



NIH Director's New Innovator Award Programs Launch 2008 Application Cycle

NIH is calling for applications for 2008 NIH Director's New Innovator Award. New Innovator Awards are reserved for new investigators who have not received an NIH regular research (R01) or similar grant.

The program, part of the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research, complements other NIH efforts to fund innovative research and support scientists in the early stages of their independent research careers.

“We want investigators to give us their boldest, most imaginative research proposals,” said NIH Director Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D. “The New Innovator Awards are designed to nurture out-of-the-box ideas that may have more than the usual degree of risk but that, if successful, will have unusually high scientific impact.”

New Innovator Awards provide \$1.5 million in direct costs over the same period. NIH expects to make up to 24 New Innovator Awards in September 2008.

“To continue our strong record of diversity in these programs, we especially encourage women and members of groups that are underrepresented in NIH research areas to apply,” added Jeremy M. Berg, Ph.D., director of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, which runs the programs for NIH.

The New Innovator Award application period is from March 3 to 31, 2008.

The streamlined, electronic application process centers on an essay describing the investigator's idea, its significance, and what makes it particularly innovative. New Innovator Award proposals allow preliminary data but do not require it.

Consistent with the novelty of other elements of the program, applications are evaluated using a special process that is itself an experiment in peer review.

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-08-014.html>