

NIDUS PILOT GRANTS OVERVIEW

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PILOTS TASK FORCE CO-LEADERS



NIDUS

Network for Investigation of
Delirium : Unifying Scientists

Visit deliriumnetwork.org/pilots for all information about **NIDUS** pilot
grant program

WEBINAR OVERVIEW



- Goals of NIDUS Pilot Program
- Funding Update
- Who can apply?
 - Junior vs. Experienced Investigators
- Elements of NIDUS Pilot Proposal
- Overview of review process
- Review Criteria
- Q & A

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT



- We have received additional funding from the NIH/NIA to offer **two additional pilot awards** this year!
- We will award a grand total of **FOUR** \$50,000 Pilot Awards

GOALS OF THE NIDUS PILOT PROGRAM



Overarching aim: To support pilot studies to advance innovation in delirium research, targeted to priority areas.

- Why?
 - Advance field towards innovate research areas likely to have strong impact
 - Support new investigators entering the field of delirium research
 - Junior Investigators
 - Investigators established in other areas of research transitioning to delirium

WHO CAN APPLY?



- **Any researcher interested in pursuing a delirium-focused research program**
 - Open to basic scientists, translational researchers, clinical researchers
 - Does not need to have substantial prior experience in delirium, but should demonstrate commitment to delirium as focus area.
 - Open to early career and experienced investigators (separate application tracks available)
 - Open to international applicants

JUNIOR INVESTIGATOR TRACK



- Aimed for early-career investigators who plan to dedicate a significant portion of their professional effort on delirium.
- No more than 10 years from completion of final training degree (e.g. physician board certification, PhD, nursing degree, etc.)
- Not intended for investigators who have received significant extramural funding such as NIH R-awards, K23, K08, K12, KL2 or AHA Young Investigator Awards.
- Must have appropriately-qualified mentor.
- Should have at least 50% protected time to pursue research.
- Application includes submission of mentor statement and career development plan

EXPERIENCED INVESTIGATOR TRACK



- Aimed at experienced researchers who aim to use the pilot money to develop ongoing scientific investigations to further delirium research.
- Should have track record of successful prior funding (does not need to be in delirium specifically)
- Should have completed training (e.g. fellowships, PhD studies, post-doc, etc.)

PRIORITY AREAS FOR PILOT GRANTS



- 3 priority areas likely to have broad impact on delirium field have been identified:
 - **Interrelationship of delirium and dementia**: Research that will provide greater insight to the relationship between delirium and dementia.
 - **Innovative studies to identify more effective prevention or treatment approaches for delirium**: Proposals focused on development of new prevention or treatment strategies for delirium, especially multicomponent approaches.
 - **Elucidating delirium pathophysiology**: Research that will shed light on underlying pathophysiology and biological mechanisms of delirium, biomarkers, and may involve animal models or basic laboratory approaches.
- **Priority areas not exclusive - proposals related to any aspect of delirium research are eligible and will be considered by reviewers**

ELEMENTS OF A NIDUS PILOT PROPOSAL



- Title Page
- Abstract
- Scientific Plan
- Career Development Statement (Junior Investigator Track)
- Delirium Research Program Statement
- Appendices

SCIENTIFIC PLAN

- Main narrative of your pilot proposal
 - Specific aims/hypotheses
 - Background and significance of research topic
 - **Research design and methods**
 - Importance of project for career development or overall research goals

Should include:

- Study design
- Sample inclusion/exclusion criteria
- Statistical Analysis plan
 - Including sample size/power
- Strengths and limitations of design

HOW CAN THIS ALL FIT IN 3 PAGES?



- Include *focused* background information, specific to your proposed research area
- Methods: Provide enough detail so reviewers can understand and evaluate what you are proposing, but not necessarily step-by-step.
 - If you are proposing use of a novel or uncommon method, may need to provide more information.

APPENDICES



- References
- PI and co-investigators' NIH biosketches
- Institutional Resources and Environment (1 page)
- Budget (no specific format required)
- Budget justification
- Project timeline with quarterly milestones
- Any other key information

JUNIOR INVESTIGATOR: CAREER DEVELOPMENT PLAN & MENTOR STATEMENT



- Career Development plan:
 - Clearly outline how pilot award will contribute to career development
 - Identify how applicant will develop delirium-focused research portfolio

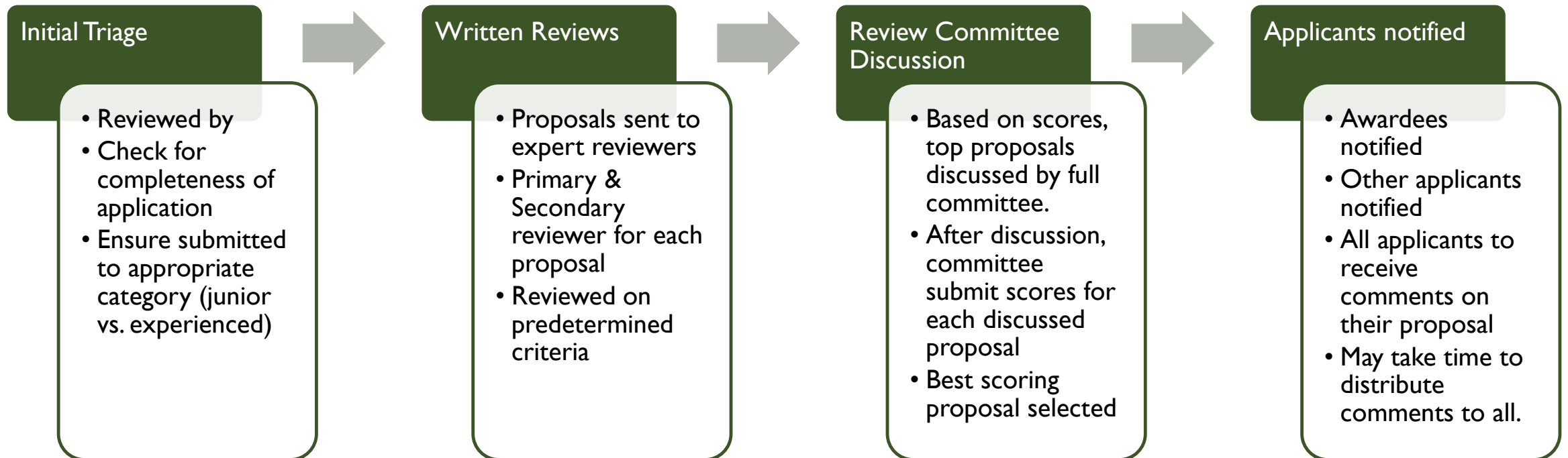
- Mentor Statement:
 - Should be specific and personal to indicate that mentor and mentee have established relationship.
 - Include information on role mentor will play, how often mentor and mentee will meet, etc.

TIPS FOR APPENDICES



- Biosketches: ensure all biosketches are tailored to specific proposal
- Budget Justification: clearly explain rationale for budget choices. If salary or other costs will be covered from other sources, state clearly in justification.
- Resources and Environment: describe resources available at your institution/research setting including research facilities, available tools/equipment if relevant, educational or career development opportunities.

GRANT REVIEW PROCESS



REVIEW CRITERIA



- Criteria reviewed on a 9 point scale (1 = best, 9 = worst)
 - Significance
 - Investigators
 - Innovation
 - Approach
 - Environment
 - Feasibility
 - Evidence of Commitment to Establish a Delirium Research Program
 - Career Development (Junior Investigator Only)
 - Overall Impact

SIGNIFICANCE: *WILL THE WORK ADVANCE THE FIELD?*



- Does the project address an important problem or critical barrier to progress in the field?
- If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved?
- How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, or clinical interventions in the field?

INVESTIGATORS



- Focus on the qualifications and expertise of the members of the research team for the work proposed
 - Do they have the expertise to do the proposed work?
- If the applicant is junior level, do they have appropriate experience and training?
 - Have they lined up the appropriate team to help?
- If established, do they have a track record in the area? NIH funding?
- If the project is collaborative or multi-PD/PI, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise?

INNOVATION



- Is the application novel or does it improve previous work?
- Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel concepts, approaches, or methodologies?

APPROACH



- Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project?
- Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented?
- If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility and will particularly risky aspects be managed?

FEASIBILITY – INCLUDED IN ASSESSMENT OF APPROACH



- Is the project overly ambitious?
- Can the aims be achieved?
 - Within the timeline stated?
 - Within the budget given?
- Is there convincing evidence that the work can be done?

ENVIRONMENT



- Will the scientific environment contribute to the probability of success?
- Are the institutional support, equipment, and other resources adequate for the project?
- Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements?

CAREER DEVELOPMENT



- Does the applicant have a compelling career development plan?
- Does the career development plan include specific information on how the award will contribute to their career trajectory?
- Does the applicant have an appropriate mentor?

OVERALL IMPACT



- Likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field involved
- Assessment of the strengths and weaknesses outlined for each of the five scored criteria
- An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific impact

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



- *Are indirect (F&A) costs covered?*
 - **Yes.** The Pilot award will cover up to \$50,000 direct costs and indirect costs up to 64% for US institutions and 8% for foreign institutions.
- *Can international researchers apply? Do they need a collaborator in the US?*
 - **Yes,** international applicants welcome. A US-based collaborator or coinvestigator is not required.
- *What is the start date if I receive the award?*
 - We are planning for a start date in **April 2019**, but this may be negotiable.

QUESTIONS?



- Use the chat feature in Zoom to type your questions – we will answer as many as possible
- Emails:
 - nidus@hsl.harvard.edu
 - Avidanm@wustl.edu
 - Thomas.Robinson@ucdenver.edu
- Website:
deliriumnetwork.org/pilots

A screenshot of a Zoom meeting interface. The window title is "Zoom Participant ID: 50 Meeting ID: 597-954-4538". The main content area shows meeting details: "Meeting Topic: Kristen Erickson's Personal Meeting Room", "Host: Kristen Erickson", "Invitation URL: https://hebrewseniorlife.zoom.us/j/5979544538" (with a "Copy URL" link), and "Participant ID: 50". Below the details are three icons: "Join Audio" (headphones), "Share Screen" (screen with cursor), and "Invite Others" (person with plus sign). A large red arrow points down from the "Invite Others" icon to the "Chat" icon in the bottom toolbar. The bottom toolbar includes icons for "Join Audio", "Start Video", "Invite", "Manage Participants", "Polls", "Share Screen", "Chat", "Record", "Closed Caption", and "End Meeting".

ADDITIONAL GRANT WRITING RESOURCES



- [Common Mistakes in Writing Applications](#) (From NIH/NIMH)
- [NIH Sample Applications and More](#) (From NIH/NIAID)
- [Best Practices for Mixed Methods Research](#) (From NIH/OBSSR)
- [Methodological and Statistical Issues in Research Proposals](#) (slides by Richard Jones ScD and Thomas Trivison PhD, presented at 2017 Delirium Boot Camp)
- Note: Many resources listed here are tailored to NIH grant applications, for specific formatting instructions for NIDUS Pilot grants please refer to the instructions on our website.
- Visit deliriumnetwork.org/pilots for all information about NIDUS pilot grant program