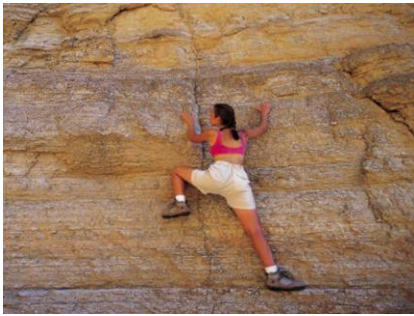


CSR News Flash

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Center for Scientific Review
National Institutes of Health
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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Challenge Grant Applications Challenge CSR



CSR received about 21,000 applications for new Challenge Grants, which will be funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This more than doubles the number of applications CSR typically reviews in a review round.

Because NIH must award the Challenge grants before the end of September, these applications have to be reviewed in half the usual time. To meet this goal, CSR will review these applications in two-phase, “editorial-board” reviews, which provide separate scientific evaluations. Over 18,000 extra reviewers in the specialized fields have been recruited to do

the first phase reviews. Their mail reviews and the applications will be further assessed by one of about 30 study sections made up of experienced scientists who will re-review the science but also focus on overall significance and impact.

Other Applications: NIH also has received about 2,900 applications for Competing Revisions for April deadlines. ICSR will assess most of these applications in Special Emphasis Panels, which are often held at the end of already scheduled study section meetings. More applications for Recovery Act funds are coming in and will be reviewed by CSR and other NIH Institutes/Centers later this year.

Unprecedented numbers: Overall, CSR typically reviews 16,000 applications with the help of about 8,000 reviewers in each of the three main yearly review rounds. This round, we expect to review about 40,000 applications—including Challenge and other ARRA applications—with the help of about 28,000 reviewers.

“**These are exciting times for biomedical research and NIH,**” said CSR Director Toni Scarpa. “Our referral staff has done a tremendous job directing the flood of applications to the right review groups. And our Scientific Review Officers and their staff are unsung heroes, managing twice as many applications in a very compressed time with great professionalism and excellence. It was a formidable mission, but they are accomplishing it against all odds.” The response by the scientific community also has been tremendous. “We are humbled by the generosity of all those who said ‘yes’ to our appeals for help. Scientists in the U.S. and abroad have signed on,” said Dr. Scarpa. “The international help is particularly gratifying because it shows the value and respect that scientists around the globe have for NIH peer review.”

Get more information on NIH Challenge Grants and the other key efforts funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-09-003.html>.

About CSR

CSR organizes the peer review groups that evaluate the majority of grant applications submitted to NIH. These groups include experienced and respected researchers from across the country and abroad. Since 1946, CSR’s mission has been to see that NIH grant applications receive fair, independent, expert, and timely reviews — free from inappropriate influences — so NIH can fund

the most promising research. CSR also receives all incoming applications and assigns them to the NIH institutes and centers that fund grants. For more information, go to CSR's Web site—<http://www.csr.nih.gov>—or phone 301-435-1111.

About NIH

NIH — the Nation's Medical Research Agency — includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is the primary federal agency for conducting and supporting basic, clinical and translational medical research, and it investigates the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit www.nih.gov.

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