

Assessment of Success of the R03 Program

**Presented at the Advisory Council Meeting
of the NIAMS on
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Background

- **Purpose:**

- < **The R03 program was begun because of a lack of start-up funds for new investigators**
 - Mentioned in many venues

- **Phasing:**

- < **A decision was made to gradually phase in the program over several years. First via annual RFA soliciations and then through Program Announcements**

- **Questions:**

- < **Has the R03 program been successful?**
- < **Should the R03 program be altered in any way?**



Eligibility Criteria

■ Eligible:

< Former and current recipients of:

- Small research grants (R03s)
- Academic Research Enhancement Awards (AREA) (R15)
- Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Awards (K08)
- Mentored Research Scientist Development Awards (K01)
- Shannon Awards (R55)
- Individual (F32) or Institutional (T32) National Research Service Award (NRSA) training support

■ Non-Eligible:

< Current and previous holders of R01s

< Current and previous holders of R29s

< Principal Investigators (PIs) of research subprojects of Research Program Projects (P01) and Centers (P50 and P60)

< PIs with support from NSF or VA



History of the R03 Program

Receipt Dates

- **Requests for Applications -**
 - < March 18, 1997 (AR-97-001)
 - < April 29, 1998 (AR-98-002)
 - < January 22, 1999 (AR-99-001)
- **Program Announcements -**
 - < 3 times/year in 1999, 2000 and 2001 (PAR-99-099)
 - < 3 times/year in 2002 and 2003 (PAR-02-030)



Some Evaluation Questions

- What is the purpose of the program?
 - < Small projects? Start-up funds?
- When is the appropriate time to conduct the evaluation?
 - < How long after completion of the R03?
- How should “success” be defined?
 - < Receipt of a subsequent R01?
 - < Taking a position in industry?
 - < Proving that a research idea is not feasible?
- What is the most appropriate control group?
- Are there differences in program distribution for the R03 awards?
- **A CAVEAT:** Some of the data in subsequent slides may differ slightly from official budget office data due to variations in co-funding



General Facts

- Only data from the first three competitions were analyzed
- There were **323 applications** for the first three competitions and **297 applicants**

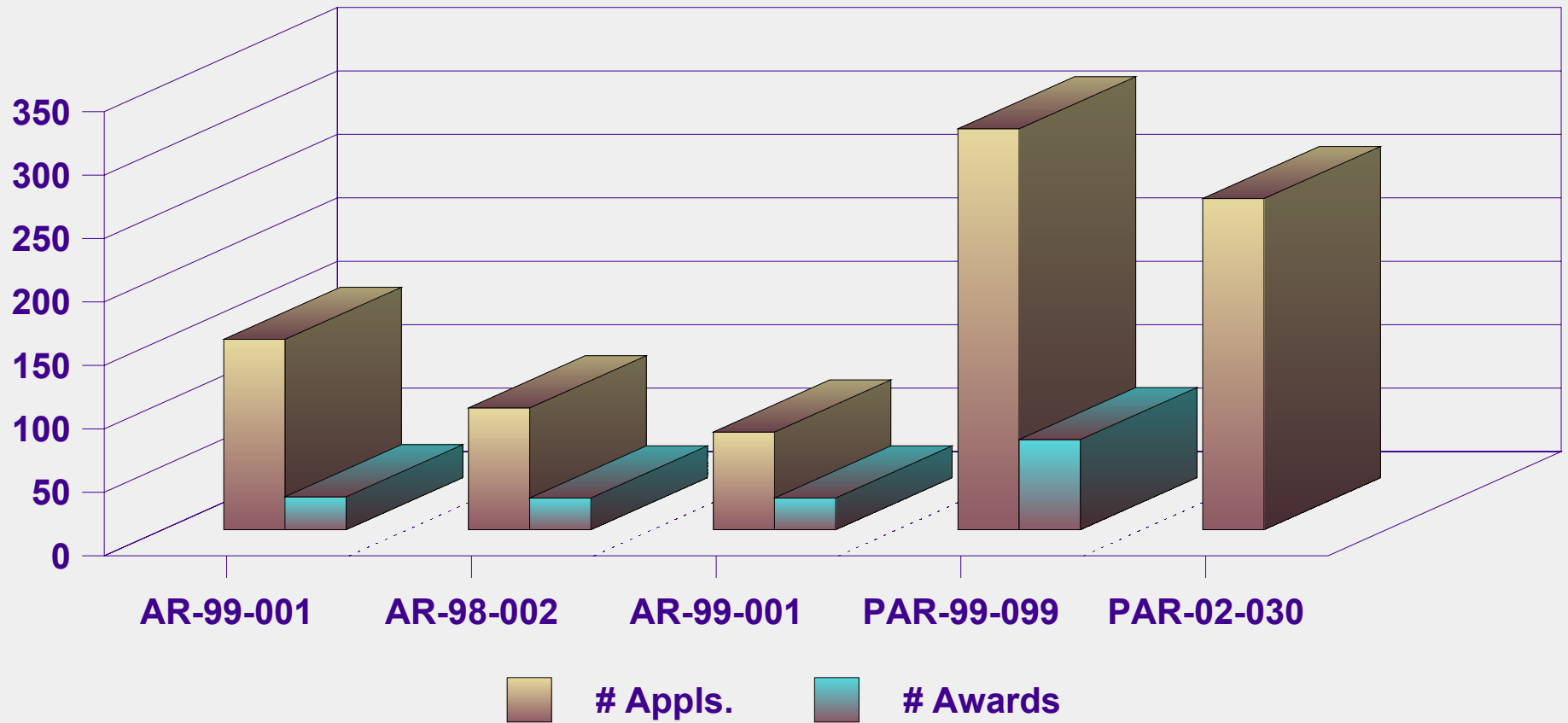


R03 Awards

- **From the 97-001 competition:**
 - < 153 R03 applications
 - < 26 awards (17.0% success rate)
- **From the 98-002 competition:**
 - < 94 R03 applications
 - < 24 awards (25.5% success rate)
- **From the 99-001 competition:**
 - < 76 R03 applications
 - < 26 awards (34.2% success rate)
- **From the 99-099 competition:**
 - < 316 R03 applications
 - < 71 awards (22.5% success rate)



Award Statistics



Subsequent R01 Awards

- **From the 97-001 competition:**
 - < 42% of NIAMS R03 awardees had a subsequent R01
 - < 17% of unsuccessful R03 applicants had a subsequent R01
 - < 25% of all applicants had a subsequent R01
- **From the 98-002 competition:**
 - < 31% of NIAMS R03 awardees had a subsequent R01
 - < 12% of unsuccessful R03 applicants had a subsequent R01
 - < 26% of all applicants had a subsequent R01
- **From the 99-001 competition:**
 - < 24% of NIAMS R03 awardees had a subsequent R01
 - < 7% of unsuccessful R03 applicants had a subsequent R01
 - < 18% of all applicants had a subsequent R01



General Conclusions

- **R03 awardees were more likely to obtain a subsequent R01 award than unsuccessful applicants**
- **The greater the amount of time that has passed since the R03 award the more likely the chance of having a R01**



**Does the branch make a difference
in the success rate for obtaining a
R03?**



R03 Success Rate by Branch

Success Rate By Branch for Applications to that Branch Per RFA

Branch	RFA 97-001	RFA 98-002	RFA 99-001	All RFAs
Rheumatic	13.6% (9/57)	26.9% (8/38)	43.8% (10/25)	22.5% (27/120)
Muscle Biol.	0.0% (0/9)	37.5% (3/8)	22.2% (2/9)	19.2% (5/26)
Skin	25.0% (8/32)	37.5% (3/8)	50.0% (3/6)	30.4% (14/46)
Musculoskeletal	13.3% (9/55)	15.0% (10/40)	33.3% (10/35)	22.1% (29/131)

