Concept Clearance: Science Policy Collaboration with NSF SciSIP Program

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The Scientific Workforce Analysis and Modeling (SWAM) Program

- NIGMS has a longstanding interest in understanding the biomedical research workforce.
- SWAM focuses on the use of computational models to better understand the dynamics of scientific workforce in the U.S., especially those that produce successful scientists and increase the diversity of the scientific workforce.
- No new data collection – analyses of existing data sets.
- 3 FOAs and 8 awards since FY2010. Currently includes 3 active grants.
Expand the scope of the program to support studies that:

- Lead to a better understanding of the existing biomedical research enterprise.
- Analyze the inefficiencies and efficiencies in the enterprise, with the goal of providing insights into how it can be improved.
- Employ a systems-based approach to understanding the underlying dynamics of the workforce and its trainees, examining strategies for retaining and advancing highly skilled independent investigators, and enhancing the diversity of the scientific workforce.
Possible Research Questions

• What are the strategies for more efficiently supporting research or organizing academic institutions to achieve significant and innovative research outcomes?

• What are the factors that shape the composition of the biomedical research workforce and the roles and efficacy of individuals in it?
Leveraging a Partnership

• NSF SBE Science of Science & Innovation Policy (SciSIP) program supports research designed to advance the scientific basis of science and innovation policy.

• Longstanding program is a leader in the field. Expert in reviewing the relevant science.

• Some NIGMS SWAM awardees also funded by NSF SciSIP.

• The programs’ interests overlap. NIGMS focuses on the biomedical research enterprise, while the NSF scope includes all STEM and STEM education.

National Science Foundation

Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences
Develop a joint program with SciSIP modeled on other longstanding collaborations between NIGMS and NSF:

- NSF solicitation highlighted in NIH Guide Notice.
- NSF review in collaboration with NIGMS Office of Scientific Review to enable both NSF and NIH consideration.
- Program Directors from both agencies assess reviewed applications.
- Those of interest to NIGMS are asked to resubmit to NIH as R01 applications. No set-aside.
- Council review and funding consideration like regular NIH grants.
Proposal cont.

• Details:
  o Division: TWD
  o Activity code: R01
  o Due date: Oct 2017
  o FY funds: FY18
  o Maximum length of award: 4 years (anticipated to be fewer in most cases)
  o Number of awards: 4-6
  o Average award direct cost/year: $200,000

• Request Council approval to proceed with this program.
Discussion