Finding the Funds: NCI Funding and Training Opportunities

ASBMB Webinar



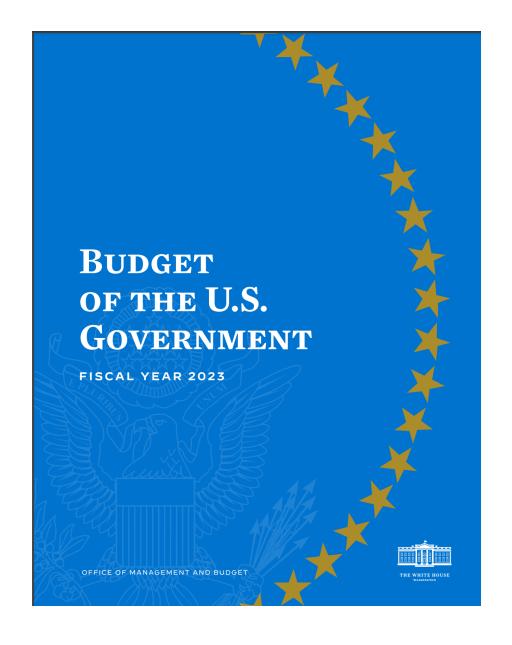
- 1. Introductions
- 2. NCI Overview & Budget Allocation
- 3. FOAs & Priorities of Three Branches from NCI's Division of Cancer Biology
- 4. NCI's Center for Cancer Training
- 5. Discussion

NCI Overview & Budget Allocation

Weston Ricks, Office of Budget and Finance Kim Blair, Office of Communications and Public Liaison

Budget Formulation:Congressional Justification (CJ)

- Director's Overview
- Program Description and Accomplishments
- Program Portraits
- Budget Tables



NCI Congressional Justifications: https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/budget/congressional-justification





STEP 1

The White House Office of Management & Budget (OMB) coordinates with federal agencies to formulate the President's Budget, which covers all federal agencies, including the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and National Institutes of Health (NIH), and reflects the President's priorities. The President submits the budget to Congress, which must pass appropriations legislation that funds federal agencies.



STEP 2

The Congressional appropriations committees consider the President's Budget as they prepare appropriations legislation for the next fiscal year.



STEP 3

The appropriations committees finalize their legislative proposals, and the House and Senate consider the proposed legislation. Once passed and reconciled into a unified bill, Congress sends the legislation to the President.



STEP 4

The President signs the appropriations bill into law, making funds available to executive agencies, including NCI and NIH.

NCI Professional Judgment Authority

The National Cancer Act of 1971 gives the NCI Director special authority to submit an annual professional judgment budget directly to the President for review and delivery to Congress. This budget reflects NCI cancer research priorities and identifies areas of potential investment in cancer research.



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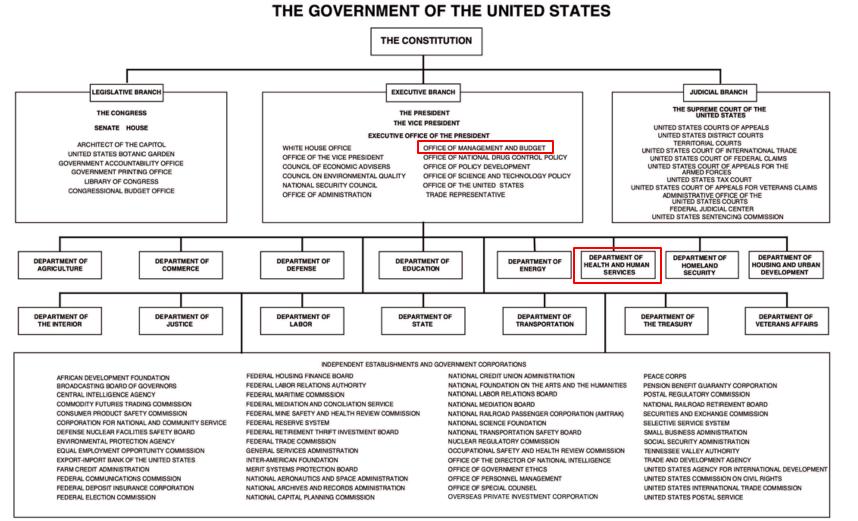
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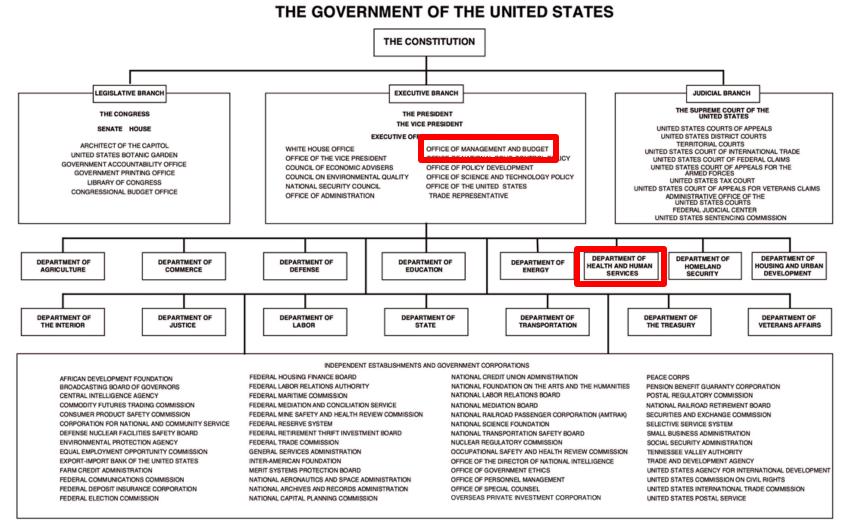
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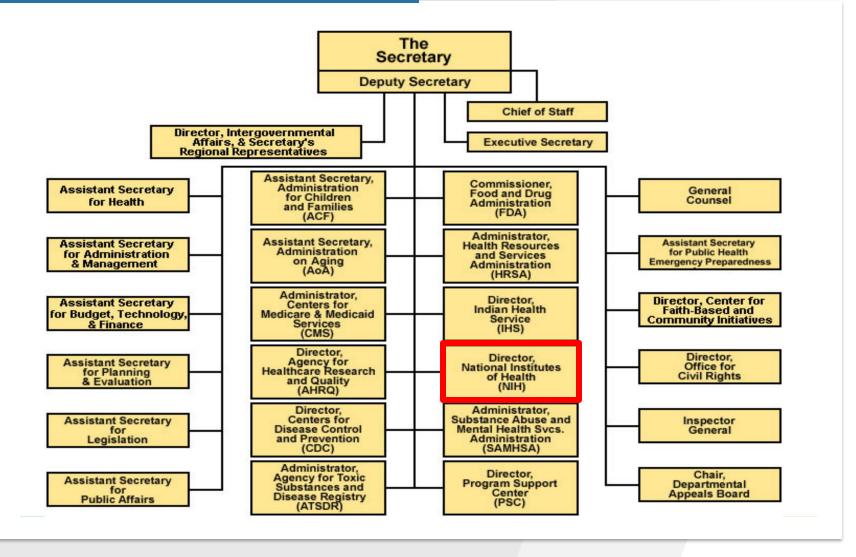






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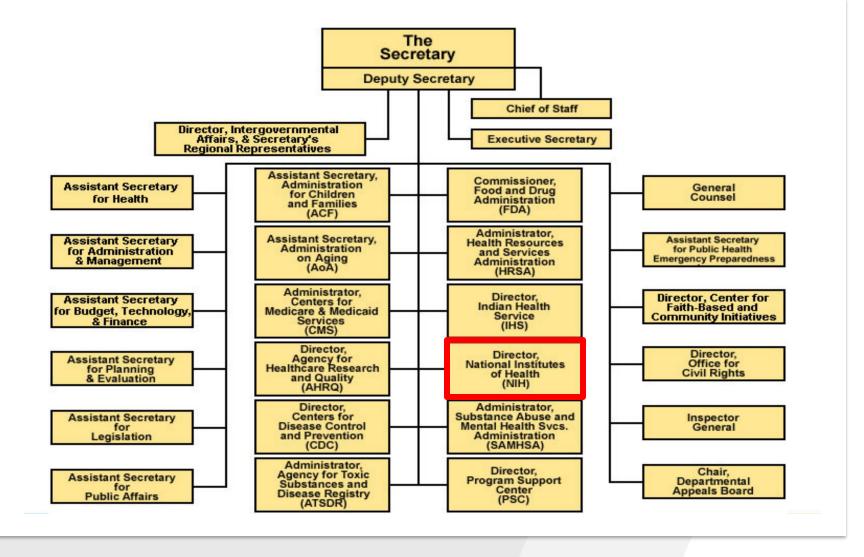






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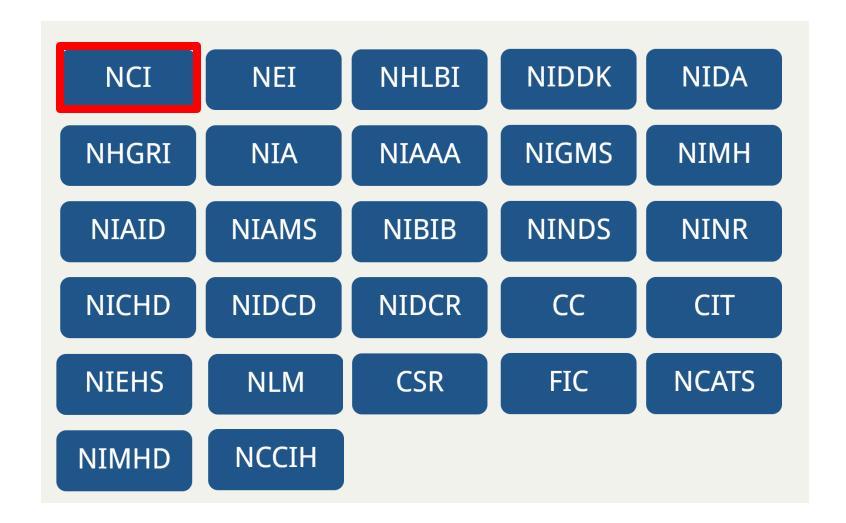
of Health

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HOW NCI RECEIVES ITS FUNDING

NCI receives its funding, or appropriation, from Congress as part of the overall federal budget process.



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cancer.gov/obf whitehouse.gov/omb

Budget Process Overview



Fiscal Year 2023													
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	
Budget Fiscal Year (2024)	Budget Formulation Process					Congressional Appropriations Process							
Current Fiscal Year (2023)	Congressional Appropriations Process Budget Execution Process (Continuing Resolution)				Budget Execution Process								
Prior Fiscal Year (2022)	scal Year Agency Reporting Process												

Budget Process Overview

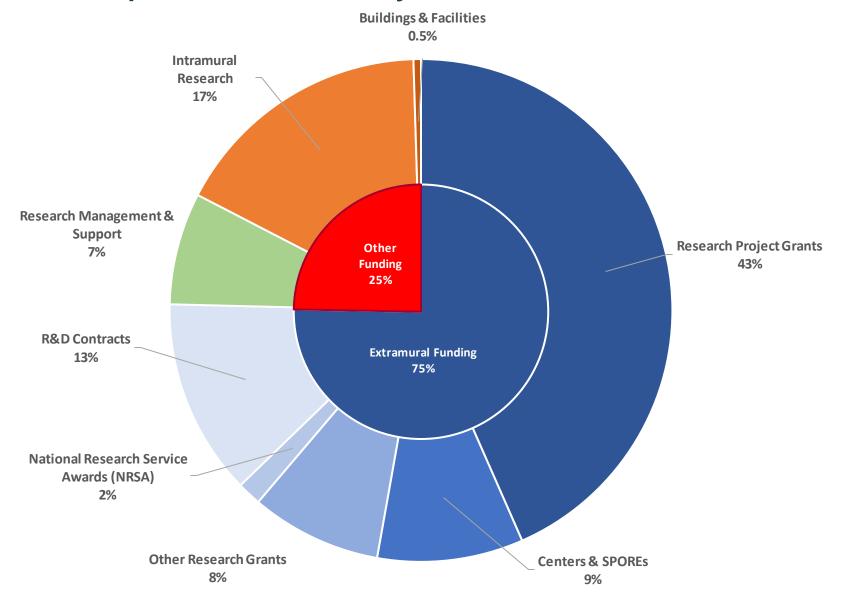




NCI Budget - Formulation to Enacted

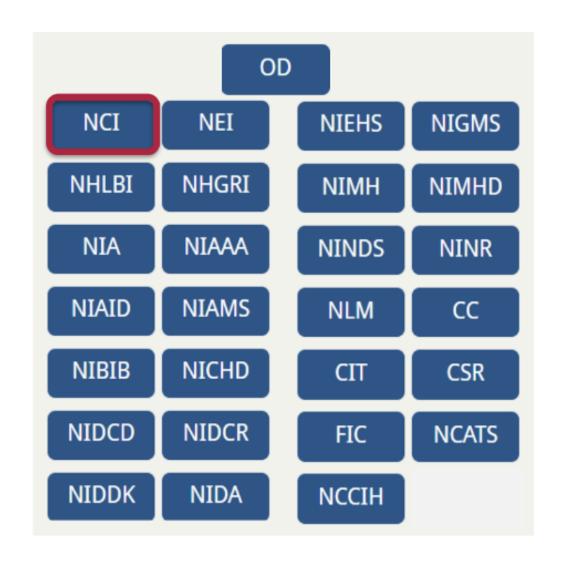


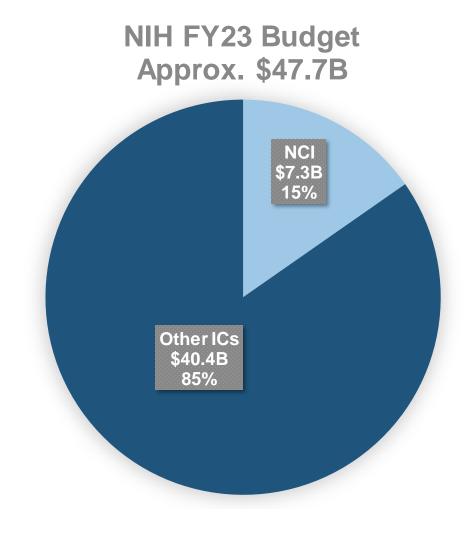
How does NCI spend its money?





NIH Organization and Budget Allocation





Annual Plan and Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2024





Highlighted Scientific Opportunities:









Professional Judgment Budget

PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

(DOLLARS IN MILLIONS)

Prior (FY 2023) Professional Judgment Budget Proposal	\$7,550 [*]	
Proposed Budget Increase for FY 2024 to Seize Opportunities for Progress	\$1,166	 \$354 Cancer Biology Research \$247 Cancer Prevention Research \$192 Cancer Detection & Diagnosis Research \$227 Cancer Treatment Research \$86 Public Health & Cancer Control Research \$60 Training & Infrastructure
Funding to Revolutionize Cancer Clinical Research [†]	\$1,272	
FY 2024 TOTAL	\$9,988	

^{*}This proposal includes \$50 million for the Childhood Cancer Data Initiative, a 10-year initiative that began in FY 2020.

¹This proposed funding will be used to achieve the goals of reducing cancer death rates by 50% over the next 25 years and ending cancer as we know it for all.



Questions

FOAs & Priorities of DCB Branches

Drs. Ron Johnson, Jerry Li, and Kristine Willis, Division of Cancer Biology

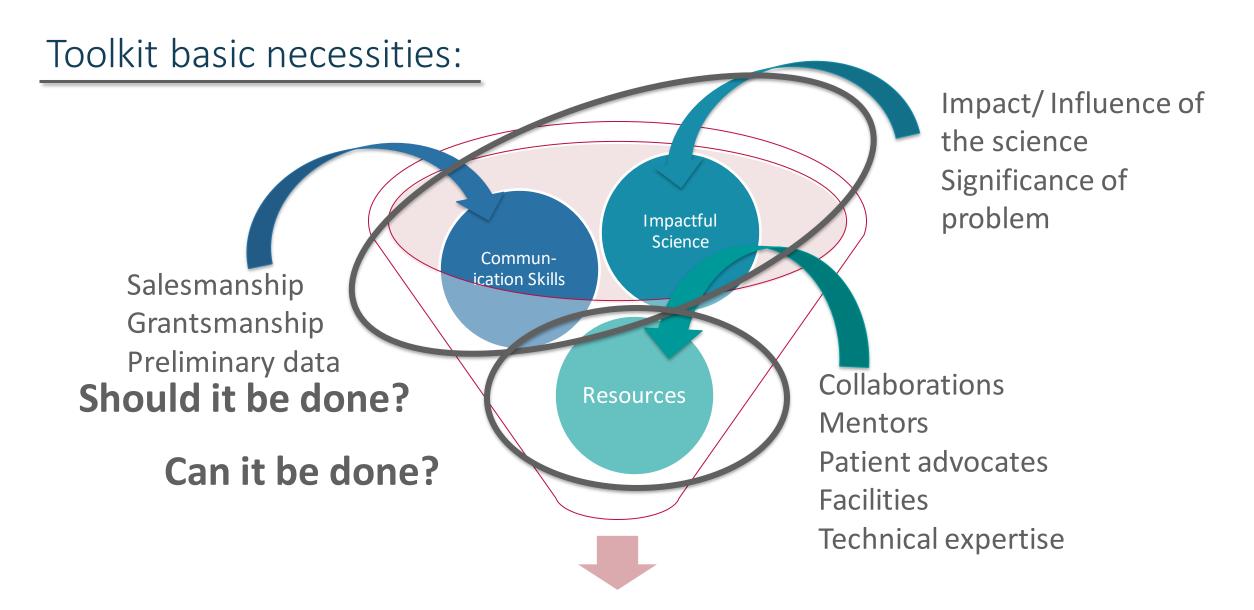
Transitioning from Early Career Grant Support to R-Level Research Grants

Ron Johnson, Ph.D., Program Director
DNA and Chromosome Aberrations Branch
Division of Cancer Biology



General Considerations:

- Department requirements
 - Timeline for submission
 - Current funding/support
 - Mentoring committee in place for constructive feedback and advice
- Identify appropriate application funding mechanism
 - Early-Stage Investigator status consideration
 - Preliminary data availability
- Available/appropriate Funding Opportunity Announcement
 - Read entire FOA
 - Application requirements; reviewer directions
- NIH Program Official discussion
 - Advice on FOAs, requirements, scientific priorities, study section suggestions, etc.



Competitive Grant Application



Common mistakes in grant applications:

- Scientific errors
 - Ideas not new or original
 - Absence of strong scientific rationale
 - Lack of feasibility or missing preliminary data
 - Flawed approaches/ no pitfalls or alternative approaches
 - Lack of expertise in essential methodology
 - Too focused or too broad/ambitious and unfocused
 - Descriptive/incremental

- Grantsmanship errors
 - Not responsive to the FOA
 - Technical/ poor writing
 - Dense/ no figure legends
 - Lack of knowledge of published relevant work
 - Missing components
 - Lack of appropriate expertise
 - Administrative
 - Budgets/Justifications don't match or are unrealistic/vague



General grant writing tips:

- PLAN timeline for writing and generating preliminary data; message, questions, visuals
- Get <u>substantive</u> input and feedback from mentors, colleagues
- Be explicit, clear, and concise
 - Help guide the reviewers
 - Don't assume they know what you intend or will read between the lines
 - Leave white space
 - Explain preliminary data
- Discuss potential problem areas and possible solutions honestly
- Propose to test your hypotheses, not prove them

Research Areas and Program Priorities in DNA and Chromosome Aberrations

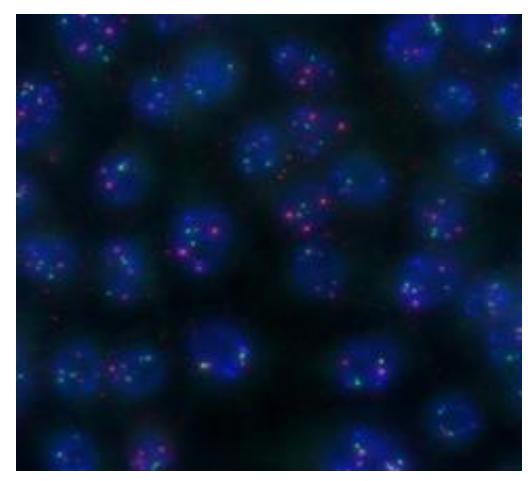


Division of Cancer Biology research portfolio

- Studies of fundamental and biological processes of cancer
- Research that supports translational efforts in diagnosis, treatment and prevention
- Broad range of investigator-initiated studies in existing and emerging areas in basic cancer biology
- <u>Studies of high scientific merit and impact are welcome</u> <u>across all cancers and cancer processes</u>

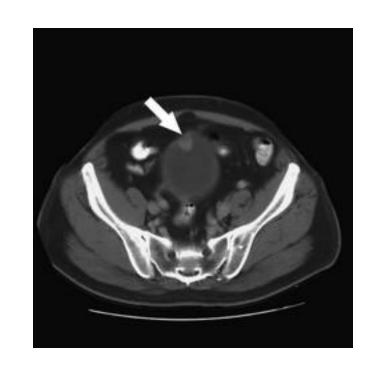
Research areas in DNA and Chromosomal Aberrations

- Gene regulation and epigenetics
- Cancer genetics
- Genomic instability
- DNA damage repair
- Chemical carcinogenesis



Area of emphasis

- Biology of Bladder Cancer
- PAR-22-218 (R01) and PAR-22-219 (R21)
- Understand the biology and underlying mechanisms of bladder cancer
- Broad scope of interest areas covering all stages of bladder cancer including preneoplasia



Area of emphasis

- Basic Research in Cancer Health Disparities
- PAR-21-322 (R01) and PAR-21-323 (R21)
- Understand the biological and genetic causes of cancer health disparities
- Mechanistic studies, new methods and models, and secondary data analyses



Area of emphasis

- Basic Mechanisms of Cannabis and Cannabinoid Action in Cancer
- Notice of Special Interest NOT-CA-22-085 (R01, R21, R03, K01, K08, K22, K99/R00)
- Understand the mechanisms by which cannabis and cannabinoids affect cancer biology, interception, treatment and resistance, and symptom management



Questions

Research Areas and Program Interests of the Structural Biology and Molecular Applications Branch (SBMAB)

Jerry Li, M.D./Ph.D., Program Director Structural Biology and Molecular Applications Branch Division of Cancer Biology



Main Research Areas Supported by SBMAB



Structural Biology and Biophysics



Genomics and other -Omics



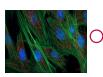
Bioinformatics and Data Science



Mathematical Modeling, Machine Learning, and Systems Biology



Bioengineering



Bioimaging



Physical Science, Citizen Science











Anowarul Amin









Dave Miller











Eric Johnson



NIH/NCI Special Programs SBMAB Participates

- Jerry Li Informatics Technology for Cancer Research (ITCR), NIH Synthetic Biology Consortium, Human Tumor Atlas Network (HTAN), Illuminating the Druggable Genome (IDG), the Human BioMolecular Atlas Program (HuBMAP)
- Dave Miller Multiscale Modeling Consortium (MSM), Data Visualization Methods and Tools Development
- Anowarul Amin Innovative Molecular Analysis Technologies (IMAT), Cellular Cancer Biology Imaging Research (CCBIR)
- Steven Becker Tissue Engineering Consortium (TEC)
- Eric Johnson Physical Sciences-Oncology Network (PS-ON)

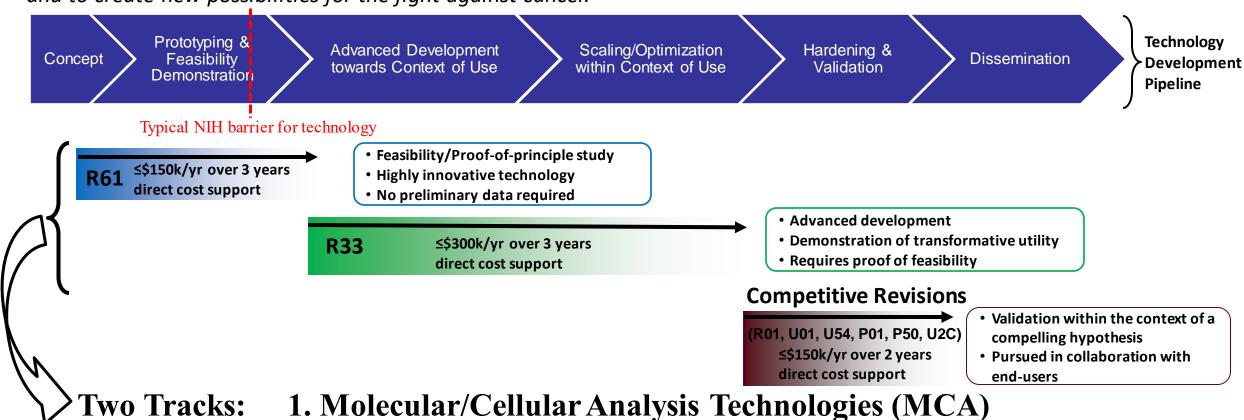
Innovative Molecular Analysis Technologies (IMAT)

https://imat.cancer.gov

Program Mission:

ATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

Catalyze multidisciplinary development of highly innovative technologies to grapple with the complexity of cancer biology and to create new possibilities for the fight against cancer.



2. Biospecimen Science Technologies (BST)

Informatics Technology for Cancer Research (ITCR)

https://itcr.cancer.gov

Methods and Algorithm
Development

Early-Stage Software Development Advanced
Development &
Dissemination

Sustainment

R21: \$275k direct over 2 years RFA-CA-23-014

U01: \$300k/year for 3 years **RFA-CA-23-015**

U24: \$600k/year, up to 5 years RFA-CA-23-016

> U24: no cap, up to 5 years RFA-CA-23-017

ITCR Education Resource

Physical Sciences - Oncology Network (PS-ON)

Funding Opportunity Announcement: PAR-22-147 (U01)

The goal is to promote a 'physical sciences perspective' of cancer and foster the convergence of physical science and cancer research by forming transdisciplinary teams of physical scientists and cancer researchers working very closely together to advance

our understanding of cancer biology and oncology.

Current Scientific Themes:

- The Physical Dynamics of Cancer
 - mechanical cues, transport phenomena, bioelectric signals, and thermal fluctuations can modulate the behavior of cancer cells, the microenvironment, tumors, and the host
- Spatio-Temporal Organization and Information Transfer in Cancer
 - Spatial and temporal organization of structures across many biological and physical length-scales and time scales



Using engineered tumor environments, scientists @UMengineering #PSON are examining extracellular matrix and mechanical properties that promote

NCI PhysicalSciences @ @NCIPhySci · Dec 10

cell phenotype transitions in #TNBC.





Funding Opportunity Announcement: PAR-22-099 (R01)

Next Round of Applications Due February 05, 2023

Enabling Biomimetic Tissue-Engineered Technologies for Cancer Research

PURPOSE: Support the development and characterization of state-of-the art biomimetic tissue-engineered technologies for cancer research via a cadre of collaborative, multidisciplinary R01 research projects.

GOALS:

- Catalyze innovative, well-characterized in vitro and ex vivo model systems available for cancer research
- Expand the breadth of these systems to several cancer types and to elucidate specific cancer phenomena
- Promote the exploration of cancer phenomena with tissue-engineered systems that are otherwise difficult to examine in vivo.

R01 research project mechanism up to \$400K Direct costs / year for up to 5 years

STATUS: Started in 2016 and has 20 projects. Projects utilize platforms that incorporate microfluidics, organoids, tissue-chip, & biofabrication technology. Re-issued funding opportunity in January 2022 for 3 years.

Questions

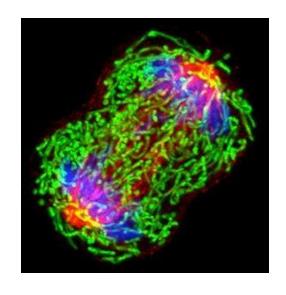
Current Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) and Priorities for the Cancer Cell Biology Branch

K. Willis, Ph.D., Program Director
Cancer Cell Biology Branch
Division of Cancer Biology



Areas of interest for the Cancer Cell Biology branch

tumor-initiating cells/stem cells early lesion biology post-translational modifications RNA biology tumor suppressors regulation of translation cell death and survival pathways cell stress



aging and cancer biology cachexia cancer metabolism mitochondria and organelle biology cell cycle progression cancer signaling pathways cellular chaperones oncogenes

for updates, follow the Division of Cancer Biology (DCB) on Twitter @NCICancerBio





Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): RNA Modifications in Cancer Biology

- NOT-CA-22-003
- Cite the NOSI in your eligible R21, R03, R61, or R33 application
- Goal: stimulate research on the role of RNA modifications in cancer biology by supporting small, investigator-initiated research grants
- Open until May 08, 2023

Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Technologies and Informatics Tools for Cancer Metabolomics

- NOT-CA-22-083
- The Innovative Molecular Analysis Technologies (IMAT) program supports early-stage development of highly innovative, data-generating platforms and methodologies
- The Informatics Technologies for Cancer Research (ITCR) program supports powerful data analysis, management, and visualization technologies across the entire developmental lifecycle, including sustainment.
- Cite the NOSI in your eligible IMAT or ITCR program application
- Goal: support development of innovative technologies and informatics tools for metabolomics research
- Open until December 31, 2024

Mechanisms that Impact Cancer Risk after Bariatric Surgery

- PAR21-331 (R01) and 21-332 (R21)
- Goals:
 - support of investigator-initiated studies addressing mechanisms by which bariatric surgery impacts cancer risk
 - draw in talented scientists who study bariatric surgery to investigate its effects on cancer, rather than shorter-term outcomes such as weight loss and diabetes
- R21 applications must not include or refer to preliminary or unpublished data, results, or conclusions
- Review in standing study sections run by CSR
- Three receipt dates in 2023 and two in 2024
- Open until September 08, 2024

Mechanistic links between diet, lipid metabolism, and tumor growth and progression

- PAR23-051 (U01) and 23-052 (UH2)
- Goals:
 - support fundamental studies designed to identify and define the molecular mechanisms through which lipid metabolism mediates tumor growth and progression, focusing specifically on the central role lipids play in linking diet with the biology of cancer
 - bridge the historically divided fields of nutrition and molecular metabolism
 - stimulate research and tool development in this emerging area, which faces particular challenges because of the complexity of lipid biochemistry
- Unpublished preliminary data is limited in the UH2
- Review by Special Emphasis Panel (SEP) organized by NCI
- Two receipt dates a year, open until October 24, 2025

Administrative Supplements to Support Cancer Disparity Collaborative Research

- PAR22-114
- Goals:
 - promote new cancer disparities research among investigators who do not normally conduct it
 - encourage the partnership of experienced cancer research investigators with cancer disparities-focused researchers
 - accelerate and strengthen multi-disciplinary cancer disparities research in wide ranging areas
- Provides supplemental funds to your eligible P, R, or U award
- Research proposed in the supplement application must be within the original scope of the parent NIH-supported grant project
- Project and budget periods must be within the currently approved project period for the existing parent award, for a maximum of two years
- Administrative review
- Two receipt dates in 2023, two in 2024, and one in 2025; open until January 24, 2025

Notice of Special Interest (NOSI):

Administrative Supplement for Continuity of Biomedical and Behavioral Research Among First-Time Recipients of NIH Awards

- NOT-OD-20-055
- Goal: enhance the retention of investigators facing critical life events who are transitioning to the first renewal of their first independent research project grant award or to a second new NIH research project grant award
- Supplement budget requests cannot exceed \$50,000/year direct costs
- Available to PIs of DP1, DP2, DP5, R01, R00, R15, R21, R35, RF1, and U01 awards who have a
 qualifying critical life event
- Critical life event = childbirth or adoption during the parent grant project period; or primary caregiving responsibilities of an ailing spouse, partner, or a member of the immediate family
- Current NOSI open until March 06, 2023

Questions

Overview of the Center for Cancer Training

Dr. Nastaran (Nas) Zahir, Center for Cancer Training







Awards to Support Trainees: Funding for Training the Next Generation of Cancer Researchers

Nastaran (Nas) Zahir, PhD

Chief, Cancer Training Branch, Center for Cancer Training nas.zahir@nih.gov



NCI Extramural Funding for Cancer Training

Cancer Training Branch
Center for Cancer Training (CCT)

Awards intended for all cancer researchers

- Institutional Training Grants
- Research Education Grants
- Individual Career Development Awards
- Transition Awards
- Fellowships

Chief: Nas Zahir, PhD https://www.cancer.gov/grants-training/training/funding

Diversity Training Branch
Center to Reduce Cancer Health
Disparities

Awards intended for underrepresented minorities and individuals with disabilities

- Research Education Grants
- Individual Career Development Awards
- Transition Awards
- Fellowships
- Research Supplements to Promote Diversity

Chief: Behrous Davani, PhD https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/crchd/diversity-training/cure

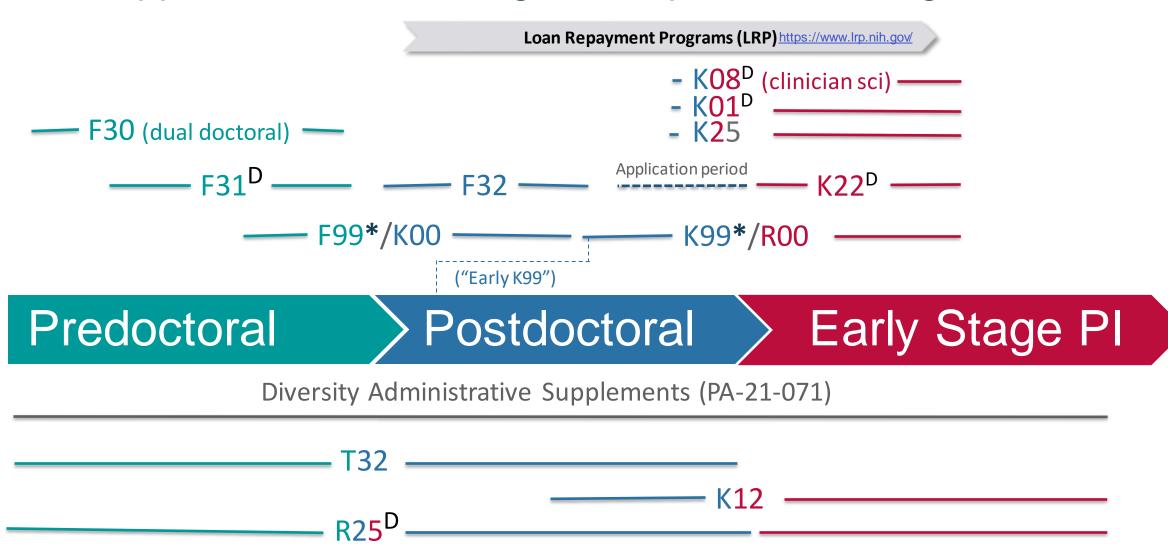
Center for Global Health

Awards intended for mentored training in global cancer research

- Institutional Capacity
 Building and Mentored Training
- International Research Scientist
 Development Award

Program Director: Sudha Sivaram,
DrPH, MPH
https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/cgh/research-training

NCI Supports Cancer Training at Multiple Career Stages



F33 K18 K38

Diversity FOA available CRCHD

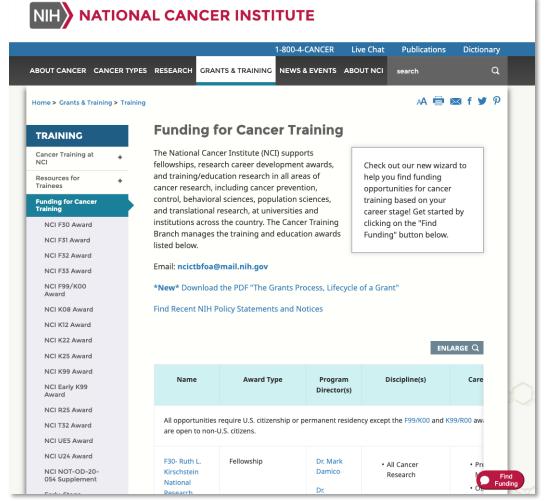
https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/crchd/diversity-training/cure 55

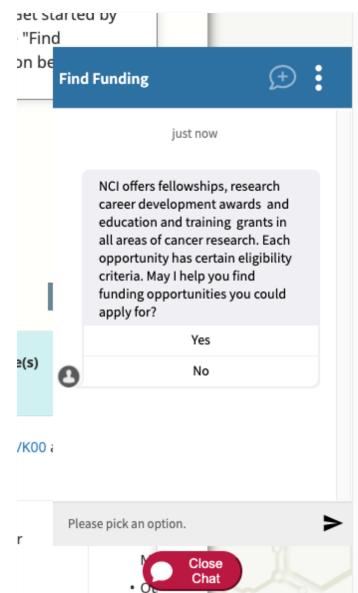
^{*}Open to Applicants with U.S. Visas •

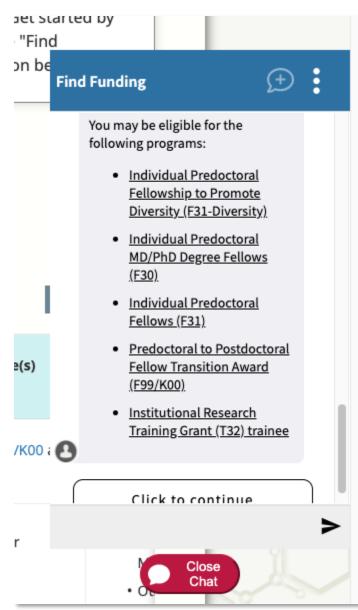
https://www.cancer.gov/grants-training/training/funding

Newly Launched Chat Bot to Find Funding Opportunities

https://www.cancer.gov/grants-training/training/funding

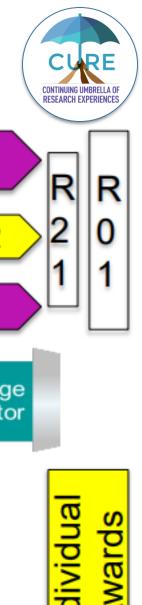


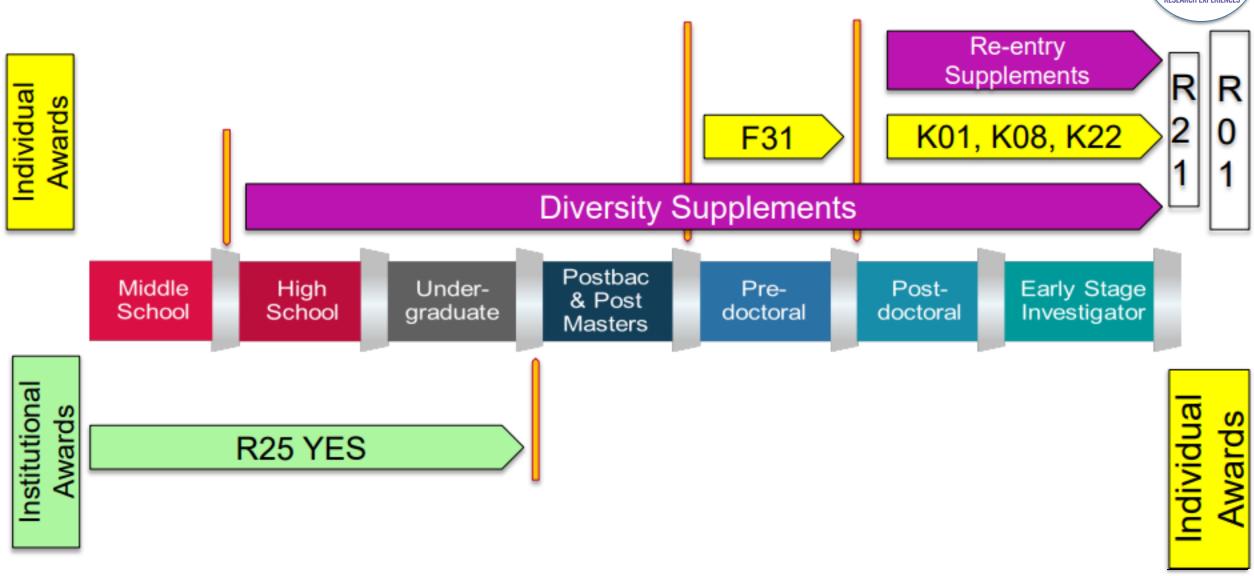






NCI CRCHD's CURE Funding Mechanisms





Supplements within the CURE: Diversity and Re-Entry/Re-Integration



- Each supplement supports research experience of one identified trainee
- Parent grant must have at least two years of active status at the time of supplement application; some exceptions are granted by CRCHD
- A bridge for candidates to progress to next academic/career level
- Application receipt: Oct 1 Dec 1 and Feb 1 Mar 31

Contact
Dr. Belem Lopez
CUREsupplements@nih.gov





https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/crchd/diversity-training/cure#individuals

F99/K00 Predoc to Postdoc Fellow Transition Award

3rd/4th yr grad students

F99 Predoc

K00 Postdoc

Eligibility

- Open to 3rd and 4th year health-related Ph.D. students.
- International students and F31 applicants/awardees are eligible
- 1 nominee per institution

Funding

1-2 years of support for completing PhD dissertation (F99)

Stipend, Tuition, and Training Related Expenses similar to F31

Up to 4 years of support for postdoc training (K00) at a US institution

Salary with annual increases

There is only one application due date (November) per year for this Funding Opportunity Announcement

5 Year average success rate is 35% (which is higher than F31 average success rate of 25%)



Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Fellowships

F30 Predoc

- Support predocs during clinical & graduate training leading to a combined doctoral degree (e.g., MD/PhD, DDS/PhD, DVM/PhD, AuD/PhD,DO/PhD)
- Enrolled in a dual degree clinical program no more than 48 months prior to initial application & must have identified a dissertation project & sponsor
- At least 50% of the award period must be devoted to full-time graduate research training leading to the research doctoral degree

Learn more

F31 Predoc

- F31 supports PhD research candidates who have identified a mentor & will be performing dissertation research
- Diversity F31: supports both dual degree and PhD only predocs from diverse groups under-represented in the biomedical or behavioral sciences
- Typical time to apply for an F31 is when a thesis proposal has been approved

Learn more

F32 Postdoc

- Supports mentored postdoctoral training under the guidance of a faculty sponsor
- Fellows must have a research or clinical doctoral degree from an accredited US or foreign institution
- Integrated program of research & mentored training to enhance potential to develop into an independent researcher
- Currently limited to total of 3 years but extensions can be requested

Learn more

All fellowships require references from individuals other than primary mentor(s)



Fellowship Applications: Factors to Consider

- NCI requires that the sponsor have research funding (R01 or equivalent) because fellowships do not fund the research project
- Research training that has a clear cancer focus
- Typical timing of submission
 - F30: year 4 of a dual-degree program
 - F31: year 3 of a PhD program
 - F99/K00: year 4 of PhD program
 - F32: 1st (30%) or 2nd (60%) year of postdoctoral fellowship
- NCI expects the applicant to have intellectual input in the project

Individual Research Career Development Awards (Ks) Fostering the <u>transition</u> of new investigators <u>to research independence</u>

	"Early" K99/R00 (data sci, cancer control sci)	Parent K99/R00	K01 Diversity (NCI-CRCHD)	K22 and K22 Diversity	K08 and K08 Diversity
Mentored vs non-mentored (independent)	Mentored phase / Non-mentored phase	Mentored phase / Non-mentored phase	Mentored	Non-mentored	Mentored Clinical Scientist
Citizenship	U.S. citizens or non-U.S. citizens	U.S. citizens or non-U.S. citizens	U.S. citizens or permanent residents	U.S. citizens or permanent residents	U.S. citizens or permanent residents
Eligibility	≤ 2 years postdoc training	≤ 4 years postdoc training	2 – 5 years postdoc training	2 – 8 years postdoc training	Postdoc and early career
Duration of Award	1-2 years K99 1-3 years R00	1-2 years K99 1-3 years R00	Support for 3 – 5 years protected time	Support for 3 years activated when independence begins	Support for 3 – 5 years protected time
Budget	Salary up to \$100K Fringe benefits Research \$30K (K99 portion)	Salary up to \$100K Fringe benefits Research \$30K (K99 portion)	Salary up to \$100K Fringe benefits Research \$30K	Salary up to \$100K Fringe benefits Research \$50K	Salary up to legislative cap Fringe benefits Research \$50K

Criteria for Successful Mentored Career Award Applications

- Candidate: motivated, well-trained, productive
- Mentor(s): strong mentoring and funding track record, highly qualified, committed to support the candidate
- Career development/ training plan: meaningful training in research and professional development
- Research plan: innovative, good training platform/ vehicle for transition to independence (high feasibility/ high impact; niche for applicant's own lab)
- Convince reviewers that: the research qualifications are appropriate (training/experience); there is potential for independence (collaborations, teaching, mentoring); there is potential to make important contributions to the field

Funding Rates 5 Year Averages (FY18-FY22)

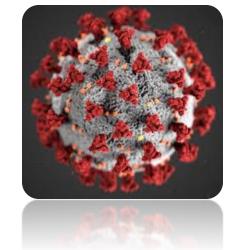
Program	# of Applications/yr	# of Awards/yr	Success Rate
F30	164	63	39%
F31	389	88	23%
F32	198	42	21%
F99	66	25	39%
K08	156	50	32%
Early K99	44	12	28%
K99	199	32	16%
K22	115	16	14%
K12	11	5	51%
R25	30	10	36%
T32	75	33	46%
	~1500	~400	

^{*}program active for 3 years*



For early-stage investigators whose research productivity has been impacted by COVID-19 or other reasons during their NIH ESI period

- Submit a request for an extension to NIH ESI status and describe the nature of the disruption to research productivity in the request.
- Link in the Education section of the PI's Personal Profile in <u>eRA Commons</u>.
- NIH will consider requests to extend the ESI status period for reasons that can include the following, as determined on a case-by-case basis at the sole discretion of NIH.
 - Medical concerns
 - Disability
 - Family care responsibilities
 - Natural disasters
 - Active-duty military service



https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2020/04/09/can-esi-status-be-extended-due-to-disruptions-from-covid-19/

https://era.nih.gov/erahelp/ESIE_ext/Default.htm#cshid=4

Thank you for your attention

Email: nas.zahir@nih.gov

Twitter: @NCI_Training

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Questions

Q&A and Discussion

Want to learn more?

Visit cancer.gov for a webinar and additional information on "Getting a Grant from the NCI"





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