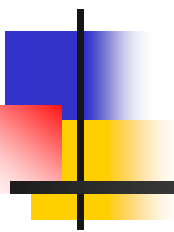


Update on Review of Program Project Applications



National Cancer Advisory Board Presentation
February 7, 2006

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NCI Program Project Grants Fiscal Year 2005

- 176 P01 competing and non competing continuation awards
 - \$338.7 million total costs (includes competitive supplements)
 - 16.7% of the RPG budget
- 129 P01 applications reviewed in NCI P01 committees
- 39 competing awards for \$66.9 million total costs
 - 80% were amended applications (A1 or A2)



Background

- 1994 – Re-established chartered P01 parent committees
- 2003 – NCI P01 Working Group composed of review staff and representatives from extramural program divisions
 - Recommended implementation of small cluster reviews
 - Eliminate individual site visits
 - Cluster review panels score projects and cores
 - P01 chartered committees provide final priority scores
- Cluster review process implemented Feb 1, 2004 for FY 2005 awards



2005 NCI P01 Working Group Extramural Review and Program Staff

- Summer, 2005 - Evaluated cluster review pilot and made further recommendations
- Recommendations submitted for approval to:
 - October, 2005 – NCI Extramural Advisory Board
 - November, 2005 - NCI Extramural Division Directors Committee
- December, 2005 – Presented to P01 chartered committees



Evaluation of P01 Cluster Reviews

- Number of reviewers and meetings decreased
 - Review meetings decreased from 125 in FY04 to 56 in FY05 (55%)
 - Reviewers decreased from 1398 in FY04 to 969 in FY05 (31%)
 - Number of reviewers assigned per application increased
- Improved spread of priority scores
- Positive evaluations from cluster review panel members
- Cost savings of \$220,000 in FY05



NCI P01 Working Group Recommendations

- Continue P01 cluster reviews
 - Need to implement “practical” versus “ideal”
- Triage poor applications
 - Instituted in FY2006
- Eliminate applicant teleconference during review meeting
 - Use time to discuss applications more completely
 - SRA will contact the applicant if a critical question must be addressed for the review to proceed



NCI P01 Working Group Recommendations

- Implement one year pilot of single tier peer review in large clusters by Special Emphasis Panels (SEPs)
 - Implement with February 1, 2006 receipt date
 - Broad research topic areas for each SEP
 - 4-10 applications per broad topic “cluster”
 - SEPs assign project and core scores and overall priority score



Advantages of Large Cluster Single Tier P01 Review

- Significantly streamlines review process
 - Replaces 16-19 cluster meetings and 3 parent committees with 5-7 large cluster meetings per round
- Current chartered committee members attend one meeting each round
- Fewer reviewers needed overall
- Possible to schedule review meetings and recruit reviewers in advance of submissions
 - Enhances recruitment of senior reviewers



Advantages of Large Cluster Single Tier P01 Review

- Facilitates triage of applications
 - Triage prior to meeting or during review meeting
- Calibration of scoring easier with fewer review panels
- Cost savings expected
 - Review costs in RMS budget as of October 1, 2005 (FY 2006)



DEA Implementation Plans

- Current chartered committee members distributed among SEPs
 - Continue recruitment for chartered committees in 2006
 - Three current committees replaced by five SEP committees
 - SEPs would form basis for new chartered committees after evaluation of pilot
- Use teleconference and/or mail reviewers on SEPs to increase expertise and ensure continuity with previous review for amended P01s
- Program and review staff would meet to discuss SEP topic areas
- P01 guidelines revised for February 1, 2006 receipt date



Special Emphasis Panel Research Topic Areas

Olivia Bartlett, DEA



Establishment of Special Emphasis Panel Topic Areas - January 9, 2006

- Program and review staff have established boundaries for the new Special Emphasis Panels (SEP)
 - Includes descriptions of specific research areas
- Mock clustering exercise using P01 applications reviewed for January and May 2005 NCAB rounds
- Agreement on broad topic areas for SEPs
- Tentative assignment of applications due Feb 1, 2006 (October 2006 NCAB round) to resulting SEPs based on Letters of Intent



Parameters for Establishing P01 Special Emphasis Panel Topic Areas

- Maximum of 4 to 6 SEPs
 - Number of P01s has decreased – 31 applications for February 2006 NCAB
- Even distribution of applications across clusters each round
 - A minimum of 4 applications per round
- Areas of overlap to allow assignment to more than one cluster
 - Workload management
 - Manage member conflicts
- Clusters should cross NCI Extramural Research Programs



Current P01 Chartered Committee Research Areas

- Committee C – Basic Sciences
 - Cancer biology, carcinogenesis, viral oncology, basic radiation biology, hematopoiesis, structural biology, molecular genetics and marker discovery, drug discovery
- Committee D – Clinical Sciences
 - Chemotherapy, biologics, immunology, radiation and surgical oncology, gene therapy, transplantation, clinical biomarkers, drug development
- Committee E – Cancer Epidemiology, Prevention and Control
 - Chemoprevention, nutrition, epidemiology, gene/environment interactions, cancer control, behavior, prevention, early detection including medical imaging



P01 Special Emphasis Panel Topic Areas

- **Molecular Biology**

- Carcinogenesis (including viral oncology);
- DNA replication, damage, and repair;
- Basic studies of radiation biology
- Molecular genetics and structural biology

- **Cell and Tissue Biology**

- Tumor microenvironment including metastasis
- Molecular and cellular aspects of tumor biology
- Basic studies of immune mechanisms
- Hematopoiesis and stem cell biology



P01 Special Emphasis Panel Topic Areas Continued

- **Discovery and Development**
 - Biomarker discovery and development
 - Drug discovery, development, and delivery through phase 0 studies;
 - Technology development including medical imaging
- **Clinical Studies**
 - Immunotherapy and transplantation
 - Chemotherapy
 - Molecularly targeted therapy and gene therapy
 - Radiotherapy and surgery



P01 Special Emphasis Panel Topic Areas Continued

- Prevention, Control and Population Sciences
 - Population-control and population-based studies in the areas of cancer prevention
 - Cancer epidemiology including risk analysis, genetic and environmental factors
 - Health services and outcomes research;
 - Surveillance including risk factor monitoring;
 - Nutrition, diet and energy balance;
 - Cancer survivorship and quality of life
 - Behavioral interventions;



Evaluation of Pilot

- Feedback from reviewers
- Feedback program and review staff
- Number of reviewers required
- Length of review meetings
- Measures of scoring calibration
- Costs
- Other measures







P01 Review Special Emphasis Panels

	Broad Topic Areas	Number of P01 Applications		
		JAN 2005 NCAB	MAY 2005 NCAB	LOIs for OCT 2006 NCAB
1	Molecular Biology	8	9	8
2	Cell and Tissue Biology	8	8	8
3	Prevention, Control and Population Sciences	3 (+ 5 R01/U01/U24)	8	6
4	Discovery and Development	12	12	6
5	Clinical Studies	11	10	7
	Total P01s	42	47	35