

The Role of Program Officers

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National Institute of
Allergy and
Infectious Diseases

Office of Research Training and Special Programs
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



**Bridging the Career Gap for
Underrepresented Minority Scientists**

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

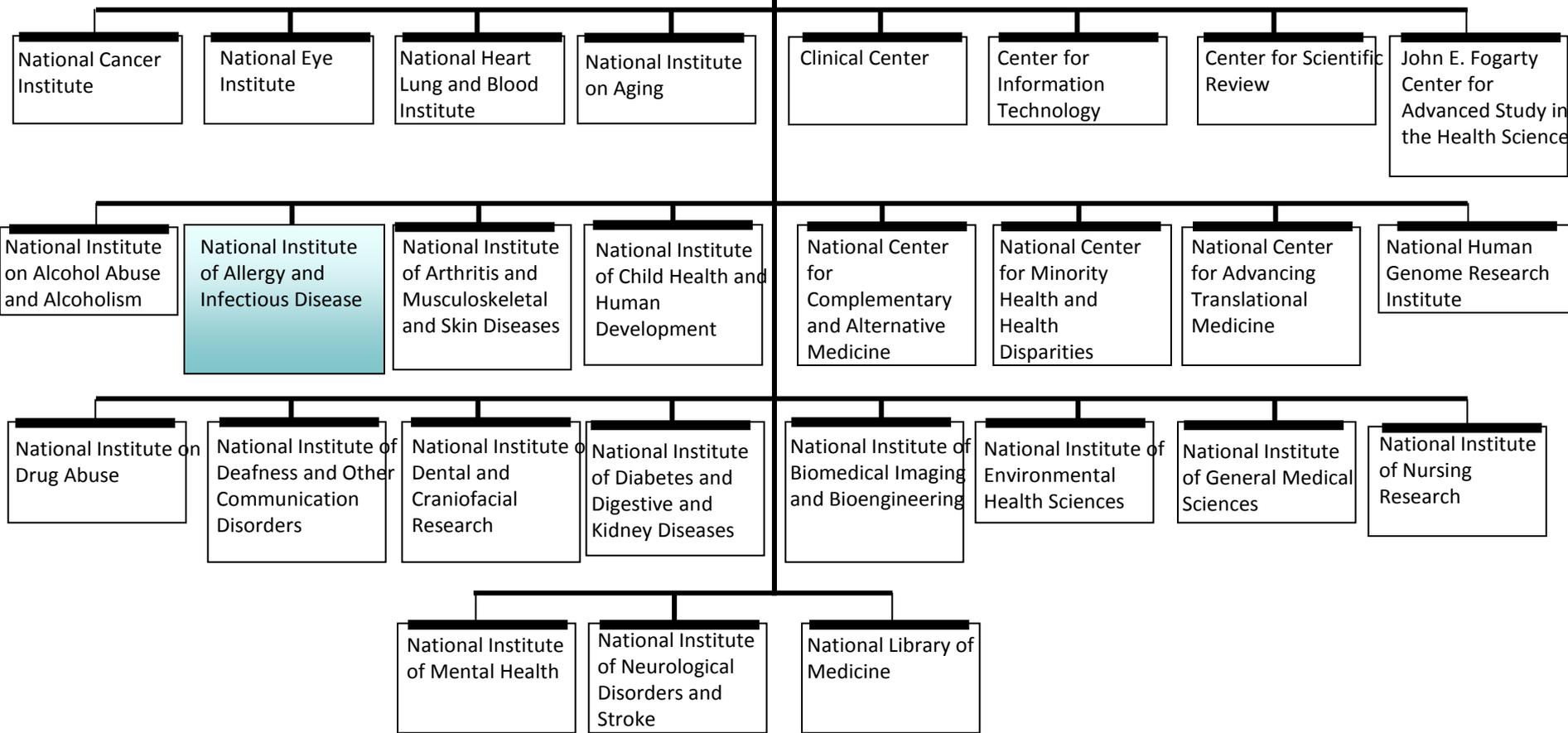
27 Institutes and Centers

80% budget to research grants and contracts

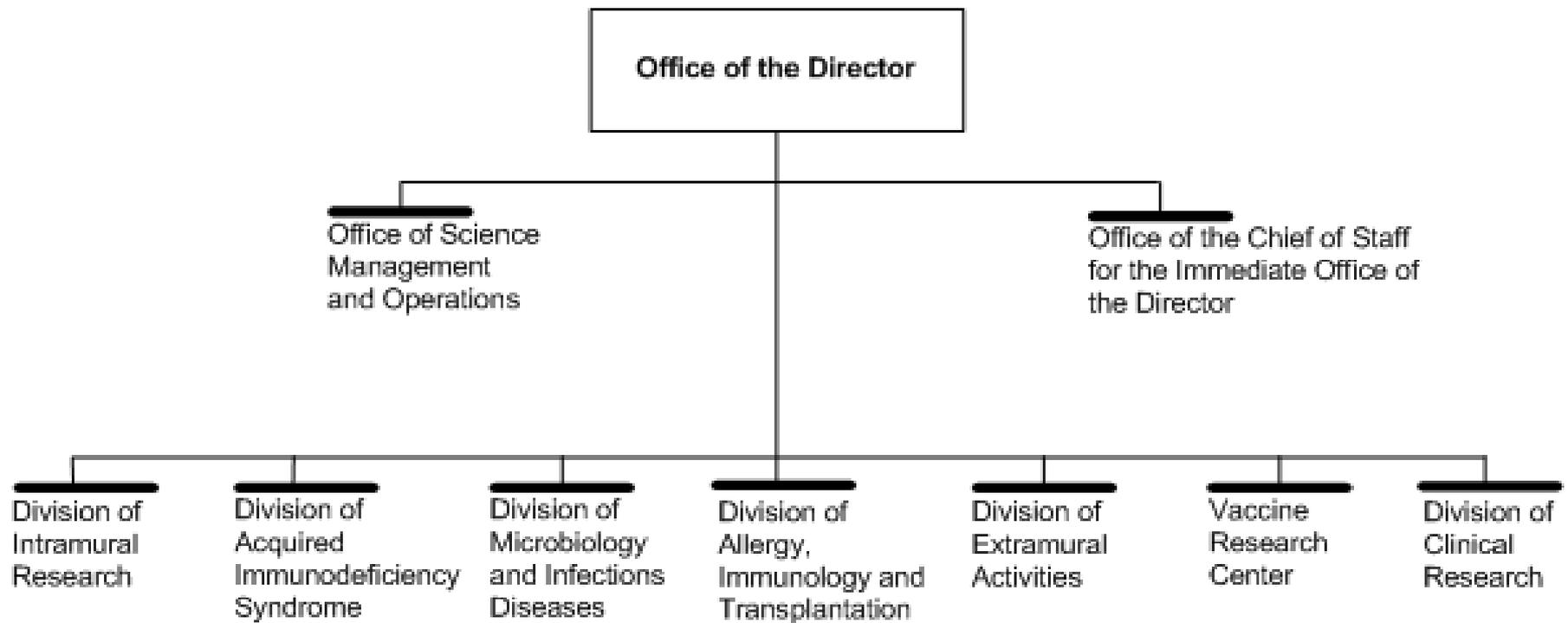
3000+ Institutions

>220,000 investigators

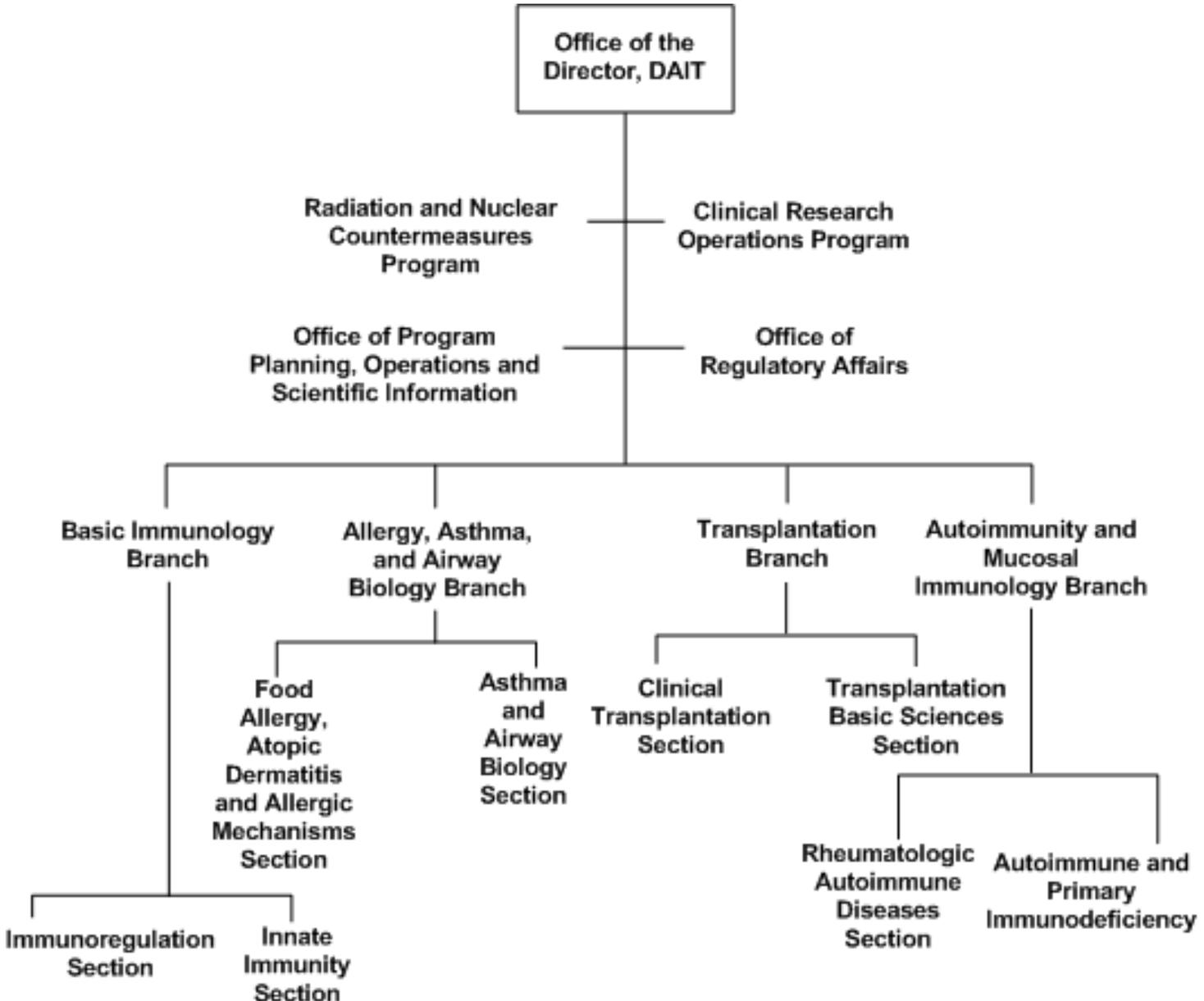
Office of the Director



NIAID Organizational Structure



Division of Allergy, Immunology, and Transplantation (DAIT)



Basic Immunology Branch (BIB)

Basic Immunology

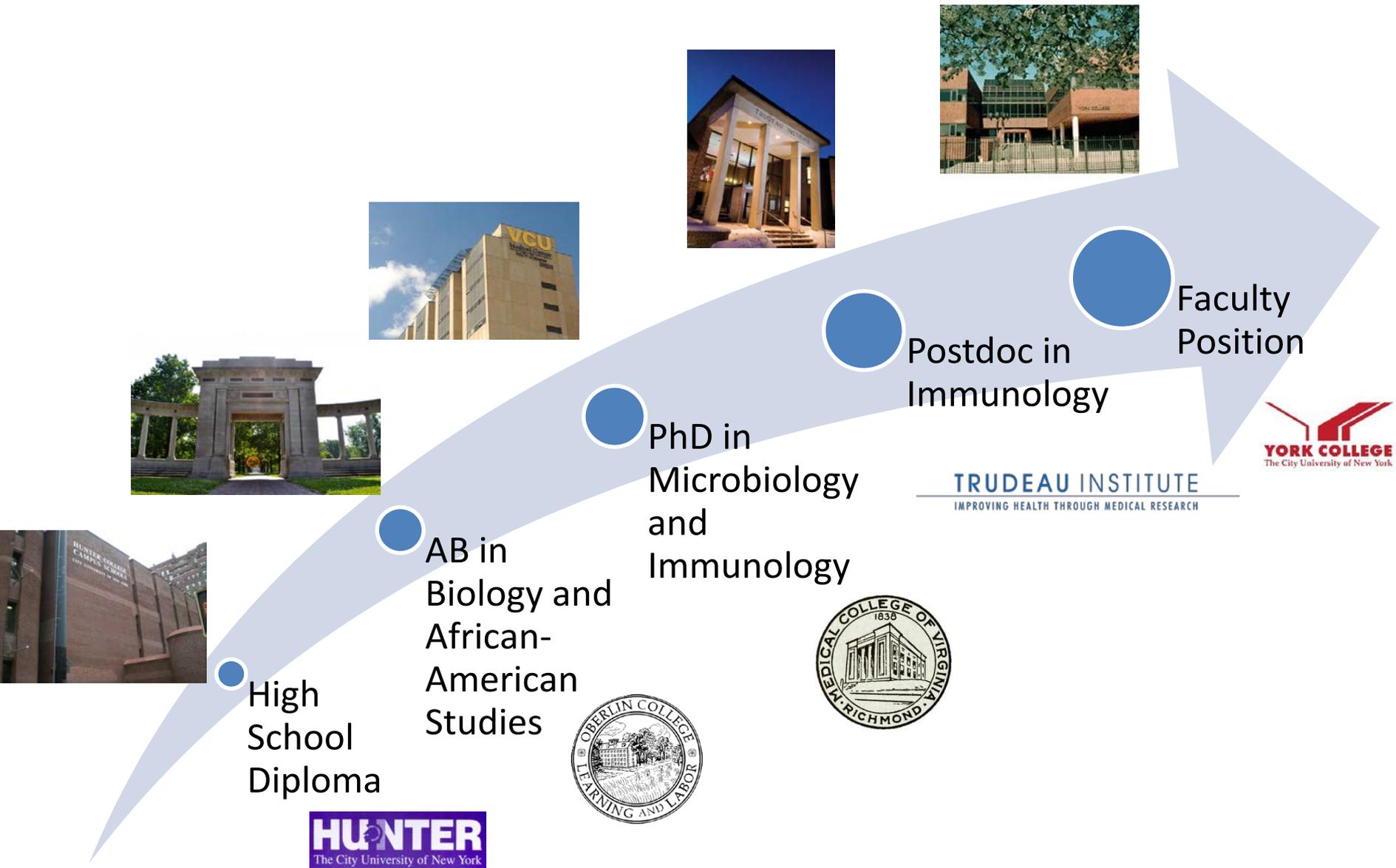
Investigations look at the properties, interactions, and functions of the cells of the innate and adaptive immune systems (that is, the immune system you are born with and the immunities you acquire) and the products made by those cells. This information serves as a basis for clinical strategies and biotechnical applications.

Biodefense

DAIT also supports biodefense-related contracts and grants which focus on the immunology of infectious diseases caused by Category A, B, and C pathogens (these are disease-producing bacteria, viruses, and parasites). Specific programs include:

- The identification of antibody and T cell epitopes (parts of proteins that antibodies and T cells will recognize) within such pathogens
- The discovery of new adjuvant (chemical compounds that enhance immune response) candidates for vaccine development
- The discovery of improved technologies to advance the study of immunology in humans to create better vaccines and therapeutics

My Path To Becoming A Program Officer

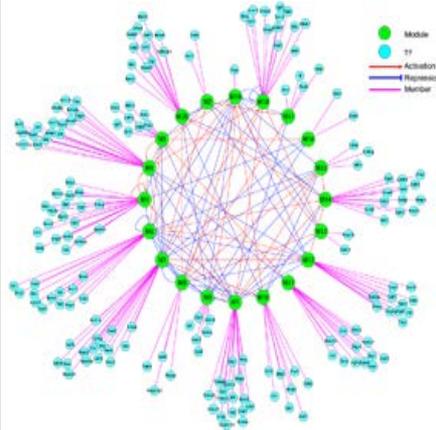
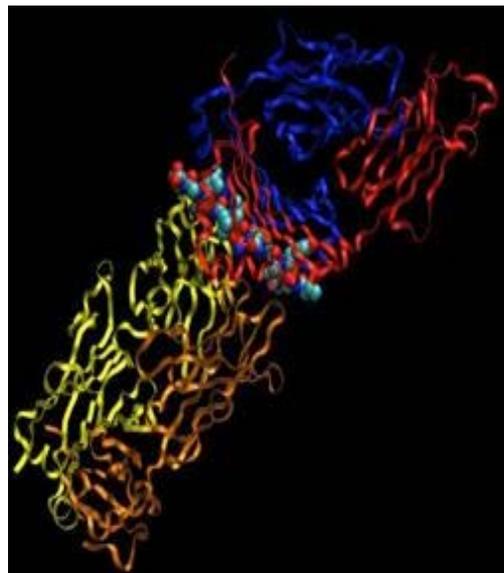


Role of A Program Officer

***“To administer NIAID's scientific programs,
oversee grant portfolios,
set priorities for committing federal funds,
and act as an advocate for a scientific area.”***

Role of A Program Officer: Scientist

The prime responsibility of the Program Officer is to monitor and understand a particular scientific area



- In depth knowledge of the field
- Read and review current literature
- Identify knowledge gaps
- Attend scientific meetings
- Discuss research with leading experts

Role of A Program Officer: Portfolio Manager

As a federal official, you exercise government authority and oversight in ensuring that research supported by federal funds meets scientific program requirements, including compliance with laws and regulations

- Manage extramural research portfolios
- Oversee scientific progress in NIAID-funded grants and cooperative agreements
- Set priorities for committing federal funds that support research and resource programs
- Oversee clinical trials and production of scientific resources
- Manage the scientific and technical aspects of NIAID-funded R&D contracts



Role of A Program Officer: Advocate

Serves as a resource and advocate for research

- Develop scientific and technical research agendas that address gaps in domestic and foreign public health needs
- Produce scientific papers and reports
- Monitor and integrate scientific findings for the government's benefit
- Move science forward in your area
 - Organize workshops and symposia
 - Develop research initiatives



“Why should I contact a Program Officer?”



Applications Submitted to NIH

- Over 80,000 grant applications are submitted to NIH each year
- Competing grant applications are received for three review cycles per year



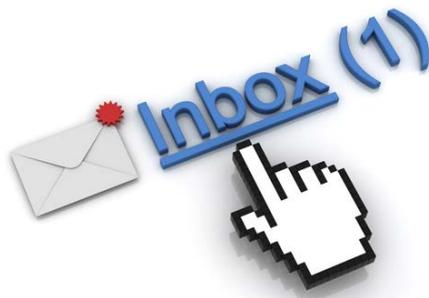
When to Contact an NIAID Program Officer

- To assess the enthusiasm of the Institutes about your research area and discuss potential application topics
- To ask about requests for applications and program announcements the Institute is participating in to discuss potential application topics
- To ask about investigator-initiated research, including topics of interest to the program and new scientific directions
- To find out if he or she knows of any relevant initiatives in another institute



When to Contact an NIAID Program Officer

- To find out about requesting assignment to an IC or study section
- To help you decide which grant type is appropriate for you
- For advice on preparing an application
- If you have any questions about your summary statement
 - If you see a problematic code on your summary statement
 - To get insights into the discussion of your application at the peer review meeting
- To find out the latest funding status for your application



Resources

The screenshot shows the NIAID website's 'Resources for Researchers' page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'NIAID Home', 'Health & Research Topics', 'Labs & Scientific Resources', 'Funding', 'About NIAID', and 'News & Events'. The main heading is 'Resources for Researchers'. Below this, there are social media sharing options and a 'Website Tools' section with links for 'Print this page', 'Get email updates', and 'Order publications'. A 'Stay Connected' section features social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, and YouTube. The main content area is divided into four categories: 'Bioinformatics' (Genomics and DNA Analysis, Proteomics and Protein Analysis, Gene Expression and Transcriptome Analysis, Systems Biology, View All...), 'Biological Materials' (Cell, Tissue and Organism Repositories, Model Animals, Reagents), 'Translational Research Tools and Services' (Biocontainment Facilities, Preclinical Research Resources, Clinical Research Resources, Vaccines, Diagnostics, and Therapeutics), and 'Partnerships and Technology Development' (Partnering With NIAID, Technology Development). A 'Research Feature' section highlights 'Microbiome Cloud Helps Researchers Explore Microbial Genomic Data'. At the bottom, there is a footer with navigation links, logos for NIH, USA.gov, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and a vertical 'NIAID' logo on the right side.

Services for:

- Diagnostics
- Vaccines
- Therapeutics

- Basic research
- Preclinical development
- Clinical evaluation
- Research tools and technologies

<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/LabsAndResources/resources/Pages/default.aspx>

FAQ of Program Officers



- **If NIAID doesn't fund my application, might another NIH institute fund it?**
 - Ask your PO to identify another institute that might be interested in your project.
 - *Paylines vary among NIH ICs, so a percentile that is not fundable in one institute may be fundable in another.*
- **If my application misses the payline, can I get funded through selective pay?**
 - Possibly. POs nominate applications that score above the payline for selective pay funding or bridge funding. Our advisory Council then ranks those nominations in priority order.
- **If I score outside the payline, should I resubmit or wait?**
 - Advise you not to wait to see if you are funded later in the fiscal year. It's better to get a head start either improving your application based on the feedback from the review or submitting a new application.

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Resources

<http://funding.niaid.nih.gov/researchfunding/grant/pages/aag.aspx> (All about grants tutorial)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/submissionschedule.htm#review> (standard receipt dates)

<http://funding.niaid.nih.gov/researchfunding/paybud/pages/default.aspx> (Paylines)

<http://funding.niaid.nih.gov/researchfunding/grant/pages/newpiportal.aspx> (Early stage investigators)