

The ENIGMATIC Review PROCESS

Isis S. Mikhail, MD, MPH, DrPH
Chief, Clinical Sciences Section
Scientific Review Branch
National Institute on Aging
National Institutes of Health
GEMSSTAR Webinar 10/15/2020



What happens after you submit your application?

Division of Receipt and Referral Center of Scientific Review (at CSR)

- Check for completeness
- Determine area of research
- Assign an identification number
- Assign a grant number
- Assign application to specific NIH IC
 - Cover Letter
 - RFA

GEMSSTAR Review Process

- **Letters of Intent (LOI)**
 - **Why a LOI is helpful to you?**
- **Selection of expert reviewers:**
 - **3 reviewers per application.**
- **GEMSSTAR Review Meeting**
 - **How are applications reviewed?**
 - **Preliminary scores; Discussion; Final Scores.**

GEMSSTAR Review Process

- **Discussed vs Not Discussed (ND): *Why some applications are ND?***
 - **Multiple factors: RFA, number of applications; lowest scores.**
 - **Agreement by review panel:**
 - “Rescuing” an application.
 - **ND applications receive a summary statement without a resume of the panel discussion.**

GEMSSTAR Review Process

- **Dos and Don'ts**
 - Write clear specific aims; understandable by the entire panel of varied expertise.
 - Do not get bogged down with details or acronyms of your specific specialty or research area.
 - Follow directions (*font, margins, appendix, hyperlinks rules, etc.*).

GEMSSTAR Review Process

What about the Professional Development Plan (PDP)?

- **PDP is not considered in the R03 score.**
- **But the reviewers are asked to read it and provide comments about it.**

GEMSSTAR Review Process

- **When will the scores be released?**
 - **Within up to 3 days after the review meeting.**
- **When will summary statement (SS) be released?**
 - **Up to 8 weeks after the review meeting.**

GEMSSTAR Review Process

- **When to contact the SRO?**
 - **After you submit your application until you receive the SS.**
- **When “not” to contact the Program Officer (PO)?**
 - **After you submit your application, and before you receive your SS.**

GEMSSTAR Review Process

What can you submit after the deadline?

Post-submission material:

- => 30 days before the date of the review.
- Who should submit it?
- Why 30 days or more?

Notice NOT-OD-10-083 (2/15/2019):

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-19-083.html>

Additional Exception (due to COVID-19):

- Accepting preliminary data as post-submission materials has been extended to the May 2021 Council round

Notice: NOT-OD-20-163

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-163.html>

GEMSSTAR Review Process

- **Appendix information:**

- No publications or other material, with the exception of blank questionnaires or blank surveys, may be included in the Appendix.

(RFA-AG-21-023: Section IV. Application and Submission Information)

- **GEMSSTAR information you will need:**

- **Read the RFA:**

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-21-023.html>

- **Read the NIA GEMSSTAR webpage:**

<https://www.nia.nih.gov/research/dgcn/grants-early-medical-surgical-specialists-transition-aging-research-gemsstar>

- **Talk to your PO.**

Good luck!

