

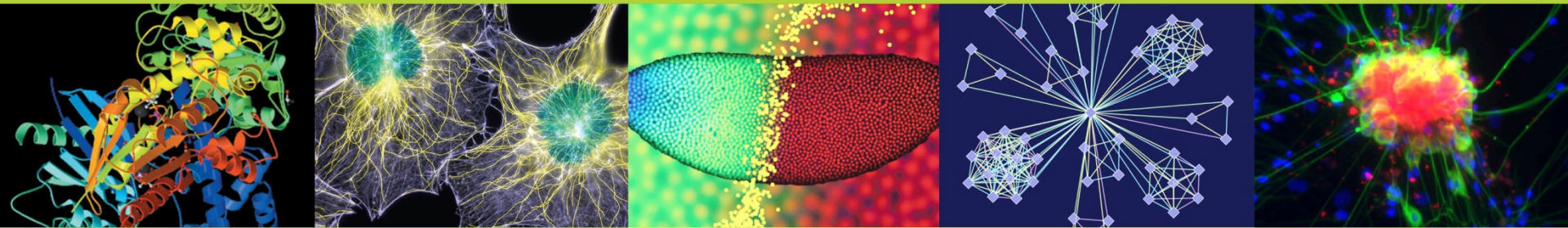


National Institute of  
General Medical Sciences



# Maximizing Investigators' Research Award Early Stage Investigators (R35)

## STARTING SOON



Webinar Sept 27, 2016, 3-4:00 p.m. EDT



National Institute of  
General Medical Sciences



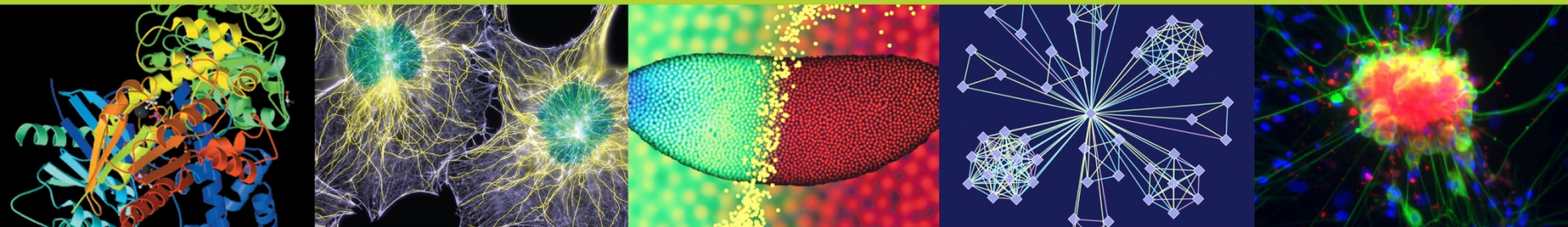
# Maximizing Investigators' Research Award Early Stage Investigators (R35)

**Jon Lorsch, Director, NIGMS**

**Peter Preusch, Program Director**

**Brian Pike, Office of Scientific Review**

**Lisa Moeller, Grants Management Branch**



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# NIGMS Goals for the MIRA Program

- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its support for basic biomedical research
- Increase the stability of investigator funding
- Enhance their ability to take on ambitious scientific problems creatively
- Increase the flexibility for investigators to follow important new research directions
- Improve the distribution of funding to improve overall scientific productivity and the chances for important breakthroughs
- Reduce the time spent by researchers writing and reviewing grant applications

# Initial Tests of MIRA Concept

- RFA-GM-16-002 Maximizing Investigators' Research Award (R35)
  - 123 Awards made in FY2016 – [Feedback Loop April 14, 2016](#)
- RFA-GM-16-003 Maximizing Investigators' Research Award for New and Early Stage Investigators
  - 94 Awards made in FY2016 – [Feedback Loop August 18, 2016](#)
- RFA-GM-17-002 Maximizing Investigators' Research Award (R35)
  - Applications received May 20, 2016; Pending review for awards to be made in FY2017
- RFA-GM-17-004 Maximizing Investigators' Research Award for Early Stage Investigators (R35) – THIS FOA!
  - Applications due November 4, 2016
- NIGMS plans to issue on-going announcements to continue the MIRA program for awards beginning in FY2018

# Eligibility for RFA-GM-17-004

- You must be an NIH defined [Early Stage Investigator](#)
- This means you must be within 10 years from completion of your terminal degree (PhD or equivalent)
- MD and other medical professional degrees within 10 years of completing residency training (or the equivalent)
- Must not have received substantial NIH funding as the PI of an independent research award
- ESI status may be [extended upon request](#) for family care responsibilities, extended training, disability or illness, active military service, and certain other reasons.

# Research must be in the mission of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences

- NIGMS supports basic research that increases understanding of biological processes and lays the foundation for advances in disease diagnosis, treatment and prevention. See: [About NIGMS](#)
- The Institute also supports research in certain clinical areas: anesthesiology; sepsis; trauma, burn injury, & wound healing; clinical pharmacology; medical genetics.
- See: [NIGMS Strategic Plan](#)
- See: [Overview Divisions and Program Contacts](#)
- Work supported by the Center for Research Capacity Building (IDeA, COBRE, INBRE, NARCH) may or may not be appropriate for NIGMS support using the MIRA grant mechanism.

# RFA-GM-17-004 Award Information

- Requests up to \$250,000 d.c. per year for 5 years are allowed and most awards will likely be made for the amount requested. Annual inflationary increases should not be included.
- Awards are expected to be larger than the current R01 award to new and early stage PIs (\$209,000 d.c. per year for 5 years in FY2015).
- NIGMS intends to commit up to \$26 million in FY2016 enough for 70 awards at the \$250,000 d.c. maximum requested level.
- The actual number of awards will depend on the number of applications for R35 in comparison with the number of R01 applications from Early Stage Investigators.
- Success rates are expected to be similar to the R01 success rate for new and early stage PIs (24.4% in FY2015).

# Award Administration

- Changes in scope require prior approval, including for example addition of animals, human subjects.
- Permanent change of PI not permitted, usual temporary change exceptions apply
- Transfer to new institution allowed (not to foreign institution)
- Must relinquish other NIGMS funding with some exceptions
- Must commit 51% of research effort
- NIGMS will not provide further funding except for excepted mechanisms (resources; training, workforce, diversity; clinical trials; SBIR/STTR; conferences; contracts; AIDS-related FOAs)
- Annual reporting via RPPR with some supplemental instructions – mainly dealing with changes research direction and other support of the lab.



# Application Submission Information

- Letter of Intent Requested – Eligibility checked.
- SF424 R&R – All sections as needed, except no Specific Aims
- New Format Biosketch ≤ 5 pages, including form page
  - A. Personal Statement (≤ 4 publications)
  - B. Positions and Honors
  - C. Contributions to Science (≤ 5 x ≤ 4 publications each)
  - D. Research Support (Past 3 years)
- Current & Pending Support (Equivalent of JIT information – direct costs per year to PI lab)
- R&R Detailed Budget – Consortia (well justified and with letter of explanation)
- Research Strategy ≤ 6 pages
  - Background, gaps, challenges
  - Recent Progress
  - Proposed Research
  - Cite papers in bibliography, not progress report.
- Animals, Human Subjects as needed.
- Resource Sharing Plan and Data Sharing Plan required for all applications.
- Letter of Support from Institutional Official (acknowledges required relinquishment of other GM grants and percent research effort). Letter of Support from Department Chair or Dean.
- Appendix, Updates – standard NIH policies apply.

# Letter from the Institution

- Institutional authorized representative must acknowledge that the PI will be able to devote 51% of his/her **research effort**, not including effort expended toward teaching, administration, and/or clinical duties.
- Must acknowledge that the PI will relinquish current NIGMS support and will be unable to accept other forms of NIGMS support except as noted in the RFA.

# Letter from the Dean or Chairperson

- Describes the institutional commitment to development of the investigator, including a mentoring plan for the PD/PI.
- Could include information on start-up packages and other institutional research support; space available to the PD/PI; salary support commitment; skills and career development opportunities; mentoring during the promotion and tenure process; and career advancement prospects for non-tenure track applicants.

# Review Information

- Applications will be reviewed by Special Emphasis Panels organized by the Center for Scientific Review
- Panels will review only applications in response to RFA-GM-17-004 (MIRA for Early Stage Investigators)
- Reviews will use modified review criteria that emphasize the importance of the questions being asked, past productivity and future potential of the PI, conduciveness of the environment to the success of the PI, and deemphasize details of approach.
- Only a single overall impact score will be voted, no separate criterion scores. Depending on numbers of applications, the lower one-third to one-half of applications may not be discussed.

# Receipt and Referral

- All applications are due on Nov 4, 2016
- No late applications will be accepted for this FOA
- Applications will be reviewed for completeness by the Division of Receipt and Referral, CSR, NIH
- Eligibility to apply is defined by the ESI status of the PI in the NIH record system on the receipt date
- Applications will be reviewed for responsiveness to the RFA by NIGMS staff
- Applications not in the NIGMS mission will be returned

# Review Criteria

- Significance
  - Is the research program substantive in scope, adequately broad and ambitious, will it permit the PI to establish a uniquely independent place in the field?
- Investigator(s)
  - Does the PI have appropriate training, have a record of productivity/impact, and shown evidence of creativity/adaptability, potential to establish successful independent program of research, promise as a mentor of others?
- Innovation
  - Is there evidence that creative strategies will be employed as needed and appropriate to address the research questions posed?

# Review Criteria (Continued)

- Approach
  - Is there a sound basis for the proposed research, evidence that the research program will evolve appropriately as the work is performed, that the research will be performed rigorously and the results interpreted carefully, and planned with sensitivity to the need for cost effectiveness in research?
- Environment
  - Is there evidence that the PI has an independent research position, that the environment will be conducive to the development of the PI, and of institutional support and mentoring

# MIRA Program Evaluation

- What metrics does NIGMS think are important to monitor
- Number of investigators who apply for MIRA and their current levels of NIH grant support
- Publication rate by career stage and field of NIGMS MIRA grantees in comparison with non-MIRA grantees and in comparison with their own previous publication record
- Citation rate by career stage and field of NIGMS MIRA grantees in comparison with non-MIRA grantees and in comparison with their own previous citation record
- Impact of MIRA awards on the biomedical research, the scientific landscape, and sociology of science
- Level of interest of NIGMS grantees and other applicants in obtaining a MIRA
- Changes in NIGMS funding distribution and number of investigators supported by the Institute
- Changes in the distribution of research topics studied by NIGMS MIRA versus non-MIRA grantees
- Number of MIRA awardees who elect to renew their MIRA award
- Feedback from study sections that review MIRA applications
- Feedback from MIRA grantees
- Feedback from other stakeholders



# MIRA Resources

- Be sure to look at the currently open Funding Announcement
- RFA-GM-17-004 – NIH Guide Announcement of MIRA Early Stage Investigators (R35) – Applications Due November 4, 2016
- NIGMS Feedback Loop Posts
- NIGMS Website – MIRA Page
  - Links to NIH Guide
  - MIRA Answers to Frequently Asked Questions (RFA-GM-17-004)
  - Example Biosketch
  - Example Current & Pending Support Page
  - Webinar Link - archive and slides will be posted
  - Look for future postings on Awards and Program Evaluation
- Email: [preuschp@nigms.nih.gov](mailto:preuschp@nigms.nih.gov)

# Contacts for MIRA

- Peter C. Preusch, Ph.D.; Program Director, NIGMS
  - 301-594-0828; [preuschp@ngims.nih.gov](mailto:preuschp@ngims.nih.gov)
  - Please contact Dr. Preusch BEFORE you submit your application.
- Other NIGMS contacts by program area see:  
<https://www.nigms.nih.gov/about/overview/pages/default.aspx>
- Maqsood Wani, Ph.D.; Center for Scientific Review, NIH
- Lisa Moeller; Grants Management Branch, NIGMS
- See RFA-GM-17-04 for details
- Thank you for interest in the MIRA program!