

NHGRI's Commitment to New Investigators

NHGRI is very flexible in the support of new investigators by:

1. funding applications that might have a higher priority score than applications from established investigators;
2. not reducing council recommended budgets beyond what is required by the grants policy; and
3. supporting new investigators for five years, if requested, unless specific circumstances require otherwise.

Beyond these policies, NHGRI staff is aware that the early career years and career transitions are fraught with uncertainties, so we make special efforts to work with trainees and young investigators. Our contacts with potential new investigators begin with postdoctoral fellows and career development awardees. In the initial phases of the fellowship or career award, NHGRI staff discusses with fellows and awardees the importance of obtaining strong mentorship, learning from peer relationships and generating quality publications. During the last year of the award, staff counsels fellows and awardees about the various options for furthering their research careers, whether through a career development award or an investigator-initiated grant. In addition, staff is always available to answer their questions about program priorities, how to prepare a meritorious grant application, how the peer review process works, and how to work with the NIH system.