



# NIH Grant Reviews: Assignment & Peer Review Process

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# Center for Scientific Review (CSR)

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- Mission: Provide fair, independent, expert, and timely review of NIH grant applications
- Portal for NIH grant applications and their review for scientific merit
- Organize peer review groups or study sections that evaluate 70% of NIH grant applications



# Journey of a Grant through CSR

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- Grant is assigned to a review group and an NIH Institute or Center
- Assignment notice available in NIH Commons
- Reviewers are identified
- Review meeting convenes
- Results are available in NIH Commons
- NIH Institute or Center takes charge



# Grant Assigned to Review Group and NIH Institute or Center

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- CSR Referral Officer reviews grant; determines most appropriate Integrated Review Group (IRG) to assess it for scientific merit
- Grant is then assigned to one of the IRG's Study Sections for *review* (e.g., the NSAA of the HOP)
- Grant is assigned to NIH Institute or Center best suited to *fund* application (e.g., NINR, NIMH)



# IRGs and Study Sections

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- CSR comprehensive list of IRGs and Study Sections located at:  
<http://cms.csr.nih.gov/PeerReviewMeetings/CSRIRGDescription/>
- Includes names and descriptions of the IRGs and Study Sections of the CSR. Can use this as a reference for composing your cover letter requesting that a specific IRG and Study Section review your grant.



## IRGs and Study Section

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- There are currently 23 IRGs (e.g., “Health of the Population (HOP)”)
- Within each IRG, there are 10-15 Study Sections which your grant may be assigned to for review (e.g., “Nursing Science: Adults and Older Adults Study Section [NSAA] Study Section of the HOP”)



# Grant Cover Letters

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- Can be used to suggest a particular Institute or Center most likely to fund the grant because of their area of scientific interest
- If investigator has discussed the application with a specific Program Director, this should be noted
- Can also request a particular IRG and Study Section best suited to review the grant (e.g., the NSAA of the HOP)



# Assignment Notice Available in NIH Commons

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- Grant normally logged into NIH Commons within 2 weeks of submission
- Within 6 weeks grant is assigned to an IRG and study section
- 10 days later you can view the assignment in NIH Commons
- Can contact Scientific Review Administrator (SRA) re: your assignment



## Status Information

<b>General Grant Information</b>		<b>Other Relevant Documents</b> ?
<b>Status:</b>	Scientific Review Group review completed: Council review pending. Refer any questions to Program Official.	
<b>Institution Name:</b>	COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER	
<b>School Name:</b>		
<b>School Category:</b>		
<b>Division Name:</b>		
<b>Department Name:</b>		
<b>PI Name:</b>		
<b>Grant #:</b>		
<b>Proposal Title:</b>		
<b>Proposal Receipt Date:</b>	10/01/2005	
<b>Last Status Update Date:</b>	02/27/2006	
<b>Current Award Notice Date:</b>		
<b>Application Source:</b>	Paper	
<b>Project Period Begin Date:</b>	07/01/2006	
<b>Project Period End Date:</b>	06/30/2008	
<b>PI eApplication Status:</b>		
<b>SO eApplication Status:</b>		
		<a href="#">e-Application</a> <a href="#">Summary Statement</a>

Status History		
Effective Date	Status Message	Primary Institute or Center Assignment
		Institute Name Institute Center Assignment Date
02/27/2006	Scientific Review Group review completed: Council review pending. Refer any questions to Program Official.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NURSING RESEARCH 10/12/2005
10/21/2005	Scientific Review Group review pending. Refer any questions to the Scientific Review Administrator.	
10/11/2005	Application entered into system	

Application Information		Study Section	Advisory Council(AC) Information
Award Document Number:	RNR010001A	Init. Review Group: NSAA	Meeting Location: Conference D Natcher Building 45 Center Drive National Institutes of Health Bethesda
FSR Accepted Code:	N	Council Meeting 200605	Meeting Date: 05/24/2006
Snap Indicator Code:		Date(YYYYMM):	Meeting Time: 0900
		Meeting Location: 1960 Chain Bridge Road Holiday Inn, Tysons Corner McLean	
		Meeting Date: 02/23/2006	
		Meeting Time: 0800	
		Study Roster: <a href="#">View Roster Member Details</a>	

Contacts			
Administration	Name	Phone	Email
Scientific Review Administrator(SRA)	McFarland, Gertrude K.	(301) 435-1784	<a href="mailto:mcfarlag@csr.nih.gov">mcfarlag@csr.nih.gov</a>
Grants Management Specialist(GMS)	Osterk, Kelli	301.594.2177	<a href="mailto:osterk@mail.nih.gov">osterk@mail.nih.gov</a>
Program Official(PO)	Huss, Karen	301.594.5970	<a href="mailto:hussk@mail.nih.gov">hussk@mail.nih.gov</a>

<b>Status History</b>			
<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Status Message</b>	<b>Primary Institute or Center Assignment</b>	
		<b>Institute Name</b>	<b>Institute Center Assignment Date</b>
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		Meeting Date: 02/23/2006	
		Meeting Time: 0800	
		Study Roster: <a href="#">View Roster Member Details</a>	
<b>Contacts</b>			
<b>Administration</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
Scientific Review Administrator(SRA)(at the CSR)	McFarland, Gertrude K.	(301) 435-1784	<a href="mailto:mcfarlag@csr.nih.gov">mcfarlag@csr.nih.gov</a>
Grants Management Specialist(GMS)	Oster, Kelli	301.594.2177	<a href="mailto:osterk@mail.nih.gov">osterk@mail.nih.gov</a>
Program Official(PO) (at the NINR)	Huss, Karen	301.594.5970	<a href="mailto:hussk@mail.nih.gov">hussk@mail.nih.gov</a>

Nursing Science: Adults and Older Adults Study Section [NSAA]



# Reviewers are Identified

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- SRA selects study section members
- Members received copies of application 6 weeks prior to review
- 2-3 members asked to provide written reviews
- 1-2 members serve as discussants



# Scientific Merit Review Meeting Convenes

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- Study section members meet for 2 days
- One member is chair and conducts meeting with SRA
- Assigned reviewers and discussants present evaluations
- After discussion, members mark their priority scores on scoring sheets which are tabulated later by CSR



# Results in NIH Commons

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- Within 1 weeks your priority score is available in NIH Commons
- Within 6 weeks, summary statement is available in NIH Commons, which includes:
  - Written critiques by reviewers
  - SRA's summary of discussion
  - Study section recommendations
  - Any additional administrative notes



## NIH Institute or Center Takes Charge

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- After review, an IC Program Officer will be your main point of contact
- Can help interpret results or answer questions about further consideration of your application
- 2-3 months later, an Advisory Council Review determines funding



# CUSON Expert Panel

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- Nancy Reame, PhD, FAAN
  - Peer Review Process
- Suzanne Bakken, DNSc, RN
  - Scoring Process
- Pat Stone, PhD, RN
  - How to be “kind” to your reviewers