

APPLICATION TIPS





Get to Know NINDS

Program Staff

- **Us: tinyurl.com/RepairPlasticity**
- **OPEN: Office of Programs to Enhance Neuroscience Workforce Diversity**
- **Training & Workforce Development**

Is the research a good fit for the mission of the Institute?

- **NINDS Funding Strategy**
- **NINDS Past Councils**

Matchmaker

Enter abstracts or other scientific text to find potential Program Officials, ICs, and review panels for your research. ?

15,000 characters left

Similar Projects
 Similar Program Officials

Reset Search

reporter.nih.gov/matchmaker



Type or Mechanism

Activity code/Mechanism: R01, F31, F32, etc

What to consider

- Career stage
- Type of research: basic, translation, clinical
- Goal? Research, training, conferences/resources, loans, supplement existing funding

Funding Opportunity

[NINDS Funding Opportunities](#)

[NIH Guide to Grants and Contracts](#)

Filters

Grant Mechanism

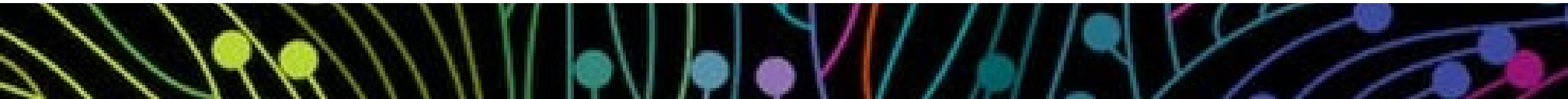
Research Category

Announcement Type

Trans NIH

[NIH Parent NOFOs](#)

ninds.nih.gov/funding/about-funding/types-research-support



Contact your Program Official (PO/PD)

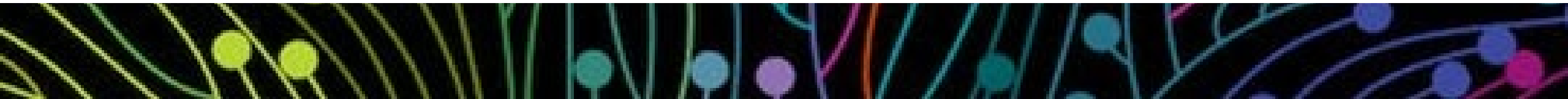
The screenshot shows the NIH RePORTER interface. On the left, under 'Contacts', the 'Administration: Program Official (PO)' is highlighted with a red box, showing contact details: Name: Official, Program; Phone: 301-555-5555; Email: eBaTest@mail.nih.gov. The main area shows 'Status Information' for a grant application (1 R21 CA123456-01) with details like PI Name: Cantor, Georg; Project Title: Algorithmic Cancer Forecasting and Disruption; and Application Status: Application awarded.

**OPEN
&
Training**

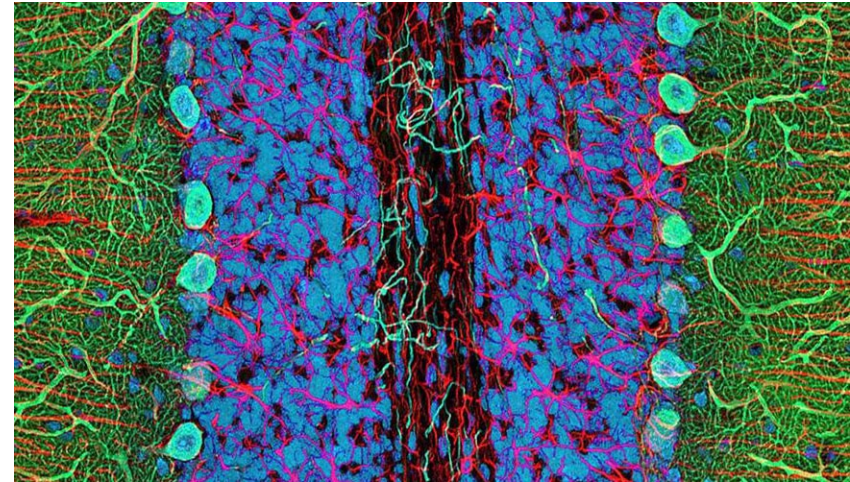
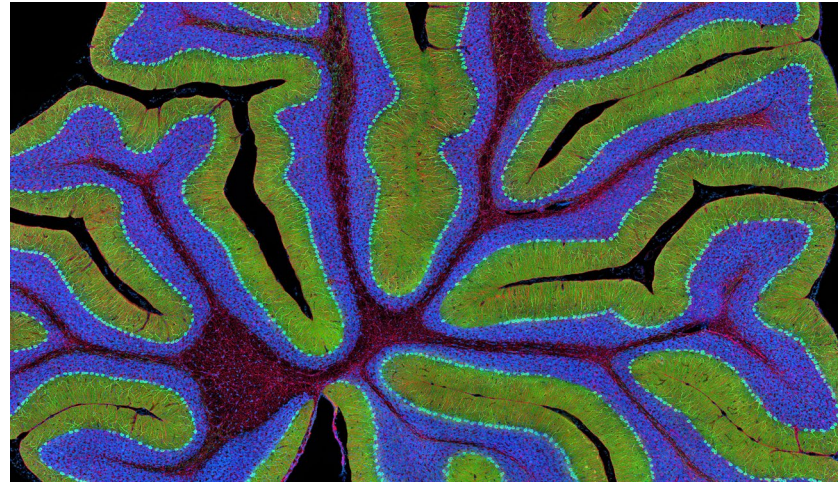
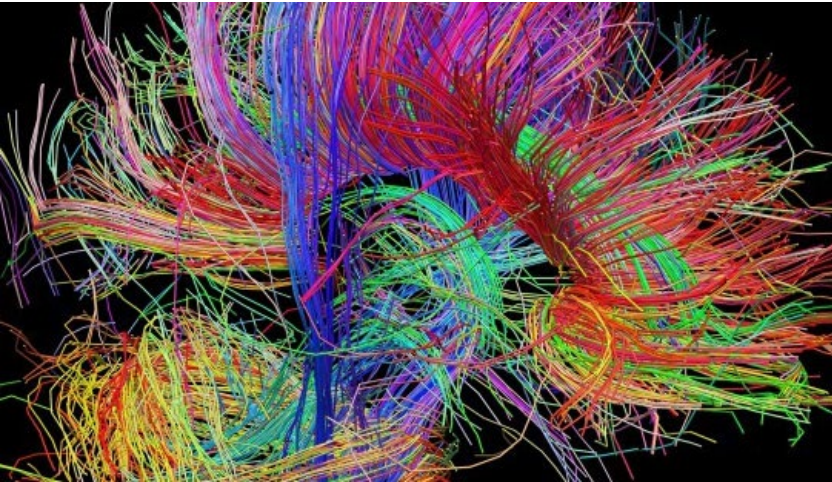
The screenshot shows the NIH RePORTER search interface. It features the NIH RePORTER logo, a 'Quick Search' section with a search bar containing 'Search RePORTER' and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, it says: 'Enter just about anything to find NIH projects and funding information: text, PI names, project numbers, fiscal year, agency'.

tinyurl.com/RepairPlasticity

- Most POs prefer to be contacted by email rather than a “cold call”
- Share your Specific Aims/brief project description in advance
 - Helps PO assess “mission-relevance” and fit with NOFO
 - May facilitate follow-on discussions
- Initiate contact early in the application process
- You may talk to several POs before deciding where to submit
- Check out these videos: [What is a PO](#) and [what to discuss with you PO](#)



Putting Together your Application



Before You Start Your Application

Take a step back and view the process of writing the grant not only for money/funding, but as an exercise to organize a vision of your research, a timeline for your career development and as a vehicle to have focused engagement with your mentor



Remember – you shouldn't do this alone!
Engage your mentors and peers in the process

Be specific:

My goal is _____

My research question is _____

At the end of this award, I will be ready to _____

Work backward from your end goal - where do you need to be in: Discipline-specific knowledge, technical skills, communication skills, leadership skills, etc.

What will you learn from each identified mentor?

Are all your areas of development covered?

Be consistent
Be realistic
Be explicit

Step 1

- Define your career goals and research interests

Step 2

- Perform a skills “gap analysis”

Step 3

- Build a career/training plan that is tailored to your needs
- Seek guidance and mentorship!

Step 4

- Read instructions and put it all together!
- Get LOTS of feedback

A Quick Overview of a NOFO

Department of Health and Human Services

Part 1. Overview Information

Participating Organization(s)	National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Components of Participating Organizations	<p>National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) National Cancer Institute (NCI) National Eye Institute (NEI) National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) National Institute on Aging (NIA) National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) National Library of Medicine (NLM) Office of Research Infrastructure Programs (ORIP) National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)</p> <p>Special Note: Not all NIH Institutes and Centers participate in Parent Announcements. Applicants should carefully note which ICs participate in this announcement and view their respective areas of research interest and requirements at the Table of IC-Specific Information, Requirements, and Staff Contacts website. ICs that do not participate in this announcement will not consider applications for funding. Consultation with NIH staff before submitting an application is strongly encouraged.</p>
Funding Opportunity Title	Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Predoctoral Fellowship (Parent F31)
Activity Code	F31 Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Grant Award
Announcement Type	Reissue of PA-20-246 - Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Predoctoral Fellowship (Parent F31)

Research must align within the mission of a participating IC

Make sure you apply to the right grant program for you and your research

Application Due Date(s)	Standard dates apply, by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization. All types of non-AIDS applications allowed for this funding opportunity announcement are due on these dates. Applicants are encouraged to apply early to allow adequate time to make any corrections to errors found in the application during the submission process by the due date.
AIDS Application Due Date(s)	Standard AIDS dates apply, by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization. All types of AIDS and AIDS-related applications allowed for this funding opportunity announcement are due on these dates. Applicants are encouraged to apply early to allow adequate time to make any corrections to errors found in the application during the submission process by the due date.
Scientific Merit Review	Standard dates apply
Advisory Council Review	Not Applicable for Fellowships
Earliest Start Date	Standard dates apply
Expiration Date	September 8, 2023
Due Dates for E.O. 12372	Not Applicable

Required Application Instructions
 It is critical that applicants follow the Fellowship (F) instructions in the [SF424 \(R&R\) Application Guide](#) except where instructed to do otherwise (in this FOA or in a Notice from the [NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts](#)). Conformance to all requirements (both in the Application Guide and the FOA) is required and strictly enforced. Applicants must read and follow all application instructions in the Application Guide as well as any program-specific instructions noted in Section IV. When the program-specific instructions deviate from those in the Application Guide, follow the program-specific instructions. **Applications that do not comply with these instructions may be delayed or not accepted for review.**

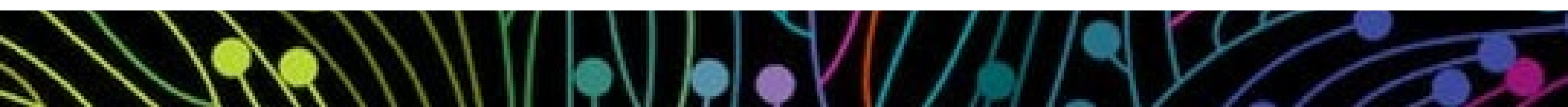
There are several options available to submit your application through Grants.gov to NIH and Department of Health and Human Services partners. You **must** use one of these submission options to access the application forms for this opportunity.

1. Use the NIH ASSIST system to prepare, submit and track your application online.
[Apply Online Using ASSIST](#)
2. Use an institutional system-to-system (S2S) solution to prepare and submit your application to Grants.gov and eRA Commons to track your application. Check with your institutional officials regarding availability.
3. Use [Grants.gov](#) Workspace to prepare and submit your application and eRA Commons to track your application.

Table of Contents

- Part 1. Overview Information
- Part 2. Full Text of the Announcement
 - Section I. Funding Opportunity Description
 - Section II. Award Information
 - Section III. Eligibility Information
 - Section IV. Application and Submission Information
 - Section V. Application Review Information
 - Section VI. Award Administration Information
 - Section VII. Agency Contacts
 - Section VIII. Other Information

Pay attention to your dates!



Are you and your institution eligible for this award?

Eligible Individuals (Program Director/Principal Investigator)

Any candidate fellow with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research as the Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) is invited to work with his/her sponsor and organization to develop an application for support. Individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups as well as individuals with disabilities are always encouraged to apply for NIH support. Multiple PDs/Pis are not allowed.

By the time of award, the individual must be a citizen or a non-citizen national of the United States or have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence (i.e., possess a currently valid Permanent Resident Card USCIS Form I-551, or other legal verification of such status).

The candidate must be at the dissertation research stage of training at the time of award and must show evidence of high academic performance in the sciences, and commitment to a career as an independent research scientist.

The candidate must be currently enrolled in a PhD or equivalent research degree program (e.g., EngD, DNSc, DrPH, DSW, PharmD, ScD) in the biomedical, behavioral, or clinical sciences at a domestic or foreign institution.

Students matriculated in a dual-degree program (e.g. MD/PhD, DO/PhD, DDS/PhD, or DVM/PhD) who seek support for both dissertation research training and clinical training are not eligible for this Kirschstein-NRSA F31 program because this F31 program does not support the clinical training component of a dual-degree program. Such students may apply for the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Predoctoral MD/PhD or Other Dual-Doctoral Degree Fellowship (Parent F30) to support both dissertation research training and clinical training.

Section V. Application Review Information

1. Criteria

Only the review criteria described below will be considered in the review process. Applications submitted to the NIH in support of the NIH mission are evaluated for scientific and technical merit through the NIH peer review system.

For this particular announcement, note the following:

- A Fellowship application has a research project that is integrated with the training plan. The review will emphasize the candidate's potential for a productive career, the candidate's need for the proposed training, and the degree to which the research project and training plan, the sponsor(s), and the environment will satisfy those needs.

Overall Impact

Reviewers will provide an overall impact score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood that the fellowship will enhance the candidate's potential for, and commitment to, a productive independent scientific research career in a health-related field, in consideration of the scored and additional review criteria.

Scored Review Criteria

Reviewers will consider each of the review criteria below in the determination of scientific merit, and give a separate score for each. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific impact.

Fellowship Applicant

- Are the candidate's academic record and research experience of high quality?
- Does the candidate have the potential to develop into an independent and productive researcher?
- Does the candidate demonstrate commitment to a research career in the future?
- Does the research project reflect a significant contribution of the candidate to the originality of the project idea, approach and/or hypotheses relative to the career stage of the applicant?

Section VII. Agency Contacts

We encourage inquiries concerning this funding opportunity and welcome the opportunity to answer questions from potential candidates.

Application Submission Contacts

eRA Service Desk (Questions regarding ASSIST, eRA Commons, application errors and warnings, documenting system problems that threaten submission by the due date, and post-submission issues)

Finding Help Online: <http://grants.nih.gov/support/> (preferred method of contact)

Telephone: 301-402-7469 or 866-504-9552 (Toll Free)

General Grants Information (Questions regarding application instructions, application processes, and NIH grant resources)

Email: GrantsInfo@nih.gov (preferred method of contact)

Telephone: 301-637-3015

Grants.gov Customer Support (Questions regarding Grants.gov registration and Workspace)

Contact Center Telephone: 800-518-4726

Email: support@grants.gov

Scientific/Research Contact(s)

Yuan Luo, Ph.D.

National Institute on Aging (NIA)

Telephone: 301-496-9350

Email: yuan.luo@nih.gov

Jamie Lahvic, Ph.D.

National Institute on Aging (NIA)

Email: NIATraining@nih.gov

Peer Review Contact(s)

Examine your eRA Commons account for review assignment and contact information (information appears two weeks after the submission due date).

Financial/Grants Management Contact(s)

Jessie Perez

National Institute on Aging (NIA)

Telephone: 301-402-7739

Email: perezj@mail.nih.gov

Table of Contents

Part 1. Overview Information

Part 2. Full Text of the Announcement

Section I. Funding Opportunity Description

Section II. Award Information

Section III. Eligibility Information

Section IV. Application and Submission Information

Section V. Application Review Information

Section VI. Award Administration Information

Section VII. Agency Contacts

Section VIII. Other Information

Understand the priorities and responsiveness criteria

What are reviewers looking for?

Ask questions!

After the review

- Read and re-read the summary statement
- Contact your program officer and be prepared to discuss:
 - Reviewer comments from summary statement
 - Scores and percentiles
 - Funding prospects
 - Resubmission and other options

Resources

- Archived webinars
- Tip sheets



NIH NINDS

Season 2

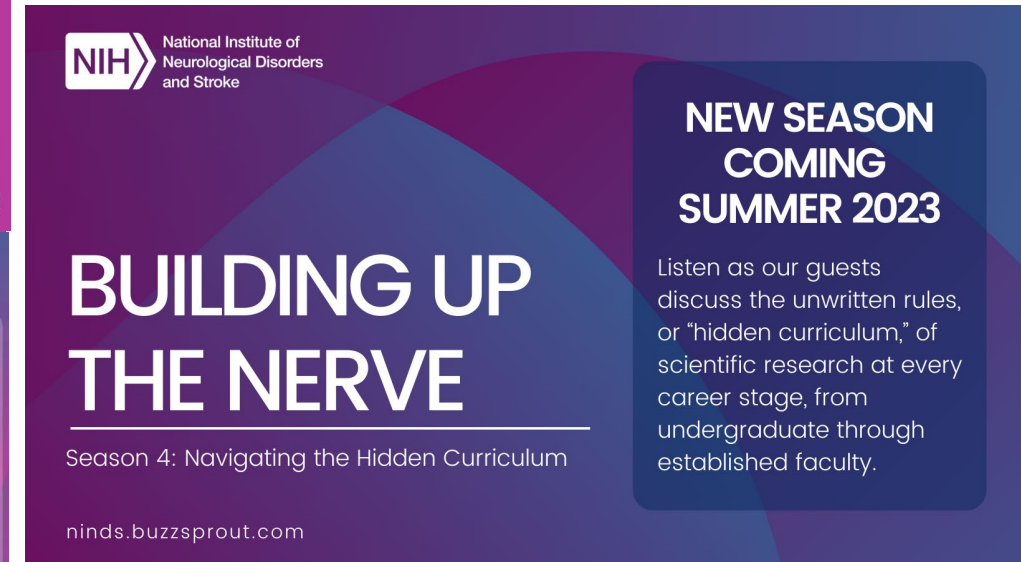
Learn about the components of a grant application with successful awardees.

We know that applying for NIH funding can be daunting, but we're here to help—it's our job!

Building up the Nerve

BUILDING UP THE NERVE
Season 3
A podcast about mentoring from NINDS

<https://ninds.buzzsprout.com/>



NIH National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

NEW SEASON COMING SUMMER 2023

Listen as our guests discuss the unwritten rules, or "hidden curriculum," of scientific research at every career stage, from undergraduate through established faculty.

BUILDING UP THE NERVE

Season 4: Navigating the Hidden Curriculum

ninds.buzzsprout.com

Available on all podcast platforms



NIH National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

OPEN STAGE
webinar series
Hosted by the
Office of Programs to
Enhance Neuroscience
Workforce Diversity

The NINDS Office of Programs to Enhance Neuroscience Workforce Diversity (OPEN) hosts the ongoing OPEN Stage webinar series, a targeted outreach effort for our diverse neuroscience community to learn about NINDS programs and network with NINDS program staff. Each webinar features a different NINDS program, division, or cluster with the goal of increasing the representation of diverse groups in our portfolio.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-YpIWL0Pmsl2nHB8ARnZdON0gzh8CJc>

Important considerations

NIH Data Management and Sharing Plan

Optimize the reach of data generated by NIH-funded research

New requirement as of January 2023!

Rigor and Transparency

Conduct unbiased research and support reproducibility of findings

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

Engage all segments of society in research

