

Model Organism Sharing Plans: Expectations of Reviewers

All NIH applications proposing development of new, genetically modified variants of model organisms and related resources are expected to include a sharing plan or state why such sharing is restricted or not possible. The term “model organism” includes mammalian models (such as the mouse and rat) and non-mammalian models (such as budding yeast, roundworm, Arabidopsis, fruit fly, zebrafish, frog, etc). Examples of model organisms for which sharing plans are expected when new, genetically modified organisms are developed are posted on the NIH Model Organisms for Biomedical Research Web site:

<http://www.nih.gov/science/models>.

Reviewers are expected to comment on whether the project will produce model organisms that require sharing plans, and if so, to comment on the general adequacy of the sharing plan to achieve effective and timely distribution of the model organism. Reviewers should assess whether the plans, including the timeline, the applicant's decision to distribute the resource or deposit it in a repository, and other relevant considerations, are appropriate for the organism. Reviewers' assessments will be included in an administrative note in the summary statement, and if the application is considered for funding, they will guide NIH program staff in determining whether the sharing plan adheres to NIH policy before an award is made.

Except in defined circumstances (e.g., certain RFAs and specific resource grant programs), the sharing plan will not be considered by reviewers when assigning priority scores to applications. For more information about NIH policy regarding Model Organism Sharing, see

http://grants2.nih.gov/grants/policy/model_organism.

12/13/2005