



# SITC 2018

NOVEMBER 7-11  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Walter E. Washington  
Convention Center



Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer



# The NIH Grant Peer Review Process

Denise R. Shaw, PhD

Scientific Review Officer ([shawdeni@csr.nih.gov](mailto:shawdeni@csr.nih.gov))

Cancer Immunopathology and Immunotherapy Study Section

November 8, 2018

# Presenter Disclosure Information

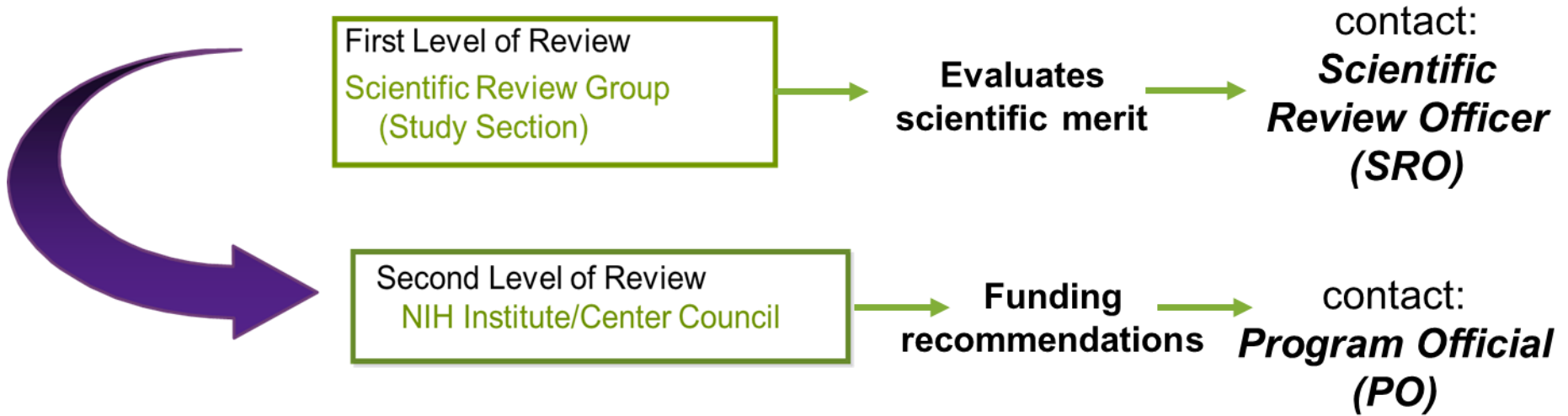
**Denise R. Shaw, PhD**

***No relationships to disclose***

# Presentation Outline

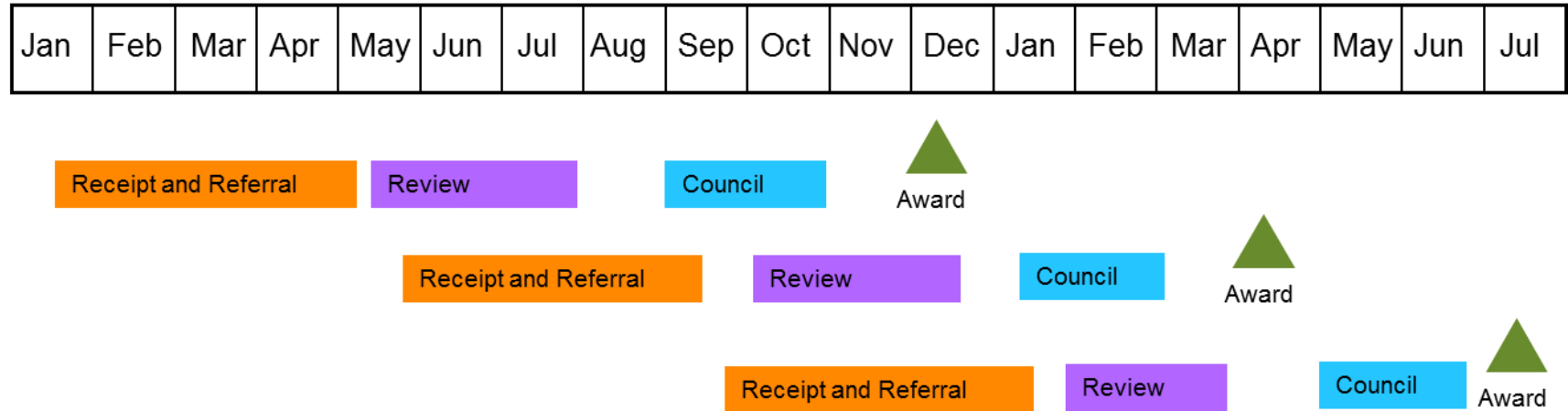
- Study section review versus funding decisions
- Application submission and review cycles
- Study section assignment
- Study section structure and review processes
- Results of study section review: the summary statement
- Ways to learn more about study section review

# NIH Review of Grant Applications



# Overall Timeframe from Submission to Award

There are three main overlapping cycles per year



<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/submissionschedule.htm>

# Funding: It's Not My Job...

Check specific institute or center web pages for public statements of funding strategies

NCI (grants with CA numbers) is the largest NIH funder of cancer research projects

The screenshot displays the National Cancer Institute (NCI) website. At the top, the NIH logo and the text "NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE" are visible. Below this is a navigation bar with links for "ABOUT CANCER", "CANCER TYPES", "RESEARCH", "GRANTS & TRAINING" (which is highlighted), "NEWS & EVENTS", and "ABOUT NCI". To the right of the navigation bar are links for "1-800-4-CANCER", "Live Chat", "Publications", and "Dictionary", along with a search bar. Below the navigation bar, the breadcrumb trail reads "Home > Grants & Training > Research Grants". On the left side, there is a sidebar menu with "RESEARCH GRANTS" at the top, followed by "Research Funding Opportunities" with a plus sign, "Research Program Contacts", and "Funding Strategy" which is highlighted with a blue arrow. The main content area on the right has the heading "Funding Strategy" and the text: "NCI supports the best scientists and research projects through a rigorous grant application and peer review process." Below this is the heading "Funding Determinations" and the text: "NCI understands that researchers applying for grants want to know about their chances of receiving funding for their grant applications. Therefore, every fiscal year, NCI makes its funding strategy information publicly available. For more information about how NCI makes funding decisions, see [NCI Peer Review and Outcomes](#)." This is followed by the heading "Funding Policy" and the text: "In FY 2018, NCI will not make reductions in budgets for ongoing (non-competing) grants. Decisions on competing grants will continue to be based on review of individual applications. [Funding Policy for FY 2018 Research Project Grant Awards](#) [Archive of Funding Policy for Previous Fiscal Years](#)". Next is the heading "NCI Budget and Appropriations" and the text: "To achieve its research goals, each year NCI issues grants to support investigator-initiated research, to conduct clinical trials, and to support initiatives that address health care disparities. [Learn more about NCI budget allocation for research](#)." At the bottom of the main content area, it says "Updated: May 8, 2018".

# Institutes Other than NCI May Support Cancer Immunology & Immunotherapy Projects

**NIAID, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (AI)** <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/niaid-paylines>

**NHLBI, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (HL)**  
<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/node-general/fy-2018-funding-and-operating-guidelines>

**NIBIB, National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (EB)** [https://www.nibib.nih.gov/research-funding#quicktabs-funding\\_tabs=3](https://www.nibib.nih.gov/research-funding#quicktabs-funding_tabs=3)

**NINDS, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NS)** <https://www.ninds.nih.gov/Funding/About-Funding/NINDS-Funding-Strategy/NINDS-Funding-Strategy-FY-2018>

**NIDDK, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive Diseases, (DK)** <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/research-funding/process/award-funding-policy>

**NIGMS, National Institute of General Medical Science (GM)**  
<https://www.nigms.nih.gov/research/pages/policies.aspx>

**NIDCR, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (DE)** <https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/about-us/strategic-plan>

**NIEHS, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (ES)**  
<https://www.niehs.nih.gov/funding/grants/priorities/strategies/index.cfm>



# Center for Scientific Review (CSR)

- **Serves as central receipt point for grant applications** submitted to NIH and some other DHHS agencies
- **Assigns applications to CSR review groups/study sections** or to an Institute (such as NCI or NIAID) scientific review group
- **Assigns applications to NIH Institutes/Centers** as potential funding components
- **Conducts initial scientific merit review of most** research applications submitted to the NIH in ~240 standing Study Sections as well as recurring Special Emphasis Panels

# CSR Peer Review – Fiscal Year 2017

- 95,000 applications received
- 61,000 applications reviewed
- 18,000 reviewers
- 247 Scientific Review Officers (SROs)
- 1,600 review meetings



# Types of Grants Reviewed in CSR - Overview

- The vast majority of research project grants (R)
- Many of the fellowship (F) and NIH Director's award (D) mechanisms
- A minority of individual career development awards (K) and institutional training grants (T)
- Only a few program project/center grants (P) and cooperative agreements (U)

# The Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) may determine the locus of review

***All NIH grant applications must be submitted under a currently-active FOA***

- Program Announcement (PA, PAR, PAS)
- Request for Applications (RFA)
- Search for FOAs in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts (<https://grants.nih.gov/funding/index.htm>) or at [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov)

# FOA Examples

PA-18-484

## NIH Research Project Grant (Parent R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

### 2. Review and Selection Process

Applications will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by (an) appropriate Scientific Review Group(s) in accordance with [NIH peer review policy and procedures](#), using the stated [review criteria](#). Assignment to a Scientific Review Group will be shown in the eRA Commons.

PAR-18-560

## National Cancer Institute's Investigator-Initiated Early Phase Clinical Trials for Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis (R01 Clinical Trial Required)

### 2. Review and Selection Process

Applications will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by (an) appropriate Scientific Review Group(s) convened by NIH Center for Scientific Review (CSR), in accordance with [NIH peer review policy and procedures](#), using the stated [review criteria](#). Assignment to a Scientific Review Group will be shown in the eRA Commons.

# Integrated Review Groups (IRGs) and Study Sections (SRGs)

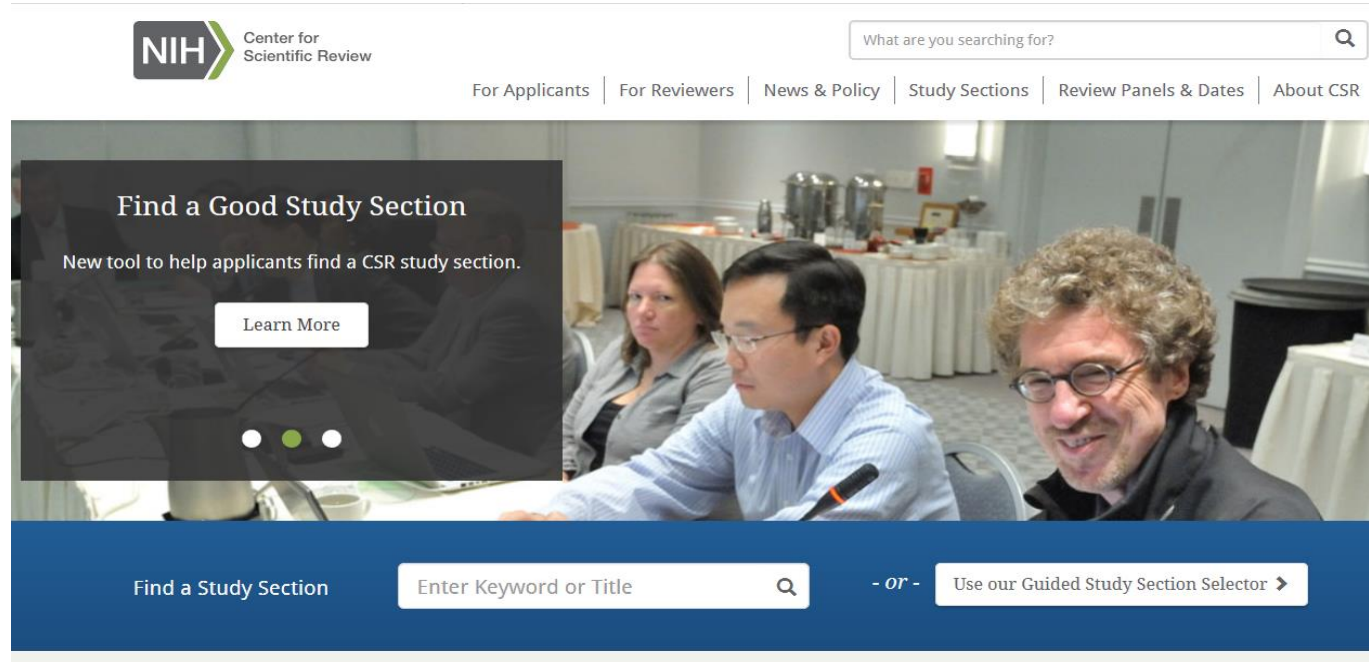
**Each IRG contains a cluster of study sections around a general scientific area.**

- Brain Disorders and Clinical Neuroscience IRG [BDCN]
- Immunology IRG [IMM]
- Oncology 1 - Basic Translational IRG [OBT]
- Oncology 2 - Translational Clinical IRG [OTC]

- Basic Mechanisms of Cancer Therapeutics Study Section [BMCT]
- Cancer Biomarkers Study Section [CBSS]
- Chemo/Dietary Prevention Study Section [CDP]
- Cancer Immunopathology and Immunotherapy Study Section [CII]
- Clinical Oncology Study Section [CONC]
- Drug Discovery and Molecular Pharmacology Study Section [DMP]
- Developmental Therapeutics Study Section [DT]
- Radiation Therapeutics and Biology Study Section [RTB]


# Which Study Section Is Right for My Application?

[www.csr.nih.gov](http://www.csr.nih.gov)




The screenshot displays the NIH Center for Scientific Review website. At the top left is the NIH logo and the text 'Center for Scientific Review'. To the right is a search bar with the placeholder text 'What are you searching for?'. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: 'For Applicants', 'For Reviewers', 'News & Policy', 'Study Sections', 'Review Panels & Dates', and 'About CSR'. The main content area features a large banner with the text 'Find a Good Study Section' and 'New tool to help applicants find a CSR study section.' Below this text is a 'Learn More' button. The banner also includes a background image of three people in a meeting. At the bottom of the banner are three small circles, with the middle one highlighted in green. Below the banner is a dark blue footer containing a search bar with the text 'Find a Study Section' and 'Enter Keyword or Title', a magnifying glass icon, and a button that says '- or - Use our Guided Study Section Selector >'. The NIH logo and 'Center for Scientific Review' text are also present in the bottom left corner of the footer.

# Find a Study Section – method 1

Find a Study Section  

## CSR SS Search

Filter Results:   Search

Study Section	Description	Scientific Review Officer
<a href="#">CII</a>	Cancer Immunopathology and Immunotherapy Study Section	<a href="#">Dr. Denise Shaw</a>
<a href="#">ZRG1 OTC-E 03</a>	Member Conflict: Cancer Immunotherapy, Biomarkers and Chemo/Dietary Prevention Special Emphasis Panel	<a href="#">Dr. Nicholas Donato</a>
<a href="#">ZRG1 OTC-K 55</a>	PAR-16-228: Metabolic Reprograming to Improve Immunotherapy	<a href="#">Dr. Syed Quadri</a>
<a href="#">ZRG1 OTC-Y 55</a>	Metabolic Reprograming to Improve Immunotherapy	<a href="#">Dr. Malaya Chatterjee</a>





# Find a Study Section method 2

- OR -

Use our Guided Study Section Selector >



Center for  
Scientific Review

## Assisted Referral Tool (ART)

Please make a selection:

☒ **Recommend study sections directly**

You will be given a list of the best matching of the 172 active SRG panels.

☐ **Recommend SBIR/STTR Special Emphasis Panels**

If you are applying for a SBIR/STTR grant, select this option.

☐ **Animal Usage?**

If your research involves animals, check this optional checkbox.

Applications are assigned for review based on relevance of that application to the guidelines of an individual study section as well as administrative requirements such as pre-determined review clustering agreements. NIH will consider all assignment requests. However, it is not always possible to assign an application to a preferred study section.

Continue

# Find a Study Section method 2

Enter project title and  
descriptive text from  
your application



## Assisted Referral Tool (ART)

[Help](#) | [Disclaimer](#)

[ART Home](#) >> SRG

Enter application text and hit the Submit button to get a list of relevant study sections. Entering the Specific Aims is highly recommended.

☐ Animal Usage?

Title

We have now discovered that TCF-1 (T cell factor 1) is specifically down-regulated in Tim-3+ CD8+ tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) that exhibit dysfunctional phenotype. Our preliminary data further show that blockade of Tim-3 and PD-1 signaling, which we have shown abrogates T cell exhaustion, restores expression of TCF-1 in Tim-3+ CD8+ TILs. We have further found that TCF-1 is similarly down-regulated in Tim-3+ but not Tim-3- Treg and that Tim-3/PD-1 blockade restores TCF-1 expression in Tim-3+ Treg. TCF-1 is a key transcription factor in the canonical Wnt signaling pathway. TCF-1 is required for normal T cell development and for the generation of long-lived central memory CD8+ T cells but a role for Wnt signaling and TCF-1 in the development of T cell dysfunction/exhaustion has not been addressed. Interestingly, TCF-1 has recently been implicated

Terms will be weighted by frequency of appearance in the text above. The process is automated and confidential. ART does not track or store submitted text. Characters left: 20000

# Find a Study Section method 2



## Assisted Referral Tool (ART)

[Help](#) | [Disclaimer](#)[ART Home](#) >> [SRG](#) >> Report

Enter application text and hit the Submit button to get a list of relevant study sections. Entering the Specific Aims is highly recommended.

☐ Animal Usage?Title 

We have now discovered that TCF-1 (T cell factor 1) is specifically down-regulated in Tim-3+ CD8+ tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) that exhibit dysfunctional phenotype. Our preliminary data further show that blockade of Tim-3 and PD-1 signaling, which we have shown abrogates T cell exhaustion, restores expression of TCF-1 in Tim-3+ CD8+ TILs. We have further found that TCF-1 is similarly down-regulated in Tim-3+ but not Tim-3- Treg and that Tim-3/PD-1 blockade restores TCF-1 expression in Tim-3+ Treg. TCF-1 is a key transcription factor in the canonical Wnt signaling pathway. TCF-1 is required for normal T cell development and for the generation of long-lived central memory CD8+ T cells but a role for Wnt signaling and TCF-1 in the development of T cell dysfunction/exhaustion has not been addressed. Interestingly, TCF-1 has recently been implicated in

Terms will be weighted by frequency of appearance in the text above. The process is automated and confidential. ART does not track or store submitted text. Characters left: 18095

[Report erroneous classification \(NIH only\)](#)

Relevance	SRG	IRG	Membership	Name
Strong	CII	OTC	Roster	Cancer Immunopathology and Immunotherapy Study Section
Strong	TTT	IMM	Roster	Transplantation, Tolerance, and Tumor Immunology Study Section
Strong	CMIA	IMM	Roster	Cellular and Molecular Immunology - A Study Section
Strong	CMIB	IMM	Roster	Cellular and Molecular Immunology - B Study Section
Possible	IHD	IMM	Roster	Immunity and Host Defense Study Section

# Find a Study Section (cont.)

Click on the Study Section/SRG links to view study section descriptions.

## Topics

- Tumor vaccines of all types (protein/peptide, viral, DNA/RNA, dendritic cell, tumor cell) and formulations to induce or amplify tumor-specific immunity.
- Abscopal effects of local tumor treatments like radiation, intratumoral injections and mechanical ablation that promote systemic anti-tumor immune responses.
- Antibodies and antibody-like constructs that bind tumor cells or the tumor vasculature/microenvironment, to either directly modulate tumor cell biology (e.g., receptor agonists or antagonists), activate direct anti-tumor immune effector functions (complement, ADCC, phagocytosis), or deliver cytotoxic payloads (e.g., drugs, toxins, radionuclides, liposomes or nanoparticles).
- Development and testing of methods and models of immune responses to cancer and assessing such responses in cancer patients
- Mechanisms of tumor resistance to immunotherapies and/or tumor escape from immune recognition and killing, including modulation of tumor antigen processing and presentation, alteration of tumor susceptibility to innate and adaptive immune responses, tumor-induced immune suppression, and immune effector cell tolerance/exhaustion.
- Antibody-based constructs and other strategies to deliver immune stimulatory signals or to block immune suppressive receptors and cytokines, in order to promote endogenous anti-tumor immunity.
- Predictive biomarkers of an individual patient's or tumor's clinical response to immunotherapies.
- Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (allogeneic, autologous) and adoptive cellular therapies (TILs, CAR- and TCR-engineered T cells, NK/NKT cells) using immune cells as cancer treatment; associated immune toxicities including graft-versus-host disease and cytokine release syndrome.

## Cancer Immunopathology and Immunotherapy Study Section – CII

The Cancer Immunopathology and Immunotherapy (CII) Study Section reviews applications related to both active and passive immune therapies for cancer, including modulation of the innate and adaptive immune responses to cancer cells in situ (vaccines, immunostimulatory molecules, immune checkpoint blockade),



**Dr. Denise Shaw**

Scientific Review Officer

✉ [shawdeni@mail.nih.gov](mailto:shawdeni@mail.nih.gov)

📞 3014350198

adoptive transfer of autologous or allogeneic hematopoietic cells (TIL cell therapy, CAR- and TCR-modified T cells/NK cells, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation including graft-versus-host disease), and antibodies/antibody derivatives that mediate tumor cytotoxicity either directly or by targeted delivery of toxic payloads. The scope of projects includes in vitro studies, evaluation of immunotherapeutic strategies in preclinical animal models, and translational studies including pilot or phase I/II clinical trials. CII is part of the Oncology 2 – Translational Clinical IRG.

The List of Reviewers lists all present, whether permanent or temporary, to provide the full scope of expertise present on that date. Lists are posted 30 days before the meeting and are tentative, pending any last minute changes.

### Review Dates

- > [List of Reviewers on 10/18/2018](#)
- > [List of Reviewers on 06/14/2018](#)
- > [List of Reviewers on 02/19/2018](#)

### Membership Panel

The membership panel is a list of chartered members only.

- > [View Membership Panel](#)

# Find a Study Section (cont.)

## Shared Interests and Overlaps

There are shared interests with [Transplantation, Tolerance and Tumor Immunology \(TTT\)](#) . Applications focused on hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for cancer therapy, graft-versus-host disease, tumor immune surveillance and tolerance, identification of new tumor antigens, and development of tumor vaccines may be assigned to either CII or TTT. Applications studying solid organ transplants and autoimmunity are more suitable for TTT.

There are shared interests with [Tumor Microenvironment \(TME\)](#) . Applications proposing studies on tumor cell interactions with immune cells and the immune microenvironment that promote tumorigenesis may be assigned to TME. Applications focusing on tumor immunology, immunotherapy and responses to immunotherapy are suitable for CII.

There are shared interests with [Clinical Oncology \(CONC\)](#) . Applications focused on clinical studies of cancer immunotherapies may be assigned to either CII or CONC. Clinical studies that focus on treatment modalities other than immunotherapy (e.g., surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy) may be more suitable for CONC.

There are shared interests with [Clinical Neuroimmunology and Brain Tumors \(CNBT\)](#) . Applications studying the immunopathology and immunotherapy of central nervous system tumors (glioma, medulloblastoma, etc.) may be assigned to either CII or CNBT. Applications focused on immunological aspects of neural tissues and diseases unrelated to tumors should be assigned to CNBT.

There are shared interests with [Developmental Therapeutics \(DT\)](#) in the areas of drug delivery and gene therapy. In general, strategies relying on antibody-based targeted delivery are suitable for CII, as are approaches to deliver agents (drugs, genes) whose primary mode of anti-tumor activity is projected to be immunological.

# Use the Optional Assignment Request Form

Request IC assignment  
(funding institute/center)

Request study section assignment

Identify conflicts

Suggest areas of expertise

[View Burden Statement](#) **PHS Assignment Request Form** OMB Number: 0925-0001  
Expiration Date: 10/31/2018

Funding Opportunity Number:

Funding Opportunity Title:

**Awarding Component Assignment Request (optional)**

If you have a preference for an Awarding Component (e.g., NIH Institute/Center) assignment, please use the link below to identify the most appropriate assignment then enter the short abbreviation (e.g., NCI for National Cancer Institute) in "Assign to/Do Not Assign To Awarding Component" sections below. Your first choice should be in column 1. All requests will be considered, however, focus of review is predetermined for some applications and assignment requests cannot always be honored.

Information about Awarding Components can be found here: [https://grants.nih.gov/grants/assignment\\_information.html#AwardingComponents](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/assignment_information.html#AwardingComponents)

	1	2	3
Assign to Awarding Component	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Do Not Assign to Awarding Component	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**Study Section Assignment Request (optional)**

If you have a preference for a study section assignment, please use the link below to identify the most appropriate study section then enter the short abbreviation for that study section in "Assign to/Do Not Assign to Study Section" sections below. Your first choice should be in column 1. All requests will be considered, however, focus of review is predetermined for some applications and assignment requests cannot always be honored.

For example, you would enter "CAMP" if you wish to request assignment to the Cancer Molecular Pathobiology study section or enter "ZRS1 HCMR" if you wish to request assignment to the Healthcare Delivery and Methodologies SBIR/STTR panel for informatics. Be careful to accurately capture all formatting (e.g., spaces, hyphens) when you type in the request.

Information about Study Sections can be found here: [https://grants.nih.gov/grants/assignment\\_information.html#StudySection](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/assignment_information.html#StudySection)

	1	2	3
Assign to Study Section	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Do Not Assign to Study Section	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**PHS Assignment Request Form**

List Individuals who should not review your application and why (optional) Only 1000 characters allowed

**Identify Scientific areas of expertise needed to review your application (optional)**  
Scale: Please do not provide names of individuals

	1	2	3	4	5
Expertise <small>Only 40 characters allowed</small>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

# Check the Status of Your Application in NIH eRA Commons

**Contacts**

**Administration:** Scientific Review Administrator(SRO))  
**Name:** Shaw, Denise R  
**Phone:** 301-435-0198  
**Email:** [shawdeni@csr.nih.gov](mailto:shawdeni@csr.nih.gov)

**Administration:** Program Official(PO)  
**Name:** McCarthy, Susan A.  
**Phone:** 240-276-6200  
**Email:** [mccarths@mail.nih.gov](mailto:mccarths@mail.nih.gov)

**Check Update**

Application Source: Grants.gov  
FOA: [PA16-160] - NIH Research Project Grant (Parent R01)

**eRA Service Desk**

Hours: Mon-Fri, 7AM-8PM  
EDIT/EST  
Web: <http://grants.nih.gov/support>  
Toll-free: 866-504-9552  
Phone: 301-402-7469  
Contact initiated outside of business hours via Web or voice mail will be returned the next business day.

**Status Information**

Filter  x Expand All Collapse All Print

1 R01

**Status:** Scientific Review Group review pending. Refer any questions to the Scientific Review Administrator. **Project Title:**

**PI Name:** **NIH Appl. ID:** **Application ID**

[Status](#)

[Other Relevant Documents](#)


[Additions for Review](#)

[Review](#)

[Institute/Center Assignment](#)

[Status History](#)

[Reference Letter\(s\)](#)

 Center for  
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# Check the Status of Your Application in NIH eRA Commons

**Contacts**

**Administration:** Scientific Review Administrator(SRO))  
**Name:** Shaw, Denise R  
**Phone:** 301-435-0198  
**Email:**  
[shawdeni@csr.nih.gov](mailto:shawdeni@csr.nih.gov)

**Administration:** Program Official(PO)  
**Name:** McCarthy, Susan A.  
**Phone:** 240-276-6200  
**Email:**  
[mccarths@mail.nih.gov](mailto:mccarths@mail.nih.gov)

Application Source: Grants.gov  
FOA: [PA16-160] - NIH Research Project Grant (Parent)

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Web: <http://grants.nih.gov/support>  
Toll-free: 866-504-9552  
Phone: 301-402-7469  
Contact initiated outside of business hours via Web or voice mail will be returned the next business day.

**Status Information**

Filter

Expand All Collapse All Print

1 R01

**Status:** Scientific Review Group review pending. Refer any questions to the Scientific Review Administrator.

**Project Title:**

PI Name:	NIH Appl. ID:	Application ID
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Status

Other Relevant Documents

Additions for Review

Review

Institute/Center Assignment

Status History

Reference Letter(s)

**Review**

**Application**

**Award Document Number:**

**FSR Accepted Code:** N

**Snap Indicator Code:**

**Impact Score:**

**Percentile:**

**Early Stage Investigator Eligible:** Y

**New Investigator Eligible:** Y

**Eligible for FFATA Reporting:** Yes

**Study Section**

**Scientific Review Group:** CADO

**Council Meeting Date (YYYY/MM):** 2017/10

**Meeting Date:** 06/14/2017

**Meeting Time:** 08:00

**Advisory Council (AC)**

Review

Meeting Date

**NIH** Center for  
Scientific Review



# Peer Review in CSR

- CSR Study Sections are managed by a Scientific Review Officer (SRO), a doctoral-level professional whose scientific background is close to the focus of the study section.
- Each CSR standing study section has 12-25 regular members who are from the scientific community.
- Temporary members are recruited by the SRO as needed.
- About 60-100 applications are normally reviewed at each study section meeting.

# How Reviewers Are Selected for Study Section Service

- Demonstrated scientific expertise and research support
- Doctoral degree or equivalent
- Mature judgment
- Work effectively in a group context
- Breadth of perspective
- Impartiality
- Representation of women and minority scientists
- Geographic distribution

# Reviewer Conflicts of Interest (COI)

## What constitutes a reviewer COI?

- Institutional
- Family member/close friend
- Collaborator
- Longstanding scientific disagreement
- Personal bias
- Appearance of conflict

[http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/peer\\_coi.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/peer_coi.htm)

# Before the Study Section Meeting

- Each application is assigned to 3 or more reviewers (who are not in conflict) 5-6 weeks before the meeting
- Reviewers assess each application by providing:
  - A preliminary Overall Impact score
  - Criterion scores for each of the 5 core review criteria
  - A written critique
- Reviewers have access to other reviewer critiques and scores before the meeting to prepare for meeting discussions

# 9-Point Criteria Scoring Scale

Impact	Score	Descriptor
High Impact	1	Exceptional
	2	Outstanding
	3	Excellent
Medium Impact	4	Very Good
	5	Good
	6	Satisfactory
Low Impact	7	Fair
	8	Marginal
	9	Poor

- **Criterion Scores** for each of the 5 core review criteria
- **Overall Impact/Priority Score** is based on but not a sum of the core criterion scores plus additional criteria

# Scoring

## 5 Core Review Criteria

- Significance
- Investigator(s)
- Innovation
- Approach
- Environment

Each scored from 1-9



## Overall Impact

Assessment of the likelihood for the project to *exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved*

Scored from 1-9

*There is no mathematical relationship between the 5 criterion scores and Overall Impact score*

# At the Meeting



## Order of Review

- The average of the preliminary Overall Impact score from the assigned reviewers determines the review order
- Discussions start with the application with the best average preliminary Overall Impact score

## Clustering of Review

- New Investigator R01 applications are clustered
- Clinical applications & other mechanisms (e.g., R21s) may be clustered

## Not Discussed Applications

- About half the applications will be discussed
- Applications unanimously judged by the review committee to be in the lower half are not discussed

# At the Meeting: Application Discussion

- Any member in conflict with an application leaves the room
- Reviewer 1 introduces the application and presents critique
- Reviewers 2 and 3 highlight new issues and areas that significantly impact scores
- All members without a conflict are invited to join the discussion and then vote on the final overall impact score





# Scoring of Discussed and Not Discussed Applications

- Reviewers discuss about half of the applications, beginning with the best.
- The panel will discuss any application any reviewer wants to discuss.
- Discussed applications receive an overall score from each panel member (excluding conflicts). The scores are averaged to one decimal place, and multiplied by 10. The 81 possible priority scores thus range from 10-90.
- All applications receive criterion scores. Not discussed applications will receive initial criterion scores from the three assigned reviewers.

# After the Meeting

**The SRO checks final overall impact scores and releases them for posting to the application eRA Commons site**

- Scores are available to applicants generally within 3-4 days after the meeting.

**The SRO compiles reviewer critiques and, for discussed applications, writes a Summary of Discussion for the summary statement**

- Summary statements are released for posting in the application eRA Commons site generally within 30 days after the meeting.
- Applicants should contact their assigned Program Official – not the SRO – with any questions or concerns regarding scores or summary statements.

Program Officer

PROGRAM CONTACT:  
Susan McCarthy Ph.D.  
240-276-6200  
mccarths@mail.nih.gov

SUMMARY STATEMENT  
( Privileged Communication )

Release Date: 10/03/2014  
Revised Date: 10/03/2014

Application Number: 1 R01 CA#####-01A1

Principal Investigator

SMITH, JANE PHD

Applicant Organization: STATE UNIVERSITY

Review Group: CII

Cancer Immunopathology and Immunotherapy Study Section

Meeting Date: 09/29/2014

RFA/PA: PA13-302

Council: JAN 2015

PCC: 2PIM

Requested Start: 04/01/2015

Dual IC(s): AI

Project Title: Improving Cancer Immunotherapy

SRG Action: Impact Score: 21 Percentile: 7

Next Steps: Visit [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/next\\_steps.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/next_steps.htm)

Human Subjects: 10-No human subjects involved

Animal Subjects: 30-Vertebrate animals involved - no SRG concerns noted

Human and  
Animal Subjects  
status

Impact Score and Percentile  
(if applicable)

Project Year	Direct Costs Requested	Estimated Total Cost
1	250,000	412,435
2	250,000	412,435
3	250,000	412,435
4	250,000	412,435
5	250,000	412,435
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,250,000</b>	<b>2,062,174</b>

ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET NOTE: The budget shown is the requested budget and has not been adjusted to reflect any recommendations made by reviewers. If an award is planned, the costs will be calculated by Institute grants management staff based on the recommendations outlined below in the COMMITTEE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS section.

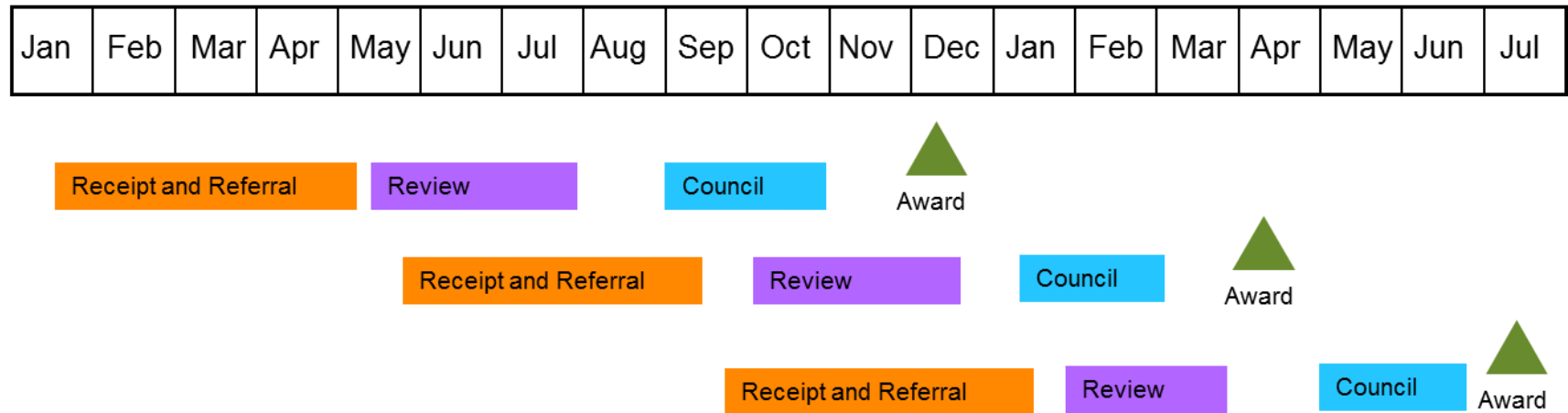
NEW INVESTIGATOR

New and Early Stage Investigator status

# Summary Statement

# Overall Timeframe from Submission to Award

There are three main overlapping cycles per year



<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/submissionschedule.htm>



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## For Applicants

Explore resources to assist in the planning, writing, and submitting of a successful application.



## For Reviewers

Explore tools and guidance for the successful reviewing, critiquing, and scoring of applications.

## Latest News & Policy Changes

### Policy

Clarification of NIH's Application Submission/Resubmission Policy

### News

CSR Advisory Council Meeting Sept. 24, 2018  
Dr. Alexei Kondratyev Named Chief of CSR's Interactive

# CSR Applicant Resources

[www.csr.nih.gov](http://www.csr.nih.gov)

## What Happens to Your NIH Grant Application



## What Happens to Your NIH Grant Application

Video

## Application Process

CSR does not award funding but instead handles review of proposals. Please visit the NIH for an overview of the grant process.

## Planning & Writing

Guidance to assist you in planning and preparing a proposal.



## Application Deadlines

Standard receipt dates for grant proposals



## Submission & Assignment

How proposals are assigned to a review group



## Initial Review, Results, & Appeals

What happens in the review process?

# Become a Reviewer

- **Check Out Our Early Career Reviewer Program:** [www.csr.nih.gov/ecr](http://www.csr.nih.gov/ecr)
- **Contact a CSR Scientific Review Officer:** Send them your CV
- **Let Us Try to Find a Good Review Group for You:** Send your CV to [csrvolunteer@mail.nih.gov](mailto:csrvolunteer@mail.nih.gov)



# Take Home Messages

- Understand the NIH peer review system before beginning to prepare your grant application submission.
- Take advantage of NIH and CSR internet and staff resources to answer questions about your planned application before submission.
- Work with your institution's grant office to ensure timely submission of your application.
- After receiving a summary statement, carefully consider all aspects of the study section's evaluation; discuss with the designated PO.
- Serving as a study section reviewer is a great way to gain insights into how to improve your own grant applications.