



The Early Career Reviewer Program



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Goals of today's webinar and Q & A

- Provide brief context about CSR's role
- Learn more about the requirements for the Early Career Reviewer Program
- Give you a chance to hear from recent ECRs about their experience serving as a reviewer

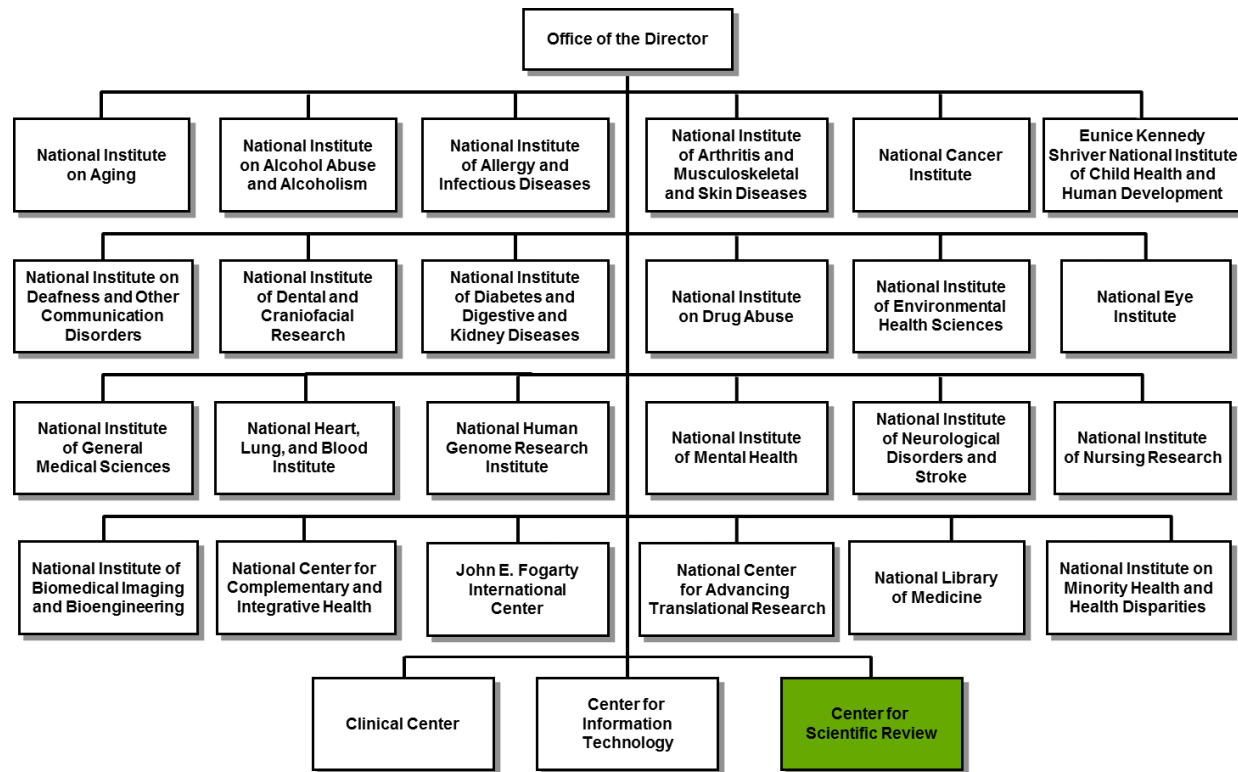
The Gateway for NIH Grant Applications

The Center for Scientific Review



- **Receives all NIH grant applications**
- **Assigns applications to one or more NIH Institutes or Centers** for potential funding
- **Assigns applications to CSR or NIH Institute review groups**
- **Conducts initial scientific merit review of most NIH** research applications - ~76% of NIH grant applications = ~ 64,000 applications/year with the help of > **18,000 reviewers!!**

Your application could be funded by one of 24 NIH Institutes or Centers (ICs)



Serve on a review panel – Early Career Reviewer Program

Program goals:

- Train qualified scientists to become critical and well-trained reviewers
- Expose investigators to the peer review experience so that they can write more competitive grant applications of their own
- Enrich the existing pool of NIH reviewers



Early Career Reviewer Program – the Basics

- Early career scientists can apply to CSR's Early Career Reviewer (ECR) program.
- ECR's serve as an ECR one time and review 2 applications as Reviewer 3.
- ECRs write full critiques and participate in the review meeting and score all applications.



ECR Qualifications

Employment

You have at least 1 year of experience as a fulltime faculty member or researcher in a similar role. Post-doctoral fellows are not eligible.

You must be an Assistant Professor or in an equivalent role. Because the program is focused on early career scientists, Associate Professors are not eligible.

Research

You show evidence of an active, independent research program. Examples include publications, presentations, institutional research support, patents, acting as supervisor of student projects.

You have at least 1 senior-authored research publication in a peer-reviewed journal in the last 2 years plus at least 1 additional senior-authored research publication since receiving a doctorate.

- To access publications see [considerations](#)

Grant & Review History

You have not served on an NIH study section in any capacity aside from as a mail reviewer. (Mail reviews do not include participation in the meeting.)

You have not held an R01 or R01-equivalent (R35, R37, RF1, R23, R29, DP1, DP2, DP5, U01, RL1) grant in the PD/PI role

You must have submitted a grant proposal, in the PI/PD role, to the NIH and received the associated summary statement.

Visit <https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForReviewers/BecomeAReviewer/ECR> for qualifications and application process.

Qualifications for the Early Career Reviewer Program

Employment

- You have at least **1 year of experience as a fulltime faculty member** (assistant professor) or a researcher in a similar role.

Grant & Review History

- You have not served on an NIH study section aside from being a mail reviewer.
- You have not held an R01 or equivalent grant as a PI/PD.
- You have submitted a grant application to NIH and received the summary statement.

Research

- You have evidence of an active, independent research program.
- You have at least 2 senior-authored research publication in a peer-reviewed journal – 1 since doctoral degree, 1 in the last 2 yrs.

Visit <https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForReviewers/BecomeAReviewer/ECR> for qualifications and application process.

The Application Process...

- It is useful, but not required, to identify study sections (= review panels) that fit your area of expertise.
- The application process is simply a check to see that you meet the published requirements.
- Some of the checks for eligibility are automated and errors do happen. If you think you were rejected in error, please email CSREarlyCareerReviewer@mail.nih.gov.

The screenshot shows the NIH Center for Scientific Review website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'U.S. Department of Health & Human Services', 'NIH Staff', 'Staff Directory', and 'Contact CSR'. Below this is the NIH logo and the text 'Center for Scientific Review'. A search bar is located on the right. The main content area has a red banner for 'COVID-19' with links to CDC and NIH information. Below the banner, there is a link to 'Coronavirus Guidance for NIH Applicants and Grantees'. The page title is 'Regular Standing Study Sections and Continuing SEPs'. There is a 'Filter Results:' section with a search button. A table lists various study sections and their scientific review officers.

| Study Section ^ | Study Section Description | Scientific Review Officer |
|-----------------|--|---------------------------|
| ACTS | Arthritis, Connective Tissue and Skin Study Section | Dr. Robert Gersch |
| ANIE | Acute Neural Injury and Epilepsy Study Section | Dr. Elyse Schauwecker |
| APDA | Adult Psychopathology and Disorders of Aging Study Section | Dr. Joanna Szczepanik |
| ARM | Addiction Risks and Mechanisms Study Section | Dr. Kristen Prentice |
| ASG | Aging Systems and Geriatrics Study Section | Dr. Inese Beltins |
| AUD | Auditory System Study Section | Dr. Brian Scott |
| AVI | Atherosclerosis and Vascular Inflammation | Dr. Natalia Komissarova |
| BACP | Bacterial Pathogenesis Study Section | Dr. Marci Scidmore |
| BDLV | Basic Biology of Blood, Heart and Vascular | Dr. Arklee Tinton |

<https://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections/StandingStudySections>

What happens after you apply?

- You'll receive an email letting you know if you've been accepted or not.
- If you've been accepted into the program, your name is entered into a database which SROs can use to identify ECRs. For most study sections, SROs are required to recruit 2 ECRs for each meeting.
- Feel free to call attention to yourself by emailing the SRO – we're happy to hear from you! You can find contact info on the study section page.

Molecular Neuropharmacology and Signaling Study Section – **MNPS**



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Scientific Review Officer

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The Molecular Neuropharmacology and Signaling (MNPS) Study Section reviews hypothesis-driven and discovery-based applications on neurotransmitter and transduction with a focus on neurochemical, neuroendocrine and molecular neuropharmacological mechanisms.

This includes studies of receptor signaling, ligand-receptor interactions, bias, neuromodulator and hormonal interactions, neurotransmitter uptake and reuptake, neurotransmitter and neuropeptide synthesis, and behavioral neuropharmacology. Studies employ molecular, cellular, biochemical, pharmacological, electrophysiological, chemogenetic, viral, transgenic, imaging, and behavioral approaches. Emphasis is on fundamental cellular and molecular mechanisms, including those relevant to addiction and mental disorders.

The List of Reviewers lists all present, whether standing members or temporary. The full scope of expertise present on that date. Lists are posted 30 days before the meeting, pending any last minute changes.

Review Dates

- > List of Reviewers on 06/10/2021
- > List of Reviewers on 02/25/2021
- > List of Reviewers on 10/22/2020

<https://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections/StandingStudySections>

If you are invited to serve...you will work closely with your scientific review officer (SRO).



- Your SRO will provide ample training in advance of the review meeting through a pre-meeting training session and will read your critiques in advance and provide feedback.
- Typically, you'll receive review assignments ~ 6 weeks in advance of the review meeting.
- Your SRO will also make sure you know what to expect at the meeting.

And now to hear from some recent ECRs...



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