

Navigating the NIH

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**National Institute on Minority Health and
Health Disparities**

**Diversity Research Network Webinar
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The NIH

Nation's medical research agency

Largest source of funding for medical research

27 Institutes and Centers

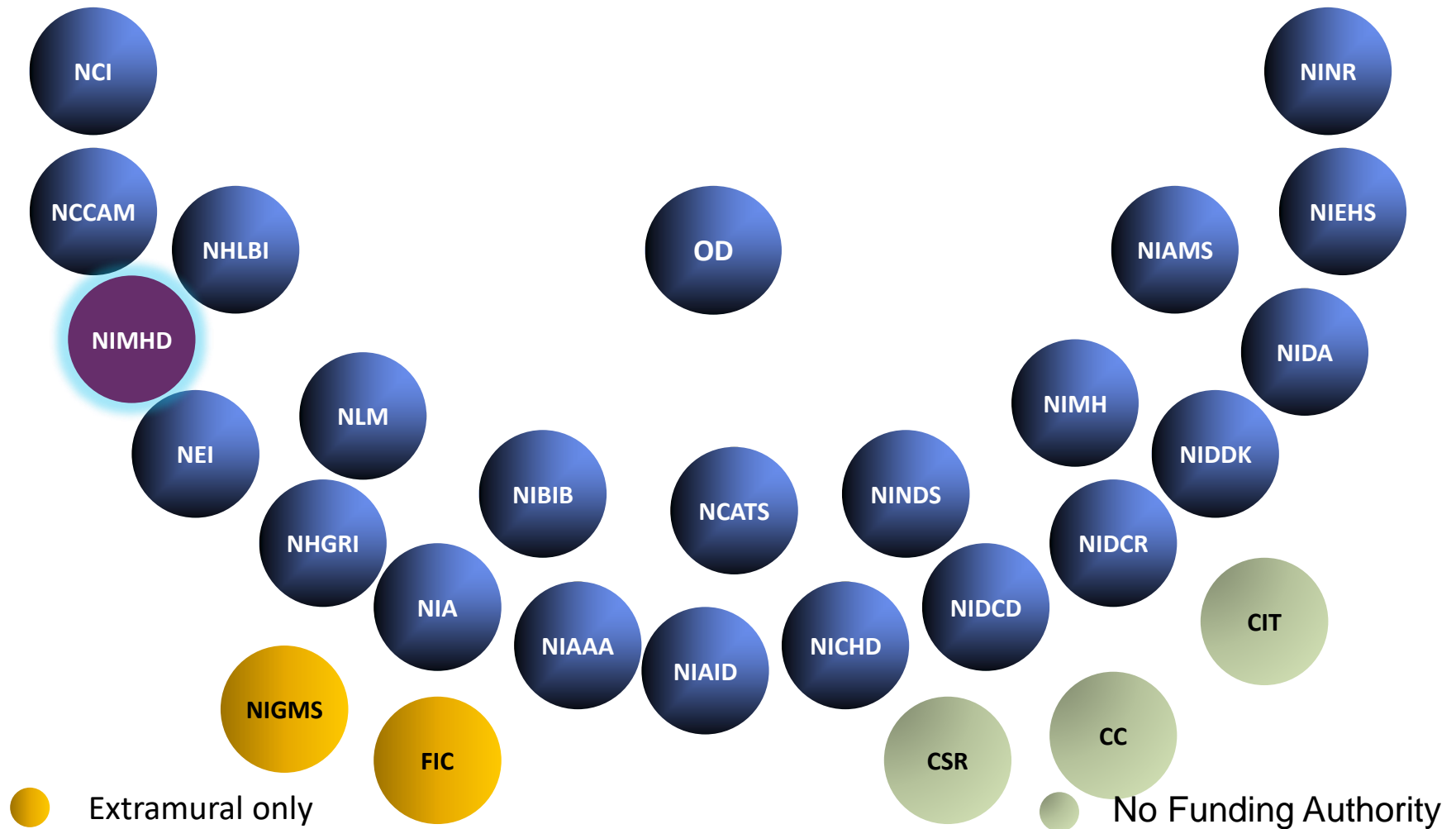
- 75 buildings on 322 acres in Bethesda, Maryland
- Intramural all over the country (NC, MT, AZ, MI, MA)
- Clinical Center (largest hospital dedicated to clinical research in the world)

80% of budget goes to the **Extramural** community

- Over 2,500 university and research institutions



The National Institutes of Health



NIMHD

National Institute on Minority Health & Health Disparities

Vision: The NIMHD envisions an America in which all populations will have an equal opportunity to live long, healthy and productive lives.

Mission: Lead scientific research to improve minority health and eliminate health disparities.

Health disparity - “a particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage. Health disparities adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater obstacles to health.” *Healthy People 2020*

- Current health disparity populations:
 - Racial/ethnic minorities
 - Rural populations
 - Low-income populations
 - Sexual Gender Minority (SGM)



Where does one begin?

- Office of Extramural Research (OER)
 - <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm>
- Centers for Scientific Review (CSR)
 - <https://public.csr.nih.gov/ApplicantResources/Pages/default.aspx>



Where does one begin?

- Educating yourself on these processes is always necessary
- “Information for Reviewer” resource tab to gain insight on what’s relevant among/between reviewers
- Attend the Regional Meetings
 - Trainings
- CSR page provides information on the Early Career Reviewer (ECR) program
 - Early in your career, learn review from within



Bias and the Peer Review Process

- What do we know?
 - There are biases in peer review
- What is NIH doing to resolve this?
 - CSR has been and continues to perform evaluative work
 - Early Career Review, Anonymization
- Where are we now?
 - The process has uncovered more questions than currently there are answers to
- Precise areas in grant writing process where minority investigators may “fall short” has not yet been determined
 - Some data on how all “Investigators” more broadly, overall may “fall short”

*Monica Basco
ORWH



Advice to (New) Investigators

- Sign up for the NIH Guide
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/listserv.htm>
- NIH Reporter
<https://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter.cfm>
- Familiarize yourself with the various Institutes, Centers, and Offices (IC)
 - Find an IC with area of interest (i.e., cancer, child health, diabetes, mental health, etc.)
 - Reach Out
 - NIH's "interest" in underrepresented populations
 - NIMHD and the offices of Special Populations and HD in other ICs



Advice to New Investigators

Prepare yourself to Seize NIH Opportunities

- Familiarize yourself with the multiple phases of the application process
- Become knowledgeable about research and researcher development activities/trainings at the various ICs that support work related to your interest
- Read their web pages
- Identify the mechanism(s) to be used
- Read PAs/RFAs, **contact the Program Official** listed
- **Know Program Officials** at the ICs
- Prepare an “elevator pitch” and even a short concept paper (1-5 pages) on your research ideas



Advice to New Investigators

- Know who will likely review your application
 - Know the CSR various Study Sections
 - Know the rosters of the various Study Sections
 - Discuss with your **Program Official**
- Never submit an application without conferring with Program
- Expect not to be funded the first time around
 - It's not the norm; do not give up
- Cultivate a strong support system that understands the process



Program Officials

Critical that you develop a relationship with at least one Program Official at the IC where you are likely to apply

- Why?
 - That Program Official will be familiar with your research and able to fit a particular application into the programmatic view of the work.
 - You become a person/face/voice that will be recognized in the sea of otherwise anonymous applications.
 - You can stay abreast of most recent opportunities: funding, workshops, trainings, etc.



POs and Early Stages of the Application Process

Confirm the IC has signed onto the FOA

- If an IC is not listed on the “Participating ICs” list then it cannot be referred to that IC

Confirm if your idea fits within the IC’s mission and priorities

Can offer suggestions to a rough design and/or aims

- A one page concept paper AND your CV
 - Why CV? For example, the PO can tell you if a Co-PI or consultants are needed if the PI has no publications in that area as evidenced in the CV



POs and Post-Review

Contact shortly before your indicated review

- Draws particular attention to your application and you can confirm that the PO will have time to listen in or attend the review

Contact AFTER SUMMARY STATEMENT is released

- Interpret SS – can be “guesswork” otherwise
 - The PO will know how to help you understand “reading between the lines” For example, a comment stating an aim as being “overly ambitious” may really read as “aim 4 is too much” which in turn is an invitation to drop that aim
 - Response to the critiques



POs and Post-Review

Call even when Not Discussed at review as there is still a lot of information to be discussed between PI and PO

Emails offering dates/times

- Perseverance

Rare that an application gets funded upon initial submission

- Much of what makes an application successful lies in the PI's tenacity with revising and resubmitting



NIMHD

Health Disparities Research Institute

- Early stage research investigators
 - Post-Doc, Assist Prof
- Aug 14-18, 2017
- Stimulate research on Minority Health & Health Disparities
 - Focused instruction on the principles and applications of health disparities research
 - Development of grant applications
 - Integrate into research and routine, clinical practice
- Free
- 60 scholars selected



<https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/programs/edu-training/hd-research-institute/>

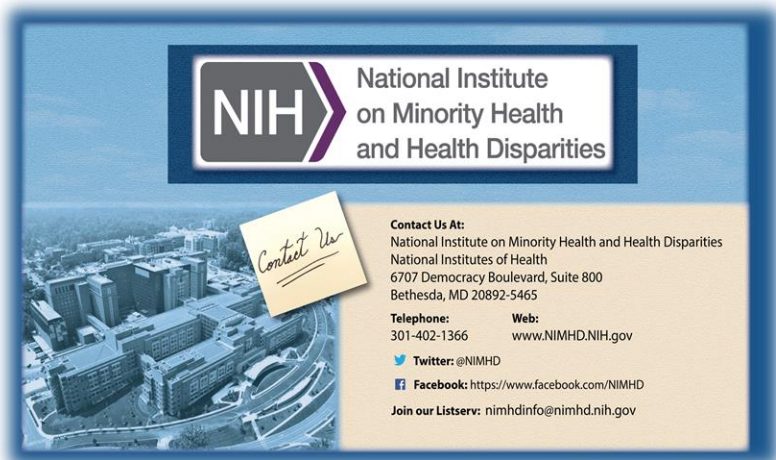
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National Institute
on Minority Health
and Health Disparities



Questions



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