Maximizing Investigators’ Research Awards (MIRA) RFA-GM-17-002 (R35)

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MIRA Webinar March 21, 2016, 12:30-1:30 p.m. EDT
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 experimental 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
Status of the MIRA Program

• RFA-GM-16-002 for Established PI’s
  – 179 applications received on May 20, 2015
  – Reviewed in November for January 2016 Council
  – Awards in progress, thus far 115 awards approved for an average of $400,000 direct costs

• RFA-GM-16-003 for NewPI/ESIs
  – 400 applications received on Sept 9, 2015
  – Reviewed March for May 2016 Council
  – NIGMS plans up to 70 awards up to $250,000 d.c.

• Future FOAs to be determined this year
Maximizing Investigators’ Research Award (R35)  
RFA-GM-17-002

• Receipt Date: May 20, 2016
• Earliest Award Date: April 1, 2017
• Eligibility is limited for this RFA
• Requires 51% of PI’s research effort
• A MIRA will replace all current NIGMS funding of the PI’s laboratory with a few exceptions
• Applications may request up to $750,000 d.c. per year for five years. But be realistic!
Maximizing Investigators’ Research Award (R35) RFA-GM-17-002 (Application)

- SF424 R&R – All sections, except Specific Aims
- New Format Biosketch ≤ 5 pages
  - Include contributions to the scientific community
- Current and Pending Support
- Detailed Budget and Justification
- Research Strategy ≤ 6 pages
  - Background, Recent Progress, Overview of Future Research
  - Focus on important questions.
- Human Subjects and Vertebrate Animals
- Resource and Data Sharing plans are required
- Letter of Support from Institutional Official
Maximizing Investigators’ Research Award (R35) RFA-GM-17-002 (Review)

• Review by Special Emphasis Panels
• Organized by NIGMS Office of 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, all applications to be discussed.
• Budget Recommendation
Did you receive an NOA for two or more NIGMS-funded competing, non-competing or supplement awards in the FY2014 to FY2015 time window?

- Yes
  - Does the project period of at least one of these grants end in the FY2017, FY2018, or FY2019?
    - Yes
      - You are eligible to apply for a MIRA!
    - No
      - You are not eligible to apply for a MIRA at this time.
  - No
    - You are not eligible to apply for a MIRA at this time.

Did you receive an NOA for one NIGMS-funded R01 equivalent grant > $400K/yr TDC (incl. Subcontract F&A costs) in the FY2014 to FY2015 time window?

- Yes
  - Does the project period end in FY2017, 2018, or FY2019?
    - Yes
      - You are eligible to apply for a MIRA!
    - No
      - You are not eligible to apply for a MIRA at this time.
  - No
    - You are not eligible to apply for a MIRA at this time.

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MIRA Resources

- **RFA-GM-17-002 – NIH Guide Announcement**
- NIGMS Feedback Loop
- NIGMS Website – [MIRA Web Page](#)
  - Link to NIH Guide
  - MIRA Answers to Frequently Asked Questions
  - MIRA Eligibility Flowchart
  - Example Biosketch, Support Page (in progress)
  - Webinar archive will be posted
  - Watch for future additions
- Email: preuschp@nigms.nih.gov

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