

NHGRI Early Stage Investigator Breakfast at AGBT 2020 (2/25/20) – Discussion Talking Points

Within the broader NIH mission, NHGRI supports research directly relevant to the topics covered at AGBT, including genomic technology development, genomic medicine and informatics solutions for genomic research. NHGRI has a very strong interest in helping genomics scientists who are in the beginning or early stages of their career as independent investigators. Below, is a collection of relevant information for New and Early Stage Investigators in this field.

To download a copy of this document, go to: <https://www.genome.gov/ESI-AGBT-2020>.

NHGRI-specific Resources

I have a question about whether my research is a good fit for NHGRI...

Email us!! It always helps when we hear from a potential grantee at the earliest possible stage during concept development of your application. If it is not a fit for NHGRI, we may be able to help you find another NIH institute.

Where can I find more information about research funding opportunities at NHGRI?

Check out <https://www.genome.gov/research-funding/Funding-Opportunities>. NHGRI welcomes investigator-initiated applications and solicits applications related to its scientific priorities. On this page, you can find links to NHGRI's staff by Division, funding opportunities, and relevant listservs.

What future areas of genomics will NHGRI be actively focusing on?

Later this year, we will publish a 2020 vision for genomics. To learn more about the strategic planning process and how you can provide input, visit <https://www.genome.gov/about-nhgri/strategic-plan>. NHGRI aims to identify paradigm-shifting areas of genomics that enable novel applications to human health and disease.

NIH-wide Resources

How do I find out if I qualify for Early Stage Investigator (ESI) or New Investigator (NI) status?

This link could help: <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/early-investigators/index.htm>. On this webpage, find out how to determine ESI/NI status, the types of NIH funding ESIs can hold and still be considered ESIs, and how to request a status extension.

I want to learn more about NIH Research Career Development Awards. Where can I look?

Here is some information about individual and institutional research training opportunities at all levels (undergraduate to postdoctoral): <https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/career-development>.

I am not tenured yet – can I still participate in the NIH peer review process?

Yes! Take a look at the Early Career Reviewer (ECR) program, which aims to help early career scientists become more competitive as grant applicants: <https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForReviewers/BecomeAReviewer/ECR>.

I am a postdoc and want to learn more about K99/R00 (Pathway to Independence) grants...

Congratulations on getting started early in the NIH funding process! This website contains a wealth of information about this program designed to facilitate the transition of postdoctoral researchers into independent research careers: <https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/career-development/k99-r00>.

Where should I look for more funding information as I get started with my own genomics laboratory?

Reach out to any of the NHGRI Program Directors at this table (email contacts below). You can also find a list of NIH-wide opportunities at https://grants.nih.gov/funding/searchguide/index.html#.

Email contacts: Mike Smith (michael.smith@nih.gov), Stephanie Morris (morriss2@mail.nih.gov), and Shurjo Sen (sensh@mail.nih.gov)

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Other Resources

I have a proposal for a small business venture in genomics. Will NHGRI fund me?

NHGRI has a long history of funding SBIR/STTR (<https://sbir.nih.gov/>) applications that have led to cutting edge-technologies driving much of today's genomics research. Contact Mike Smith and schedule a time to talk about your specific idea – we may be interested!

Why does it seem so hard for ESIs to get their R-series grant applications funded?

NIH recognizes that it is harder to get funding when you are just starting out as an investigator and is actively trying to help make it easier. Take a look at the Next Generation Researcher's Initiative, which is designed to increase investment in researchers during the early stages of their independent research careers:

<https://grants.nih.gov/ngri.htm>.