

NIAMS BIRT Program Answers to Frequently-Asked-Questions (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AR-13-003.html>)

Q: What is the BIRT award?

A: The NIAMS issues the BIRT award to promote interdisciplinary research through the formation of NEW collaborations with high innovation and potentially high impact to the NIAMS mission. It provides one year of funding for up to \$100,000 direct cost to active NIAMS R01 grants (the parent grants). To ensure sufficient time for full development of the collaboration, the NIAMS parent R01 should not end earlier than the following dates or be in a no cost extension on these dates:

BIRT Application Due Date

November 15, 2012
July 15, 2013
July 15, 2014

NIAMS Parent R01 Ending Dates

January 31, 2015
November 30, 2015
November 30, 2016

Q: How closely should the aims of my BIRT application relate to the parent grant?

A: The BIRT award is intended to develop new interdisciplinary collaborations with independent investigators from other disciplines supported by the NIAMS or elsewhere, or to significantly expand the scope of their ongoing NIAMS research by adding expertise and approaches from another discipline(s). The expectation of the BIRT award is to generate significant advances beyond the progress expected from the individual parent research grant. The scope of the revision should be relevant to and beyond that of the existing NIAMS grant. The goals should represent a significant addition to the original specific aims by leading to new directions or should add a new dimension to the parent grant or significant expertise from different disciplines.

Q: What are the page limits on the BIRT application?

A: In a BIRT application, the *Research Plan* is limited to 6 pages maximum.

Q: Can I send in a BIRT application to collaborate with other investigators on the parent grant or any of my other grants?

A: No. A BIRT application cannot be requested to support on-going, formal collaborations among the proposed BIRT investigators. In other words, the BIRT application must include at least one new collaborator from another discipline who makes a major contribution to the BIRT and is not listed as an investigator/consultant on the parent grant or any other grants from the Principal Investigator(s) in the five years prior to the application.

Q: Do I need preliminary data to apply?

A: No, preliminary data are not required. However, a feasible research plan with potential alternative(s) to address possible pitfalls should be provided. A BIRT application will be evaluated primarily by its significance, potential impact and innovation.

Q: What are the previously funded BIRT awards?

A: Funded NIH grants including BIRT awards can be searched using the NIH RePORTER Tool. (Search for RFA/PA: “RFA-AR-08-001”, or “RFA-AR-09-001”, or “RFA-AR-09-002”, or “RFA-AR-10-001”) at <http://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter.cfm>

This information expires after July 16, 2014.

Please send any questions, suggestions and recommendations about this FAQ to Dr. Xibin Wang at wangx1@mail.nih.gov.

Last updated: May 31, 2012 (historical)