



University
of Idaho

*Zoom participants: Please
keep your microphone muted
until the Q&A session*

NIH: UNDERSTANDING PROPOSAL REVIEW

RESEARCH AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT FACULTY SUCCESS SEMINAR SERIES

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Senior Proposal Development Specialist
Office of Research and Faculty Development

Special Guest: Rajal Cohen, PhD
Associate Professor, Department of Psychology &
Communication

Please note that this session is being recorded



OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

I We provide proposal development assistance across the spectrum*



I Meet goals in the UI strategic plan – grow research and creative efforts across all disciplines

I Reach out to request service – uidaho.edu/orfd

*Not including budget preparation

All services are optional and are granted on a first come, first served basis

RESEARCH & FACULTY DEVELOPMENT



I Morrill Hall, Room 103

I uidaho.edu/orfd

REQUEST RFD SERVICES

Our People

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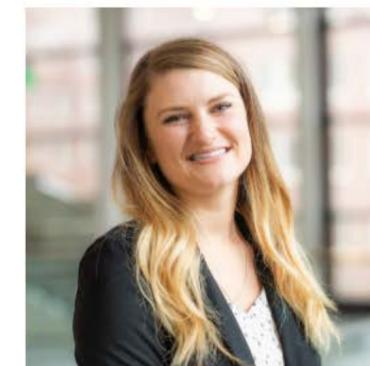


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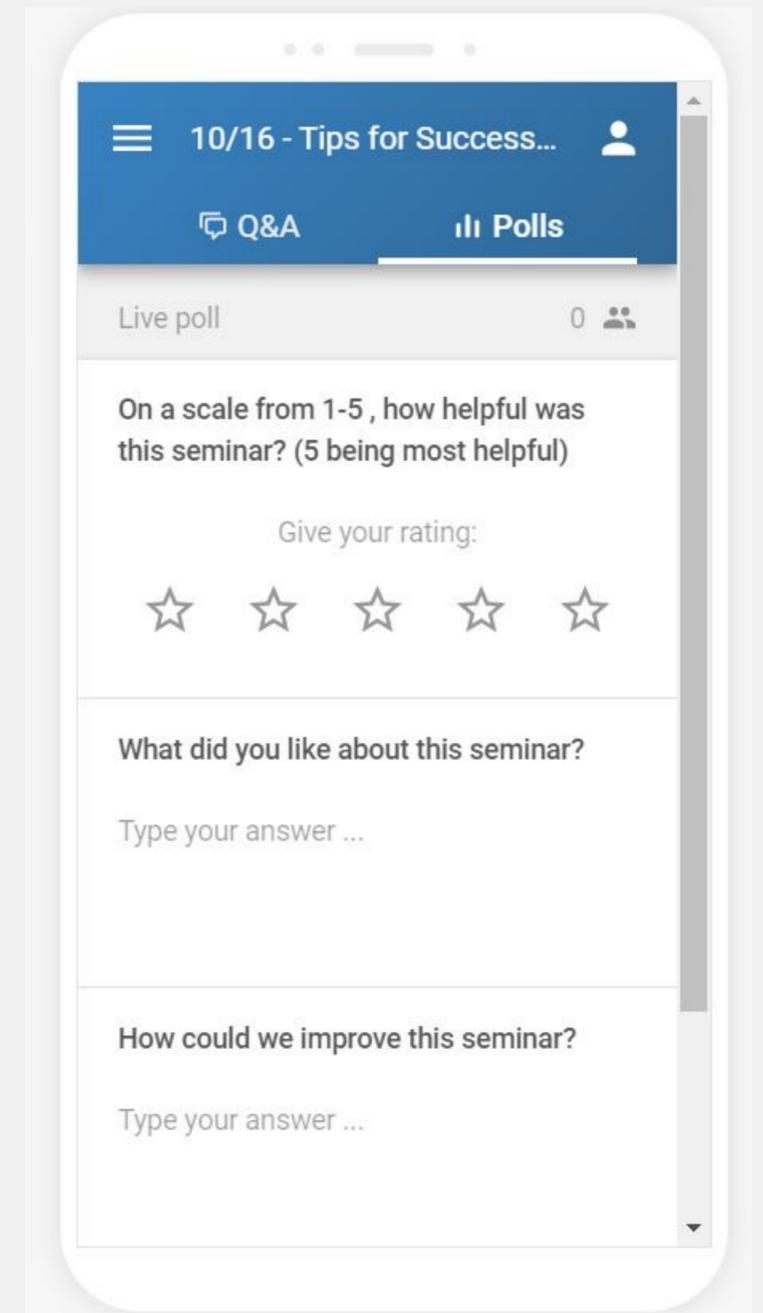
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HELP US IMPROVE OUR SEMINARS

- I After the Q&A session: brief 3 question sli.do poll
- *On a scale from 1-5, how helpful was this seminar?*
 - *What did you like most about this seminar?*
 - *How can we improve this seminar?*

www.slido.com or use the **sli.do** app (Use code #FSS)



OBJECTIVES



IN THIS SESSION, WE'LL DISCUSS WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR NIH APPLICATION:

I Center for Scientific Review (CSR)

- Scientific Review Groups (w/in CSR or IC)

I NIH Peer Review

- Receipt and Referral (Assignment)
- Level 1 – Initial Peer Review (*who, what, how*)
- Level 2 – National Advisory Council Review

I NIH Review Criteria

I Special Guest: Dr. Rajal Cohen

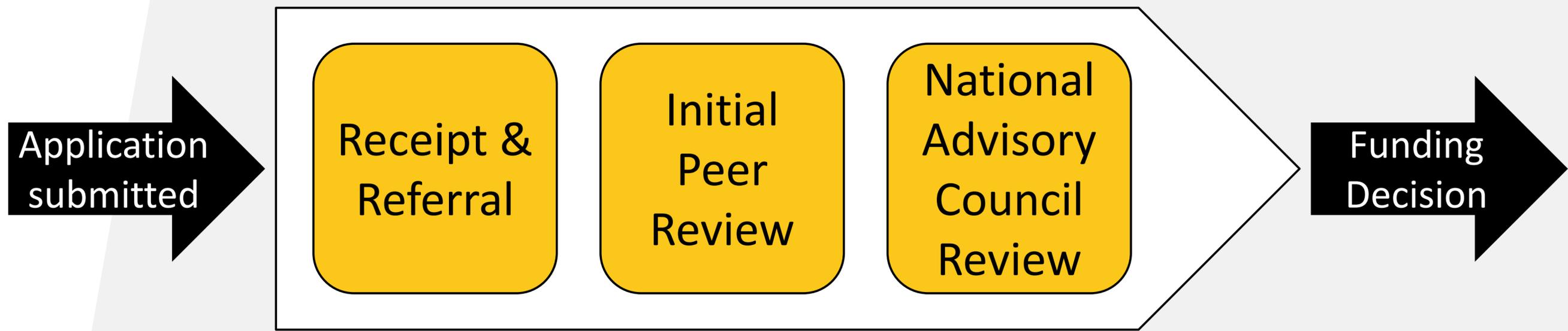




NIH PEER REVIEW



- Cornerstone of NIH extramural research
- Two-stage review process
 - Receipt and Referral (Assignment)
 - Level 1 – Initial Peer Review
 - Level 2 – National Advisory Council Review



GATEWAY FOR NIH GRANT APPLICATIONS



I The Center for Scientific Review

- Receives all NIH applications
- Refers them to NIH Institutes/Centers and scientific review groups
- Reviews majority of NIH grant applications for scientific merit

I CSR's Mission:

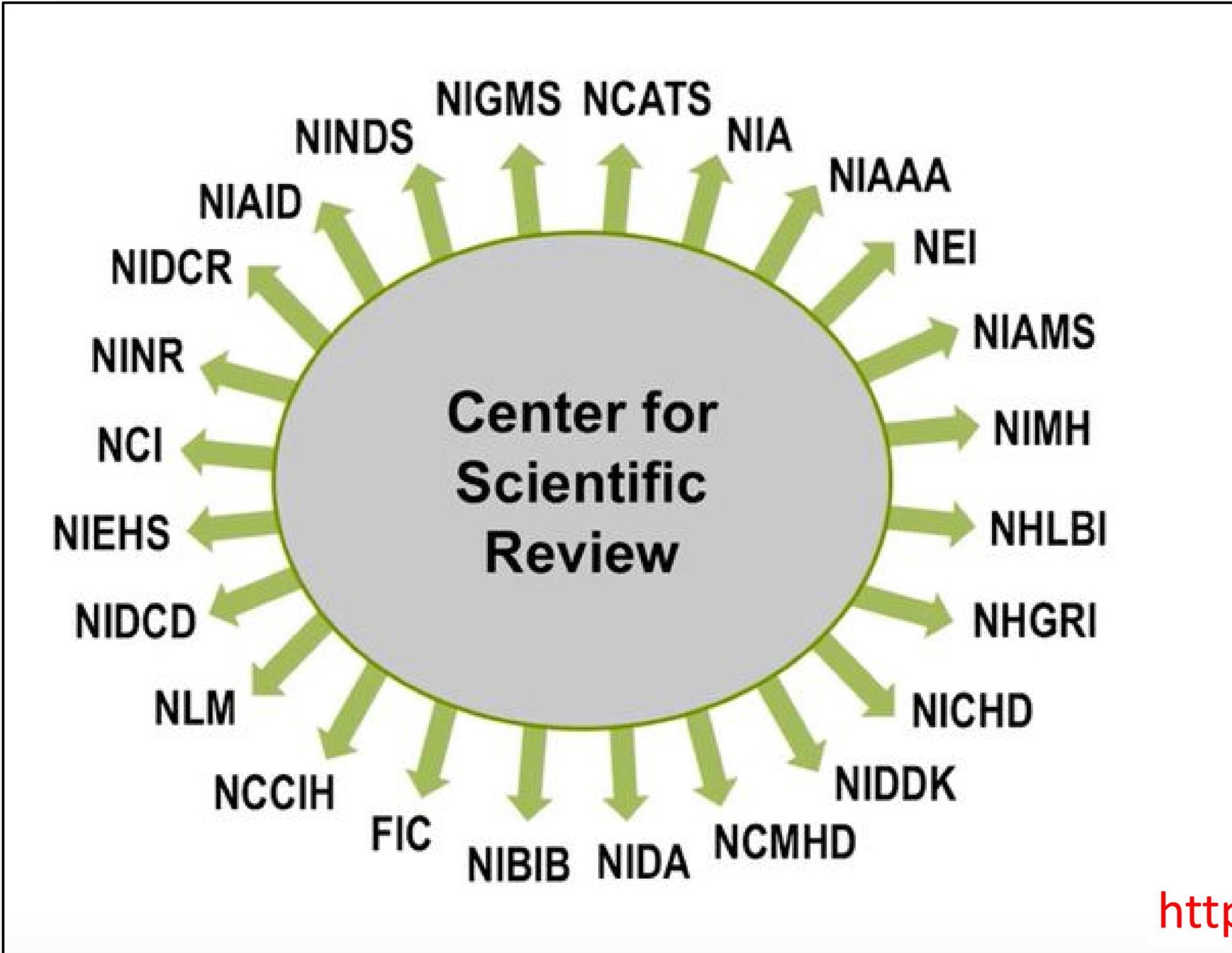
Ensure that NIH grant applications receive fair, independent, expert, and timely reviews (free from inappropriate influences) so NIH can fund the most promising research.



NIH CENTER FOR SCIENTIFIC REVIEW



Serves the 24 NIH Institutes and Centers *that fund grants*



<https://public.csr.nih.gov/>



NIH CENTER FOR SCIENTIFIC REVIEW



<https://public.csr.nih.gov/>

Resources:

- For Applicants & Reviewers
- Videos – *NIH Review Revealed*
- Sign up for blog - [Review Matters](#)
- [Early Career Reviewer Program](#)

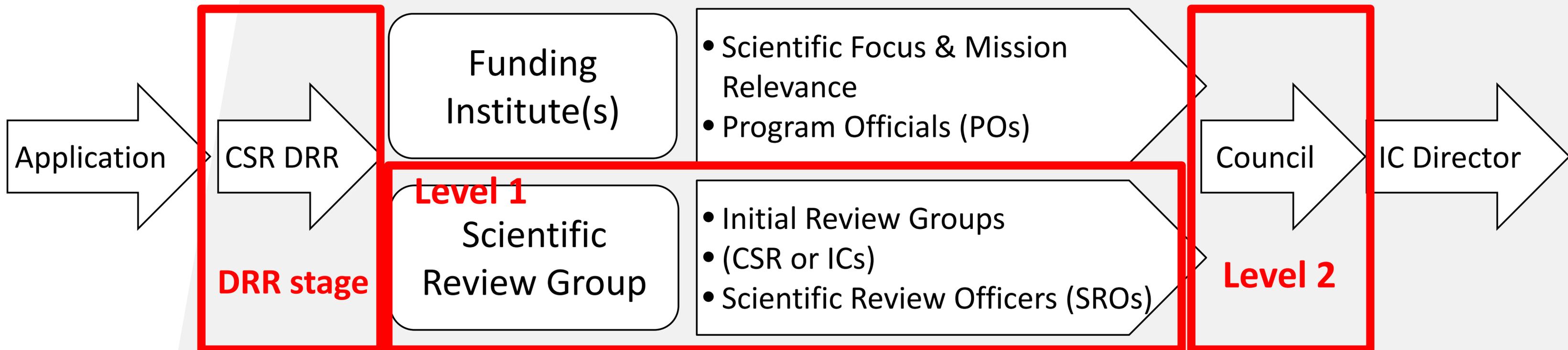
The screenshot shows the homepage of the NIH Center for Scientific Review. At the top left is the NIH logo and the text 'Center for Scientific Review'. To the right is a search bar with the placeholder text 'What are you searching for?'. Below the logo is a navigation menu with links: 'For Applicants', 'For Reviewers', 'News & Policy', 'Study Sections', 'Review Panels & Dates', and 'About CSR'. The main content area features a large image of three women in a meeting. Overlaid on this image is a dark grey box with the text 'Dr. Ross Shonat named Director of the Division of Physiological and Pathological Sciences' and a 'Learn More' button. Below this box are three dots, with the rightmost one being green. At the bottom of the page, there is a blue navigation bar with the text 'Find a Study Section' and a search bar with the placeholder 'Enter Keyword or Title'. To the right of this search bar is the text '- or -' and a button that says 'Use our Guided Study Section Selector'. Below the blue bar are two white boxes with green borders. The left box is titled 'For Applicants' and contains the text 'Explore resources to assist in the planning, writing, and submitting of a successful application.' The right box is titled 'For Reviewers' and contains the text 'Explore tools and guidance for the successful reviewing, critiquing, and scoring of applications.'



NIH PEER REVIEW



- Receipt & Referral - Division of Receipt and Referral (DRR)
 - Application compliance, Assignment to Institute(s) for funding consideration, Assignment to Study Section for initial peer review
- Level 1 – Initial Peer Review
 - Assessment of scientific and technical merit of the proposed research, overall impact, and appropriate justification of additional criteria (e.g., human subjects protections, etc.)
- Level 2 – National Advisory Council Review
 - Funding recommendations





DIVISION OF RECEIPT & REFERRAL



INITIAL CHECKS AND ASSIGNMENT:

I Application Validation

- Compliance checks for timeliness, formatting, completeness

I Application Assignment to Scientific Review Group

- Within CSR applications are assigned to a standing Study Section or Special Emphasis Panel (~75% of NIH applications)
- Review groups within NIH Institutes and Centers (~25% of NIH applications)

I Before Review Group – CSR Scientific Review Officers (SRO) assign application to one or more NIH Institutes or Centers for potential funding

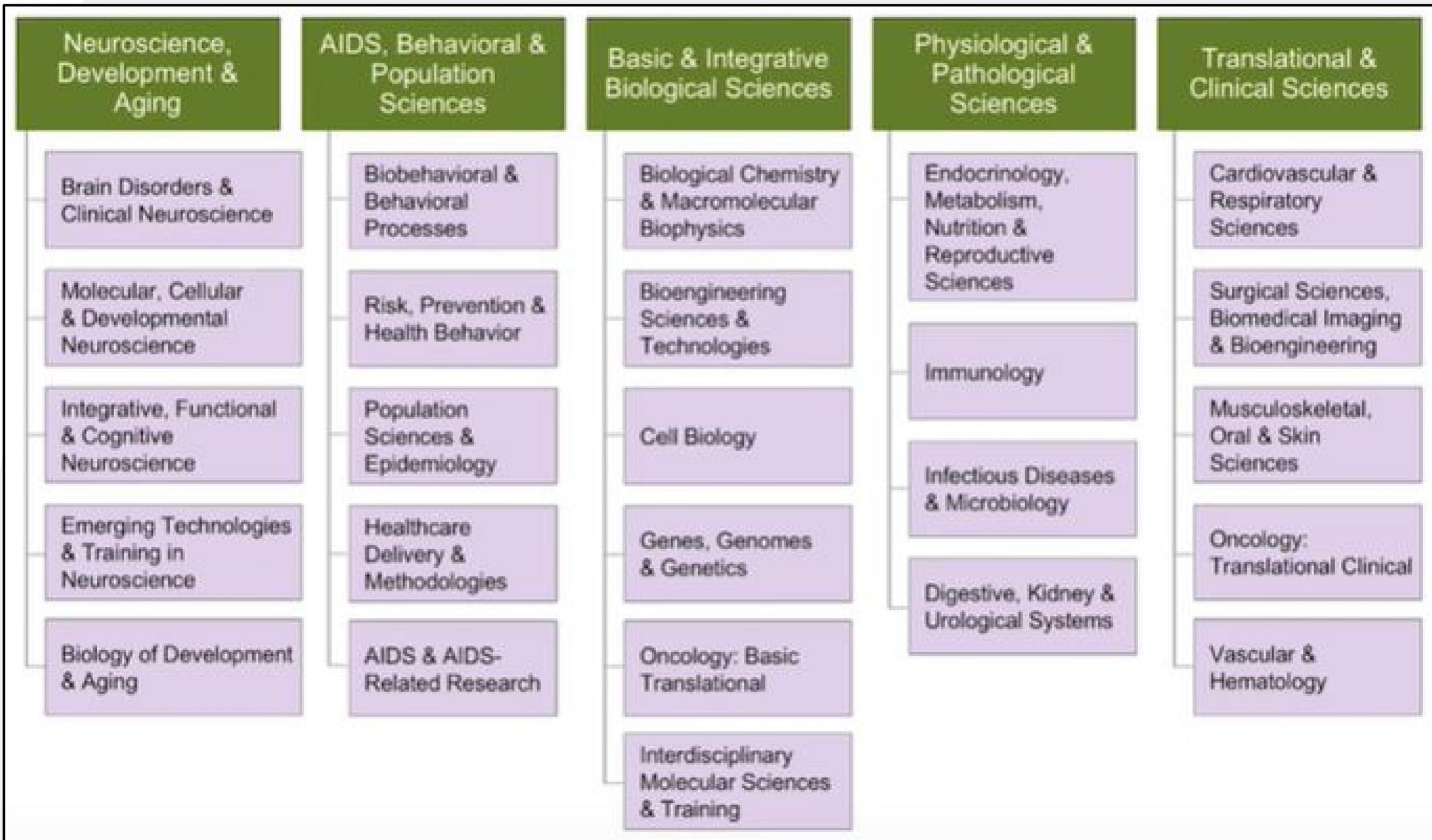
- Based on Institute or Center mission and specific programmatic mandates



CSR DIVISIONS & INTEGRATED REVIEW GROUPS



If reviewed at CSR, your application will be assigned to one of 24 Integrated Review Groups of Study Sections:





FIND & REQUEST A SCIENTIFIC REVIEW GROUP



I Search for a CSR review group by [searching for topics](#)

I [Assisted Referral Tool \(ART\)](#)

web-based tool for matching applications to CSR SRGs

I [Regular Standing Study Sections](#)

I *Not all study section or IC requests can be honored

NIH Center for Scientific Review **Assisted Referral Tool (ART)**

Please make a selection:

- Recommend study sections directly**
You will be given a list of the best matching of the 173 active SRG panels.
- Recommend IRG first followed by study sections**
You will first be given a list of the best matching Integrated Review Groups. You may then select the study sections within those IRGs to perform second-tier matching against the selected study sections.
- Recommend SBIR/STTR Special Emphasis Panels**
If you are applying for a SBIR/STTR grant, select this option.

[Continue](#)



FIND & REQUEST A SCIENTIFIC REVIEW GROUP



I Assignment Request Form

- Suggest that NIH assign your application to a particular scientific review group
- Suggest assignment to a specific awarding component (an NIH Institute or Center)
- Let NIH know of potential reviewers who you feel might be in conflict with your application.
- Describe the expertise needed to review your application.

View Burden Statement

PHS Assignment Request Form

OMB Number: 0925-0001
 Expiration Date: 3/31/2020

Funding Opportunity Number:

Funding Opportunity Title:

Awarding Component Assignment Request *(optional)*

If you have a preference for an awarding component (e.g., NIH Institute/Center) assignment, use the link below to identify the appropriate short abbreviation and enter it below. All requests will be considered; however, assignment requests cannot always be honored.

Awarding Components: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/phs_assignment_information.htm#AwardingComponents

	First Choice	Second Choice	Third Choice
Assign to Awarding Component:	<input style="width: 80%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 80%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 80%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
Do Not Assign to Awarding Component:	<input style="width: 80%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 80%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 80%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>

Study Section Assignment Request *(optional)*

If you have a preference for study section assignment, use the link below to identify the appropriate study section (e.g., NIH Scientific Review Group or Special Emphasis Panel) and enter it below. Remove all hyphens, parentheses, and spaces. All requests will be considered; however, assignment requests cannot always be honored.

Study Sections: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/phs_assignment_information.htm#StudySection

**different from cover letter*



LEVEL 1 – INITIAL PEER REVIEW

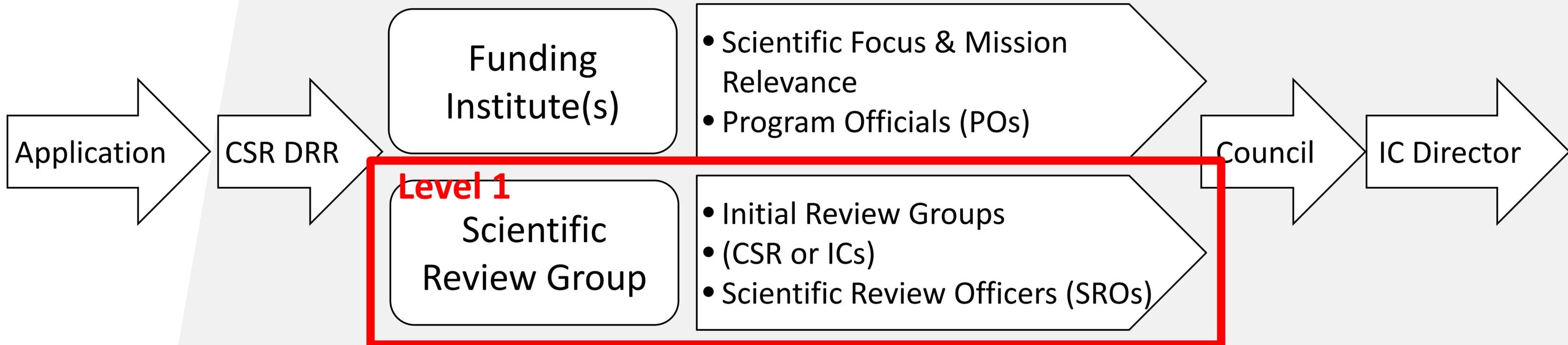


I Key Decisions

- Scientific and technical merit of the proposed research
- Overall Impact
- Confirm appropriate justification of human subject protection, inclusion, vertebrate animals

I Managed by Scientific Review Officer (SRO)

- Recruit Reviewers, makes reviewer assignments
- Convenes Study Section Meeting





LEVEL 1 – INITIAL PEER REVIEW



PARTICIPANTS:

I Scientific Review Officer (SRO)

- PhD level expertise related to science reviewed in their study section
- Recruits and selects reviewers to serve on review panels
 - Doctoral degrees or equivalent
 - Demonstrated scientific expertise/research support
 - Mature judgment and breadth of perspective in research and research administration
 - Work effectively in group context
 - Impartiality
 - Appropriate diversity (e.g., geographic distribution)
- Manages confidentiality and conflicts of interest
- Schedules and manages the study section meetings
- Prepares summary statements on peer findings of scientific merit



LEVEL 1 – INITIAL PEER REVIEW



PARTICIPANTS:

I Study Section Chair

- Partners with SRO to conduct the meeting
- Guides and summarizes study section discussion
- Ensures all study section member opinions are given careful consideration
- Manages scientific discussions at the meeting, seeking balance between conciseness and thoroughness of discussions

I Study Section Members

- 12-25 regular members
- From academia, biomedical industry, government research labs

I Assigned Reviewers (3 per application)



LEVEL 1 – INITIAL PEER REVIEW



ENSURING INTEGRITY OF REVIEW:

Confidentiality

- Review materials and proceedings of review meetings represent confidential information for reviewers and NIH staff
- At the end of each meeting, reviewers must destroy or return all review-related material
- Reviewers should not discuss review proceedings with anyone except the SRO
- Questions concerning review proceedings should be referred to the SRO



NIH REVIEW CRITERIA



Scored Review Criteria

- Significance – *should they do it?*
- Investigator(s) – *can they do it?*
- Innovation – *should they do it?*
- Approach – *can they do it?*
- Environment – *can they do it?*

Each scored from 1-9

Overall Impact

Assessment of the likelihood for the project to **exert a sustained, powerful influence on the scientific research field(s) involved.**

Should they do it? Can they do it?

Scored from 1-9 (*1 is best)

Additional Review Criteria considered in assessing impact*

- Provisions for human subjects
 - Appropriate use of vertebrate animals
 - Inclusion - consideration of sex as a biological variable
 - Management of biohazards
- *must be convincingly addressed in the application so as to not detract from overall impact.*



SCORING OVERALL IMPACT



Overall Impact	Scores	Examples
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Exceptional 2 Outstanding 3 Excellent 	Applications address a problem of high importance/interest in the field. May have some or no technical weaknesses.
Medium*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Very Good 5 Good 6 Satisfactory 	<p>Applications may address a problem of high importance in the field, but weaknesses in the criteria bring down the overall impact to medium.</p> <p>Applications may address a problem of moderate importance in the field, with some or no technical weaknesses.</p>
Low*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 Fair 8 Marginal 9 Poor 	<p>Applications may address a problem of moderate/high importance in the field, but weaknesses in the criteria bring down the overall impact to low.</p> <p>Applications may address a problem of low or no importance in the field, with some or no technical weaknesses.</p>

*Medium and Low Overall Impact - reviewers have concerns about significance of proposed science or perceive substantial weaknesses in approach, team of investigators, or innovation.



BEFORE THE REVIEW MEETING



WHAT REVIEWERS DO:

- I** Examine assignments (~6-8 weeks prior to meeting)
- I** Orientation teleconference
- I** Sign Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality certifications
- I** Read applications, prepare written critiques
 - comment on each of five core criteria, discuss stronger and weaker points
 - draft a summary of overall impact
 - give scores for each criterion and overall impact, noting elements that contributed to impact
- I** Enter preliminary scores and critiques into secure website
- I** Read and consider critiques and preliminary scores from other study section members



AT THE REVIEW MEETING

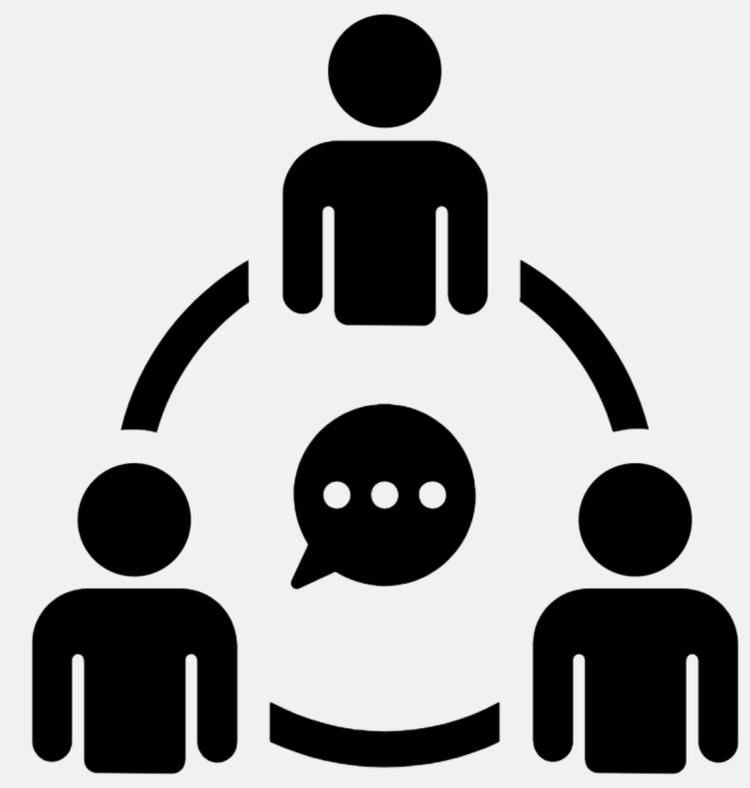


I Objective of discussion

- Reviewers are expected to openly discuss all perspectives leading to judgement of overall impact of application

I What is discussed

- Reviewers discuss and score top half of applications based on average of preliminary overall impact scores from assigned reviewers
- *also discuss applications that any member wishes to discuss





AT THE REVIEW MEETING



I Procedure – Discussion of applications

- Any member in conflict with an application leaves the room
- Chair identifies assigned reviewers and announces preliminary scores to all present
- Reviewer 1 introduces application, presents critique, including all scoreable issues (scored criteria, human subjects protection, vertebrate animals, etc.)
- Reviewers 2 and 3 highlight new issues and areas that strongly impacted their judgement and scores
- Disagreements are discussed and clarified
- All members not in conflict are invited to join the discussion



AT THE REVIEW MEETING



I Procedure – Determination of Final Impact Score

- Once discussion has revealed all points of view, then chair closes discussion
- Chair provides summary of critical points presented during discussion
- Assigned reviewers openly state final overall impact scores, defining the score range
- All panel members vote by private ballot based on discussion (if voting outside of range, then members must declare intent to do so and provide a rationale)
- Non scoreable issues discussed (budget, data sharing plan, foreign applicants, etc.)
- Final Impact Scores range from 10 - 90 (average of all reviewers' scores multiplied by 10)



AFTER THE REVIEW



I Available in eRA Commons

- Final Impact Score within 3 days
- Summary statement available within 4-8 weeks, available to:
 - Funding Institute Program Officer
 - PD/PI
 - Other NIH Officials
 - Advisory Council members



I Summary Statement - contains reviewer critiques, criterion scores

- Page 1 – NIH PO, Final Impact Score, Percentile (if applicable), Budget Request
- Subsequent pages: Summary of discussion (if discussed), Criterion Scores from assigned reviewers, Reviewer critiques (essentially unedited), Meeting roster, Administrative Notes



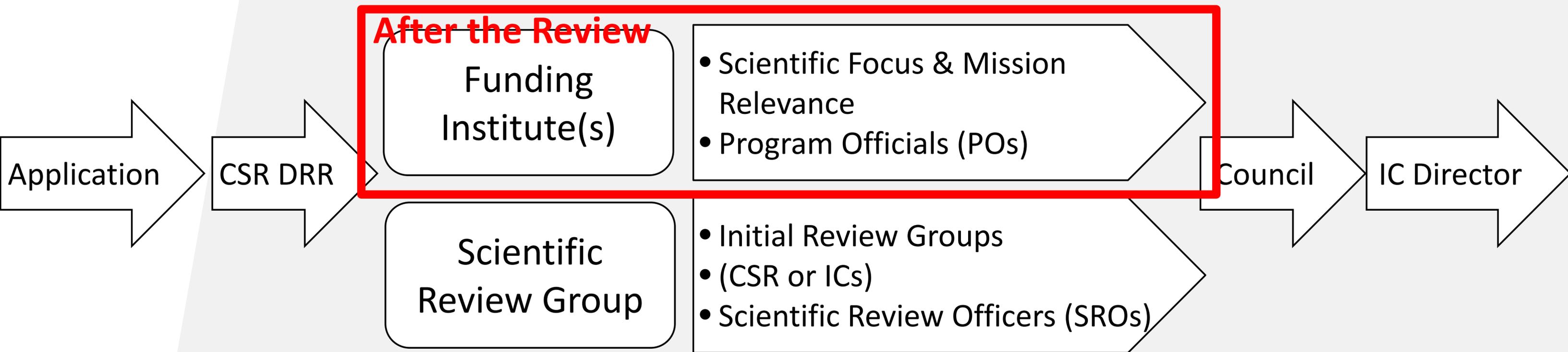
AFTER THE REVIEW



I Point of Contact becomes the assigned NIH Program Official

I Applicants may need to:

- Submit Just-In-Time (JIT) information
- Resolve human subject, vertebrate animal, inclusion codes
- Consider application options - submit a new application, revise and resubmit, or appeal the review outcome





LEVEL 2 – ADVISORY COUNCIL REVIEW

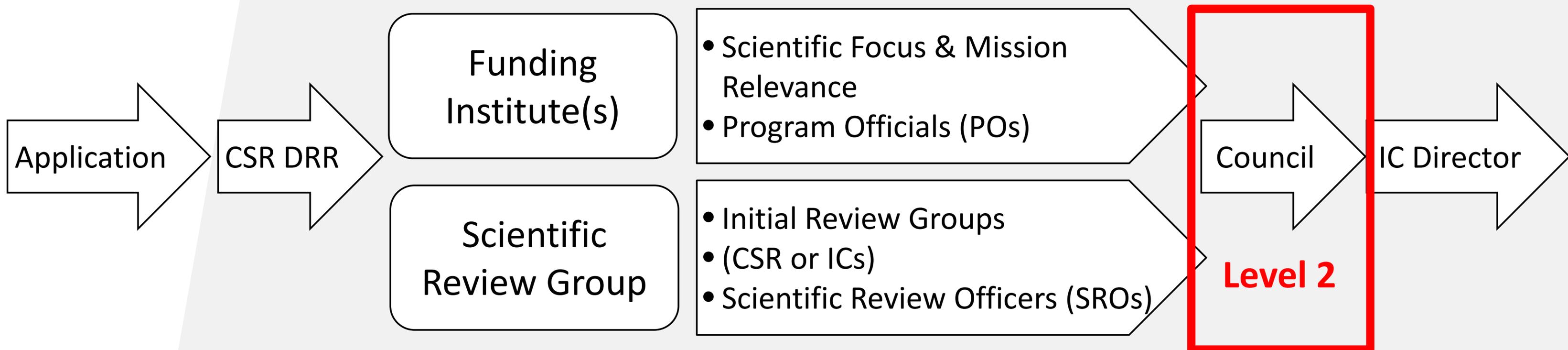


I Key Decisions

- Funding recommendations
- Confirm relevance to IC research priorities

I National Advisory Councils

- Advise IC Director about research priorities, policy issues, future initiatives, funding priorities
- Recommend applications for funding – awards can't be made without Council approval
- Consider unresolved appeals and grievances related to initial peer review



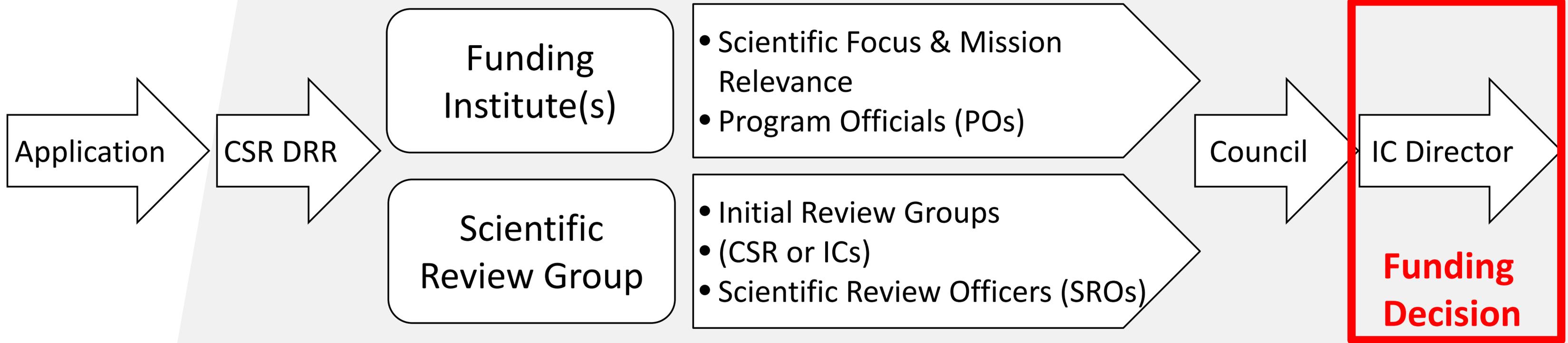


FUNDING DECISION



I IC Director makes final funding decisions, based on

- Mission of the NIH Institute or Center
- Program priorities, Congressional mandates
- Outcome (score/percentile) of initial peer review
- Additional outside expertise, if applicable
- Recommendation of IC program staff
- Recommendations of the IC Advisory Council
- Available Funds





TOOLS/RESOURCES



I NIH Center for Scientific Review

- For Applicants [website](#)
- Study Sections (Integrated Review Groups, Special Emphasis Panel) [website](#)
- Review Panels & Dates (rosters, meeting dates) [website](#)
- How to Become a Reviewer [website](#)

I NIH Center for Scientific Review YouTube [channel](#)

- What Happens to Your NIH Grant Application [video](#) (2018)
- Top 10 Peer Review Q&As for NIH Applicants [video](#)
- NIH Peer Review Revealed [video](#)
- R01 Grants: Navigating Peer Review [video](#) (2016)
- NIH Peer Review Briefing for Basic Research Applicants & Reviewers [video](#)
- CSR Insider's Guide to Peer Review for Applicants [video](#), [website](#)



TAKEAWAYS



I Consider the questions for which reviewers are seeking answers:

- *Should it be done?*
- *Can they do it?*

I Access resources, tutorials available through the Center for Scientific Review

- How to Become a Reviewer [website](#)
- [Early Career Reviewer Program](#)

Scored Review Criteria

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- Innovation – *should they do it?*
- Approach – *can they do it?*
- Environment – *can they do it?*

Overall Impact

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Should they do it? Can they do it?



FACULTY SUCCESS SEMINARS

*Let Us Be Your Guide
Through the Proposal
Development Process*



**JOIN US IN IRIC 305
12:30 P.M. – 1:30 P.M. PT**

Can't join us in person? Then join us live via Zoom:
uidaho.zoom.us/j/798224314. Each seminar will
be recorded and be available on our website.



University of Idaho
Office of Research and
Faculty Development



THANK YOU FOR COMING!



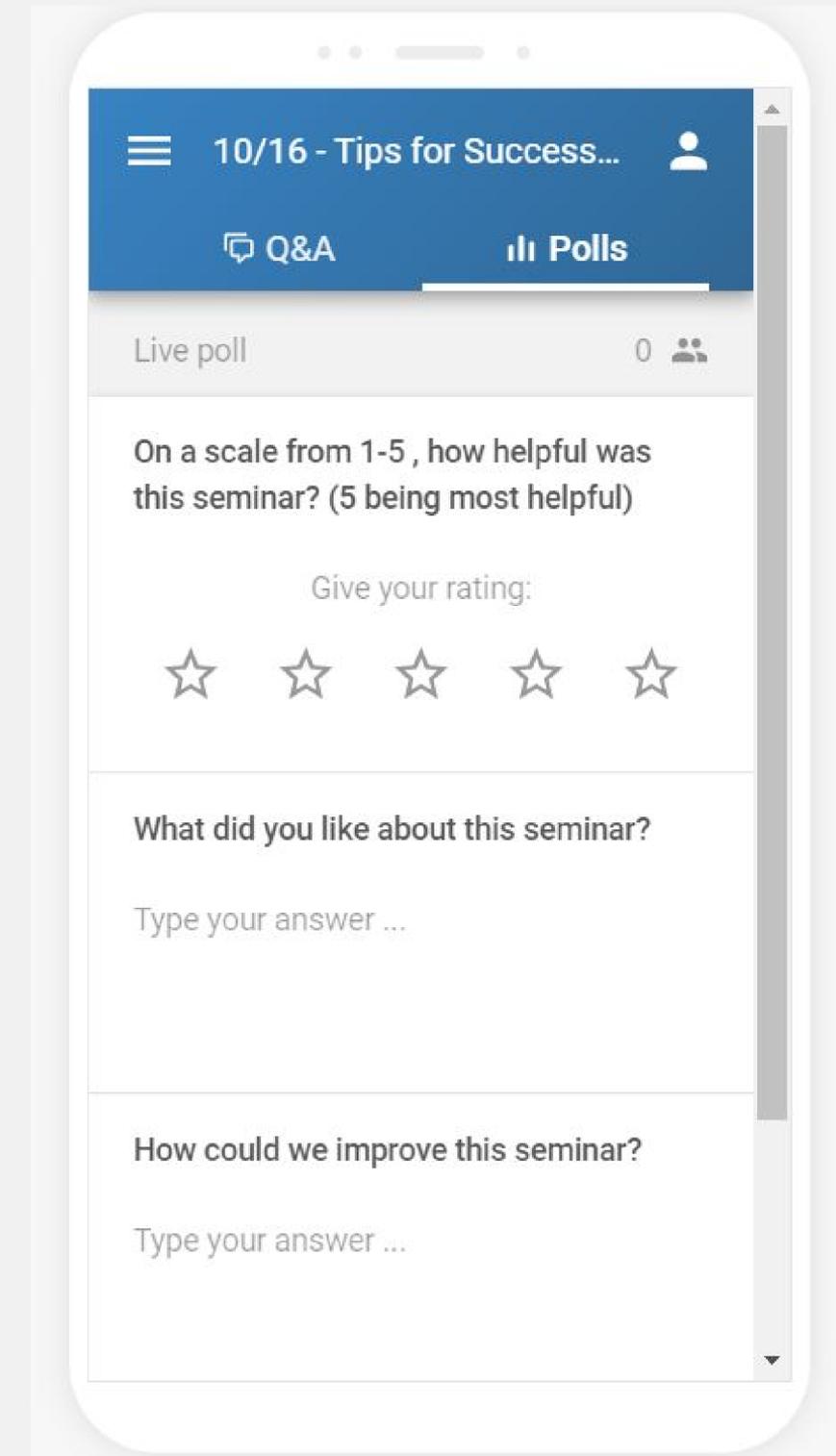
QUESTIONS?

BEFORE YOU GO...

Please take a brief 3-question sli.do poll

www.slido.com or use the **sli.do** app

Use code #FSS





LET'S ASK OUR EXPERT

DR. RAJAL COHEN



I Experience serving on a NIH review panel

- Reasons to serve
- Process to volunteer

I What happens during a NIH Study Section meeting?

- How reviewers are trained
- How proposals are reviewed and scored

I Lessons learned

I Advice to early career PIs