Timing is Everything

By Chris Black, M.L.S.,
Assistant Director of Research Development Support, Office of Research

This is a series of tips published in UMMS Research News about writing proposals.

2012 September

Here are some guidelines regarding the timing of a new R01 to NIH:

- Preparation and peer review: allow six months (e.g., four months planning/writing, one month review, one month fixing/editing; two weeks submission process)

- Internal deadlines:
  - UMMS Grants & Analysis Office: proposal due seven business days prior to sponsor deadline
  - Central administration: proposal at ORSP four business days prior to sponsor’s deadline
After submission to NIH (approximate durations):

- Study section review will occur four to five months after submission.

- Score will be posted in NIH Commons approximately one month later; summary statement will be posted approximately 30 days later; call Program Officer to discuss.

- If your score is within the payline, immediately prepare your Just-In-Time information, e.g., Other support, certification of IRB approval. Have ready to submit when/if NIH grants management contacts you.

- Council will review results two months after study section for funding decisions.

- Funding if awarded: eight weeks* (assuming no barriers, e.g., animal usage).

* NIH awards have been taking longer than usual to finalize.

Please note:
Applying in Cycles 1 and 2 (February and June) may increase delays because funding decisions made by the Council are at the beginning of the Fiscal Year (FY).

At this time, the Institute’s budget may not yet been determined, and administrators are being conservative with spending. Funding decisions at the end of a FY are more timely.

Here are some guidelines regarding timing and funding strategy of a renewal R01 to NIH:

- Plan on 19 months from submission to award.

- To stay funded:
  - Plan on multiple proposals (to NIH and others) throughout the five years of your award.
  - Submit new and renewal awards at different times.
  - Remember: your goal is to avoid a break in funding.
  - Read related article: It’s Never Too Soon to Think About Renewing.

- The Study Section review will occur approximately three to four months after submission.

*Remember: Time and tide tarry for no man (John Clarke, 17th century)*

See related article:
- NIAID Strategy Timelines