



# Early Investigator Advancement Program



Updated August 2024

## OVERVIEW

The Early Investigator Advancement Program (EIAP) is designed to assist eligible and qualified early stage investigators (ESIs) and new investigators (NIs) from institutions across the country in their professional and career development. The NCI Equity and Inclusion Program (EIP) established and supports EIAP. EIAP aims to assist cancer researchers and clinician-scientists to attain an R01 or R-type equivalent.



NCI encourages applications from individuals who have a strong interest in cancer or cancer health disparities research, who can commit to the program requirements, those who have previously applied, and individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups underrepresented in the cancer research workforce (for example, those from groups noted in the Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity [NOT-OD-20-031]).

The program can only accept 20–25 EIAP Scholars in each cohort. However, qualified applicants who were not selected as an EIAP Scholar are invited to participate as an EIAP Associate.

## WHAT DOES EIAP OFFER?

**Scholars are expected to participate in the following virtual program components:**

- » A Grant Writing Workshop (2 half days with free copy of a Grantsmanship Workbook)
- » Individual consultations with a nationally renowned NIH grants expert
- » Mentored Mock Review (MMR) session
- » Engagement with a volunteer mentor
- » Individualized consultation with EIAP team members
- » Engagement with a grant writing expert to review and help refine the Scholar's R01 in preparation for submission in October/November
- » Career development workshops and webinars
- » Continued engagement with EIAP team members beyond the Scholar's program period to provide support in the Scholar's path to success

**Associates are expected to:**

- » Attend a Grant Writing Workshop (2 half days with free copy of a Grantsmanship Workbook)
- » Observe MMR session
- » Participate in career development workshops and webinars



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### AM I ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible, candidates:

- » Must be an ESI or NI
- » Must be a citizen, non-citizen national, or legal permanent resident of the United States
- » Must hold a current position at an institution that is eligible for an R01 application and is supportive of the applicant's plan to work with their institution to submit an R01 application by October/November.

### EIAP SELECTION CRITERIA

NCI will conduct administrative reviews of submitted applications and will support the most meritorious applications based upon the programmatic priorities and availability of resources. Reviewers use the standard NIH Scoring Guidelines for the evaluation process.

The following general criteria will be used to evaluate all EIAP applications:

- » Research Experience and Accomplishments
- » Training and Professional Accomplishments
- » Institution Support
- » Draft R01 Proposal
- » Letters of Reference

### BECOMING AN EIAP SCHOLAR

Applicants must apply with a draft R01 (that is not currently under NIH review) to be considered for EIAP. Once the EIAP application has been submitted, it will be reviewed by NIH staff.

### APPLICATION MATERIALS

- » Background information, such as name, demographic information, statement of readiness to submit an R01 as part of the program, career goals, research areas of interest, and desired traits in a mentor
- » Draft R01 application that complies with NIH standards, including:
  - » Project Summary/Abstract (1 page)
  - » Specific Aims (1 page)
  - » Research Strategy (no more than 12 pages, to include the significance, innovation, approach, research design, justification, expected outcomes, and/or impact)
- » Institution letter
- » Two letters of reference
- » Biosketch

Please see the EIAP webpage for detailed requirements.

### EIAP APPLICATION TIMELINE



### WHERE DO I LEARN MORE?

For more information about EIAP, eligibility, and how to apply, please visit <https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/cche/diversity-training/eiap>.

Prospective candidates are strongly encouraged to contact EIAP Program Directors Maria Jamela Revilla, Ph.D., M.Sc., or Dan Eckstein, M.A., at [EIAP@nih.gov](mailto:EIAP@nih.gov).

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