

# Review, Resubmissions, and Renewals – The Program Perspective

Wanping Xu, PhD  
Program Director  
Cancer Cell Biology Branch

# Topics

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- Review
- Resubmission
- Renewal

## Goals

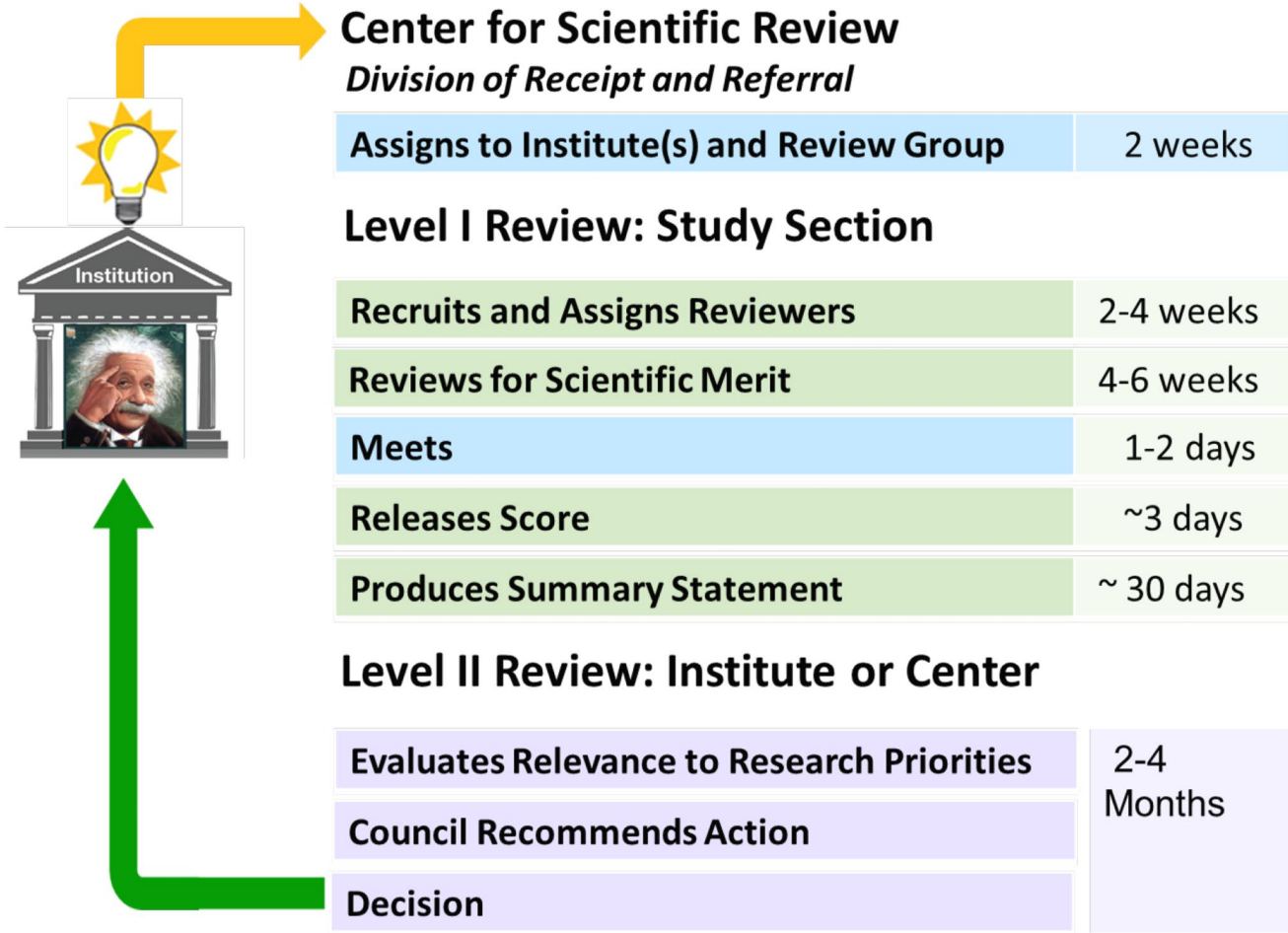
- Understand the role of a Program Officer as it pertains to application resubmission or renewal
- Understand the benefits and limitations of renewal applications

# Program Officer Responsibilities: Service Across the Grant Lifecycle

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- Before submission
  - Help in identifying FOAs, FOA special requirements, policies, updates, etc
  - Scientific priorities; science of proposed research
- After review
  - Interpreting the summary statement
  - Providing advise on next steps
- Before the award
  - Issues that need to be addressed/ JIT
- After the award
  - Annual progress report monitoring (RPPR); changes to grant; carryover; transfers
  - Supplements
  - Scientific advances, trends; advocate for an area of science

# Review and Funding of NIH Grant Applications



Dr. Amy Rubinstein  
Chief, Oncology 1 – Basic Translational (OBT)  
Integrated Review Group

# Interpreting the Unfavorable Summary Statement:

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- Read it through and put it aside
- Read it again, as objectively as possible. Talk to your Program Officer and mentor/senior collaborator
- Identify patterns
  - List all the strengths made by all reviewers, organized by criterion
    - Tells what resonated positively with the reviewers
  - List all the weaknesses or concerns
    - Similar concerns – clear direction of needs
    - Distinct concerns – unclear communication of goals?
  - General comments
- Plan your response

*AN IDEA IS WORTH NOTHING  
IF IT HAS NO CHAMPION*

That champion will be the reviewer(s) who will  
advocate for your application.  
Being adversarial to the reviewers will not help you.

# Composing the Introduction to the Resubmission:

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- Be direct and to the scientific points; respectful and thoughtful
- Summarize the strengths identified
  - Emphasize that these have been retained
- Carefully address the weaknesses, and summarize major changes
  - Take ownership of mistakes
  - Start with those mentioned in the Resume and Summary of discussion
  - Then address themes/issues common to the reviewers
  - Concisely describe how the issues were addressed, and whenever possible expand on how that changes the application/team etc
    - e.g., added a statistician with xxx expertise to help with yyy. Replaced model x with model x', which permits expression to allow for analysis of y'

# Introduction to the Resubmission: Dealing with Criticisms of the Approach

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- Rather than just saying deleted something – present why the experiments were there and that you can see where the reviewer is coming from
- Show thoughtfulness
  - Don't just say yes or delete everything to appease the reviewers
  - Think through the ask and if suggestion will not work, then propose alternative
  - Don't dismiss reviewers concern because their solution was not good – why did they suggest that? What is the underlying concern?
- Explain when it seems that the reviewer doesn't understand without being condescending
  - What does the reviewer need to know?



# Planning the Resubmission:

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- Get input – program staff, trusted mentors/peers, collaborators
- Collect new preliminary data or literature
  - Ensure that new prelim data are supportive of what it needs to be/demonstrate
- Rethink and refine methods, clarification of aims, significance
  - Include new/revised materials to satisfy reviewers' concerns
- Delete accordingly
  - Mention what has been deleted if substantive, so reviewers will know and not ask for it back
- Do not add material that is irrelevant to reviewers' concerns
- Plan and set aside time to rewrite

*Remember:*

*Reviewers review the application in front of them, not which application (-01 vs -01A1) is better.*

# Resubmit or New Application Considerations

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Original score –  
how far from  
payline

Study  
section vibe

No. of  
changes  
needed

Timeline

-O1 vs -A1?

The bottom line:  
Has the application  
changed significantly  
to justify an A0?

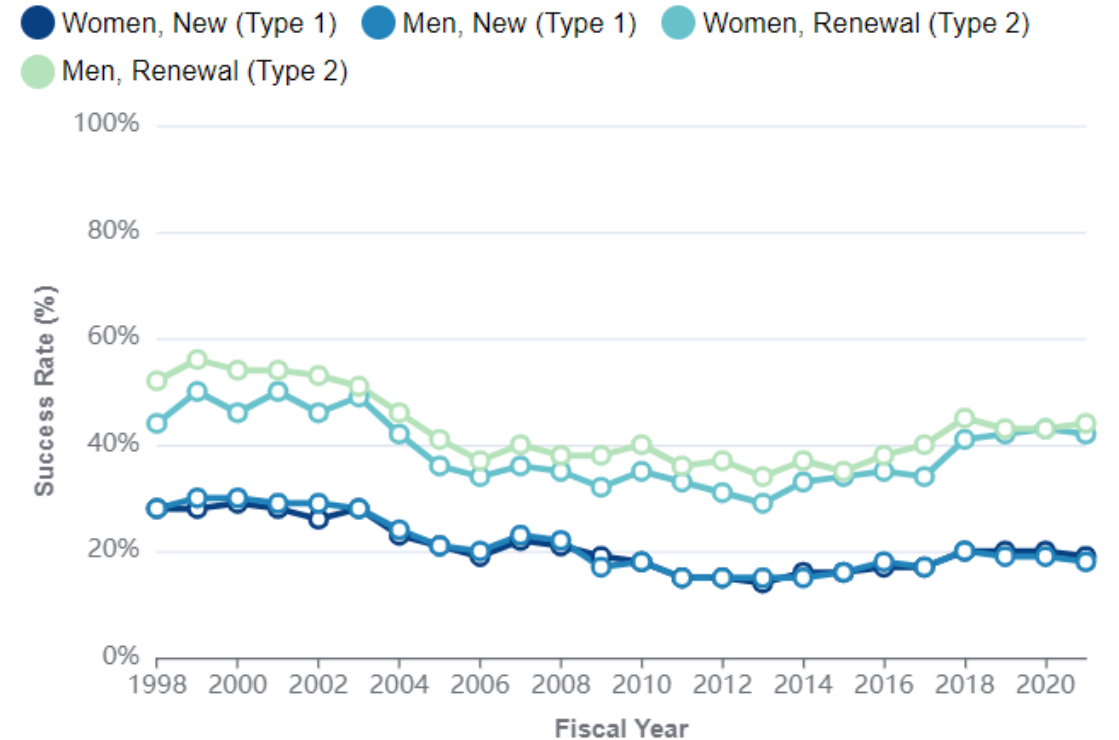
# Renewal vs new application considerations

- Productivity
  - Completed aims
  - Publications
- Direction of science
  - Extension
  - New
- Budget
- Success rates
- Departmental requirements

## R01-Equivalent Grants: Success Rates, by Gender and Type of Application

NIH Data Book Report ID: 131 [Share](#)

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FY 2009 and 2010 exclude awards made under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and all ARRA solicited applications and awards.

\*Excludes awards issued using supplemental Coronavirus (COVID-19) appropriations.

Last Updated: February 2022

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*Congratulations on your award  
Wish you success in future applications*

