

SPECIAL EXCEPTION – SUBMISSION OF A3 APPLICATIONS DURING CENTER FOR SCIENTIFIC REVIEW (CSR) REORGANIZATION

RELEASE DATE: September 22, 2003

NOTICE: NOT-OD-03-065

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Present NIH policy allows consideration of revised applications for only two additional versions (A1 and A2). The policy (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-03-041.html>) was established following analysis of data indicating that investigators who receive initial funding for an amended application have a lower success rate in obtaining support for a follow-on competing application. The likelihood of subsequent success decreased with an increasing number of amendments. After three reviews, it was felt that it was time for investigators to take a fresh approach to their research proposals.

The most common situation is for revised applications to be reviewed by the same committee that reviewed the previous version, but this is not always the case. Because of the reorganization of Integrated Review Groups and their component study sections in the Center for Scientific Review at NIH, some investigators may be concerned that amended applications may be assigned to a new study section. This reorganization is a special circumstance that warrants offering applicants in a particular category an additional review opportunity. Accordingly, NIH has decided to allow a third (A3) revision for applications that meet all of the following criteria:

- o They were reviewed in their first revision (A1) in a to-be-disbanded study section and not funded.
- o They were reviewed in a newly created study section as the second revision (A2) and not funded.
- o A note citing this opportunity appears on the summary statement of A2 application.

This will allow all amended applications to have their final two reviews within the reorganized CSR review committees. This opportunity applies only to the identified applications; other A3 applications will not be accepted for review consistent with NIH policy as stated above.

For questions, please contact:

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