NIH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH

Elizabeth M. Ginexi, Ph.D., Health Scientist Administrator
National Institutes of Health, Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research
NIH Consists of 27 Institutes and Centers (ICs)
Understanding NIH

Our mission:

❖ to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and

❖ the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability.
The Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) opened officially on July 1, 1995. The U.S. Congress established the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) in the Office of the Director, NIH, in recognition of the key role that behavioral and social factors often play in illness and health.

https://obssr.od.nih.gov/
Strategic Plan Guiding Principles

❖ Integration of BSSR into the broader biomedical research efforts consistent with the NIH mission

❖ Coordination and collaboration with ICs

❖ Identify critical challenges that are barriers to advancement in BSSR (most impact to the largest proportion of behavioral and social science researchers)

❖ Focus on challenges that OBSSR is uniquely positioned to address
OBSSR Grant Co-funding by IC, FY19

Includes new projects and out-year obligations

Total FY19 grant co-funding = $20,159,524
N = 127 grants
OBSSR Grant Co-funding by Mechanism, FY19

Includes new projects and out-year obligations

Total FY19 grant co-funding = $20,159,524
N = 127 grants

Note: these data include 23 admin supplements that were funded for a total of $2,853,223
Number of Grants Co-funded by IC, FY19

Includes new projects and out-year obligations

N = 127 grants
5 Early Stage Investigators
NIH BSSR CONTENT AREAS

Addictive Behaviors
- Processes / Mechanisms
- Prevention / Cessation
- Risk of Substance Use/Abuse

Attention, Learning & Memory
- Neurobiological/Psychological Processes / Mechanisms of Attention, Learning and Memory
- Disorders of Attention, Learning & Memory (e.g., dementia) & Interventions

Developmental Processes & Family Health
- Developmental Processes from Conception to Death
- Maternal Health, Parental Behavior, Family Dynamics
- Adverse Events that Affect Development

Food Intake & Physical Activity
- Behaviors Associated with Energy Intake & Expenditure
- Treatment of Obesity, Malnutrition

Healthcare & Disease Management
- Healthcare Access
- Provider-Patient Interactions
- Health Literacy
- Medical Errors
- Treatment Adherence
- Disease Management

Language & Communications Disorders
- Communication Processes
- Impairments in Receptive/Expressive Verbal and Nonverbal Communication
- Interventions

Mental Health
- Bio-Psychosocial Processes Involved in Regulating Mental Health/Illness
- Interventions
- Influences of Mental Health on Other Conditions

Pain, Injury, & Disability
- Functional Impairments that Reduce Quality of Life
- Pathophysiology, Management, and Rehabilitation
- Prevention of Injury and Falls

Sensation & Perception
- Mechanisms of Sight, Sound, Taste, Touch, Smell, Proprioception, Balance, Temperature
- Perception / Integration / Interpretation / Response

Sexual Behaviors
- Sexual Attitudes / Behaviors
- Bio-Psychosocial Influences
- Risky Sexual Behavior
- Interventions

Sleep
- Bio-Psychosocial Processes
- Sleep Disorders
- Circadian Rhythms
- Effects of Sleep on Performance / Disease Risk
- SIDS

Social Processes & Determinants
- Social / Economic Influences
- Cultural/Community Factors
- Policy Impacts
- Health Disparities

Stress, Trauma, & Resilience
- Effects of Exposure to Stressors/Trauma on Health & Well-Being
- Coping/Resilience
- Interventions

Healthier Lives through Behavioral and Social Sciences
OBSSR Public Events (All Virtual in 2020)

❖ BSSR-CC – open mtg every other month
❖ Matilda White Riley Behavioral and Social Sciences Honors
❖ BSSR Festival – Dec 1-2, 2020
❖ OBSSR Director’s Webinar – Quarterly
❖ TADA-BSSR Webinar – Oct 15, 2020 (then every other month starting in 2021)

https://obssr.od.nih.gov/obssr_events/
NIH Funding Opportunities

Advertised through
➢ Grants.gov
➢ NIH Social Media

Issued by
➢ Each NIH Institute or Center (IC)
➢ “Parent” announcements span the breadth of the NIH mission, include many ICs
### NIH Funding Opportunities

The NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts is NIH's official publication of notices of grant policies, guidelines and funding opportunity announcements (FOAs).

We publish daily and issue a [table of contents](#) weekly. Learn more about the NIH Guide and subscribe to receive updates today!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>FOA/Notice Number</th>
<th>Issuing Organization</th>
<th>Release Date</th>
<th>Expiration Date</th>
<th>Activity Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Dental Practice-Based Research Network Clinical Trial or Observational Study Planning and Implementation Cooperative Agreement (UG3/UH3 Clinical Trial Optional)</td>
<td>PAR-20-306</td>
<td>NIDCR</td>
<td>Oct 8, 2020</td>
<td>Sep 8, 2023</td>
<td>UG3/UH3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Types of Announcements in the NIH Guide

- Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA)
  - Program Announcements (PA) (PAR) (PAS)
  - Request for Applications (RFA)

- Notices (NOT)
  - Notice of Change; Notice of Correction
  - Notice of Special Interest (NOSI)
Notices of Special Interest (NOSIs)

- NIH is moving away from the use of non-parent Program Announcements (PAs).
- Expanding use of Notices of Special Interest (NOSIs) to highlight scientific/research topics.
- NOSIs point to existing funding opportunity announcements (often parent announcements) for the submission of applications.
NIH Expanding Usage of Notices of Special Interest

Notice Number: NOT-OD-19-107

Key Dates
Release Date: June 14, 2019

Related Announcements
None

Issued by
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)

Purpose
This Notice informs the extramural community that NIH is expanding and formalizing the use of Notices of Special Interest (NOSI) posted in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts to announce interest in specific scientific research topics.

NIH currently has a large number of non-parent program announcements (PAs) with standard submission and review requirements that vary from one another only in the scientific topics highlighted. These PAs will be phased out over time and will be replaced with Notices of Special Interest that directly solicit the use of the parent or other existing announcements for submission. This change in no way diminishes our interest in these scientific topics. It simply streamlines how we announce our interests. We will continue to post full funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) for requests for applications (RFAs), program announcements with special receipt/referral/review considerations (PARs), and program announcements with set-aside funds (PAS).

- Notices of Special Interest
  - Succinctly highlight a specific topic of interest, for example a specific area of research or program
  - Direct applicants to one or more active FOAs (often parent announcements) for submission of applications for the initiative described

As always, applicants must follow guidance found in the FOA used for submission and the How to Apply - Application Guide. Applicants must also adhere to any additional submission guidance described in the Notice of Special Interest. Applications that are not responsive to the NOSI may be withdrawn. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Program Officer listed on the NOSI for clarification prior to submission.

Most Notices of Special Interest require applicants to include the notice number in the Agency Routing Identifier field (4b) of the SF424 (R&R) form so NIH can assign and track applications and awards for the described initiative. It is critical that applicants adhere to this notice instruction. The notice number must be included in the Agency Routing Identifier field (field 4b on the SF424 R&R form) at the time of application submission.

We are updating our Weekly NIH Funding Opportunities and Notices emails which summarize postings in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts to include a special section highlighting Notices of Special Interest (subscribe). For more information, please see frequently asked questions (FAQs) here.

Inquiries
Please direct all inquiries to:

Office of Extramural Research
Email: nihguide@od.nih.gov

Examples: Notices of Special Interest (NOSIs)

- Notice of Special Interest: Epidemiology and Prevention in Alcohol Research - [https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AA-20-017.html](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AA-20-017.html)


Examples: Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs)

- Social and Behavioral Intervention Research to Address Modifiable Risk Factors for Cancer in Rural Populations (R01 Clinical Trial Required) - https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-CA-20-051.html

- Intervention Research to Improve Native American Health (R01 Clinical Trial Optional) - https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-20-238.html

- Substance Use/Substance Use Disorder Dissertation Research Award (R36 - Clinical Trials Optional) - https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-20-208.html
Who/What is an NIH Program Official?

The Program Official is:

a **Scientist**

*and* an **Administrator**

Principal liaison between investigators & NIH

Your most important contact!
Questions?

Elizabeth Ginexi
LGinexi@mail.nih.gov
NIH Funding Opportunities for the Behavioral and Social Sciences

Aria Davis Crump, Sc.D.
National Institute on Drug Abuse

Presentation for Faculty of George Mason College of Humanities and Social Sciences
October 9, 2020
NIDA’s Mission

To advance science on the causes and consequences of drug use and addiction and to apply that knowledge to improve individual and public health.

• Through strategically supporting and conducting **basic** and **clinical research** on drug use (including nicotine), its consequences, and the underlying neurobiological, behavioral, and social mechanisms involved.

• Ensuring the effective **translation**, **implementation**, and **dissemination** of scientific research findings to improve the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders and enhance public awareness of addiction as a brain disorder.
Hospitalizations and death rates of were elevated in COVID-19 patients with recorded substance use disorders compared to those without (41.0% versus 30.1% and 9.6% versus 6.6%, respectively)\(^1\).

Drug use prevention efforts and treatment for people with substance use disorders have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.\(^2\)

Vaping marijuana and vaping nicotine rose sharply in the past 3 years among 19-22 year-old adults.\(^3\) Vaping significantly increases risk of COVID-19 infection in youth\(^4\).

1. Wang Q, Kaelber D, Xu R, Volkow ND, 2020
2. Alexander GC, Stoller KB, Haffajee RL, Saloner B, 2020
NIH/NIDA Initiatives

https://heal.nih.gov/

https://abcdstudy.org/

https://pathstudyinfo.nih.gov/
Prevention Research Branch: Mission

To support research project and research training grants to prevent the initiation of substance use or misuse and the progression to substance use disorder

- Research on efficacy, effectiveness, prevention services, and methodology
- Developmental, lifespan approach
- Focus on broader systems within which prevention occurs: education, human services, healthcare, community, and environmental and policy research
- Cross-cutting themes: health disparities, technology, services research
Prevention Research Branch: Priorities

• Intervention efficacy and effectiveness research designed to inform practice: embedded in systems, conducted with the end user in mind and/or in partnership

• Research to test novel targets (e.g., cognitive function) and capitalize on emerging platforms (e.g., social media, mobile technology)

• Services research designed to capitalize on prior investments to meet emerging needs; research to improve adoption, implementation and sustainability of interventions an established evidence base
The long-term indirect effect of the early Family Check-Up intervention on adolescent internalizing and externalizing symptoms via inhibitory control

Rochelle F. Hentges,1 Chelsea M. Weaver Krug,2 Daniel S. Shaw,2 Melvin N. Wilson3, Thomas J. Dishion4 and Kathryn Lemery-Chalfant1

1Department of Psychology, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta Canada; 2Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA; 3Department of Psychology, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, USA and 4Department of Psychology, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, USA

Abstract
This study examined the long-term effects of a randomized controlled trial of the Family Check-Up (FCU) intervention initiated at age 2 on inhibitory control in middle childhood and adolescent internalizing and externalizing problems. We hypothesized that the FCU would promote higher inhibitory control in middle childhood relative to the control group, which in turn would be associated with lower internalizing and externalizing symptoms at age 14. Participants were 731 families, with half (n = 367) of the families assigned to the FCU intervention. Using an intent-to-treat design, results indicate that the FCU intervention was indirectly associated with both lower internalizing and externalizing symptoms at age 14 via its effect on increased inhibitory control in middle childhood (i.e., ages 8.5–10.5). Findings highlight the potential for interventions initiated in toddlerhood to have long-term impacts on self-regulation processes, which can further reduce the risk for behavioral and emotional difficulties in adolescence.

Keywords: externalizing, inhibitory control, internalizing, intervention, longitudinal effects

Behavioral Intervention and Disposal of Leftover Opioids: A Randomized Trial

Terri Voepel-Lewis, PhD,1,2 Frances A. Farley, MD, John Huest, MD, PhD, Freda A. Alan R. Tat, PhD,1,2 Carol L. Boyd, PhD,1,2 Stan Esteban Metchak, PhD,1,2 Monica Shelter, RN, BSN, CCRP 1,2 Galette M. Kertagh, MD,1,2 Brian J. Zinman-Visher, PhD1,2

OBJECTIVES: Leftover prescription opioids pose risks to children and adolescents, yet many parents keep these medications in the home. Our objective in this study was to determine if providing a behavioral disposal method (ie, Nudge) with or without a Scenario-Tailored Opioid Messaging Program (STOMP) [risk-enhancement education] improves parents’ opioid-disposal behavior after their children’s use.

METHODS: Parents whose children were prescribed a short course of opioid were recruited and randomly assigned to the Nudge or control groups with or without STOMP. Parents completed surveys at baseline and 7 and 14 days. Main outcomes were (1) prompt disposal (ie, immediate disposal of leftovers after use) and (2) planned retention (intention to keep leftovers).
Where do social and behavioral sciences fit?
Grant Writing for Success

Tips for Writing the Application

- Understand the NIH grants process
- Start planning **EARLY**
- Develop a great idea
- Present the idea clearly
- Carefully select and review the FOA
- Enlist capable & committed collaborators
- Seek advice and feedback from colleagues
- Align the application with the review criteria
- Work with your institutional grants office
NIH Might Consider Your Human Subjects Research to be a Clinical Trial

Does your study...

- Involve one or more **human subjects**?
- **Prospectively assign** human subject(s) to intervention(s)?
- Evaluate the **effect of intervention(s)** on the human subject(s)?
- Have a **health-related biomedical or behavioral outcome**?

If “yes” to ALL of these questions, your study is considered a clinical trial

Unsure how to answer the questions? We have a tool that can help!

https://grants.nih.gov/ct-decision/
Identify the Right Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)

**Due Dates on or after January 25, 2018**

All clinical trial applications **MUST** be submitted to an FOA that allows clinical trials

**How to determine if an FOA accepts clinical trials?**

1. Refer to Section II. Award Information
2. Indicated in FOA title (new FOAs only)

**Tip:** Check your FOA at least 30 days before the due date for any updates
Grant Writing for Success

**AVOID:**
- Being overly ambitious
- Offering an underdeveloped research plan
- Using methods that are outdated
- A research plan that does not adequately address the aims

**JUSTIFY:**
- Participant eligibility
- Sample size
- Ability to recruit stated number of participants
- Study design proposed
- Measures selected
- Approach to data collection
- Basis for intervention approach (if applicable)

**ANSWER:**
- Significant, novel, and timely question

**DESCRIBE:**
- Investigators’ expertise and qualifications
- Resources available to conduct the study
- Established collaborations
- Scientific premise for research
- Compelling preliminary or pilot studies
Who can help you?

At Your Institution
- Mentors
- Peers
- Institutional Officials or Administrators
- Other Investigators

At NIH
- Program Officials
- Grants Specialists
- Review Officials
What Program Officials Can Do for You

- Provide feedback on the fit of your proposed work with the mission and scientific priorities of the IC
- Provide feedback on suitability of your proposed work for a specific FOA
- Suggest resources that might help you in preparing a strong application

See:
https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2020/10/05/program-officials-are-here-to-help/
and
https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForApplicants/PlanningAndWriting/TargetYourApplication
What is a concept paper?

- A project summary (typically 1-2 pages) that an applicant sends to a PO to facilitate discussion
- Components
  - Initiative to which you are applying
  - Study Goals
  - Problem/Significance
  - Research Question
  - Hypotheses
  - Design/Analysis
  - Participants/Collaborators
Preparation Timeline

Planning Phase

9. Assess yourself, your field, and your resources
   - Brainstorm; Research your idea; Contact program staff

8. Set up your own review committee; Determine human subjects and/or clinical trial requirements

7. Outline and write your application

Writing Phase

6. Get feedback; Edit and proofread

5. Meet institutional deadlines

4. Submission Phase

3. Receipt date

2. 1
Timeline: New Applications

Receipt Date
- February
- June

Scientific Review
- July
- October

Council Review
- October
- January

Award Date
- December
- April
- May
- July

Detailed chart is at:
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/submissionschedule.htm
Resources

- NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices
  https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih
- NIH Office of Extramural Research
  https://grants.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm
- The NIH Guide to Grants and Contracts
  https://grants.nih.gov/funding/searchguide/
- NIH Portfolio Online Reporting Tools
  https://report.nih.gov/
- NIH Center for Scientific Review
  https://public.csr.nih.gov/
- Grants.gov: https://www.grants.gov/
Questions???

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