



NEW INVESTIGATOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

GRANTS 101

JANUARY 12-13, 2026

Introduction and Strategic Planning

Jake Chen, PhD

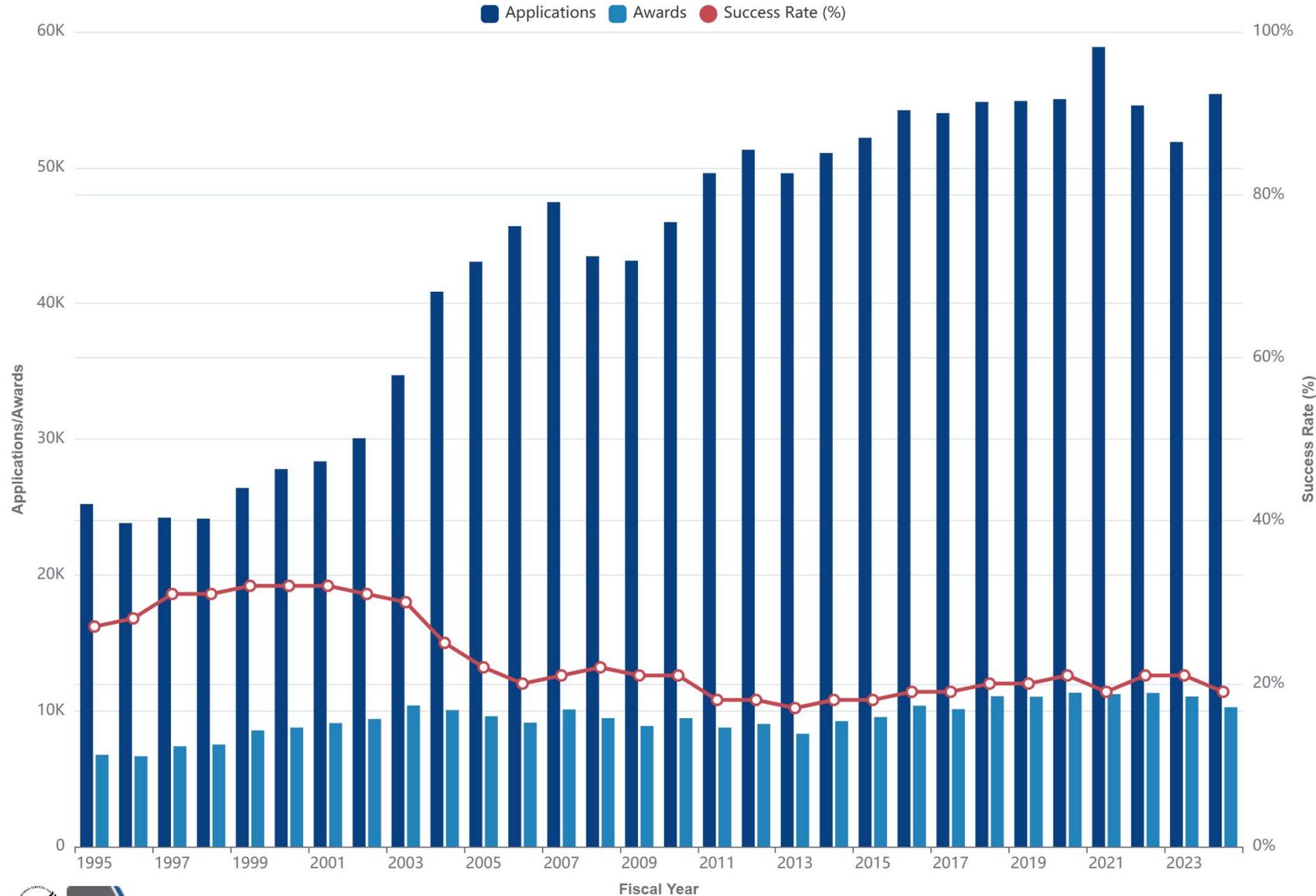
Director, New Investigator Development Program
Professor and Vice Chair, Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Academic medicine: \$\$ is the lifeline

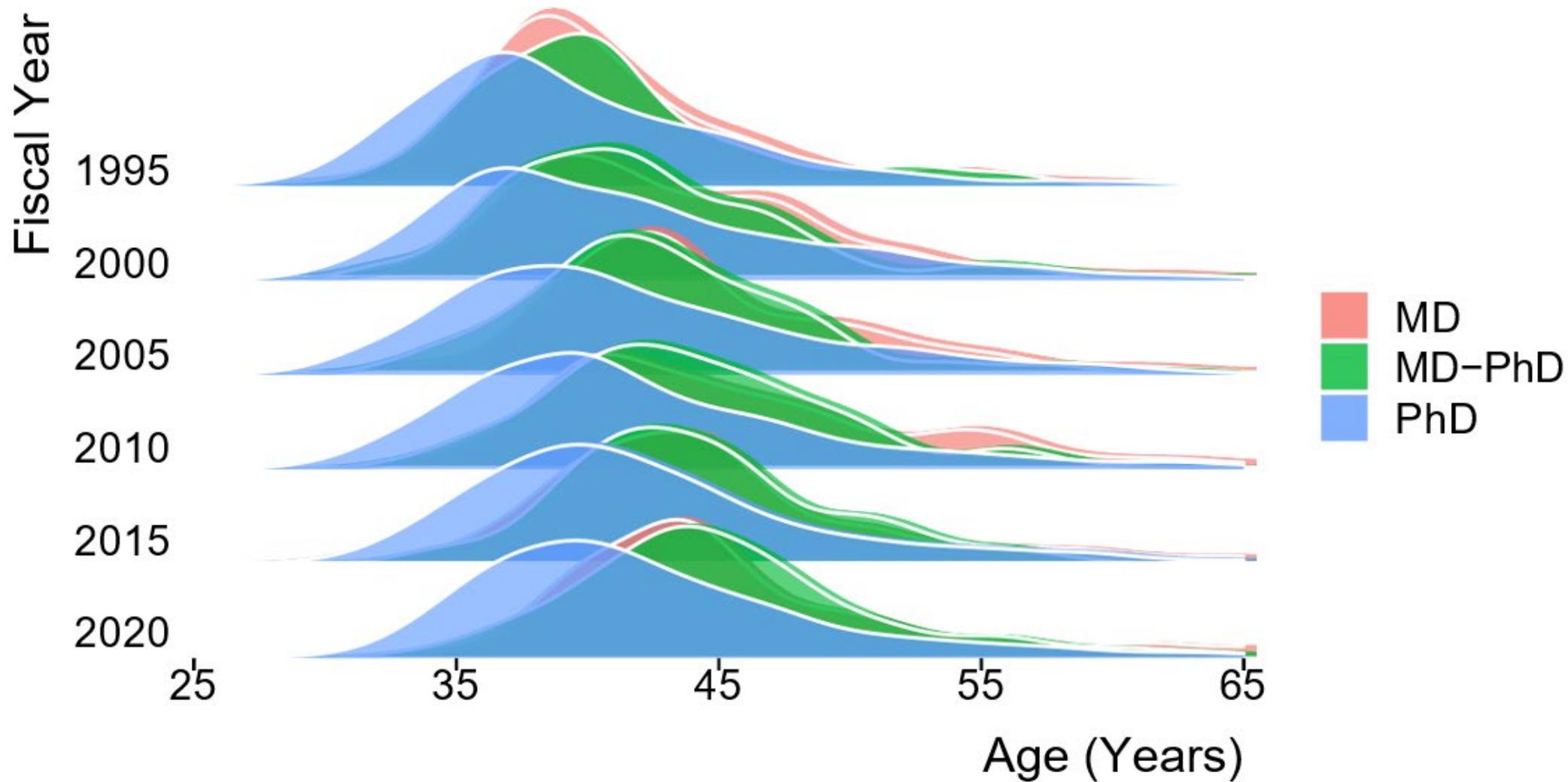


**"Our research is solidified, but
our funding has vaporized."**

Research Project Grants: Competing Applications, Awards, and Success Rates



Degree-based distributions by fiscal year of age of Principal Investigators receiving support on NIH R01 award for the first time.



New Investigator Development Program: NIDP

Founded in 2004 and directed by Dr. Kevin Morano until 2022

- Develop and refine grant-writing skills
- Succeed in securing external funds

www.uth.edu/nidp



Kevin Morano, PhD
Senior Vice President and Chief
Academic Officer *ad interim*,
UTHealth Houston

NIDP Courses

Grants 101: Overview of UTHealth policies/procedures

Grants 102: In-depth 6-month grant-writing workshop with mentored review process. Goal to submit grant application must be met!

- How to formulate a competitive grant application
- Monthly seminar/discussion sessions
- Grant writing broken down stepwise
- Mentored experience

Workbook: Grant Writers' Seminars and Workshops, LLC (GWSW)

Grants 102

- Step-by-step advice from experienced and FUNDED faculty
- Laboratory research, human studies, and data science
- Assembly, editing, streamlining
- Responding to critiques
- >400 participants
- ~\$400M in total funding, including \$335M federal

Planning to write a grant

- Why: obvious
- What: grant types, central ideas
- When: readiness, your professional objective
- Who: your role and who else (PI, co-I, lab, LOSs)
- Where: agency, performance site
- How: this is why we are here

Planning to write a grant

- What:

Grant types: funding agencies (federal, foundation, industry);

grant mechanisms (pilot/R03, R21, R01 etc) – budget \$\$;

RFAs - be open-minded and opportunistic.

Central ideas: in the form of hypothesis or specific objective

- What are the factors that determine if an idea is exciting?

- Aims: the basic unit of grant application

Planning to write a grant

- When:

Deadlines!

Ready and timely: not premature, not too ripe either

Other considerations within your professional and operational objective:

It may take months or years for the grant to get funded.

Planning to write a grant

- Who:

How uniquely qualified are you as PI?

MPI, Co-Is, collaborators: choose wisely.

Associates.

Colleagues who can provide input on your grants.

Reviewers, competitors etc

SRO vs PO: for study section and I/C respectively

Planning to write a grant

- Where:

Funding agencies: e.g., which NIH I/C?

Review panel (e.g., study sections);

Performance sites: local, domestic, international

Planning to write a grant

- How: this is why we are here

SIMPLE AND CLEAR!

Manuscript vs grant?

Know what you need:

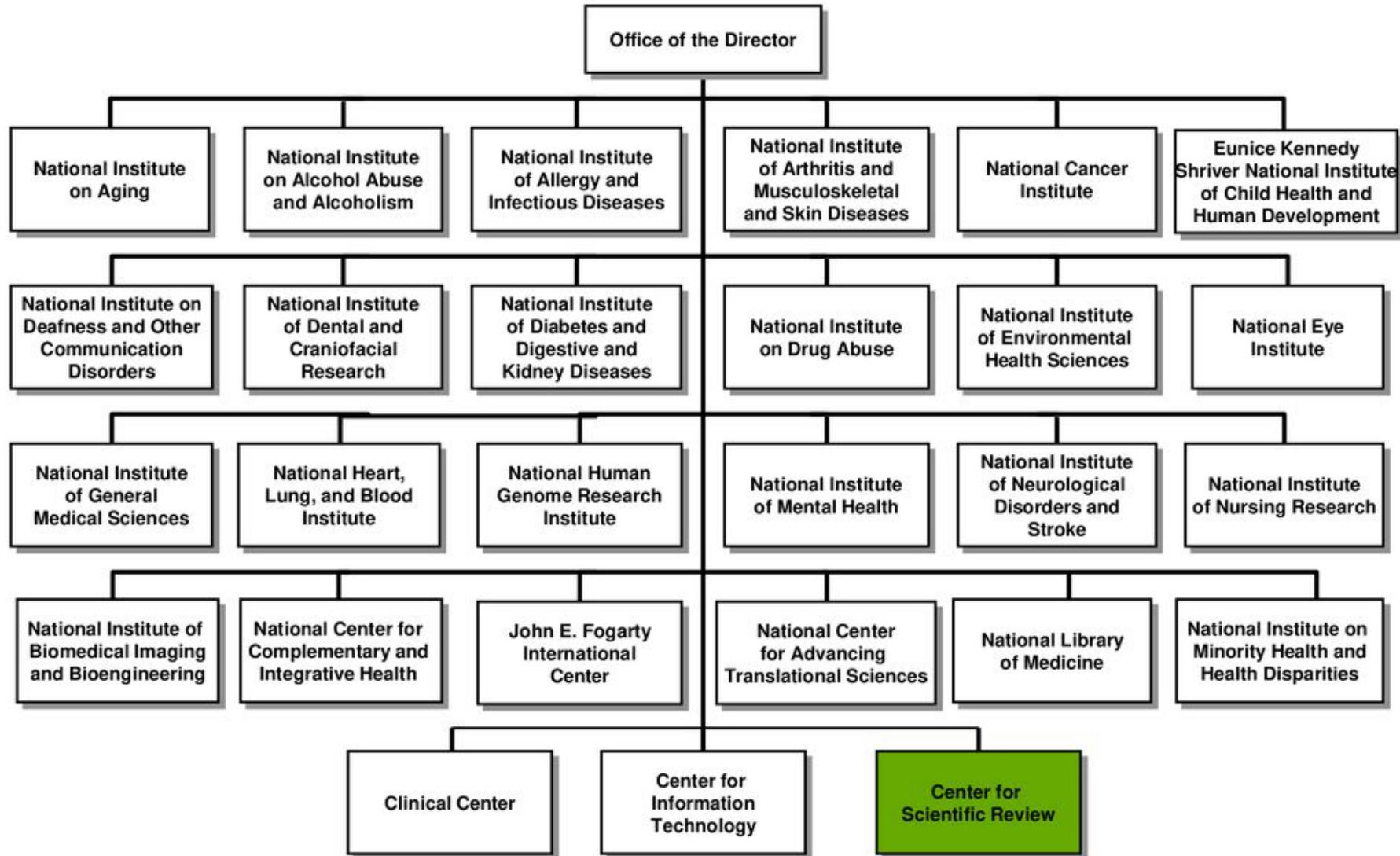
Institutional resources, file checklist, preliminary data, LOS, etc;

Your grants specialists – be nice to them!

NIH Organization

- Director's Office – sets policies, represents NIH to Congress, public, has modest discretionary \$, etc.
- Institutes and Centers (I/C's) – (**Congress puts grant \$\$\$ Here**)
 - Each has focus, e.g., NCI, NIGMS, NEI, NHBLI, etc.
 - Develop Specific Programs and Priorities
 - Award Grants
- Center for Scientific Review (CSR) – special function to review grants via study sections (sometimes call Scientific Review Groups or SRG's; Initial Review Groups or IRG's). **No grant \$\$ to distribute**

NIH Institutes and Centers



CSR has hundreds of Study Sections, e.g.

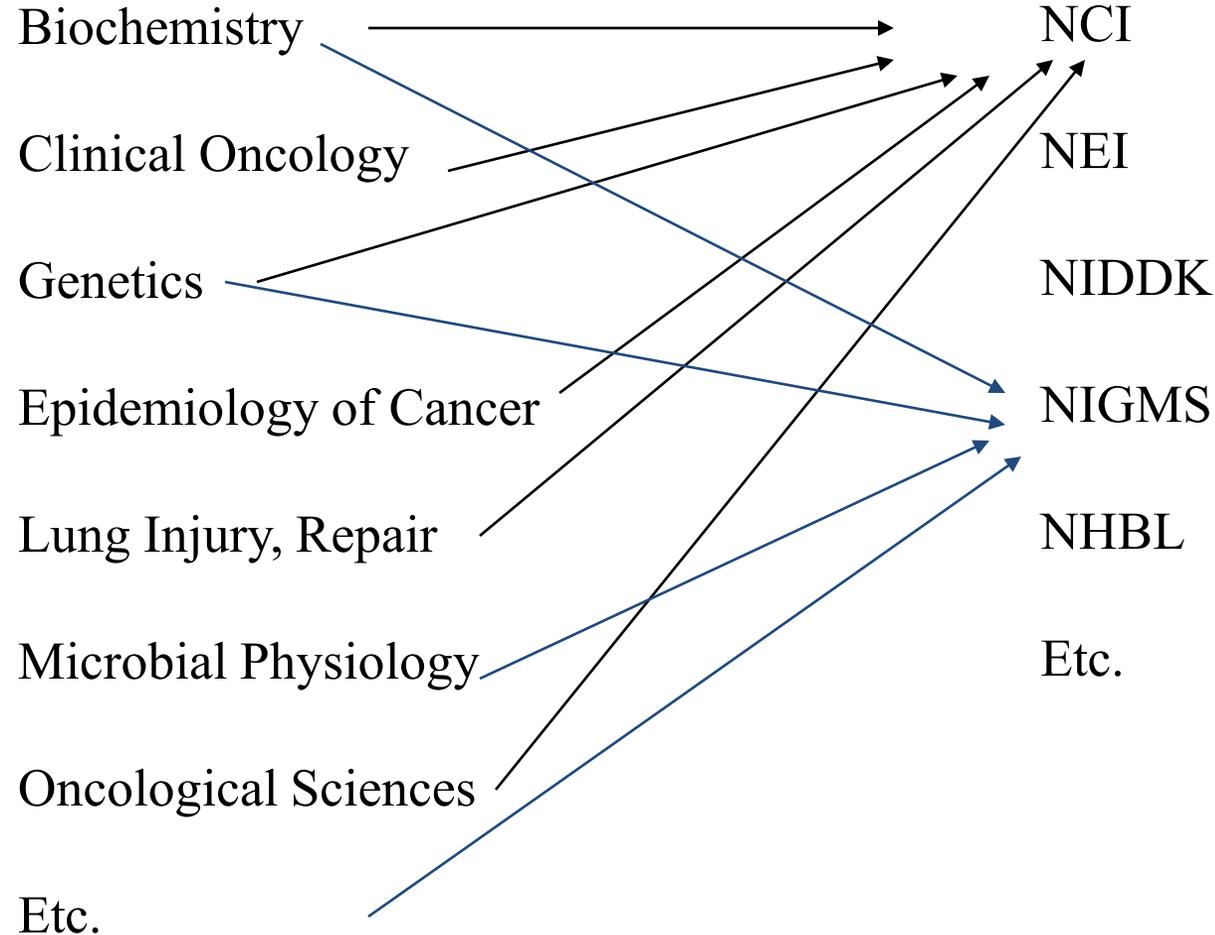
- Molecular genetics
- Aging
- Arthritis, Connective Tissue, and Skin
- Auditory System
- Membrane Biochem. & Biophysics
- Biomaterials
- Cancer Genetics
- Cellular Signaling & Regulatory Systems



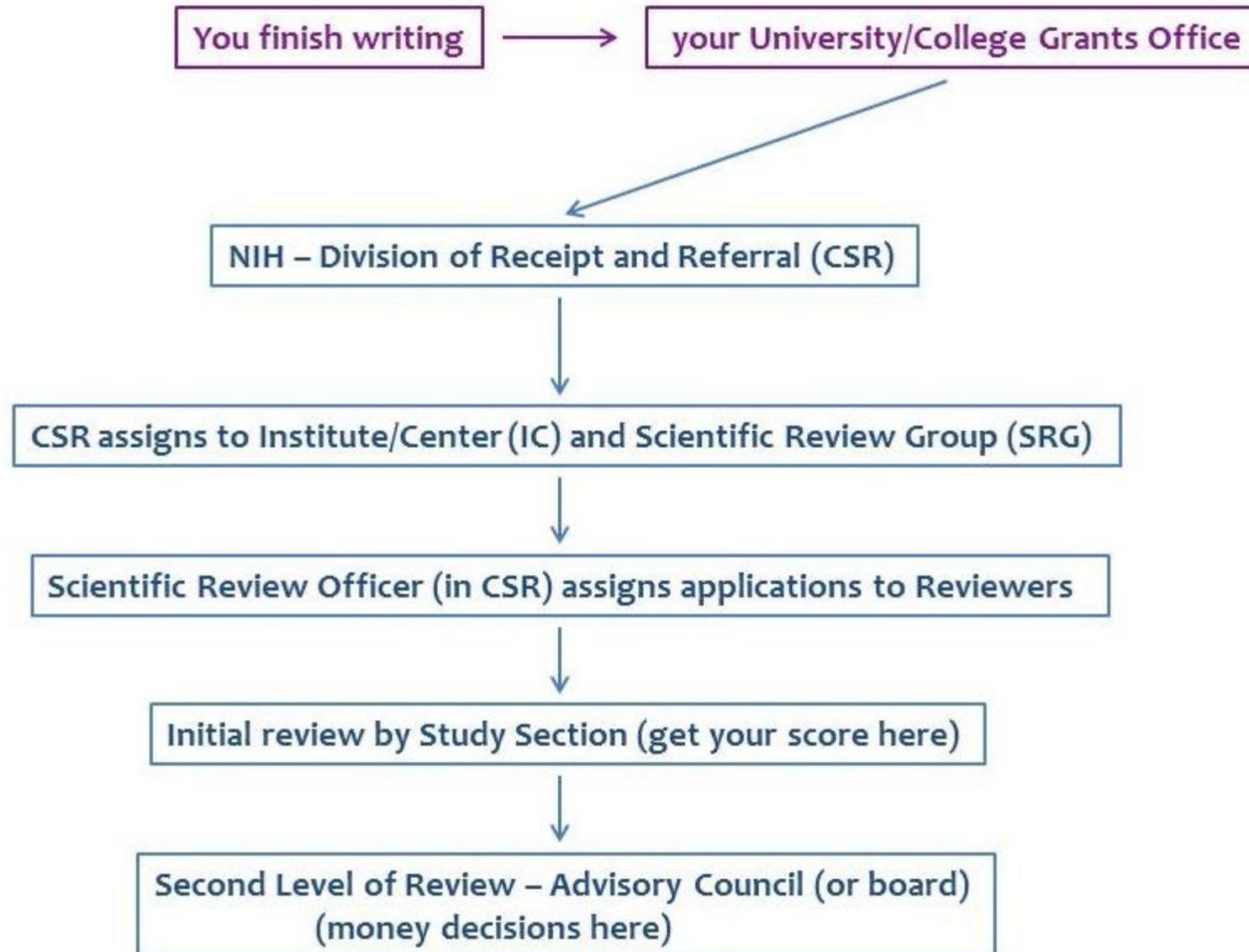
Relationship of Study Sections (Scientific Review) to Institutes (\$\$)

~200 Study Sections -- CSR

~ 20 Institutes



- 1) Scientific Review is Done by Study Sections (**SRO**)
- 2) Funding Decisions made by Institutes (**PO**)



Remember to register for Grants 102!

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NIDP Administrative Team

- Shwetha Pazhoor
- Latundra “Nikki” Hill
- Sujatha Sridhar
- Elizabeth Massey Gendel
- Jessica Martinez

