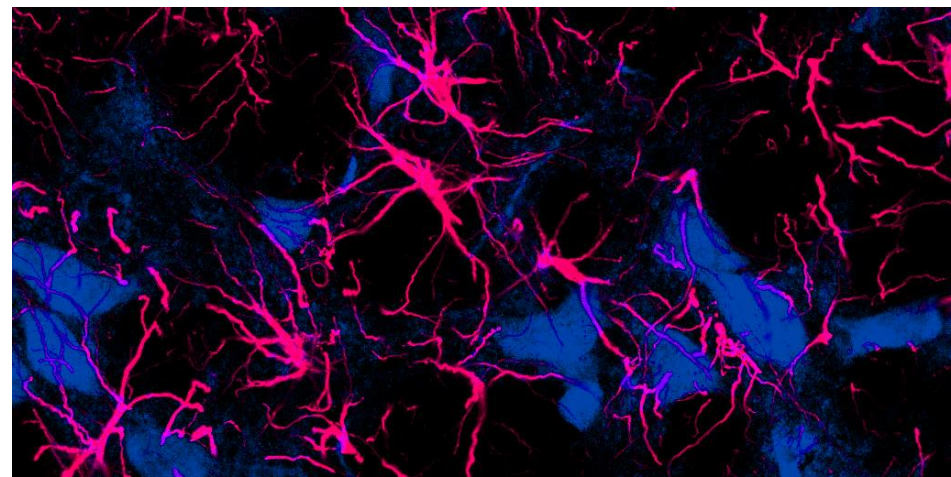
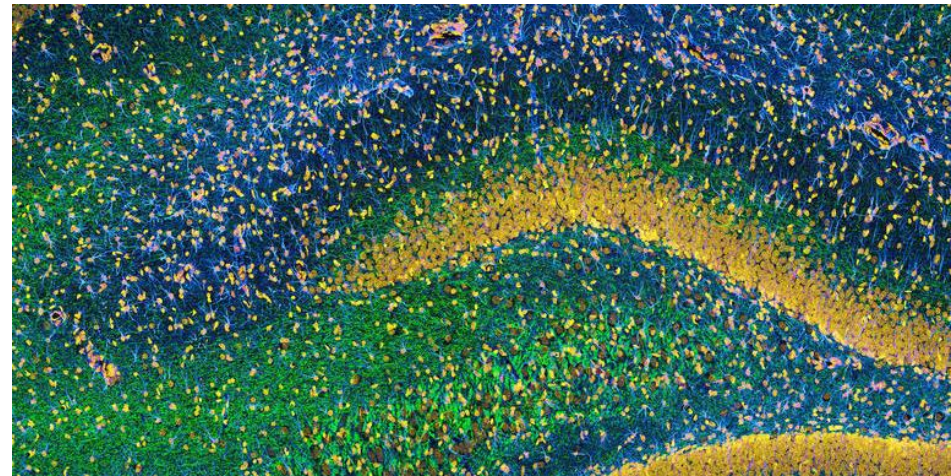
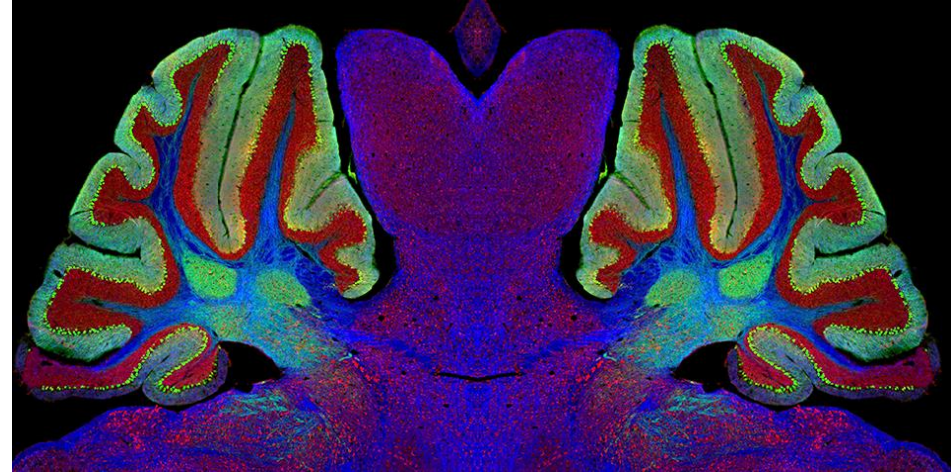




National Institute of  
Neurological Disorders  
and Stroke

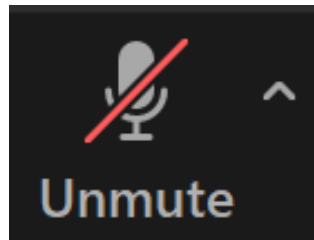
# Diversity F31 OPEN House

May 13, 2024

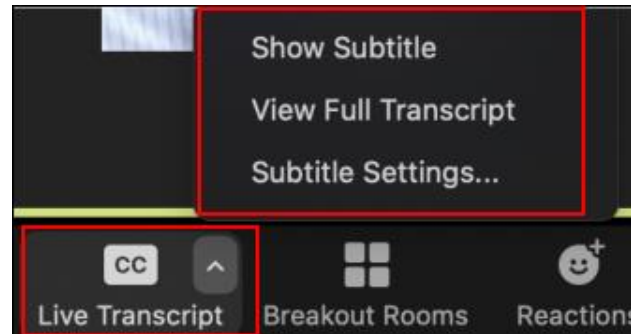


# Meeting Reminders

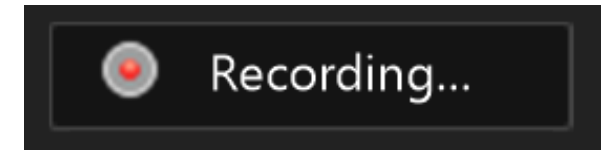
Attendees are muted



Live transcript available



Presentation is being recorded



# Goals of Today's OPEN House

1. Understand the Diversity F31 fellowship and what you need to put together a strong application
2. Meet some of the NIH Staff who are a resource to you as applicants
3. Learn about other fellowship opportunities if the Diversity F31 is not a fit
4. Encourage you to apply!



# Speakers



**Michelle Jones-London, PhD**  
Associate Director  
Office of Programs to Enhance  
the Neuroscience Workforce  
(OPEN), NINDS



**Marguerite Matthews, PhD**  
Section Chief, Career Preparation  
OPEN, NINDS



**Anahid Ebrahimi, PhD**  
Health Program Specialist  
OPEN, NINDS



**Jennifer Kielczewski, PhD**  
Scientific Review Officer  
Center for Scientific Review,  
NIH



**Jenny Kim, PhD**  
Chief of Staff  
OPEN, NINDS



**Michael Tennekoon, PhD**  
Scientific Program Manager  
Office of Training & Workforce  
Development, NINDS

# NIH & NINDS: Who We Are



**Michelle Jones-London, PhD**  
Associate Director  
Office of Programs to Enhance the  
Neuroscience Workforce (OPEN), NINDS

NCI

NEI

NHLBI

NHGRI

NIA

NIAAA

NIAID

NIAMS

NIBIB

NICHD

NIDCD

NIDCR

NIDDK

NIDA

NIEHS

NIGMS

NIMH

NIMHD

NINDS

NINR

NLM

CC

CIT

CSR

FIC

NCATS

NCCIH

# NIH & NINDS

- NIH has 27 Institutes and Centers (ICs)
  - Each IC has its own mission
  - Each IC has its own budget
  - Each IC has its own activities
  - Each IC has its own way of doing business
- The mission of NINDS is to seek fundamental knowledge about the brain and nervous system and to use that knowledge to reduce the burden of neurological disease for all people.



National Institute of  
Neurological Disorders  
and Stroke

# Finding the Right Program Official (PO)

Before you apply, talk to your “likely” PO. Options:

- Contact OPEN office!
- Contact Mentor’s PO
- Use Matchmaker function in NIH RePORTER
- Check Funding Opportunity’s “Table of IC-specific contacts”

After you apply, you will be assigned a PO

- Check eRA Commons

The screenshot displays the NIH RePORTER Matchmaker interface. At the top, there is a 'Quick Search' section with a search bar and an 'Advanced Search' button. Below this, there are two charts: 'Active Funding by State' (a map of the US) and 'Active Projects by Institute/Center' (a bar chart). The 'Matchmaker Results' section shows 147 POs and includes a 'Filters' sidebar with options like 'Active Projects', 'Fiscal Years', 'Agencies', 'Activity Codes', 'Program Officials', and 'Study Sections'. A 'Program Officials' table is visible at the bottom, showing details for HE, JANET at NINDS.

Program Official	IC	Contact Information	Projects
HE, JANET	NINDS	<a href="#">View Email</a> Contact info is hidden by default for privacy	60



# The NINDS Diversity Office is “OPEN”

- Our goal is to open opportunities and access to enhance the diversity of the neuroscience workforce
- We develop and implement specific funding opportunities (individual and institutional) and work across the NINDS scientific portfolio to promote inclusion
- An OPEN Pathway of programs across career stages



Office of Programs to Enhance the Neuroscience Workforce

## **OPEN Spotlight:** **From Potential to Action** *NINDS Awardees Navigate Diverse Paths to Success*



<https://bit.ly/OPENSpotlight>

<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/About-NINDS/Workforce-Diversity/Enhancing-Diversity>



# NINDS Extramural Training and Career Development Programs

C-Clinician-scientist

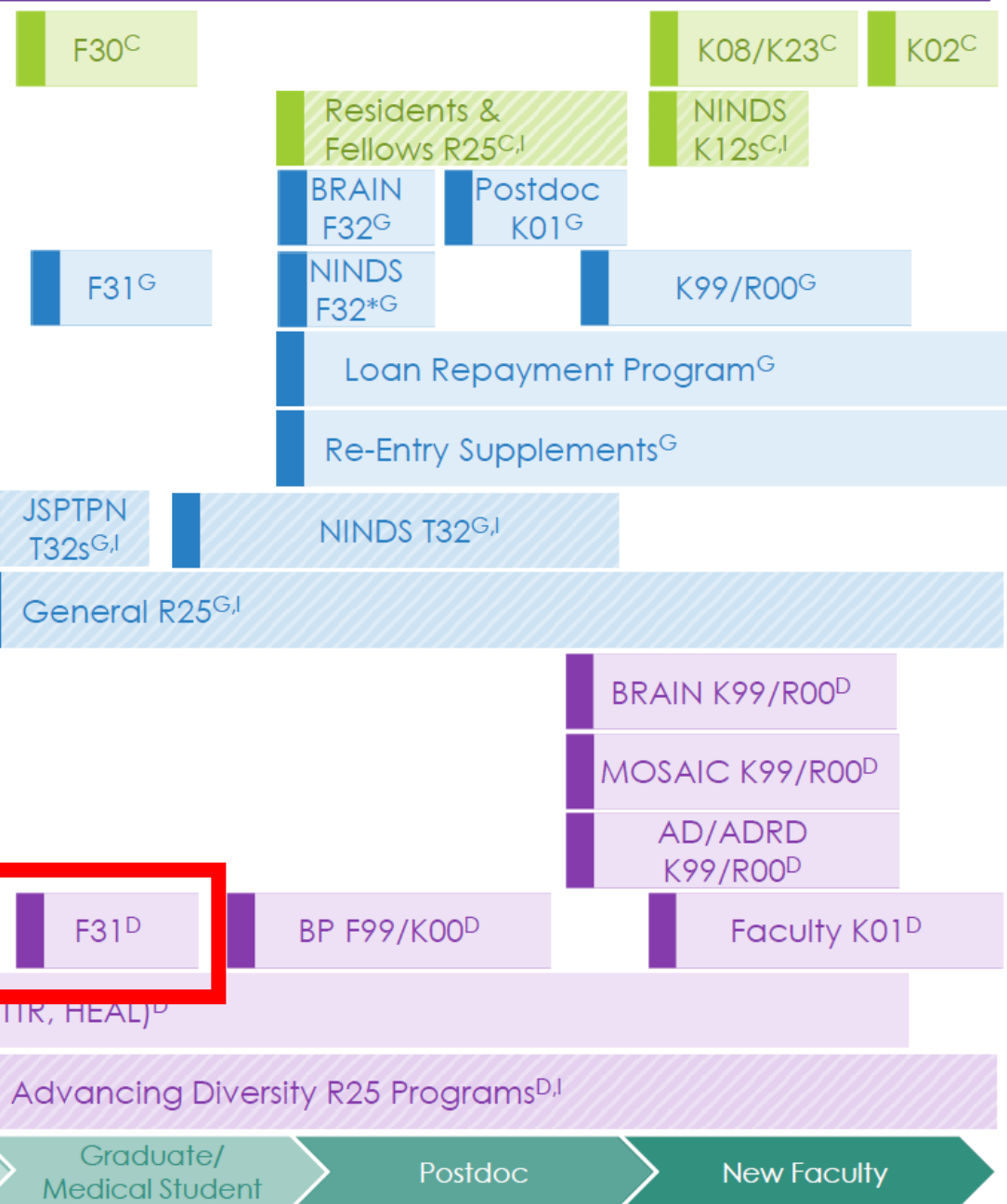
G-General

D-Diversity

I-Institutional

\*Eligibility measured from date joined lab

Summer Research R25<sup>G,I</sup>



# Diversity F31 Fellowship



**Anahid Ebrahimi, PhD**  
Health Program Specialist  
OPEN, NINDS

# Diversity Predoc Fellowship (F31)

The Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) ***Individual Predoctoral Fellowship to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research (F31)*** will enable promising underrepresented predoctoral students to obtain individualized, mentored research training from outstanding faculty sponsors while conducting well-defined research projects



# Eligibility

- US citizen or permanent resident only
- For the purpose of this announcement, institutions are encouraged to recruit potential student participants from historically underrepresented backgrounds
- Must be pursuing a PhD or equivalent research degree, or a combined professional and research doctoral degree in biomedical, behavioral, health services, or clinical sciences (e.g. MD/PhD)
- Can only be supported within first 6 years of graduate school
  - **Must have a minimum 12 months remaining by award start date**

# Award Details

- Duration of support:
  - Up to 5 years of aggregate NRSA predoctoral support (up to 6 years for dual degree training, e.g., MD/PhD), including any combination of support from institutional training grants (T32) and an individual fellowship award
- Award budget:
  - Stipend
  - Tuition and fees
  - Institutional allowance (health insurance, research supplies, equipment, books, and travel to scientific meetings)

# Choosing Between General F31 & Diversity F31

- The Diversity F31 requires a “Description of Candidate’s Contribution to Program Goals”
  - Note! Your institution is responsible for certifying alignment with program goals
- These are separate funding mechanisms. **You cannot send the exact same grant to both programs**
- **You cannot apply for both at the same time**
- Determine with your mentor which funding mechanism is most appropriate for you



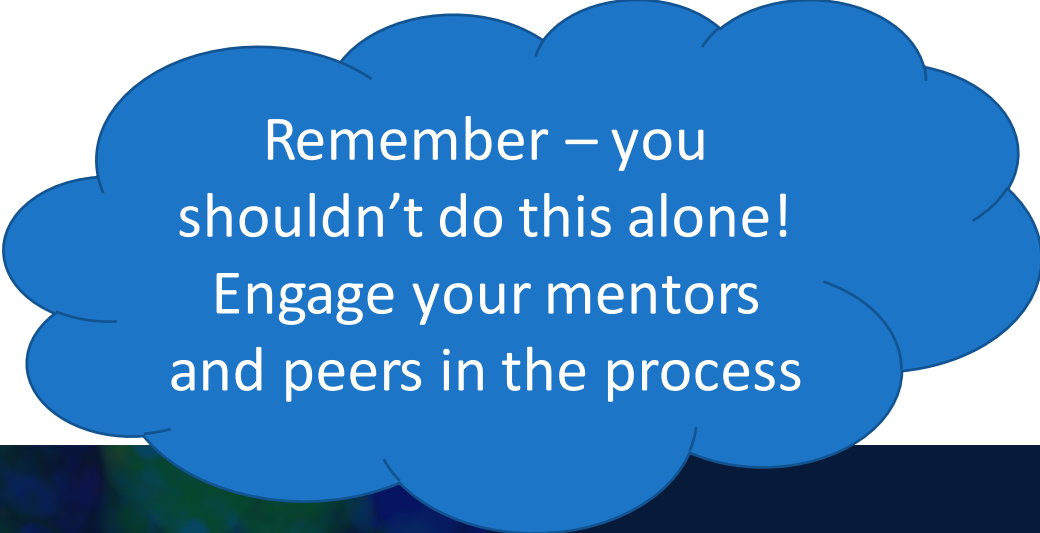


**Marguerite Matthews, PhD**  
Section Chief, Career Preparation  
OPEN, NINDS

# Putting Together Your Application

# Before You Start Your Application

Take a step back and view the process of writing the grant not only for money/funding, but as an exercise to organize a vision of your research, a timeline for your career development and as a vehicle to have focused engagement with your mentor



Remember – you shouldn't do this alone!  
Engage your mentors and peers in the process

Be specific:

My goal is \_\_\_\_\_

My research question is \_\_\_\_\_

At the end of this award, I will be ready to \_\_\_\_\_

Work backward from your end goal - where do you need to be in: Discipline-specific knowledge, technical skills, communication skills, leadership skills, etc.

What will you learn from each identified mentor?

Are all your areas of development covered?

Be consistent  
Be realistic  
Be explicit

## Step 1

- Define your career goals and research interests

## Step 2

- Perform a skills “gap analysis”

## Step 3

- Build a career/training plan that is tailored to your needs
- Seek guidance and mentorship!

## Step 4

- Read instructions and put it all together!
- Get LOTS of feedback



# Select Application Materials

- Biosketch
- Applicant's Background and Goals for Fellowship Training
  - A. Doctoral Dissertation and Research Experience
  - B. Training Goals and Objectives
  - C. Activities Planned Under this Award
- Research Training Plan

# Select Application Materials

- Sponsor & Co-Sponsor Statement
  - Research Support Available
  - Sponsor's/Co-Sponsor's Previous Fellows/Trainees
  - Training Plan, Environment, Research Facilities
  - Number of Fellows/Trainees to be Supervised During the Fellowship
  - Applicant's Qualifications and Potential for a Research Career
- Referee letters (different from Letters of Support!)
- Description of Candidate's Contribution to Program Goals

# Fellowship review criteria framework AND application will change for applications submitted on or after January 25, 2025

Learn more:

<https://grants.nih.gov/policy/peer/revisions-nih-fellowship-application-review-process.htm>



Center for  
Scientific Review

# Review

**Jennifer Kielczewski, Ph.D.**

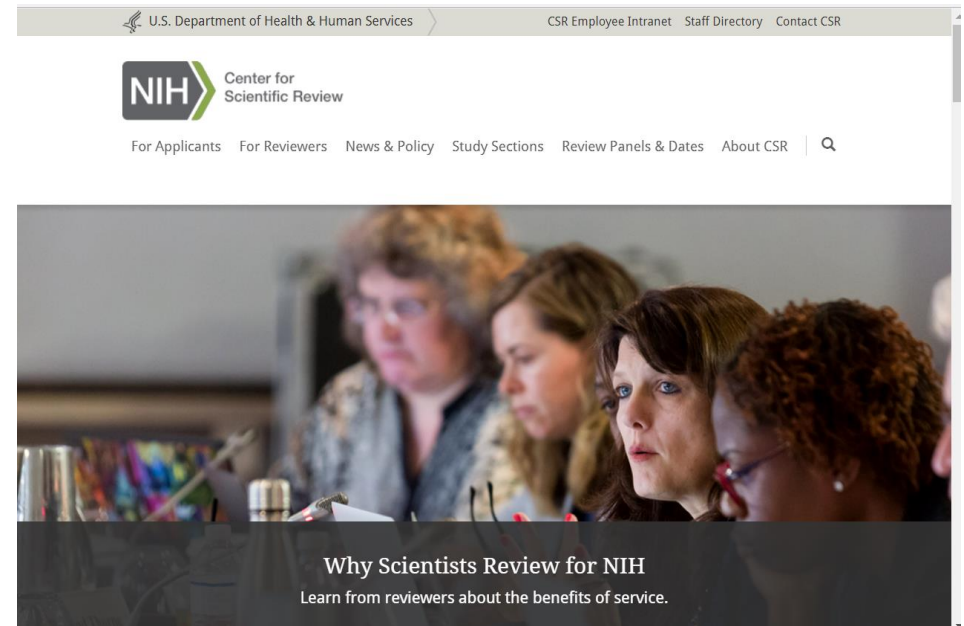
Scientific Review Officer  
Center for Scientific Review





# CSR Web Site

- About CSR
- Applicant Resources
- Study Sections
- Rosters and Meetings



<http://public.csr.nih.gov>

# CSR's Mission

To ensure that NIH grant applications receive fair, independent, expert, and timely scientific reviews - free from inappropriate influences - so NIH can fund the most promising research.



# General Scientific Review Officer (SRO) Duties

- Responsible for the scientific and technical review of applications.
- Review applications for completeness and conformance with application requirements.
- Ensure fair and unbiased evaluation of the scientific and technical merit of the proposed research.
- Provide accurate Summary Statements of the review to aid funding recommendations made by National Advisory Councils and Institute Directors.

# Review Process of NRSA Fellowship Applications

## Before



- Scientific Review Officer (SRO) assigns 3 reviewers to your fellowship application
- Reviewers provide scores & written critique

## During



- 70-90 total fellowship applications per fellowship panel reviewed. Discussed in clusters (F31, F31-DIV, F30, F32)
  - ~50% discussed
- For discussed applications, all panel members participate in discussion

## After

- SRO will release final scores and Summary Statements
- Applicants should contact Program Officers (PO) after reading their Summary Statement with any questions pertaining to their review



# Scoring Fellowship Applications for Overall Impact

## FELLOWSHIPS & CAREER AWARDS

### Overall Impact:

The likelihood that the proposed training (F) or career development (K) will enhance the candidate's potential for a productive, independent scientific research career in a health-related field.

<b>Overall Impact</b>	High	Medium	Low
<b>Score</b>	1 2 3	4 5 6	7 8 9

<b>Evaluating Overall Impact</b> Consider the 5 criteria (weighting based on reviewer's judgment):		<i>e.g. Proposes training or career development of high value/benefit for the candidate who has high potential for developing into a productive, independent scientist. May have some or no weaknesses in the criteria.</i>	<i>e.g. Proposes training or career development of high or moderate value/benefit for the candidate who has high or moderate potential for further development, but weaknesses in the criteria reduce the overall impact to medium.</i>  <i>e.g. Proposes training or career development of moderate value/benefit for the candidate who shows moderate potential. May have some weaknesses in the criteria.</i>	<i>e.g. Proposes training or career development of moderate or low value/benefit for the candidate who has moderate or low potential for further development. Weaknesses in the criteria reduce the overall impact to low.</i>  <i>e.g. Proposes training or career development of low value/benefit for the candidate who shows low potential. May have some weaknesses in the criteria.</i>
<b>Fs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicant</li> <li>• Sponsor(s)</li> <li>• Research Training Plan</li> <li>• Training Potential</li> <li>• Institutional Environment &amp; Commitment</li> </ul>	<b>Ks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidate</li> <li>• Career Development Plan/Goals*</li> <li>• Research Plan</li> <li>• Mentor(s)**</li> <li>• Environment &amp; Institutional Commitment</li> </ul>			
and other score influences, e.g. human subjects, animal welfare, inclusion plans, and biohazards				
*K05 and K24: Plan to Provide Mentoring **K02: Consultants/Collaborators				

**5 is a good, medium-impact application. The entire scale (1-9) should always be considered.**

# Application Scoring- There are 5 review criteria contributing to the Overall Impact Score

Impact	Score	Descriptor	
High Impact	1	Exceptional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High value/benefit of training to applicant</li> <li>• High potential for applicant to develop into a productive, independent scientists</li> <li>• Some or no weakness in criteria</li> </ul>
	2	Outstanding	
	3	Excellent	
Medium Impact	4	Very Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate to high value/benefit of training to applicant</li> <li>• Moderate to high potential for applicant to develop further</li> <li>• Weaknesses reduce to medium impact</li> </ul>
	5	Good	
	6	Satisfactory	
Low Impact	7	Fair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low to moderate value/benefit of training to applicant</li> <li>• Low to moderate potential for applicant to develop further</li> <li>• Weaknesses reduce to low impact</li> </ul>
	8	Marginal	
	9	Poor	

# Current Fellowship Application Review Criteria - Five Criteria

1. Fellowship Applicant
2. Sponsors, Collaborators and Consultants
3. Research Training Plan
4. Training Potential
5. Institutional Environment & Commitment to Training

***Note: Fellowship review criteria framework will change for applications submitted on or after January 25, 2025.***

# Review Criteria - Refer to your [Program Announcement](#) such as [PA-23-271](#) for specific review criteria

## 1. Applicant

- Are the applicant's academic record and research experience of high quality?
- Does the applicant have the potential to develop into an independent and productive researcher?
- Does the applicant demonstrate commitment to a research career in the future?

## 2. Sponsors, Collaborators, and Consultants

- Are the sponsor(s) research qualifications and track record of mentoring individuals at a similar stage appropriate for the applicant's needs? Are roles of collaborators etc. well defined.
- Do the applicant's research interests match the sponsor(s)? Do(es) the sponsor(s) understand the applicant's training needs and show commitment to assist in meeting those needs?
- Is there adequate funding to support the applicant's proposed research and training for the duration of the entire fellowship?



# Review Criteria- continued

## 3. Research Training Plan

- Is the research project of high scientific quality and well integrated with the proposed training plan?
- Has the applicant presented strategies to ensure rigorous, robust and unbiased approaches, for the studies proposed?
- Does the training plan provide adequate opportunities to present and publish research findings and meet with scientists in the community at national meetings as the work progresses?
- Will the training plan provide the professional skills needed for the candidate to transition to the next stage of their research career?
- Is the time frame feasible to accomplish the proposed training?

## 4. Training Potential

- Are the proposed research project and training plan likely to provide the applicant with the requisite individualized and mentored experiences in order to obtain appropriate skills for a research career?
- Does the training plan take advantage of the applicant's strengths and address gaps in needed skills, and document a clear need for, and value of, the proposed training?
- Will the proposed training enhance the applicant's ability to develop into a productive, *independent* researcher?

# Review Criteria- continued

## 5. Institutional Environment & Commitment to Training

- Are the research facilities, resources (e.g., equipment, laboratory space, computer time, subject populations), and training opportunities (e.g. seminars, workshops, professional development opportunities) adequate and appropriate?
- Is the institutional environment for the applicant's scientific development of high quality?
- Is there appropriate institutional commitment to fostering the applicant's mentored training.

## Additional Review Criteria

- As applicable for the project proposed, reviewers will evaluate the following additional items while determining scientific and technical merit, and in providing an overall impact score, but **will not** give separate scores for these items.
  - Protections for Human Subjects
  - Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Individuals Across the Lifespan
  - Vertebrate Animals
  - Biohazards
  - Resubmission (if applicable)

# After the review... Applicants should

- Carefully read their Summary Statement
- Contact your designated **Program Officer (PO)** and be prepared to discuss any questions:
  - Reviewer comments (strengths & weaknesses) from Summary Statement
  - Scores and percentiles
  - Funding prospects
  - Resubmission and other options

## After the review meeting..... Keep in mind

- Your **Program Officer (PO)** can assist with any questions regarding the review of your fellowship application (scoring, funding etc.)
- An SRO can not answer specific questions about the review of your fellowship application once the Review meeting has occurred.



# Reporting Review Concerns about Bias or Integrity

**For issues related to respectful interactions, bias or anything else that could affect the fairness of the review process, contact the CSR at [reportbias@csr.nih.gov](mailto:reportbias@csr.nih.gov)**

**For issues related to review integrity, contact your SRO, or the CSR Review Integrity Officer at [csrrio@mail.nih.gov](mailto:csrrio@mail.nih.gov), or the NIH Review Policy Officer at [reviewpolicyofficer@mail.nih.gov](mailto:reviewpolicyofficer@mail.nih.gov).**

## Existing CSR policy regarding a potentially flawed/biased review

Assessment by CSR management – is it a flawed review?

- Yes - CSR re-reviews the application in the same council round.
- No – CSR refers PI to program officer for guidance on council appeal process

# How can you stay abreast of policy changes?

Subscribe to the NIH Guide Notice – this is the primary means of communication from NIH to the external community:

<https://grants.nih.gov/policy/notices.htm>

**NIH GRANTS & FUNDING**  
NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

Search this Site  
eRA | NIH Staff | Glossar

HOME ABOUT GRANTS FUNDING **POLICY & COMPLIANCE** NEWS & EVENTS ABOUT OER

Home » Policy & Compliance » Notices of NIH Policy Changes

**POLICY & COMPLIANCE**

NIH Grants Policy Statement

**Notices of Policy Changes**

Compliance & Oversight

**Policy Topics**

- Anti-Sexual Harassment
- Animal Welfare
- Application Submission Policies
- Communicating and Acknowledging Federal Funding
- Clinical Trial Requirements
- Early Stage and Early Established Investigator Policies

Search the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts for all notices.  
**Subscribe to receive notices each week.**

**Previous Years:**  
[2015] [2014] [2013] [2012] [2011] [2010] [2009] [2008] [2007] [2006] [2005] [2004] [2003] [2002] [2001] [2000] [1999] [1998] [1997] [1996] [1995] [1994] [1993]

**August 2020**

August 28	Notice of Correction to Eligibility in NIH Funding Opportunity Announcements
August 28	Reminder: NIH Natural Disaster Policy – Hurricane Isaias, Derecho
August 12	Extending the Special Exception to the NIH/AHRQ/NIOSH Post-Submission Material Policy During the COVID-19 Pandemic
August 11	Temporary Extension of Eligibility for the NIH K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award During the COVID-19 Pandemic

# NIH Guide

## For Grants and Contracts

### *U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*

- Announces NIH scientific initiatives
- Provides NIH policy and administrative information
- Supplies links to application forms
- Available on the NIH Web Site: <http://www.nih.gov>

# New changes to fellowship review criteria.... A simplified and more focused framework

- ***NOTE-** this affects fellowship applications submitted on or after January 25, 2025*
  - This deadline will likely impact fellowships (F's) that are due in **April 2025** for the October 2025 council round for scientific review during the Summer 2025 in a fellowship review panel in CSR. But check with your Program Officer (PO) and always check the appropriate Program Announcement for application due dates.

# Objectives of simplified fellowship review

1. Focus on *three key assessments* instead of the current five components. The simplified review criteria will consist of **1.** Fellowship applicant's preparedness and potential **2.** Research training plan and **3.** Commitment to the candidate.
2. Ensure broader range of candidates and research training contexts.
3. Reduce bias in review by redirecting focus on the commitment to the candidate, without undue consideration of the sponsor and institutional reputation.

# Stay informed of the latest updates on fellowship review criteria simplification at the following.....

- **Public webinar** scheduled for September 19, 2024 from 2-3pm est.

*Register here* <https://grants.nih.gov/learning-center/fellowship-application-review-process-revisions-webinar>

- **Check CSR website and NIH extramural site** for updates and guidance

<https://grants.nih.gov/policy/peer/revisions-nih-fellowship-application-review-process.htm>

<https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/Revisions-to-the-NIH-Fellowship-Application-and-Review-Process.htm>

<https://grants.nih.gov/policy/peer/revisions-nih-fellowship-application-review-process/changes-to-fellowship-review-criteria.htm>

- **Check official NOT guide notice**

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-24-107.html>

- **Contact your Program Officer (PO)** with questions well in advance of submitting your fellowship application.



# For more information on upcoming Simplified Review for fellowships...



**We're  
strengthening  
the peer review  
and structure  
of fellowship  
applications.**

NIH is changing the peer review of National Research Service Award **fellowship applications** by restructuring the review criteria and modifying some sections of the PHS Fellowship Supplemental Form that are specific to NRSAAs.

# Other funding opportunities



**Michael Tennekoon, PhD**  
Scientific Program Manager  
Office of Training & Workforce  
Development, NINDS



**Jenny Kim, PhD**  
Chief of Staff  
OPEN, NINDS

# NINDS Extramural Training and Career Development Programs

C-Clinician-scientist

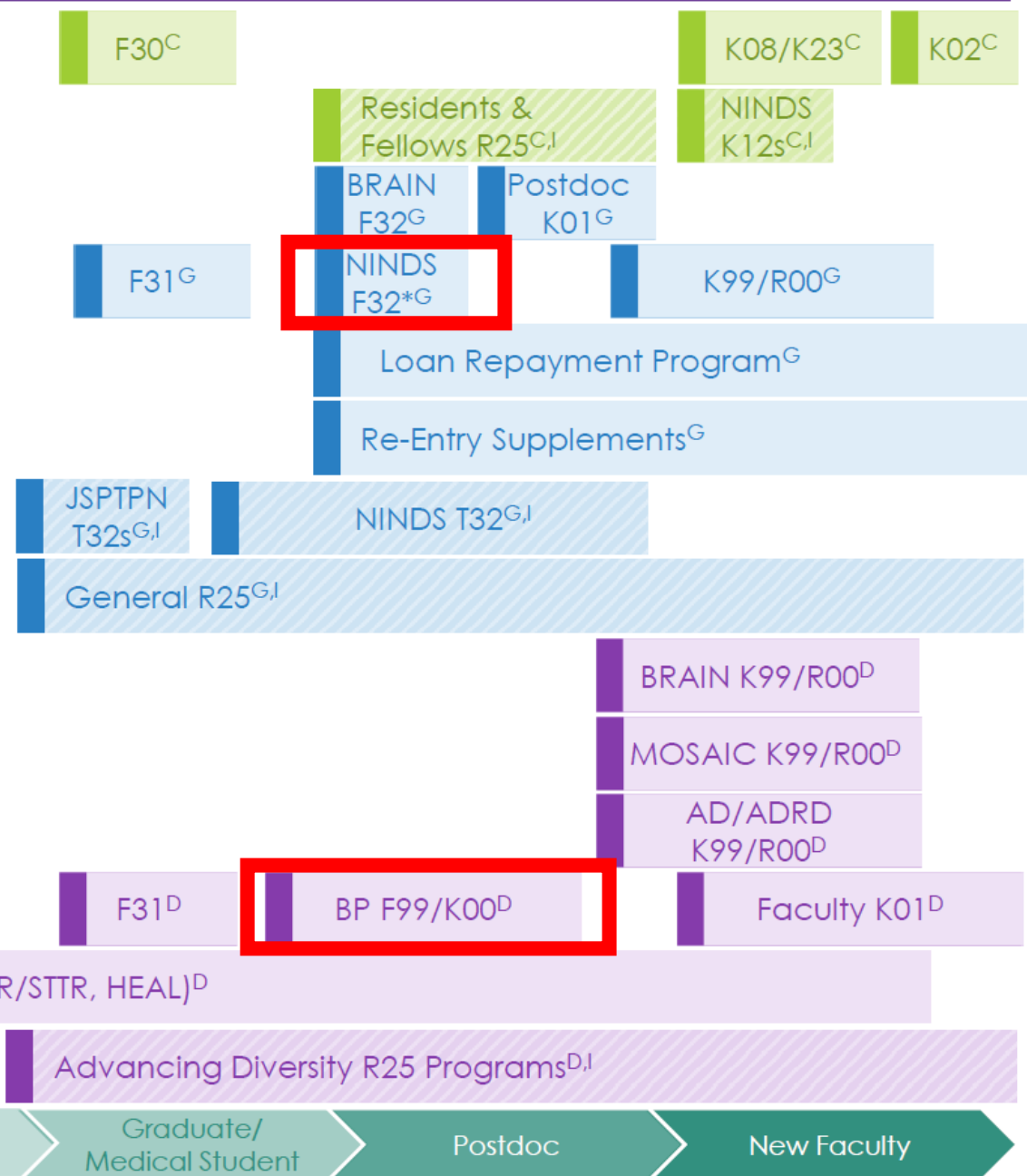
G-General

D-Diversity

I-Institutional

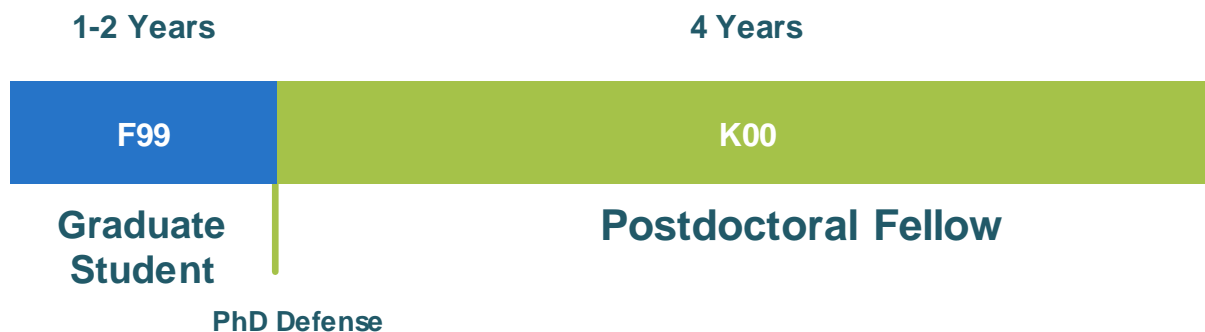
\*Eligibility measured from date joined lab

Summer Research R25<sup>G,I</sup>



# NIH Blueprint and BRAIN Initiative Diversity Specialized Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Advancement in Neuroscience Award (F99/K00)

## FORMAT



## INTENDED FOR



PhD students with 1-2 years left in a research doctoral degree program;



From diverse backgrounds, including:

- Individuals from nationally underrepresented racial and ethnic groups (African Americans, Hispanic/Latinx, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders),
- Individuals with disabilities, and
- Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds (NOT-OD-20-031);



Performing neuroscience research within the BRAIN Initiative or Blueprint missions;



At a U.S. domestic institution; and are



U.S. citizens or permanent residents by time of award



**Next Due Date: October 8, 2024**

## PARTICIPATING INSTITUTES

- NEI
- NIA
- NIAAA
- NIBIB
- NICHD
- NIDCR
- NIDA
- NIEHS
- NIMH
- NINDS
- NINR
- NCCIH

**RFA-NS-24-030**





NIH **Blueprint**  
for Neuroscience Research



National Institutes of Health  
*The BRAIN Initiative*

# D-SPAN F99/K00 OPEN House

July 30, 2024 | 1 - 2:30 PM ET

For graduate students & advisors to ask questions of NIH Program Staff before applying for the NIH Blueprint and BRAIN Initiative Diversity Specialized Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Advancement in Neuroscience (D-SPAN) Award (RFA-NS-24-030)

**Zoom registration:**

**[https://bit.ly/DSPAN\\_OPEN\\_House24](https://bit.ly/DSPAN_OPEN_House24)**

WELCOME

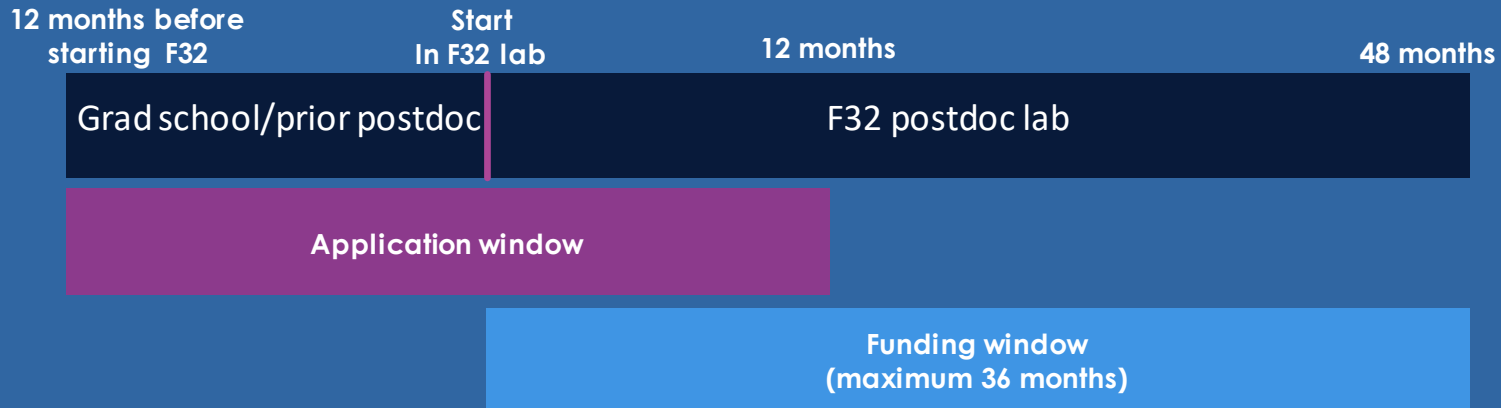
WE ARE

OPEN

PLEASE COME IN

# NINDS Postdoctoral NRSA Fellowship (F32) – PAR-21-032

## FORMAT



**Next Due Dates: June 10, 2024; October 10, 2024**

**Contact: Michael Tennekoon**  
**Michael.tennekoon@nih.gov**

## INTENDED FOR



- Postdoctoral Fellows that are early in their training;
- Can apply before joining the postdoc lab you will be doing the F32 project in
  - Preliminary data are NOT required!
  - Not intended to continue training in same research environment
  - Encourage creative, bold, innovative ideas that are an intellectual collaboration between the individual and their mentor
  - Do not wait to apply!



Performing neuroscience research within the NINDS mission (please send specific aims to Michael Tennekoon to confirm)



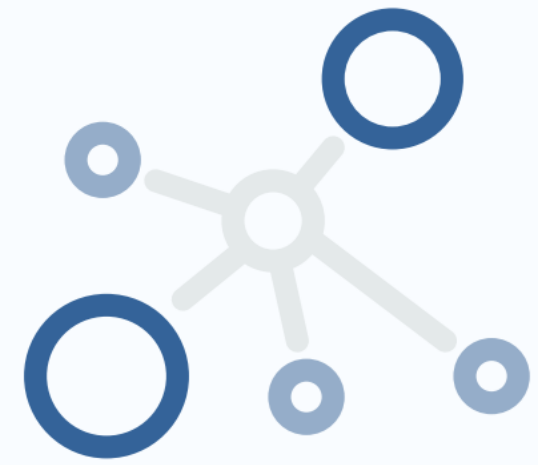
U.S. citizens or permanent residents by time of award



At a U.S. domestic institution or;  
*Foreign institution* – however, it must be justified as to why this work cannot be done at a US. Domestic institution



# OPEN Connections



## LISTSERV

<http://go.usa.gov/xkpN6>



## TWITTER

@NINDSDiversity



## PODCAST

[ninds.buzzsprout.com](http://ninds.buzzsprout.com)



## E-MAIL

NINDSDiversityTraining  
[@mail.nih.gov](mailto:@mail.nih.gov)



# Breakout Rooms



**Joshua Sanchez, PhD**  
Main Room



**Michelle Jones-London, PhD**  
SPONSOR/CO-SPONSOR



**Jennifer Kielczewski, PhD**  
SCIENTIFIC REVIEW



**Marguerite Matthews, PhD**



**Anahid Ebrahimi, PhD**

F31



**Jenny Kim, PhD**



**Michael Tennekoon, PhD**

F99/K00, NINDS F32