Funding Research *Programs* instead of Individual *Projects*

- Increase the **stability of funding** to enhance investigators’ willingness to take on ambitious scientific projects and to approach problems creatively.

- Increase **flexibility** for investigators to follow important new research directions as opportunities arise.

- Improve the **distribution of funding** among investigators to increase overall scientific productivity and the chances for important breakthroughs.

- Reduce the time spent by researchers **writing grant applications**, allowing them to spend more time conducting research.

- Reduce the time spent on **reviewing grant applications**.
Maximizing Investigators’ Research Awards

An *expanded* funding mechanism

- Applications focus on the investigator and the overall program of research in their lab
- Significance of past and recent contributions to science and to the scientific community
- Impact of proposed work while deemphasizing details of approach
- Efficiency and efficacy of laboratory funding
Changes to the MIRA Program

• Increased eligibility: includes all NIGMS R01-equivalent PIs renewing their grants (R01, R37, DP2 and SC1)
• Review organized by the Center for Scientific Review
• Expanded application opportunity

Receipt Dates: May 17, 2017
January 17 and May 17 in 2018 and 2019
Reviewed Oct-Nov 2017, Jan 2018 Council
MIRA Eligibility in 2017

1. PI (or multi-PI) on an NIGMS R01-equivalent award (R01, R37, SC1, DP2)
2. Awarded to a US institution
3.Received funding in fiscal year 2016
4. Have a project end date in fiscal year 2017 or 2018

This information can be found using NIH RePORTER
Maximizing Investigators’ Research Award (R35) PAR-GM-17-094

• Use the Abstract to identify the scientific area of research and important problems/opportunities
• Use the Biosketch to identify recent contributions to science and to the scientific community
• No Specific Aims page
• The 6-page Research Strategy
• Requires 51% of PI’s research effort (expressed in person months)
• A MIRA will replace all current NIGMS funding of the PI’s laboratory with a few exceptions
Maximizing Investigators’ Research Award (R35) PAR-GM-17-094 (Application Details)

- SF424 R&R – All sections, except Specific Aims
- Current and Pending Support
- Detailed Budget and Justification
- Human Subjects and Vertebrate Animals
- Resource and Data Sharing plans are required
- Letter of Support from Institutional Official
Maximizing Investigators’ Research Award (R35) PAR-GM-17-094 (Review)

• Review by Special Emphasis Panels
• Organized by NIH Center for Scientific Review
• Review to focus on overall research program, scientific questions, general strategies, investigator productivity and overall contributions, not experimental details.
• Review Criteria modified, no separate criterion scores, most applications to be discussed.
• Budget Recommendation
MIRA Budget Considerations

• Budgets are anticipated to be commensurate with history of NIGMS funding

• Well funded labs (>\$400,000 in annual direct costs) have seen reductions of ~12%

• Labs with prior budgets <\$250,000 in annual direct costs could be considered for well-justified modest increases

• Direct support of collaborators needs to be well-justified and include a letter indicating that the work could not otherwise be supported

• No inflationary increases should be requested
Transitioning current NIGMS support to MIRA

• NIGMS Single PI, Single Project Grants

• NIGMS Multiple-PI grant or NIGMS multi-component grant (i.e. P01/P50) where the MIRA PI is one of the PIs or project leaders

• NIGMS grant where the MIRA PI receives support as a co-investigator or paid collaborator on another PI’s NIGMS grant

• No Cost Extensions and Unobligated Balances
MIRA Resources

- PAR-GM-17-094 – NIH Guide Announcement
- NIGMS Feedback Loop
- NIGMS Website – MIRA Web Page
  - Link to NIH Guide
  - MIRA Answers to Frequently Asked Questions
  - MIRA Eligibility Determination Process
  - Example Biosketch, Support Page
  - Webinar archive will be posted
  - Watch for future additions
- Email: NIGMSEstPIMIRA@nigms.nih.gov
Contact: Vernon Anderson  
301-594-3827  
NIGMSEstPIMIRA@nigms.nih.gov  
www.nigms.nih.gov  

You may also want to contact the program director assigned to your current NIGMS grant award(s)