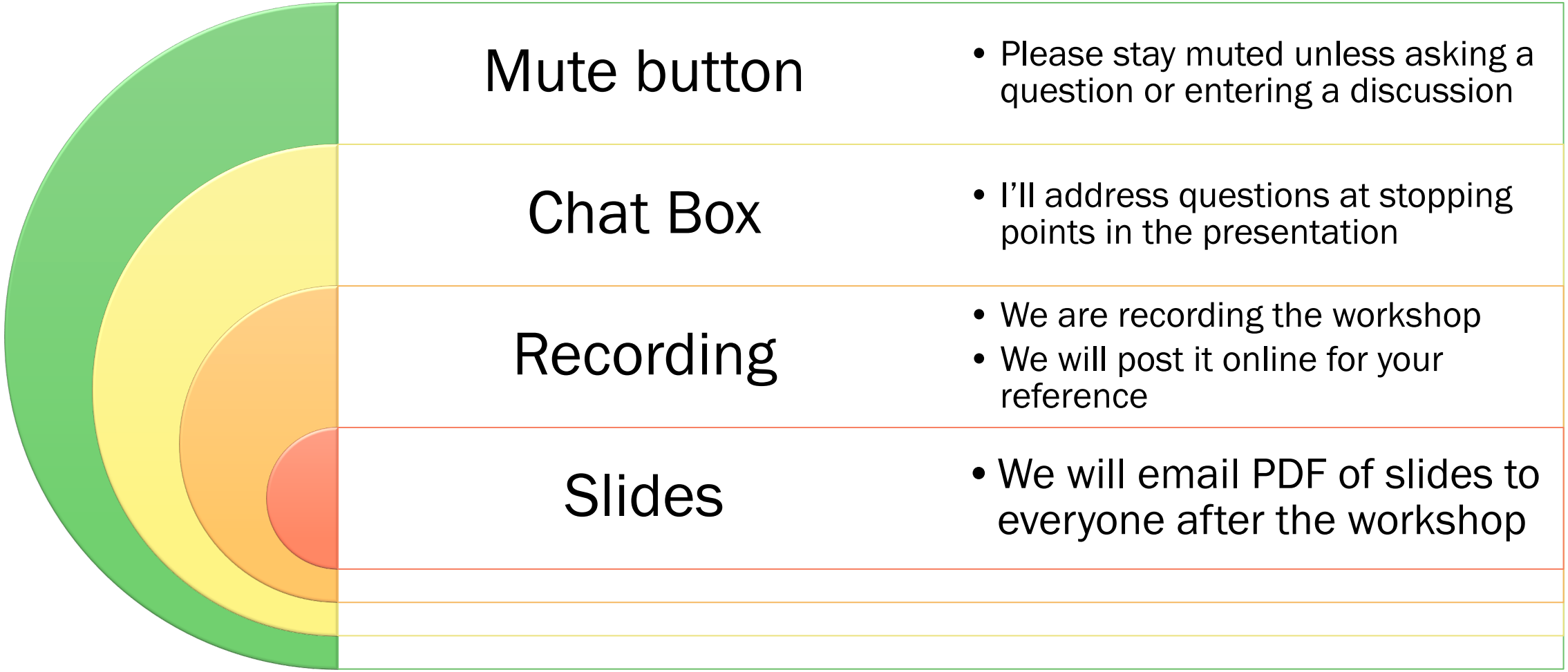
FELLOWSHIPS - NATIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE AWARDS

National Institutes of Health

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON | Research Development Services

HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS



RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Funding Related Services	Funding searches and strategy
	Pivot trainings
	Internal funding programs coordination
Proposal Services	Checklists and templates
	Critique and copy-edits
	Guidance on funding guidelines
Other Services	Oversee limited submissions – internal competitions
	Institutional support coordination and letters

WORKSHOP AGENDA

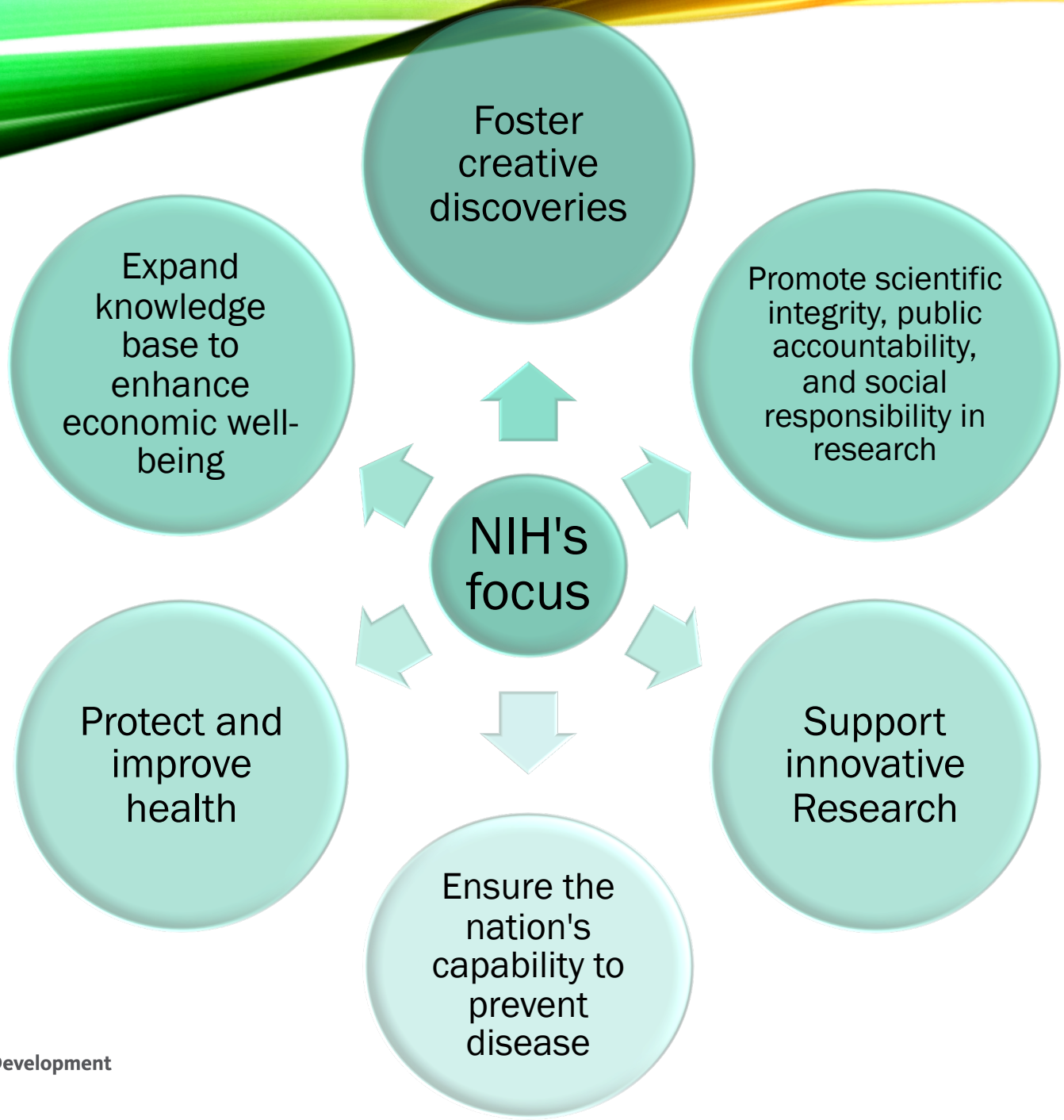
- **Overview** - NIH and the fellowship awards
- **Request for Proposals** – NIH's varied ways to solicit proposals
- **Application Process** – Proposal elements and guidelines
- **Review Process** – Application review process and timeline
- **Writing Tips** - F31/ 32 proposal do's and don'ts

OVERVIEW

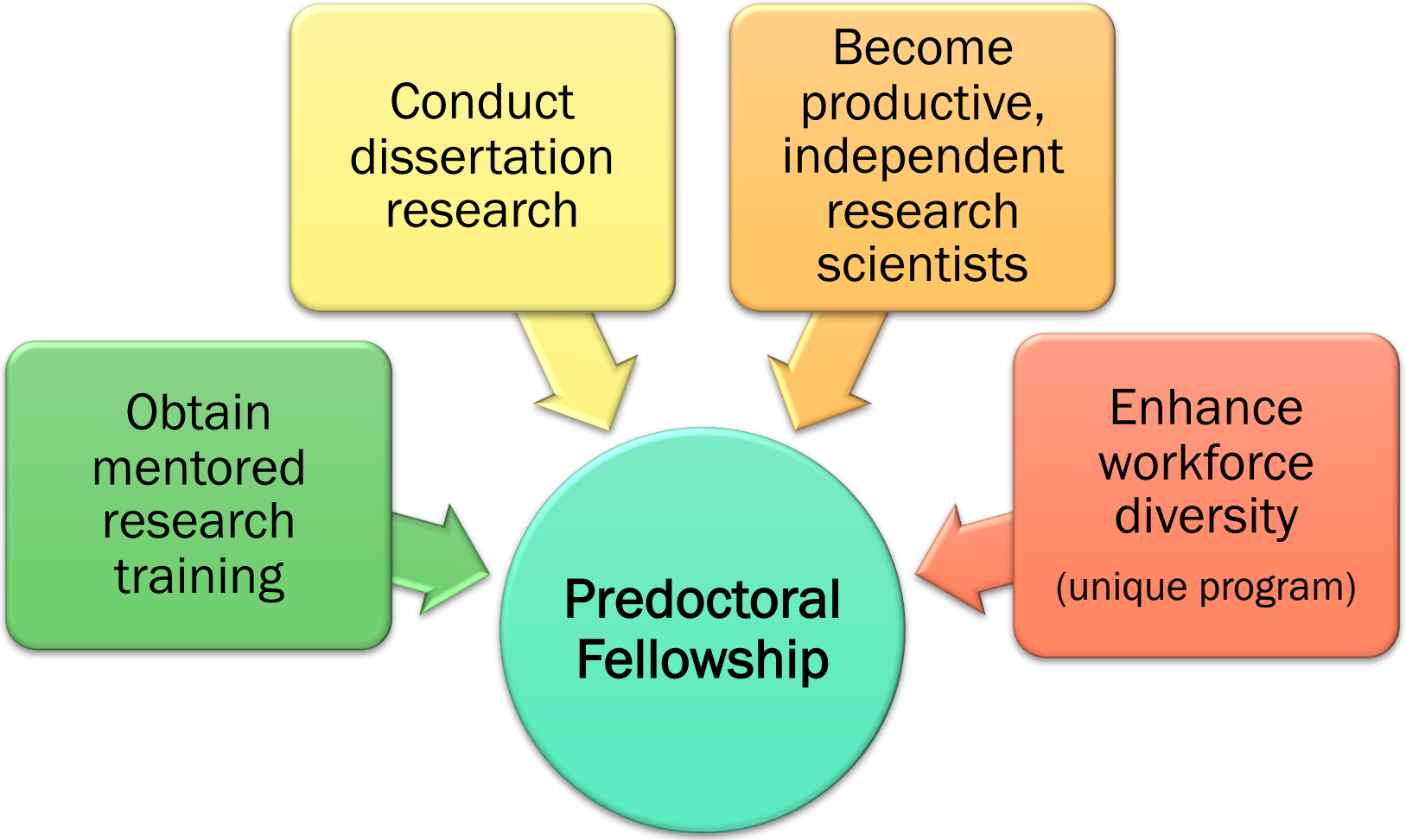
- Purpose
- Types
- Funding amounts

NIH MISSION

To seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability.


Foster creative discoveries
Promote scientific integrity, public accountability, and social responsibility in research
Support innovative Research
Ensure the nation's capability to prevent disease
Protect and improve health
Expand knowledge base to enhance economic well-being
NIH's focus

PURPOSE OF PREDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS



PURPOSE OF POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

To enhance the research training of postdoctoral candidates who have the potential to become productive, independent investigators in scientific health-related research fields of NIH.

FUNDING AMOUNTS

Predoctoral

(fixed amount – FY 2021)

- Up to 5 yrs. (though typically 2-3)
- $25,836 Stipend
- 60% tuition up to $16,000
- Institutional allowance $4,200 (for health insurance and related fees)

Postdoctoral

(fixed amount – FY 2021)

- Support for up to 3 yrs.
- Stipend starts at $53,760
- 60% tuition up to $4,200
- Institutional allowance $11,850 (for health insurance and related fees)

ELIGIBILITY

Predoctoral

- US citizen or permanent resident
- Enrolled in research doctoral degree program
- Career Level: doctorate

Postdoctoral

- US citizen or permanent resident
- Has research or clinical doctoral degree
- Career Level: Post doctorate / Residency

NIH'S REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

- Understanding NIH funding mechanism structure
- Finding and navigating NIH's proposal solicitations

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Finding Announcements** - NIH Research Training and Career Development
  - Lists funding for development for all career stages
  - Fellowship Kiosk lists all F awards
- **Parent Announcement for Fellowships**
  - **Predoctoral**
    - PA-21-051 *Parent F31* (Individual)
    - PA-21-052 *Parent F31-Diversity* (to promote diversity in health-related research)
  - **Postdoctoral**
    - PA-21-048 Parent F32

SPECIALIZED F31

F31

Ruth L. Kirschstein Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award

To provide predoctoral individuals with supervised research training in specified health and health-related areas leading toward the research doctoral degree (e.g., PhD).

Details | *View Current Funding Opportunities*

- **Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Predoctoral Fellowship to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research (Parent F31-Diversity)**
- **Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Predoctoral Fellowship (Parent F31)**
- Bioinformatics Interdisciplinary Postdoctoral Fellowship in Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases (F32)
- Bioinformatics Interdisciplinary Predoctoral Fellowship in Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases (F31)

SPECIALIZED F32

F32

Ruth L. Kirschstein Postdoctoral Individual National Research Service Award

To provide postdoctoral research training to individuals to broaden their scientific background and extend their potential for research in specified health-related areas.

Details | *View Current Funding Opportunities*

- **Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship (Parent F32)**
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)-sponsored National Research Service Award (NRSA)Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship (F32)
- BRAIN Initiative Fellows: Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship (F32)
- NIDCD Research Dissertation Fellowship for Au.D. Audiologists (F32) (Clinical Trials Not Allowed)
- NINDS Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) for Training of Postdoctoral Fellows (F32 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

UNDERSTANDING PARTS OF THE FOA

1. List of participating Centers and Institutes
2. Related Notices. You might find:
   - Modifications to the Parent Announcement
   - Notices of Special Interest
   - Additional guidance on new NIH policies
3. Key Dates - Standard application dates apply for Parent F31/F32. Standard Project start dates also
4. Link to the SF424 (R&R) Fellowship Application Instructions
5. Link to ASSIST, NIH's online application system
6. Funding opportunity description, eligibility, award information
7. Content and Form of Application
8. Application Review Criteria

FIGURING OUT WHERE YOUR RESEARCH FITS

1. Ask your mentor
2. NIH is made up of **27 Institutes and Centers**, each with a specific research agenda, often focusing on particular diseases or body systems
    - Read the home page of the Institute or Center in which you think your research fits and to be sure they fund the F31/F32 mechanism
    - Review fellowship specific guidance
3. Go to the NIH Reporter to see what has been funded in the past by a particular institute or center

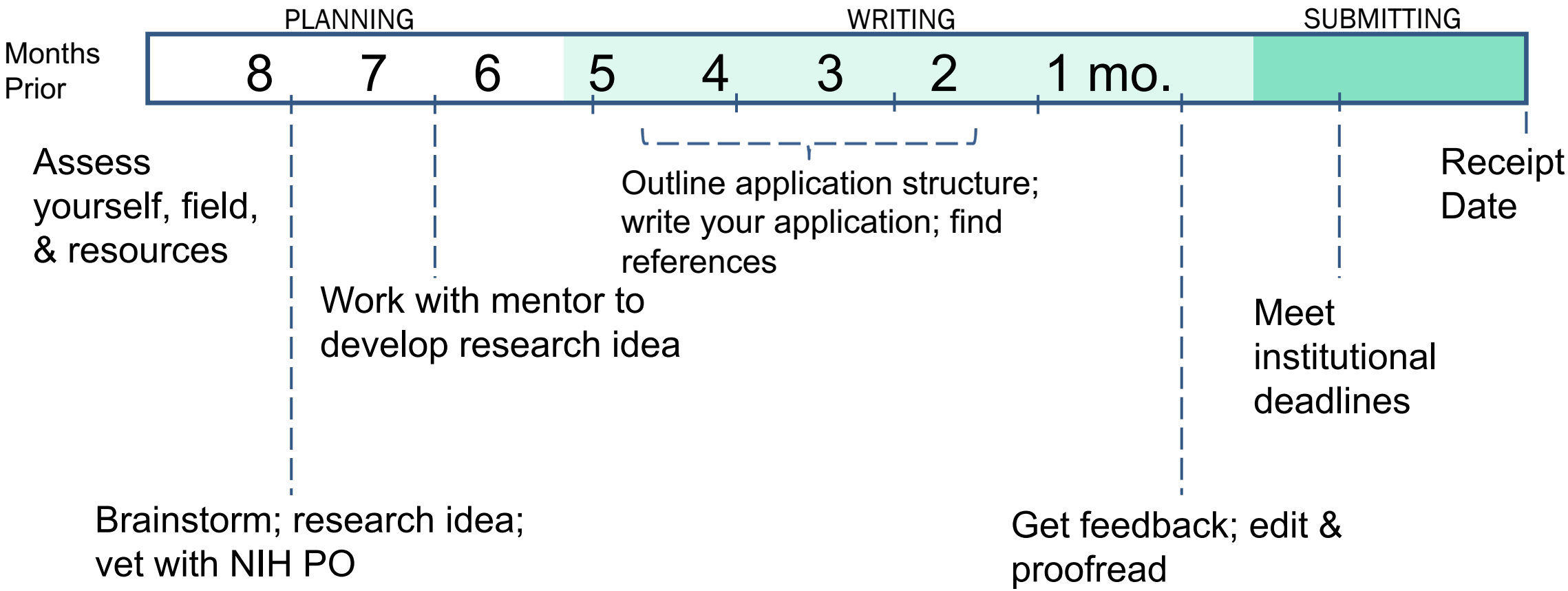
QUESTIONS ABOUT

- Finding Funding Opportunities?

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Timeline
- Proposal elements
- Submission

TIMING FOR PROPOSAL PREPARATION



PROPOSAL GUIDANCE

Two main guidance documents

- The FOA - First, read the requirements listed in your particular Funding Opportunity Announcement, as these guidelines supersede all others
- The S424 R&R Fellowship – these are the full guidelines covering each element of the application

Standardized Rules

- Page Limits - should be followed unless the FOA says differently
- Standard due dates -followed unless the FOA says differently

Other guidance

- Sometimes FOA or Fellowship guidelines will send you to other webpages for more guidance on particular elements (e.g., biosketch, human subjects).
- RDS has created Templates and Checklists to help you put your application together

MAIN PROPOSAL ELEMENTS

Item	Description
Project Summary	30 lines – written to be readable by lay audience
Project Narrative	2-3 sentences
Specific Aims	1 page – an essential part of your proposal
Research Strategy	6 pages
Bibliography & References Cited	no page limit
Applicant's Background and Goals for Fellowship Training	6 pages
Respective Contributions	1 page
Selection of Sponsor and Institution	1 page
Description of Institutional Environment and Commitment to Training	2 pages
Sponsor & Co-sponsor statements	6 pages
Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research	1 page
Resource Sharing Plan	no page limit. Use MyDMPTool
Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources	May be blank but upload required

OTHER PROPOSAL ELEMENTS

Item	Description
Budget	Defined each year by the NIH
Cover Letter	Individual fellowship applicants must include a cover letter that contains a list of referees (including name, departmental affiliation, and institution). Include as statement if study involves Human Fetal Tissue and associated costs.
Biosketches	5 pages; include for PI, sponsor, co-sponsor, and key personnel; use SciENcv as encouraged by NIH)
Equipment	no page limit
Facilities & Other Resources	no page limit
Letters of Support from Collaborators, Contributors, or Consultants	(if applicable: Note: 6 pages max; different from referee letters)
Description of Candidate's Contribution to Program Goals	(if applicable)
[Human Subjects Documentation]	If you have human subjects in your research, you will have other forms to include. Refer to RDS's Templates and Checklists page for resources
Human Specimens/Data Justification	(if applicable)
Vertebrate Animals	(if applicable)
Select Agent Research	(if applicable)

DRILL-DOWN ON PROPOSAL ELEMENTS

Primary *scientific components* of your proposal – *PHS Fellowship Supplemental Form*

Applicant's Background and Goals for Fellowship Training	Specific Aims	Research Strategy	Respective Contributions
• Past research experience • Training goals & objectives • Planned activities of the project	• Concise statement of goals, objectives, and expected outcomes / impacts on research field	• Significance • Approach, including rigor of research design • Discuss preliminary studies within context of the significance and approach	• Describe collaboration between you and sponsor in the development, review, and editing of proposal • Describe respective roles in the research

DRILL-DOWN ON PROPOSAL ELEMENTS

Other elements of the *Fellowship Supplemental Form*

Selection of Sponsor and Institution

- Explain why sponsor and institution were selected to achieve training goals

Training in Responsible Conduct of Research

- Provide outline for framework of all RCR training
- Look to peers fox examples

Sponsor statement

- Research support available
- Sponsor's previous fellows/ trainees
- Training plan, environment, facilities Applicant's qualifications and potential for a research career

Institutional Environment and Commitment to Training

- Describe UO's scientific environment, special facilities, resources available to the applicant.
- Includes educational component for F31 applicants

REFERENCE LETTERS

- Special Instructions for Reference Letters
- At least three, but no more than five, reference letters are required.
- The letters should be from individuals not directly involved in the application, but who are familiar with the applicant's qualifications, training, and interests.
- The sponsor/co-sponsor(s) of the application cannot be counted toward the three required references.
- Make sure you include a list of referees (including name, departmental affiliation, and institution) in the cover letter of the application so that the NIH staff will be aware of planned reference letter submissions.

PREPPING TO SUBMIT

Departmental Grant Administrator

- Sets up internal UO systems
- Helps prepare the budget, including institutional support request
- Uploads material into NIH's proposal portal

UO's Sponsored Project Services

- Will help you set up your NIH eRA Commons ID
- Will approve the budget
- Submits the application in ASSIST

You

- Write all elements of proposal
- Integrate biosketch materials into SciENcv
- Register publications in ORCID.gov

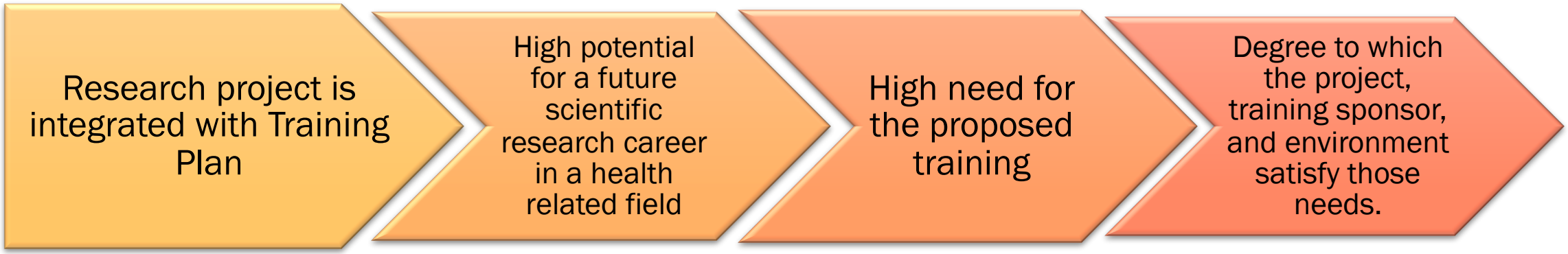
QUESTIONS ABOUT

- Guidelines?
- Elements of a Proposal?
- Submission?

NIH REVIEW PROCESS

- Fellowship review criteria
- Timeline

FOCUS OF REVIEW FOR FELLOWSHIPS



APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

National Institutes of Health

Center for Scientific Review
Assigns to NIH Institute and Peer Review Group

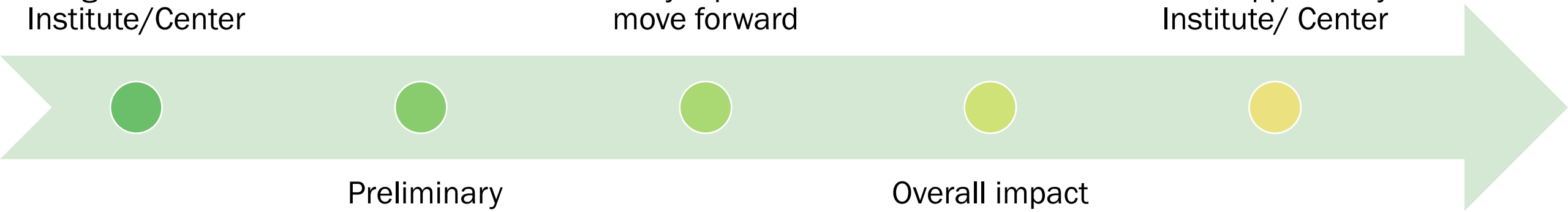
Study Section
Reviews for Scientific Merit

Institute
Evaluates for Relevance to Research Priorities

Advisory Council or Board
Recommends Action

Institute Director
Takes Final Action

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS



SCORED REVIEW CRITERIA FOR FELLOWSHIPS

Applicant

- High quality academic record and research experience
- Potential to develop into independent and productive researcher
- Demonstrated commitment to future research career

Sponsor

- Research qualifications and mentoring experience are sufficient to meet fellow's needs
- Fellow's and Sponsor's research interests match.
- Ability and commitment to help in meeting fellow's research needs

Research Training Plan

- Project is of high scientific quality
- Feasible timeline
- Project consistent with the applicant's stage of research development

SCORED REVIEW CRITERIA CONTINUED

Training Potential

- Project and training plan will provide fellow with mentoring and experience to gain skills for a research career
- Plan focuses on fellow's strengths and addresses weaknesses
- Training serves as a foundation that enhances fellow's development into a productive researcher

Institutional Environment & Commitment to Training

- Adequate facilities, resources and training opportunities
- High quality institutional environment for fellow's scientific development
- Appropriate commitment to fostering the fellow's training

OTHER CRITERIA REVIEWERS CONSIDER

Reviewers evaluate the following while determining ***scientific and technical merit,*** *and in providing an* ***overall impact score****, but will* ***not give separate scores*** *for these items.*

- Protections for human subjects
- Inclusion of women, minorities, and individuals across the lifespan
- Vertebrate animals – justification, processes, interventions
- Biohazard protections

OTHER ITEMS REVIEWERS CONSIDER

*Reviewers will consider each of the following items, but will **not** give scores for these items, and will **not** consider them in providing an overall impact score*

- Training in the responsible conduct of research
- Resource sharing plans
- Budget and period of support
- Select Agents and Foreign Organization descriptions (as applicable)

ADVICE FROM NIH STAFF

- Your sponsor needs to be an active/dynamic participant in your training.
- Your grant should not just be a way of funding your sponsor's research
- Your efforts should show some uniqueness or individualized component to them
- But your research should be related to your sponsor's research.
- Don't just say what you've done. Say how it fits into the bigger picture.
- Emphasize how you're going to fill gaps in your expertise, add to your tool set, and explore different approaches or different problems.
- Be upfront about any flaws and how you're going to address them.

QUESTIONS ABOUT

- Review process?
- Review criteria?

WRITING TIPS

- General recommendations
- Specific guidance

BIG-PICTURE TIPS

The Art of Preparation

- Read guidelines, start to finish. Note scored review criteria sections.
- Review past successful proposals.
- Identify a peer willing to review your work.

The Art of Writing

- Start early! Time for multiple drafts.
- Use active voice. Be concise.
- Write both for specialists and generalists.
- Avoid technical language or jargon. Define it where it must be used.
- Proofread. Sloppy applications don't impress the reviewers.

Art of Persuasion

- State the expected outcomes of your work clearly.
- Describe project with enough concrete detail to be convincing. Don't exaggerate.
- Make no assumptions about the readers' knowledge of your research.

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN WRITING

Make Your Project's Goals Realistic

- Don't propose more work than can be reasonably done during the proposed project period

Be Organized and Logical

- Write clear headings. Use sub-headings, short paragraphs, and other techniques to make the application as easy to navigate as possible

Be persuasive in selling your project idea

- Make the case for why NIH should invest its limited funds in *your* project

TEN TOP REASONS FOR SUCCESS

According to an NIH applicant/reviewer/grant panel member, a successful application:

- Fits the Call or Fellowship scheme well
- Is carefully crafted and polished over time, improved by colleague feedback
- Is timely, pertinent and asks good—even crucial—questions for the field
- Is hypothesis driven and intellectually stimulating
- Is clear, readable and intelligible
- Shows that you are passionate about this topic
- Provides pilot data and follows credibly from established findings
- Justifies sample sizes with power calculations
- Is to performed in a center of excellence
- Builds on your track record

HELP FROM NIH

- Some institutes and centers will have supportive resources specifically for putting together fellowship applications. Examples:
  - National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
  - National Institute of General Medical Sciences
- Podcast on Fellowships
- Center for Scientific Review's Peer Review resources
- Tips on grant writing for NIH
- Be sure you've included a discussion of rigor and reproducibility
- Research Training and Career Development's Preparing Applications page.

FINAL QUESTIONS?

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