

NIDDK Extramural Funding Trends and Support of Guiding Principles

The NIDDK's guiding principles toward achieving its core mission include maintaining a vigorous investigator-initiated R01 research portfolio, supporting pivotal clinical studies and trials, promoting a steady and diverse pool of talented new investigators, and fostering exceptional research training and mentoring opportunities consistent with the vision of the NIDDK Director, Dr. Griffin P. Rodgers (see Message from the Director). To highlight its dedication to these principles, the NIDDK generates data and analyses of application and funding trends.

Maintaining Investigator-initiated Research

The NIDDK is committed to maintaining a strong investigator-initiated R01 research program, while also allowing appropriate flexibility for other priorities, such as training and career development of the next generation of scientists; infrastructure; key initiatives, including large clinical trials and consortia; and other efforts informed by input from various sources, including the scientific community. Historically, investigator-initiated research has been—and continues to be—the Institute's highest priority because it fosters ground-breaking and innovative research.

Supporting Clinical Studies and Trials

The NIDDK supports a robust portfolio of clinical studies, from preliminary clinical feasibility studies to large multi-center studies. As part of this clinical research effort, the NIDDK seeks to ensure substantial representation and participation of women, minorities, and other historically underrepresented populations. The Institute also continues to expand investigator access to valuable research resources through ancillary studies and a central repository of data and samples.

Promoting a Steady and Diverse Pool of New Investigators

The NIDDK creates opportunities to help new investigators advance scientific discovery in their own laboratories. Each year, the NIDDK sets a more generous payline for Early Stage Investigators (ESIs) with the aim of enhancing ESI representation among new grant awardees. (ESIs are new investigators who completed their terminal research degree or medical residency within the past 10 years, and who have not yet competed successfully for a substantial, competing NIH research grant.)

Data and analyses of application and funding trends are updated annually and available at: www.niddk.nih.gov/research-funding/funded-grants-grant-history/funding-trends-support-core-values.

Fostering Research Training and Mentoring

The NIDDK also continues to foster the growth of a diverse biomedical research workforce by providing training and mentoring opportunities for talented young investigators, including the NIDDK's fellowship (F), career development (K), and training (T) awards. These and other NIDDK-supported opportunities aim to promote a diverse research workforce pipeline.

In support of these guiding principles, the NIDDK funds a wide range of research awards across its extramural research portfolio, including investigator-initiated grants (R01s); other R grants (*e.g.*, SBIR/STTR and many other types of grants); awards made in response to initiatives such as Requests For Applications (RFAs), including most of the Institute's large clinical trials and consortia; collaborative grants (*e.g.*, P01s); centers; career development awards; training grants; contracts and interagency agreements (*e.g.*, some large clinical studies); and other research.

In these unprecedented times, the COVID-19 pandemic has created new challenges for the biomedical research enterprise. This past year, the NIDDK obtained input from its Advisory Council on the scope of COVID-19's impact on Institute-supported research. Both NIH-wide policy changes and NIDDK efforts have enabled the Institute to implement several of the

Council's recommendations, including strategies to reinvigorate research across the Institute's mission. The NIDDK continues to look for ways to alleviate the burden of COVID-19 on researchers, scientific progress, and ultimately public health. (For more information on NIDDK efforts to combat COVID-19, please see the "Cross-Cutting Science" chapter.)

The data that the NIDDK generates on application and funding trends help the research community understand application and funding dynamics over recent years and demonstrate the NIDDK's commitment to research and programs associated with the guiding principles. The Institute posts these data on its public website and updates them annually: www.niddk.nih.gov/research-funding/funded-grants-grant-history/funding-trends-support-core-values.

