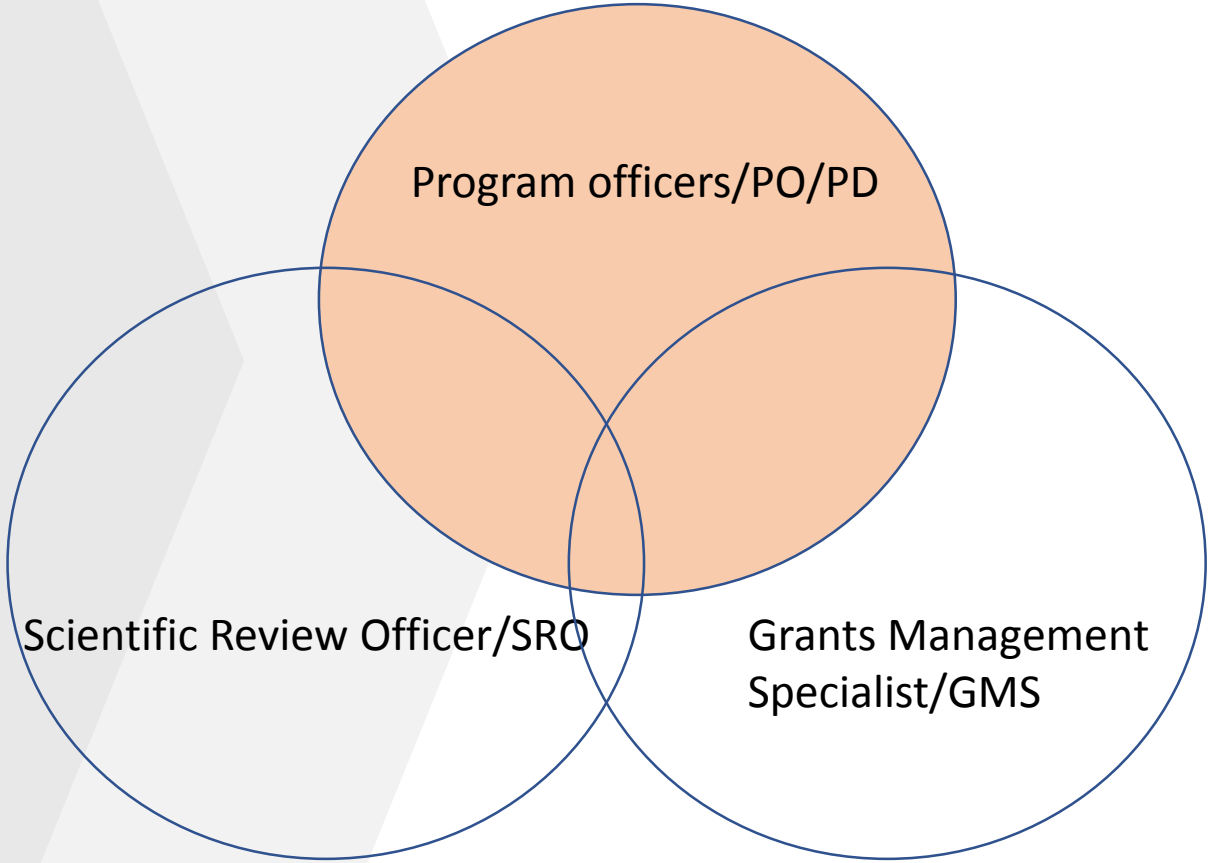
TALKING TO NIH STAFF ABOUT YOUR APPLICATION AND GRANT



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Pre-Award Phase ...

How we interact with you and your application -

- Early discussions about your general idea for an application, whether it is the “proper size”, what is a proper funding mechanism, whether to apply soon or wait for more progress, which study section to request, whether it is right for NCI, what our budget rules are, whether to submit it as a Multi-PI application, etc.;
- Listen to study section reviews and provide you with feedback on summary statements and potential next submission options;
- Advocate for your application if there is discretionary funding available;
- Help you resolve any pre-award issues with scientific overlap, budget concerns, human/animal subjects and other reviewer concerns, foreign applications/components, etc., so that your application can be awarded;
- Work with Grants Management Specialists on administering grants: both the PO and the GMS must hit the “GO” button to award a grant.

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Post Award Phase ...

How we interact with you and your grant -

- Monitor progress of your research grant by keeping an eye out for your papers, touching base with you at scientific meetings and workshops, etc.;
- Review, evaluate, and approve your annual progress reports;
- Monitor compliance of regulations, policies, special terms of the award;
- Help you identify gaps/needs/opportunities and solve problems in your project throughout your grant life-cycle;
- Serve as a contact point for information about additional sources of funding and resources for your project and your lab;
- Report your major advances to POs colleagues and IC/NIH leadership.

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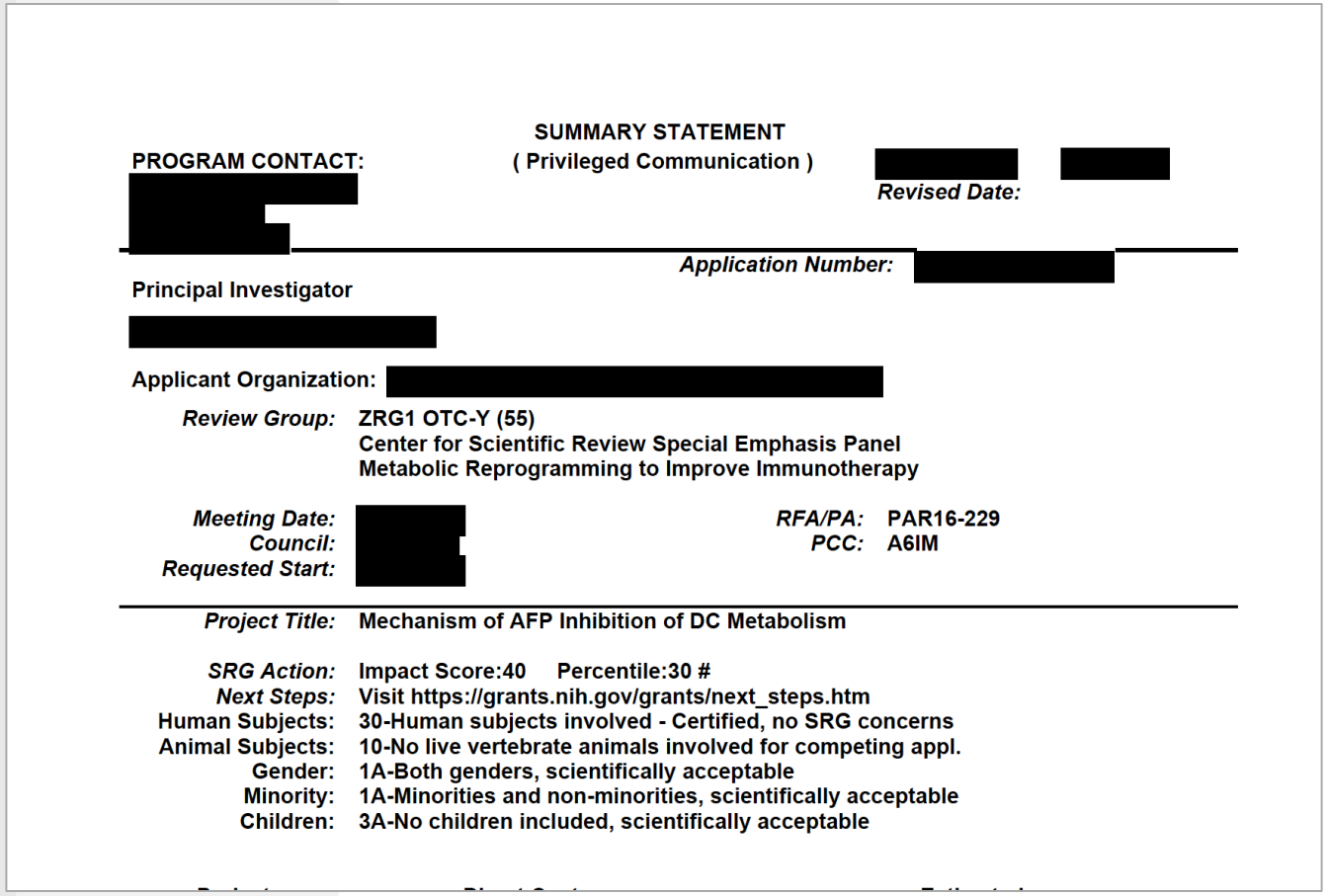
HOW TO FIND A PROGRAM OFFICER



SUMMARY STATEMENT
(Privileged Communication)

PROGRAM CONTACT: [redacted]

Revised Date: [redacted]

Application Number: [redacted]

Principal Investigator
[redacted]

Applicant Organization: [redacted]

Review Group: ZRG1 OTC-Y (55)
Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel
Metabolic Reprogramming to Improve Immunotherapy

Meeting Date: [redacted]
Council:
Requested Start:

RFA/PA: PAR16-229
PCC: A6IM

Project Title: Mechanism of AFP Inhibition of DC Metabolism

SRG Action: Impact Score:40 Percentile:30 #
Next Steps: Visit https://grants.nih.gov/grants/next_steps.htm
Human Subjects: 30-Human subjects involved - Certified, no SRG concerns
Animal Subjects: 10-No live vertebrate animals involved for competing appl.
Gender: 1A-Both genders, scientifically acceptable
Minority: 1A-Minorities and non-minorities, scientifically acceptable
Children: 3A-No children included, scientifically acceptable

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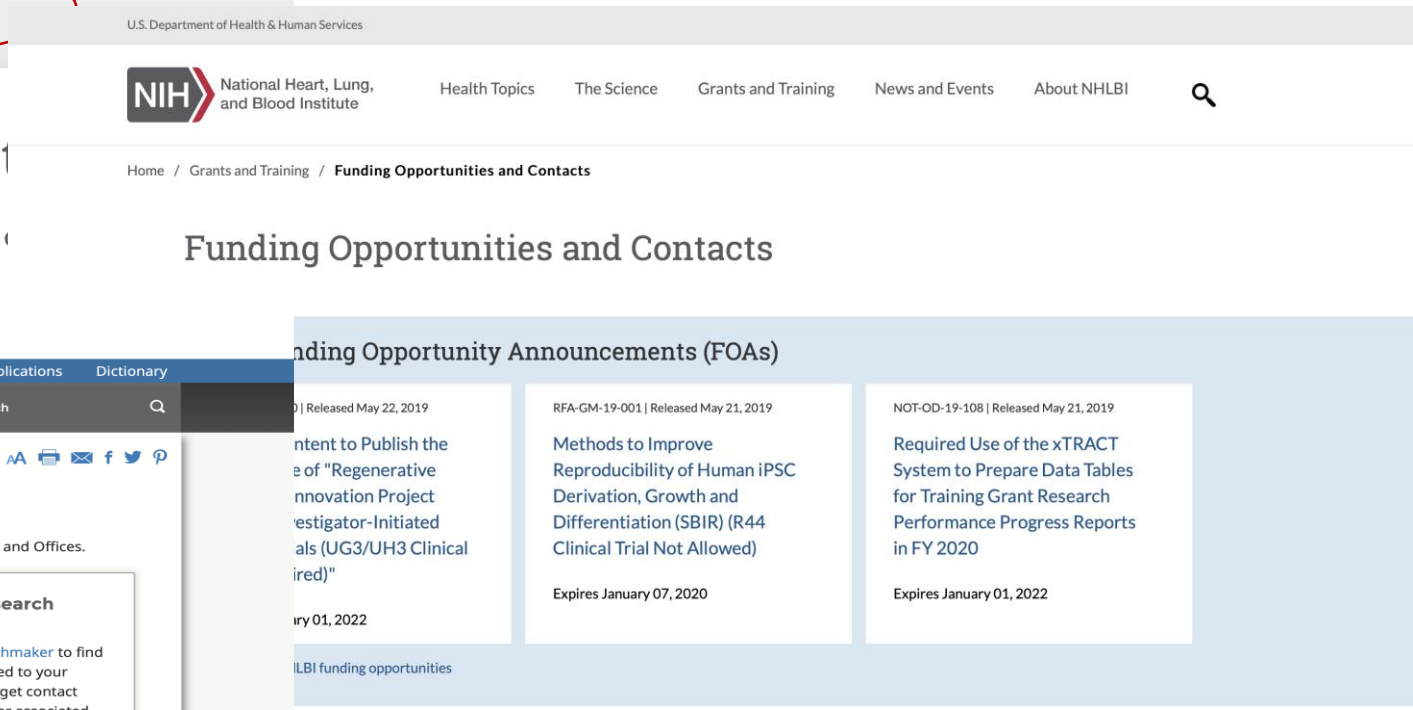

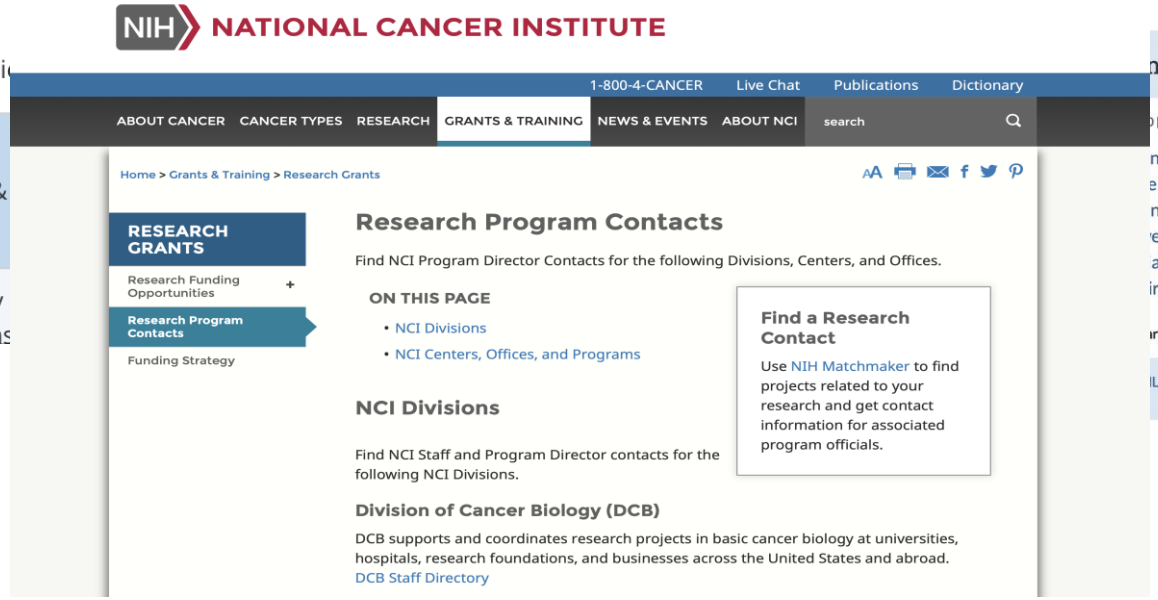

OPTIONS IF YOUR APPLICATION ISN'T FUNDED

1. What is the role of a PO/PD?
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HOW TO ASSESS THE APPLICATION AND CRITIQUES

1. Summary statement

❑ Are the application's problems fixable?

- Did the reviewers think the topic was significant?
- Did your reviewers find problems you can easily fix to meet their expectations?
- Did they misunderstand some points that you could easily clarify?
- Did they have major conceptual issues, for example, the research was not state-of-the-art, or the experiments you proposed would not prove your hypothesis?

❑ Was it reviewed by the right study section?

HOW TO ASSESS THE APPLICATION AND CRITIQUES

2. Program officer

- **contact your program officer !!!** PO often attend review meetings as observers and may be able to
  - fill you in on more details about the discussion;
  - help you understand your summary statement and possibly give you more insights into the review meeting;
- ask about your chances of special funding. We fund a handful of applications that score above the payline through special actions.

HOW TO ASSESS THE APPLICATION AND CRITIQUES

Common Fixable Problems

Problem: Poor writing, formatting, or presentation
Solution: Rewrite; get help with writing, editing, formatting, and presentation.

Problem: Insufficient information, experimental details, or preliminary data
Solution: Assess what's missing; add it to the Research Plan.

Problem: Significance not convincingly stated.
Solution: Beef up that section; show the importance to IC's mission, your area of science, and public health.

Problem: Research not shown to be feasible by the proposed staff.
Solution: Recruit collaborators and consultants with the required expertise onto your project.

Problem: Insufficient discussion of obstacles and alternative approaches.
Solution: Describe what you'll do if you get negative results or an approach doesn't pan out. Include decision trees.

HOW TO ASSESS THE APPLICATION AND CRITIQUES

Hard-to-Fix Problems

- Low-impact research topic – SIGNIFICANCE;
- Hypothesis is not sound or not supported by the data;
- Work has already been done;
- Methods proposed were not suitable for testing the hypothesis.

DECISION POINT

- For problems you **can fix**, **Revise and Resubmit an Application**
- For problems you **can't fix** – **Create a New Application** or **Apply outside of NIH**

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HOW TO REVISE AND RESUBMIT AN APPLICATION

Roles of resubmission:

- You have just one opportunity to resubmit.
- You must apply within 37 months of the original application's receipt date.
- You must create a one-page introduction that addresses all your reviewers' issues that are stated in your summary statement. Reviewers will look for their comments and check that you revised accordingly.

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HOW TO REVISE AND RESUBMIT AN APPLICATION

- **Capitalize on your strengths** and throw out or revise the parts reviewers felt were weak
- **Respond point by point** to the reviewers' comments and suggestions, stating how you dealt with all the criticisms in the summary statement.
- **Be respectful** even if you disagree.
- **Identify changes –** outline them in the introduction, mark individual changes by using brackets, indents, or change of typography in the text.

RESOURCES

- Acronym List https://grants.nih.gov/grants/acronym_list.htm
- NIH Guide: **subscribe to weekly digest** https://grants.nih.gov/funding/searchguide/index.html#/
- NIH RePORT
- **IC Program Officers:** call early, not too often ☺
- Grant writing tips (NIAID): https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/apply-grant
- CSR website: http://public.csr.nih.gov/
- SciENcv https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/

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