# Do You Want a Rewarding Challenge?



# **Consider Becoming an NIH Reviewer**

As a reviewer, you will play an exciting role in helping the National Institutes of Health invest over \$20 billion each year in 325,000 researchers at over 3,000 universities, medical schools, and other research institutions here and abroad.

If you are an established and respected investigator, consider joining a peer review group at the NIH Center for Scientific Review to evaluate NIH grant applications for scientific merit. Your efforts will help advance science and ultimately improve public health and save lives.

## Why Become a Reviewer?

#### **Consider the Top Reasons Reviewers Give**

**Get a Front Row Seat to the Future:** "It's intense and cutting edge . . . and intellectually stimulating to see the wonderful ideas and approaches to major problems that come through."

**Become More Successful:** "It really helps you to appreciate the difference between good grant writing and bad grant writing, more importantly between good science and bad science."

**Learn More**: "It is the best way to stay up to date in your field, and to gain insights from other fields that can be applicable to your own work."

**Meet New Colleagues**: "Getting together with colleagues to review grants is still one of the best mechanisms for building and maintaining professional contacts."

**Become a Better Mentor:** "I got much better at counseling young people in how to think about their applications and what to do, and it's paying off in their success."

**Give Back:** "I feel it's something I owe the scientific community . . . If you're going to be a part of the system, you have to bear the responsibility."

Shape the Future: "Helping to mould what direction science goes in is very satisfying."



**National Institutes of Health** 



#### Who Is Qualified to Review for CSR?

#### CSR reviewers usually—

- Have substantial and broad independent research experience
- Have received major peer-reviewed grants (R01 or equivalent)
- Understand the review process
- Are dedicated to high quality, fair reviews



Over 15% of CSR review meetings are now online.

We particularly welcome individuals with diverse backgrounds to consider joining our review groups so that the panels are diverse with respect to geographic representation, gender, race and ethnicity.

### How Can You Become a Reviewer?

### **Contact Your Professional Society or Research Dean**

**Professional societies and university research deans are being asked to nominate volunteer reviewers** to be included in the CSR National Registry of Volunteer Reviewers, which Scientific Review Officers use to identify highly qualified reviewers. The database now contains about 4,000 volunteers, and it is growing as more and more nominations are made.

Tell your professional society or your research dean that you are interested in being a reviewer and ask to be added to the list of recommended reviewers. If your society or university has not yet participated, encourage it to contact CSR to learn how to become involved. E-mails should be sent to RecruitReviewers@csr.nih.gov.

#### **Contact CSR**

Another way to volunteer is to send your CV to the CSR Scientific Review Officer who oversees a review group that might use your expertise. Find an appropriate review group or study section by going to our Review Group Descriptions Web site. Each study section description page has a link to a roster, which includes a link to the Scientific Review Officer. http://cms.csr.nih.gov/PeerReviewMeetings/CSRIRGDescription/.

#### **Get More Information**

Visit CSR's Web site: http://www.csr.nih.gov/

Go to the "Peer Review Meetings" page for specific information:

- The Selection of Reviewers
- Peer Review Guidelines
- Insider's Guide to NIH Peer Review for New Reviewers

http://cms.csr.nih.gov/PeerReviewMeetings/

"You'll find your intellectual peers on the study section, and it's fun to discuss ideas and interact with them."