Open Mike

A Look at NIH Support for Model Organisms, Part Two
Posted on August 3, 2016 by Mike Lauer

We were pleased to hear the feedback on our previous post on NIH-funded model-organism research. One question a number of you asked is: what’s happening with research involving mouse models? Thanks to additional work by colleagues in NIH’s Office of Portfolio Analysis (OPA) and Office of Extramural Research/Office of Research Information Systems, I’m excited to be able to share on the blog today how we approached this question. We examined over 267,000 NIH grant applications submitted from FY2008 to FY2015, searching for the words “Mus musculus,” “mouse,” or “mice” in the descriptive text. Of these 267,000 applications, there were 190,329 applications (71%) that contained any of these keywords. Figure 1 shows the number of new R01 … Continue reading →

Model Organisms, Part 3: A Look at All RPGs for Six Models
Posted on August 24, 2016 by Mike Lauer

We are most appreciative of the feedback we’ve received, through the blog and elsewhere, on NIH support of model organism research. In part 1 of this series, we mentioned that we asked two separate groups to analyze NIH applications and awards. In parts 1 and 2 we primarily focused on R01-based data that were curated and analyzed by our Office of Portfolio Analysis. In part 3, we show results from a broader range of research project grant (RPG) data that were prepared and analyzed by our Office of Research Information Systems. This group used an automated thesaurus-based text mining system which delves into not only public data such as project titles, abstracts, public health relevance statements, but also the specific aims contained in RPG applications. … Continue reading →

NRSA Postdoctoral Stipend Guidelines for FY2017
Posted on August 30, 2016 by Mike Lauer

This month, NIH published the projected fiscal year 2017 stipend guidelines for postdoctoral trainees and fellows supported by National Research Service Awards (NRSAs). For NRSA-supported postdocs with less than one year’s experience, the stipend level will increase to $47,484. In keeping with the recommendation of the Biomedical Research Workforce Working Group of the NIH Advisory Committee to the Director, stipend levels then increase dependent on years of postdoctoral experience. … Continue reading →
**Reminder to Review Accuracy of Your Institution’s Grant Award Data before October 13**

As we turn the corner toward the end of the fiscal year, we’d like to remind research institution officials to review whether your awarded grants are accurately assigned to the correct department /school within eRA Commons. This ensures that the grants are reported correctly in tools like RePORT for year-end reporting, and displayed under the right division/school in eRA Commons. On October 13, data for the government’s fiscal year will be frozen. [Continue reading →](#)

**NIH Loan Payment Programs (LRPs) Accepting Applications Sept. 1 – Nov. 15**

The pursuit of academic research career can be a challenge, especially when faced with high levels of student loan debt. The escalating costs of advanced education and training are forcing some scientists to abandon their research careers for higher-paying private industry or private practice careers. In exchange for a commitment to conduct biomedical or behavioral research, the NIH will repay up to $70,000 of student loan debt (over two years) per two-year contract through the NIH Loan Repayment Programs (LRPs). If you are a qualified health professional who agrees to engage in NIH mission-relevant research for at least 20 hours per week at a nonprofit institution, you may be eligible to apply to the one of the five extramural LRPs: [Continue reading →](#)

**In 2017, Changes to Post-submission Materials and Appendix Policies**

Beginning with the January 25, 2017 application due date, NIH will change what post-submission materials are allowable, and will eliminate most appendix materials currently allowed in applications. [Continue reading →](#)

**New Resources**

**Want to Withdraw an Application? Now, Do it Electronically in eRA Commons**

Are you a Signing Official (SO) planning to withdraw your grant application? Instead of contacting the NIH Division of Receipt and Referral (DRR) directly, starting on Thursday, Sept. 8, you will be able to request the withdrawal electronically in eRA Commons. [Continue reading →](#)

**Listen and Learn About Application Submission Methods in the Latest “All About Grants” Podcast**

In the latest NIH All About Grants podcast, Sherri Cummins from the NIH Office of Extramural Research, discusses the various options for submitting grant applications to NIH. [Continue reading →](#)
You Ask, We Answer

How Can a PI Check Whether They are Eligible for Continuous Submission?
Principal investigators with an Internet Assisted Review (IAR) role — i.e. current and former reviewers — can check if they are eligible for continuous submission of their applications (being allowed extra time to submit and bypassing standard due dates) by going to their Personal Profile in eRA Commons…. Continue reading →

Calendar

September 5 (Monday), 2016: NIH Closed for Federal Holiday

NIH (including help desks) will be closed Monday, September 5, 2016 (Labor Day). If a grant application due date falls on this federal holiday, the application deadline is automatically extended to the next business day.

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