

The NCI Outstanding Investigator Award

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The Outstanding Investigator Grant (OIG) 1984-1993

OIG Characteristics:

- **Provided long-term support to experienced investigators with outstanding records of research productivity**
- **Emphasis placed on evidence of recent substantive contributions, i.e., seminal ideas and innovative approaches to difficult problems**
- **Awarded for 7 years and renewable**
- **PI was required to commit at least 75% time and effort**
- **Institution was required to provide 25% salary support**

The Outstanding Investigator Grant (OIG)

Why was the OIG Discontinued?

- **To reduce the burden of submitting multiple grants, the OIG aggregated all of the PI's grants, including those from other IC's.**
- **The NCI's commitment to the OIG eventually represented a substantial fraction of the RPG**

Proposed Outstanding Investigator Award (OIA)

Goals of the Proposed OIA:

- **Provide long-term support to experienced investigators with outstanding records of research productivity who are likely to continue to conduct seminal cancer research**
- **Encourage investigators to embark on innovative cancer research that breaks new ground or extends previous discoveries in new directions or applications**

Proposed Outstanding Investigator Award (OIA)

Features of Award:

- **Project period of 7 years, with the possibility of a 3 year extension following NCI review**
- **Requires a commitment of at least 50% of research effort**
- **Budget of up to \$600,000 in direct costs**
- **Would aggregate only NCI awards**
- **Institutions would provide 20% salary support for the duration of the award**

Eligibility:

- **Demonstrated outstanding research productivity and the potential for continued high quality research.**
- **Funded by NCI for the last five or more years**

Proposed Outstanding Investigator Award (OIA)

Application Characteristics:

- **Nomination by the grantee Institution**
- **Research Strategy should provide a description of the broad scientific questions to be addressed over the project period**
- **Detailed description of five of the PI's significant scientific accomplishments**

Proposed Outstanding Investigator Award (OIA)

Review Criteria:

- **Evidence that the PI is a leader in the field**
- **Evidence of innovation and significance in cancer research**
- **Potential for the PI's research productivity and impact to continue at the same high caliber level**
- **The proposed scientific field is of high priority and long-term relevance to the mission of the NCI**
- **The selection process used by the Institution to nominate the Principal Investigator (PI) for the OIA.**
- **An Institutional commitment of at least 20% salary support to the PI for the duration of the award.**

Proposed Outstanding Investigator Award (OIA)

Editorial Board review:

- **Stage 1: Applications are assigned to 4 Editors with broad scientific expertise and are reviewed for past productivity, innovation and potential. Those applications with the best average scores proceed to Stage 2 review.**
- **Stage 2:** Mail review by subject matter experts mail - 3 distinguished cancer researchers specializing in the field review each application and focus on its scientific merit; full written critiques with criterion scores are provided to the Editors. Those applications with the best average scores proceed to Stage 3 review
- **Stage 3:** Editors' face to face review—Editors focus their review on impact and significance, taking into consideration the critiques from Stage 2, write the overall impact paragraph and assign an overall impact and priority score

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Review (cont.)

- **The National Cancer Advisory Board (NCAB) will conduct the final level of review.**
- **Optional: Those investigators whose submissions are judged to be the highest priority will be invited to NCI for interviews conducted by a panel of distinguished outside cancer researchers.**

Proposed Outstanding Investigator Award (OIA)

Criteria for 3 year Extension:

- **Awardee's continued scientific innovation, originality, and productivity**
- **Progress made by the awardee during the award period, which must demonstrate continued leadership in the field**
- **The research must continue to be at the cutting edge of the discipline in an area of continued importance to the NCI mission and goals**

Review:

- **Editorial Board review.**
- **NCAB will conduct the final level of review**

Proposed Outstanding Investigator Award (OIA)

Oversight:

- **Annual progress reports submitted by the PI and evaluated by NCI Program staff**
- **Annual meeting of OIG recipients to present their progress**

Proposed Outstanding Investigator Award (OIA)

Budgetary Impact of OIA:

- **Expected Awards: 20-40/year; 100-200 total**
- **Cost of each Award: \$600K DC + \$306 F&A = \$906K/year**
- **Total Cost: \$90-181M/year**

- **RPG (FY12): \$1.997 B**
- **% of RPG: 4.5 – 9%**

Questions?