Corridor Talk: necessary informal "inside" information

NIH, Its Institutes, and Its Funding Mechanisms for Medical Research

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cor - ri -dor talk *n* 1: the practice of passing on tips, insights, and strategies about the means of production of academic work (as at professional conferences, where, it is frequently remarked, the most important business takes place "out in the corridor" rather than inside the meeting rooms) 2: nonascribable (off-the-record) but necessary information; practical gossip 3: commonsense, informal (not publicly taught) mentoring; the unsaid, but frequently said anyway (though not to everyone).

Goals

- 1. Overview of NIH.
- 2. Briefly cover NIH procedures.
 - Normal pathway for a grant proposal
 - Roles of NIH
 - Roles of PI
 - Ways you can help in process
 - Things not to do

Provide researchers new to NIH with information to help improve the overall quality of new proposals in biomedical engineering research.

The Government is a very big place. NIH is a pretty big place.

Give a basic introduction to the National Institutes of Health.

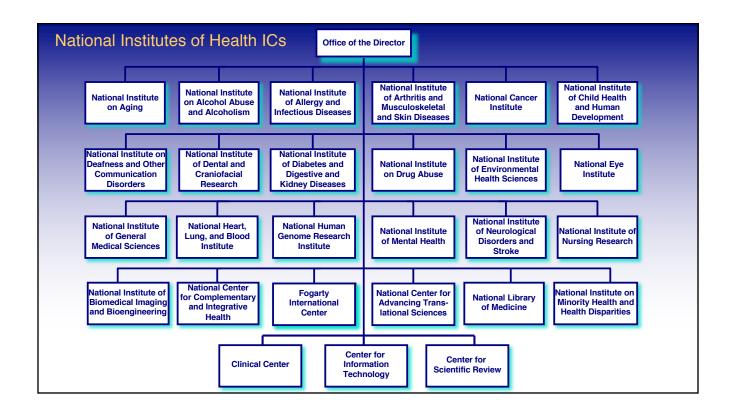
Give a basic introduction to the NIH funding picture and some basic differences from NSF

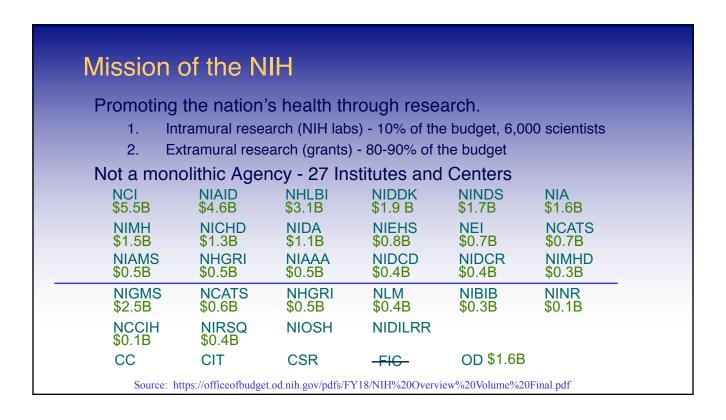
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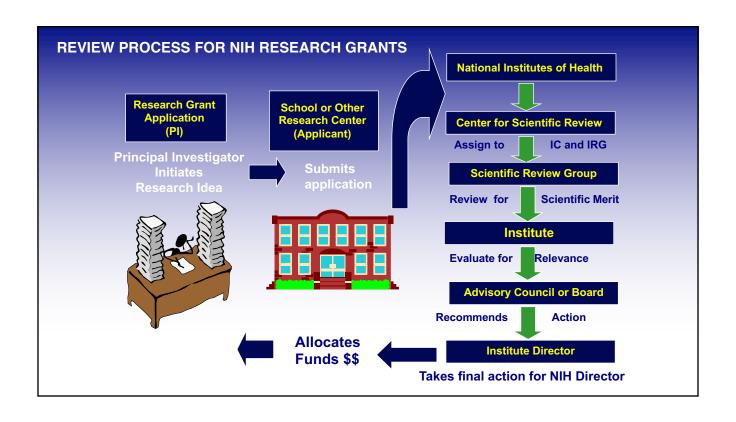
DARPA: \$3.0 Billion NSF: \$8.0 Billion NASA: \$19.3 Billion DOE: \$32.5 Billion

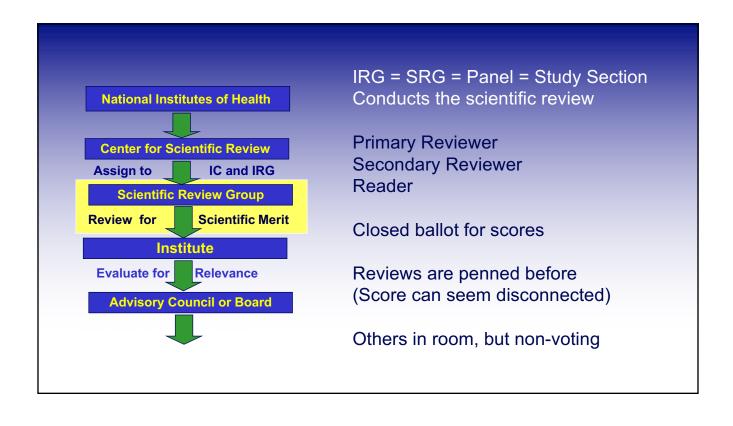
NIH: \$32.6 Billion

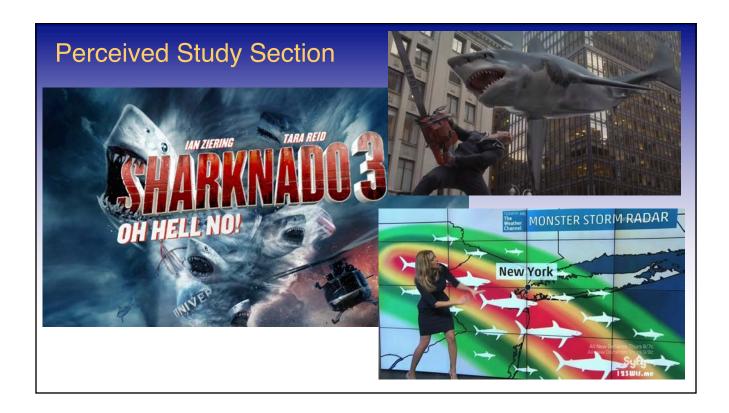
Source: the 2017 Presidential budget request







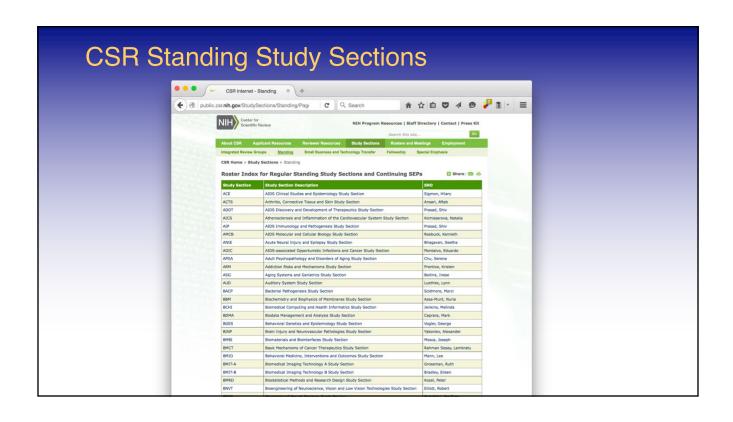


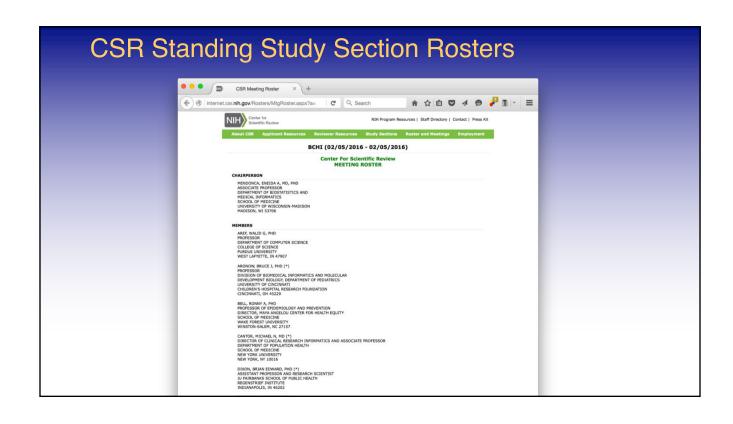


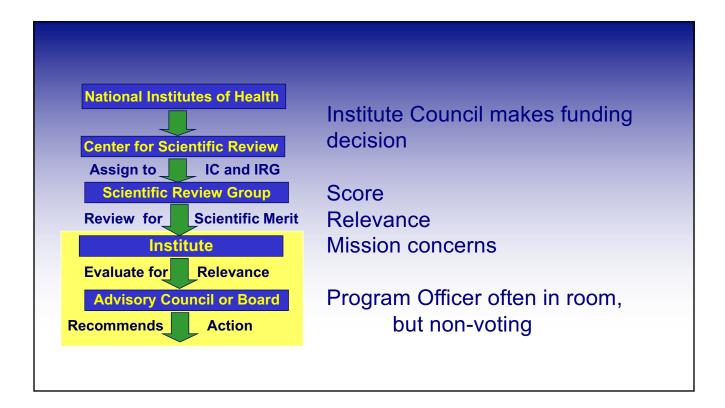
CSR Study Sections



- 1. Each CSR standing study section has 12-24 members who are primarily from academia
- 2. CSR standing study sections convene face-to-face meetings
- 3. As many as 60-100 applications are reviewed by each study section







How do you decide where to send your grant?

Many institutes to choose from

Which one is right?

Look at mission statements of likely institutes Does your research fit?

Is there a PA or RFA on your research area?

How to find out about these?

Use the NIH website to search them www.nih.gov

- No PA or RFA? OK if no RFA ("Investigator Initiated" R01)
- Which institute(s) is right?
 - 1. Mission statements
 - 2. How to narrow them down?
 - · Look at portfolio for those institutes
 - 3. Perhaps it is better not to narrow them down
 - · Double listing can be best
 - Paylines and priorities differ
- Speak with Program Officers

Ask ADVICE from the Program Officer

- Tell him/her about your research goals
 - What type of grant are you going for?
- Ask:
 - Is this the right institute?
 - Should I have a dual funding assignment?
 - What study section would be good for my grant?
 - Any comments on the science?
- How are new Pls helped?
 - On your PHS398, check the box for new investigators
 - You are new until you get your first RO1, smaller grants don't count
 - If you have a good relationship with Program officer and he/she needs your app to fill in a gap in his portfolio

You might get rescued from the no fund pile and put in for funding even with a worse score than others

Your number one goal must be to become a face or name, rather than a proposal number!

Investigate study section

- CSR Assisted Referral Tool (ART)
- Make sure that someone on that panel knows your field and the techniques you will be using
- If no one is available on panel
 - Once you get your SRO and study section assignment, write a letter asking for someone in a particular field or area of expertise to be added to the study section

What not to do?

- 1. Never Demand
- 2. Never ask for snap decision (ask advice)
- 3. Never contact IRG members!
- 4. Never assume that the IRG member you don't like "did you in" in the meeting.
- 5. Never ignore comments, even from "stupid" reviewers

