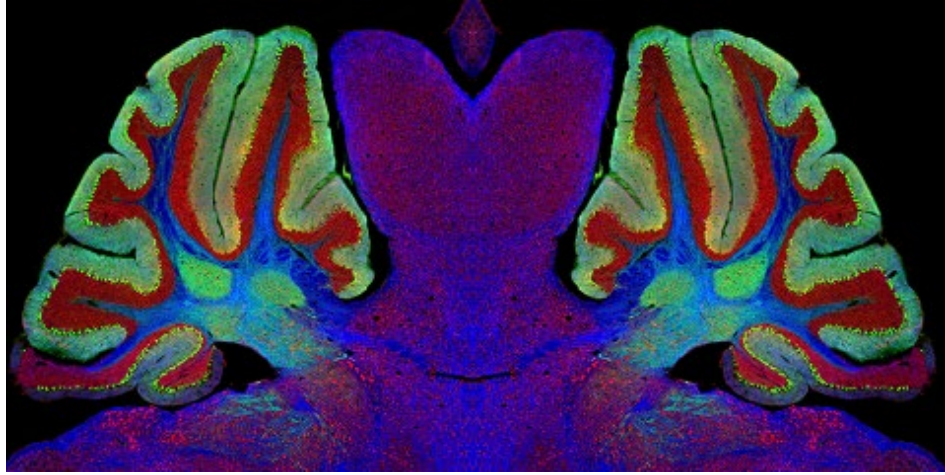
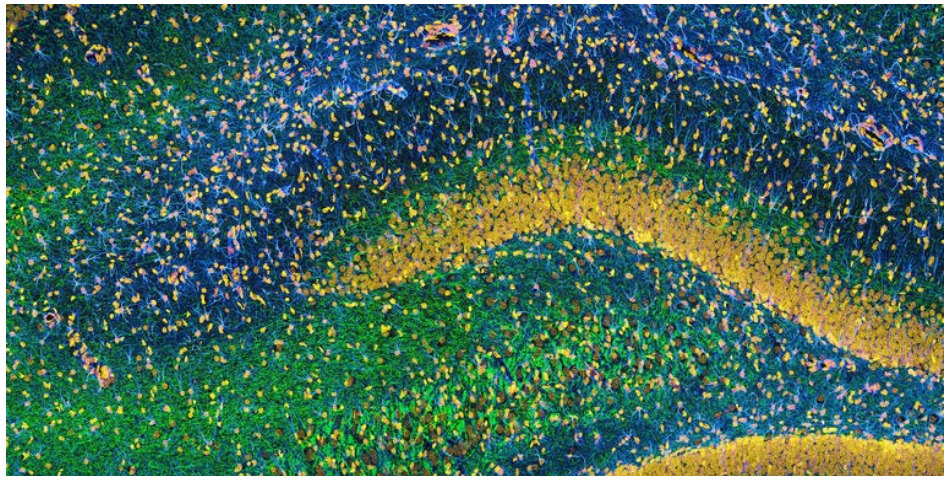
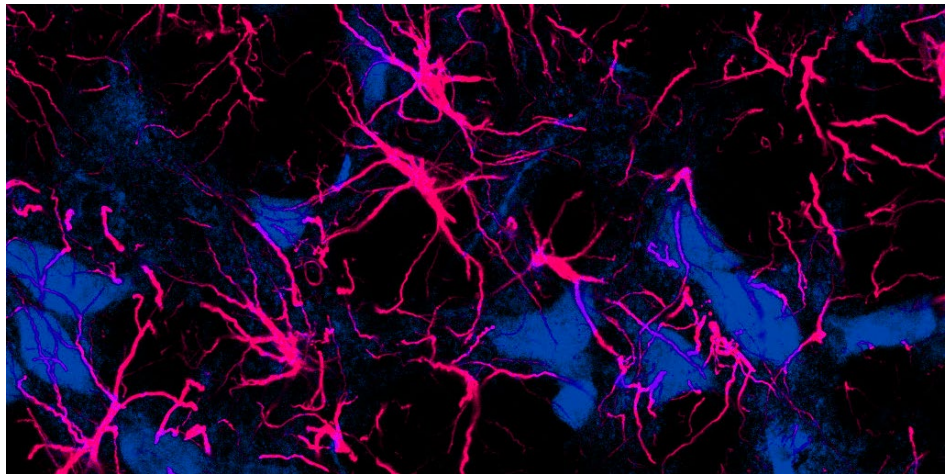
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

OPEN House: Early Career Faculty Awards and Opportunities

January 30, 2024

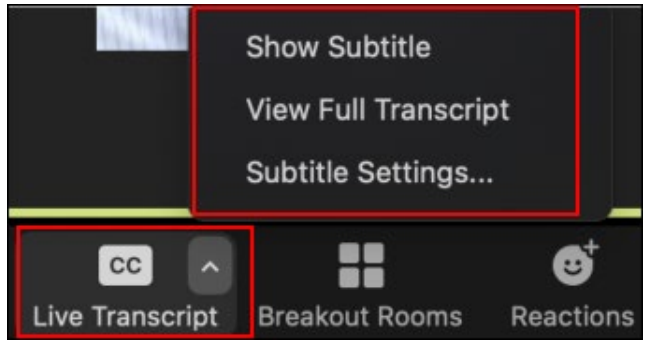






Housekeeping

- Captions and live transcript are available.
- Type any questions into the chat. Questions will be addressed in the breakout rooms after the presentation.
- The recording and webinar resource materials will be available in a few weeks.



Agenda

- Overview of NINDS
- Funding Opportunities
- Resources
- Breakout rooms

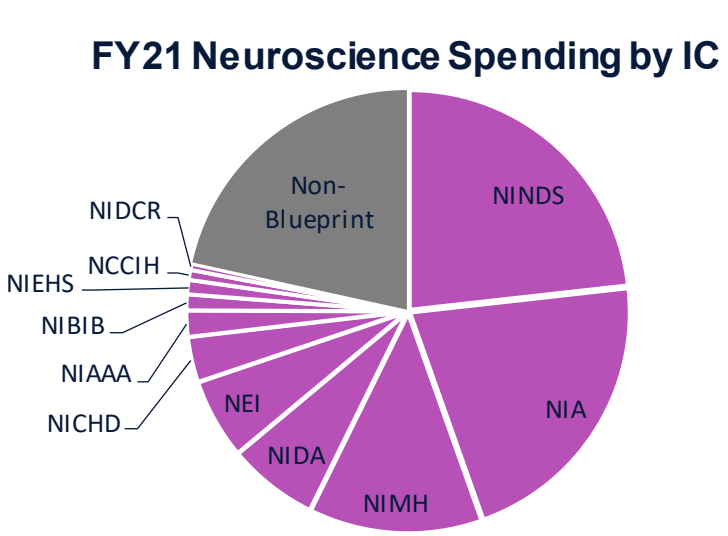
Speakers

Michelle Jones-London, PhD
Chief, Office of Programs to Enhance Neuroscience Workforce Diversity (OPEN)
NINDS/NIH

Lauren Ullrich, PhD
Program Director, OPEN
NINDS/NIH

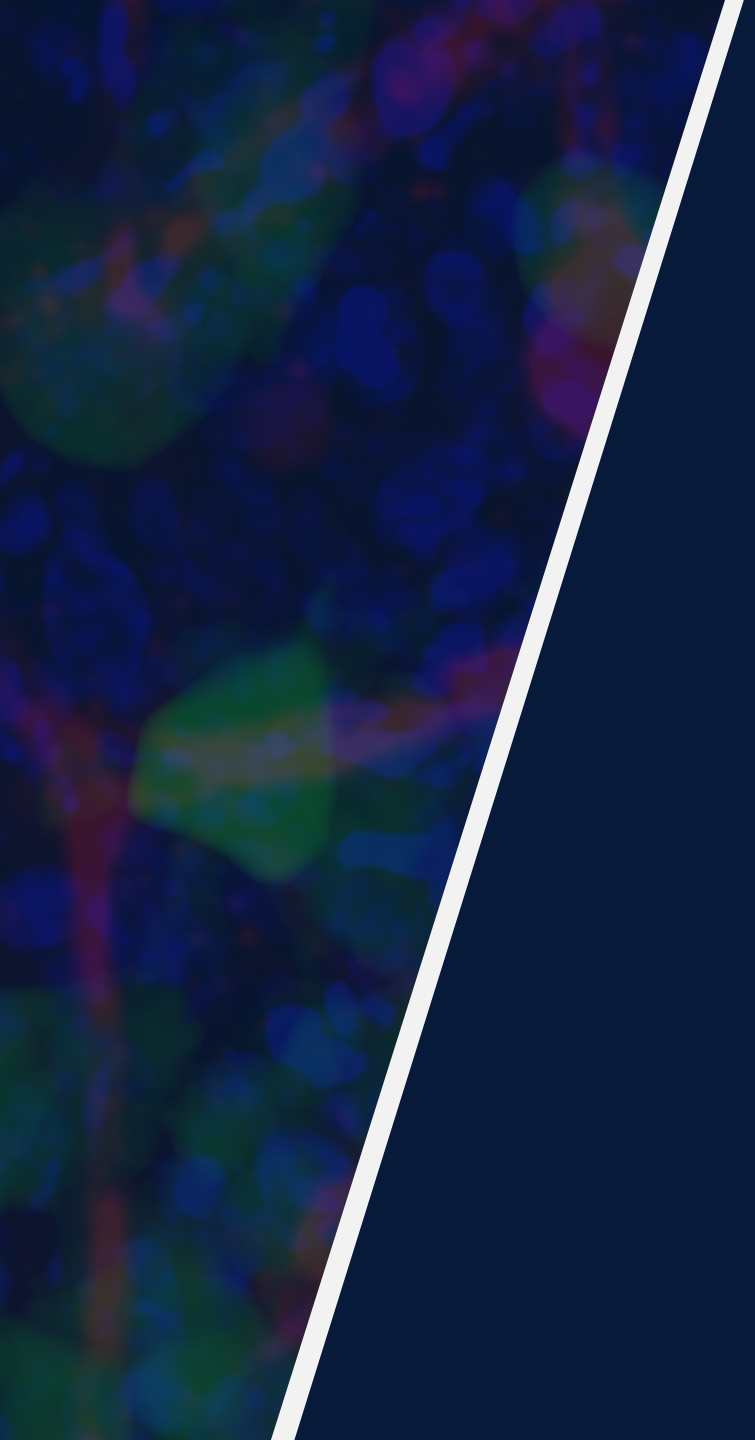
Mission of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

- NINDS' mission is to seek fundamental knowledge about the brain and nervous system and to use that knowledge to reduce the burden of neurological disease for all people.



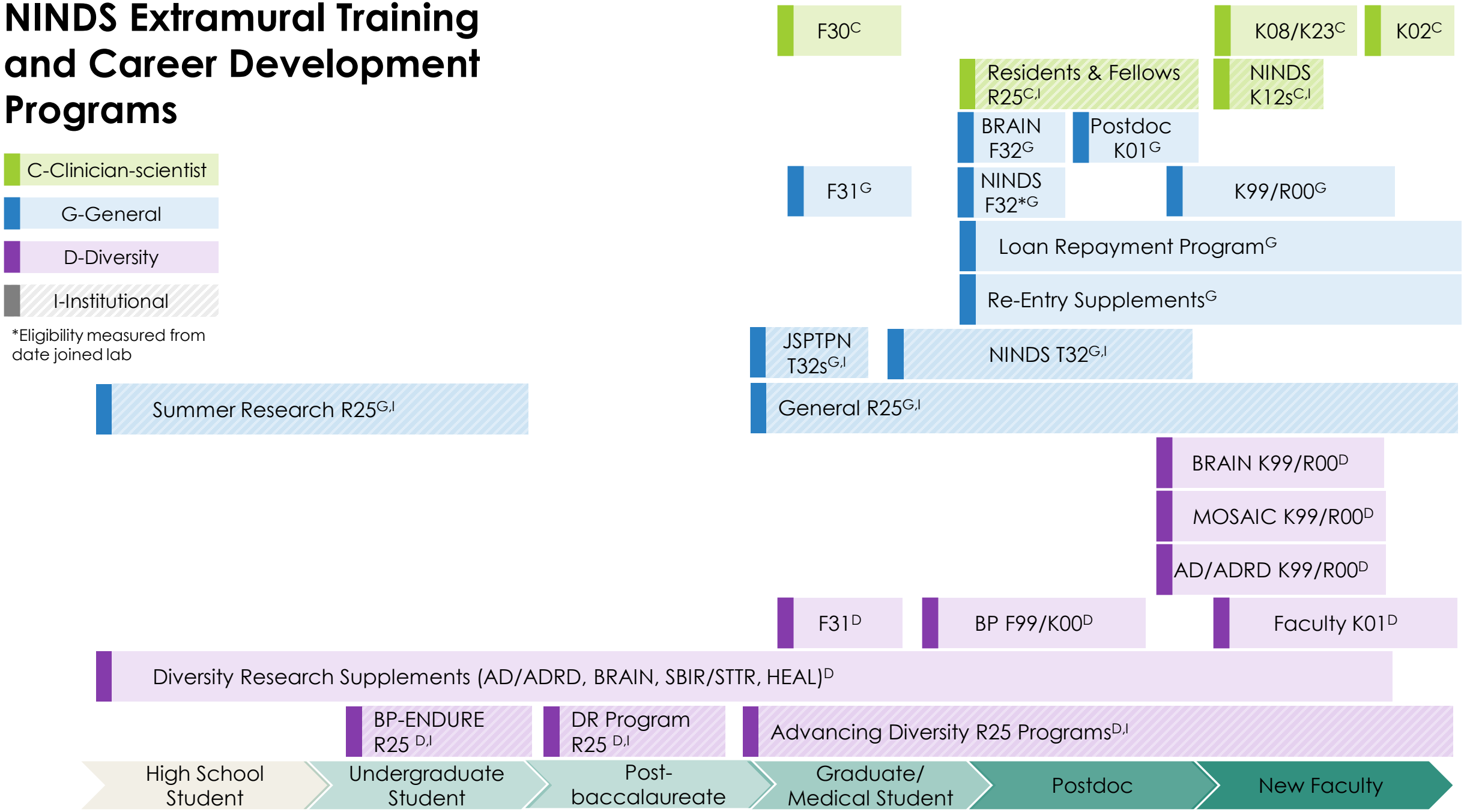
Find Your NINDS Program Officer!

- Have many names: Program Director, Health Scientist Administrator, Program Official
- Contact relevant POs listed on FOAs, IC websites, or in NIH RePORTER Matchmaker
  - 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 FOA
    - May facilitate follow-on discussions
  - Initiate contact early in the application process
  - You may talk to several POs before deciding where to submit
  - Follow up after you receive the summary statement



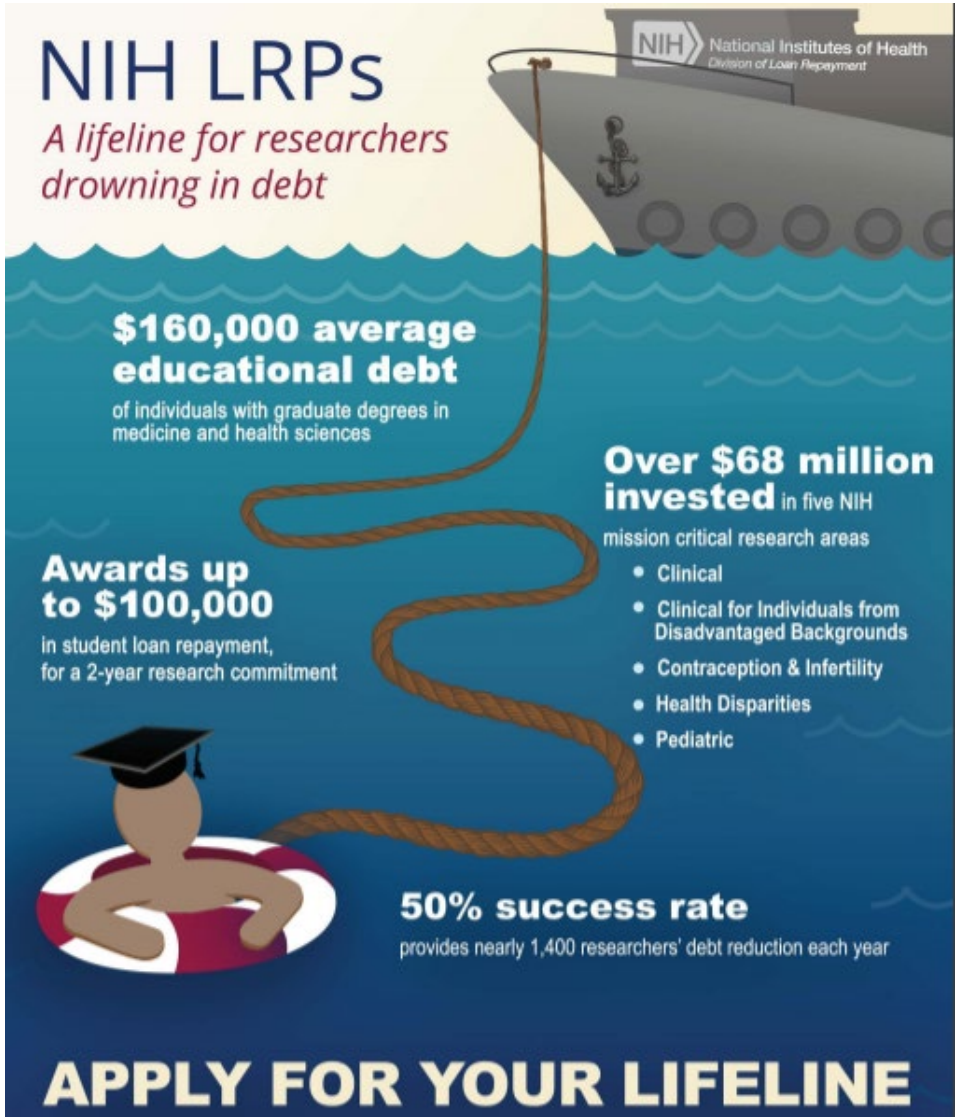
Funding Opportunities

NINDS Extramural Training and Career Development Programs



Loan Repayment Program

- To recruit and retain highly qualified health professionals into biomedical research careers
- Eligibility
  - US citizen or permanent resident
  - 20% debt-to-income ratio
  - Clinical, pediatric, health disparities, contraception and infertility research, clinical research for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, or research in emerging areas critical to human health
- Timing
  - Repays up to $50,000/year for two years of qualified educational debt in return for a commitment to engage in NIH mission-relevant research



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NINDS Faculty Development Award to Promote Diversity in Neuroscience Research K01

For support of diverse faculty scientists committed to research, in need of both mentored research training and additional experience

Eligibility

- Must have a tenure-track or equivalent position by time of award
- In the first 3 years of a faculty position
- Underrepresented background; US citizen or permanent resident

Timing

- Up to 5 years of support, last two years contingent upon sufficient progress

Additional Notes

- $95,000 salary, $100,000 research costs, plus fringe and indirect

Diversity K01 Requires Sponsorship

- Mentoring is expected to be appropriate for this stage of career and "quick start" the tenure process
  - i.e., navigate institutional expectations, scientific networks, and practices that are relevant to productivity and advancement at the institution
- Each mentor and co-mentor(s) should clearly describe how they will coordinate mentoring of the candidate.
- One of mentors should be at the institution

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Clinician K08 and K23

- To provide the opportunity for promising clinician scientists to develop into independent investigators, or for faculty members to pursue basic/translational or patient-oriented research
- Eligibility
  - Clinical doctoral degree holder
  - Must be within 5 years of completing clinical training (defined as sequential years of residency and clinical fellowships)
  - US citizen or permanent resident
- Timing
  - Supports up to 5 years of protected research time
  - 75% (50% neurosurgeons) full time professional effort to research and career development
- Additional Notes
  - $125,000 salary, $51,000 research costs

	Diversity R01 - PAR-22-181	ReWARD R01 - PAR-23-122
Purpose	To enhance the diversity of R01-funded investigators	To support the research of scientists who are making a significant contribution to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA)
PD(s)/PI(s)	New Investigators (including Early Stage Investigators) or At Risk Investigators from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups underrepresented in the health-related sciences (e.g., NOT-OD-20-031, NIH's Interest in Diversity)	Has no NIH Research Project Grant (RPG) funding at time of award and is making significant, sustained, and impactful, contributions to DEIA
Support for	Research in areas related to the programmatic interests of NINDS	Research in areas related to the programmatic interests of NINDS and ongoing DEIA activities focused on enhancing diversity in the US biomedical research enterprise
Participating ICs	NINDS; NIDA; NIMH; NINR; NIAAA; NHGRI; NIBIB; NCCIH; NEI; NIA	NIGMS; NEI; NHGRI; NIAAA; NIAMS; NIBIB; NIDCD; NIDCR; NIDA; NIMH; NINDS; NINR; NIMHD; NLM; NCCIH; OD; OBSSR; ORWH; NIEHS; NIH BRAIN Initiative

- **New Investigator, including ESI:** has not competed successfully for substantial, independent funding from NIH.
- **At-Risk Investigator:** has had prior support as a PI on a substantial independent research award and, unless successful in securing a substantial research grant award in the current fiscal year, will have no substantial research grant funding in the following fiscal year.

Smaller RPG Awards

R03: Small Research Grant Program

- Provides limited funding for a short period of time to support a variety of types of projects, including:
  - Pilot or feasibility studies
  - Collection of preliminary data
  - Secondary analysis of existing data
  - Small, self-contained research projects
  - Development of new technology, etc.
- Limited to two years of funding, and grants are not renewable
- Direct costs generally up to $50,000 per year
- Check NOFOs to see which ICs participate

R21: Exploratory/Developmental Research Award

- Encourages **new, exploratory and developmental** research projects by providing support for the early stages of project development
- Sometimes used for pilot and feasibility studies
- Preliminary data are not required but may be included if available
- Limited to up to two years of funding
- Combined budget for direct costs for the two-year project period usually may not exceed $275,000
- Not all Institutes/Centers participate in this program

Restricted Institutional Eligibility

R15: AREA & REAP

- Supports small-scale research projects conducted by faculty and students at institutions that haven't been recipients of major NIH research grant funds.
  - Program goals: (a) 3-yr support of meritorious research; (b) expose students to research; and (c) strengthen the research environment of the institution
  - Preliminary data are not required, but may be provided;
  - Direct costs are limited to $300,000 over the entire project period

R16: SuRE & SuRE-First

- R16: Supports research projects conducted by faculty and students in U.S. higher education institutions that receive limited NIH research support and serve students from groups underrepresented in biomedical research.
  - Goal to expose students to research, strengthen research opportunities for faculty
  - SuRE-FIRST investigator cannot have received previous NIH funding
  - Direct costs $100/$125k per year for 4 years.

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Read and understand the NOFO (formerly FOA)

- Confirm which Institutes and Centers (ICs) are participating
- Identify eligibility & budget restrictions
- Read the background section to understand priorities
- Read the responsiveness criteria, application instructions, and review criteria to understand requirements and expectations
- Contact appropriate NOFO contacts with any questions
  - Program Official (PO) = programmatic questions
  - Grants management = budget or grants policy questions

See: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/prepare-to-apply-and-register/understand-funding-opportunities.htm

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Better scored grants

- Clear significance, important problem, high impact
- High degree of novelty and innovation
- Demonstrated track record of a well-qualified applicant
- Clear rationale
- Relevant, supportive preliminary data
- Clear approach that will provide unambiguous results
- Careful attention to detail - spelling, grammar, error bars etc.
- RIGOR

Policies and Resources

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NIH Early-Stage Investigator (ESI)

- An individual who qualifies as a New Investigator and is within 10 years of completing his/her terminal research degree or is within 10 years of completing medical residency
  - With an R00 you retain your ESI status
- ESI extensions can be requested via an ESI Extension Request link found in the Education section of the PI's Personal Profile in eRA Commons
  - ESI extension for one year for each childbirth
  - Other reasons can include medical concerns, disability, family care responsibilities, natural disasters, and active duty military service- considered on a case-by-case basis.

ESI Status Has Its Benefits…

- Funding
  - NIH sets funding target ESIs and prioritizes R01 applications with meritorious scores for funding (i.e., attempt to create greater parity in success rates among early-stage and established investigators)
- Peer Review
  - Peer reviewers look more at potential than advanced track record
    - Weigh academic and research background
    - Expect new R01 investigators to have fewer preliminary data/publications than more established researchers
  - When feasible, early-stage investigator applications are not interspersed with those of established investigators at the review meeting

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Resources from CSR

- The NIH Center for Scientific Review (CSR) Early Career Reviewer (ECR) program
- Mock study section videos
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vx6qO8z9swQ
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAFth5aiBpU
- SR Initiatives to Address Bias in Peer Review
  - https://public.csr.nih.gov/AboutCSR/Address-Bias-in-Peer-Review

https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForReviewers/BecomeAReviewer/ECR

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NIH REPORTER

- To see what has already been funded in your research area – you can search RePORT (Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools) https://projectreporter.nih.gov
- Get to know projects that are ongoing in your research area
- Know potential collaborators and/or competition in the field
- Determine which NIH study sections review applications in specific fields
- Determine if there are any potential projects eligible for a supplement opportunities

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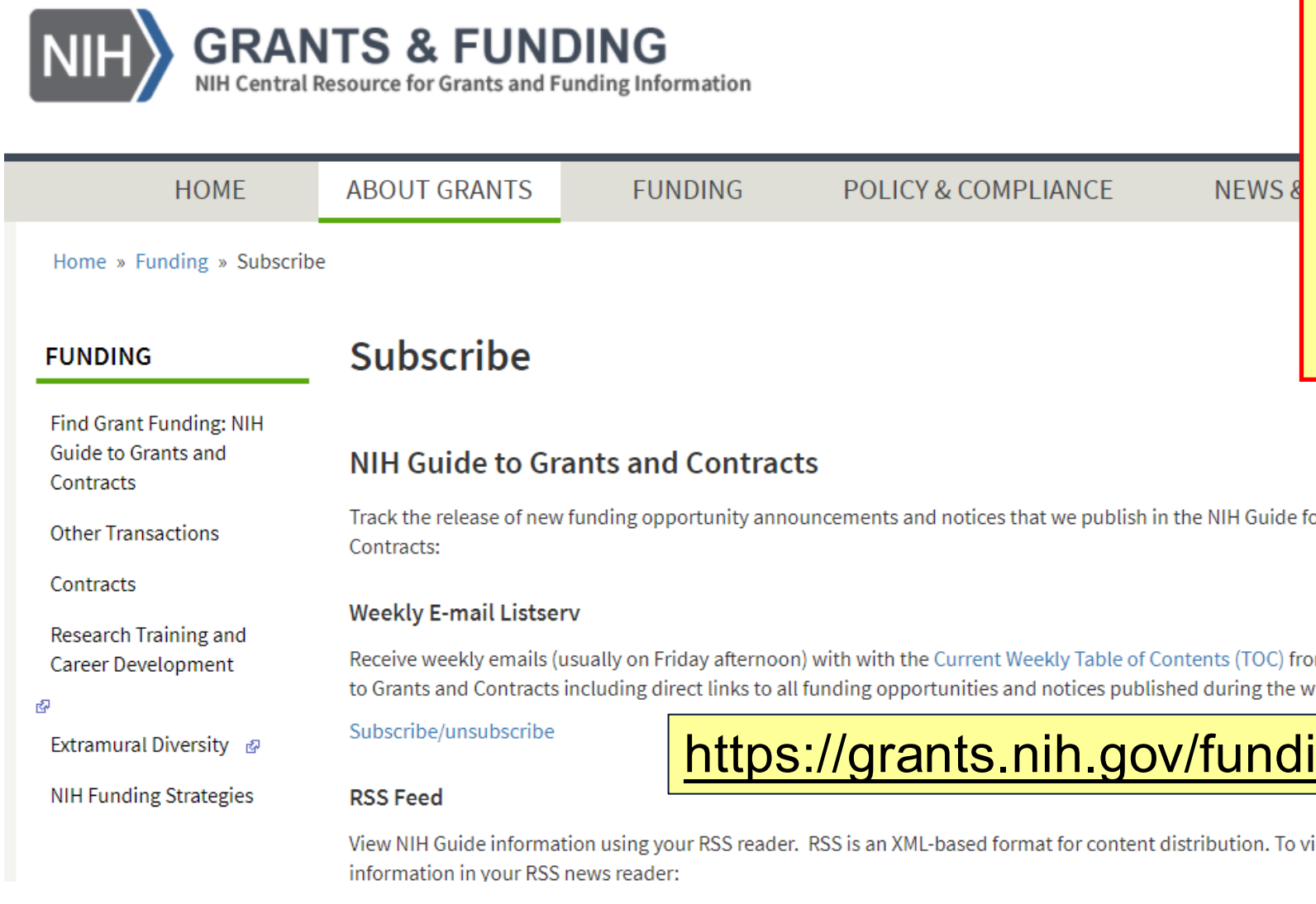

https://grants.nih.gov/funding/subscribe.htm

BUILDING UP THE NERVE

A PODCAST FROM NINDS

Navigating your career can be daunting.
We're here to help.

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

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BUILDING UP THE NERVE

A podcast from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, part of the National Institutes of Health

WITH HOSTS

Lauren Ullrich, PhD

Marguerite Matthews, PhD

SEASON 1

The Life Cycle of an NINDS Grant

We discuss the NIH grant process from application to award with NINDS Staff.

SEASON 2

Building a Grant Application

We discuss the components of fellowship & career award applications with awardees.

SEASON 3

Mentoring

We discuss strengthening your mentoring relationships with trainees and faculty.

SEASON 4

Demystifying the Hidden Curriculum

We discuss the unwritten rules of scientific training and careers with scientists.

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

OPEN STAGE

webinar series

Office of Programs to Enhance Neuroscience Workforce Diversity

A targeted outreach effort to engage diverse audiences with NINDS programs

Watch previous webinars on NIH NINDS Youtube

Follow our Twitter: @NINDSDiversity

Engagement

Connecting the diverse scientific community directly with program officers

Outreach

Providing equitable access to information on federal grants and programs

Opportunities

Enhancing the scientific workforce by funding diverse researchers

bit.ly/OPENStage

NIH Extramural Cohort Hiring: The NIH FIRST Program

- NIH Common Fund's **Faculty Institutional Recruitment for Sustainable Transformation (FIRST)** program aims to enhance and maintain cultures of inclusive excellence in the biomedical research community
- The NIH FIRST Cohort Program funded 15 awards & a coordinating center
- **As a postdoc fellow/junior faculty** –the programs will recruit your talent BUT also are required to provide environments for "inclusive excellence" and a Faculty Development Core (mentorship, retention plan, protected research time, etc.)
- https://www.first-cec.net/

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NINDS-Funded Mentoring Hubs

- NINDS has several **national programs** targeted to mentorship, professional development, and creating networks/cohorts **specifically for faculty**
  - *American Academy of Neurology* Training in Research for Academic Neurologists to Sustain Careers and Enhance the Numbers of Diverse Scholars (TRANSCENDS)
  - Broadening the Representation of Academic Investigators in NeuroScience (BRAINS)
  - Mentoring Institute for Neuroscience Diversity Scholars (MINDS)
  - San Diego Leading the Advancement of Underrepresented Neuroscientists for Change (LAUNCH) Program
  - Diversifying CNS: A Longitudinal Mentoring Approach to Increase Diversity Among Researchers of Neurological Disorders
- Funded programs to support other career stages available on our website.

OPEN Connections…

X/Twitter: @NINDSDiversity

Listserv *NINDS Diversity News to Use*
http://go.usa.gov/xkpN6

Email:
NINDSDiversityTraining@mail.nih.gov

Podcast: Building Up the Nerve
Subscribe at ninds.buzzsprout.com

Initial Point of Contact:

Michelle Jones-London

Lauren Ullrich

nindsdiversitytraining@mail.nih.gov

Breakout Rooms

- **Room 1:** Clinician Scientist programs - Tish Weigand and Marguerite Matthews

- **Room 2:** ReWARD & Diversity R01s – Michelle Jones-London

- **Room 3:** Diversity K01 – Lauren Ullrich

- **Room 4:** Programs 1 - Jenny Kim with:
  - MINDS (Gonzalo Torres)
  - SEE Diversity (Anne Etgen)
  - Diversifying CNS (Paul Mermelstein and Bob Meisel)

- **Room 5:** Programs 2 – Joe Sanchez with:
  - BRAINS (Claire Horner-Devine)
  - LAUNCH (JoAnn Trejo and Vivian Reznik)