NIH Next Generation Researchers Initiative

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AMIA 2017
21st Century Cures Act: Investing in the Next Generation of Researchers

• Requires the NIH Director to “develop, modify or prioritize policies...to promote opportunities for new researchers and earlier research independence, such as policies to increase opportunities for new researchers to receive funding....”

• PL 114-255, enacted December 13, 2016
Early-, Mid-Career Investigators Under Pressure

Career Stage by Fiscal Year for RPGs and Other Select Activities

- Early (< 45)
- Mid (45 to 60)
- Late (> 60)


Percent of Funded Investigators

Primary data from the Statistical Analysis and Reporting Branch, OPAC, OER, NIH
Goals of NIH Next-Generation Researcher Initiative

• Stabilize the workforce
  – Balance investment across career stages
  – Keep meritorious scientists in research

• Increase diversity of
  – People
  – Science
  – Institutions
Focus on 2 Groups of Researchers

• Early Stage Investigators (ESI)– within 10 years of terminal research degree or medical residency; for their first R01 research grant

• Early-Established Investigator (EEI) within 10 years of an ESI award
  – at Risk of losing all NIH funding
  – Rising Star with 1 significant active grant
NIH 2017 targets for each type

• Review 2016 awards to each type
  – ESI – add 200 more, increasing funding rate from 23% to 30%
  – EEI at Risk or Rising Star – ‘save’ @ 200 of these two types across all NIH

• NIH provides lists to ICs with proposed targets beginning with FY 2017
FY 2017 NGIRI Targets for NIH

FY 2016 Data for all ICs
• ESI funded – 915 (4 were NLM)
• EEI at Risk funded – 834 (4 were NLM)
• EEI Rising Stars funded – 592 (2 were NLM)

FY 2017 Targets for each type
• ESI – add 200 more, increasing funding rate from 23% to 30%
• EEI at Risk or Rising Star – ‘save’ @ 200 of these two types across all NIH

NIH provides lists to ICs with proposed annual targets beginning with FY 2017
NLM NGRI Awards for FY 2017

• NLM Early Stage Investigator
  – target was 5 awards; 6 awards made (@ 25% of new awards)

• NLM EEI-at-Risk or Rising Star
  – target was 2 awards; 3 awards made (@ 13% of new awards)

• Factors for consideration (all Institutes)
  – ESI - slightly beyond published payline
  – EEI – existing grant status and early-mid career status

• NGRI FY2018 targets not yet announced