

NAVIGATING IN THE BAY OF FUNDING

The number of NIH grant applications focused on medical physics, and reviewed in Radiation Study Section, mostly submitted by investigators who probably consider this society as their "home", has more than doubled in the last two years. This development is mirrored, NIH-wide, in many sectors of Bioengineering, Technology and Instrument Development research leading to an initiative coordinated by the NIH Center for Scientific Review, to develop a technology-friendly review infrastructure, including more applicable review criteria.

The opportunities for applicants stemming from this initiative will be discussed, as will other new developments including Modular Grants, changes in the scoring system, and tracking grants through the review process. The role of the SBIR/STTR program in supporting technology development will be reviewed. We will demonstrate the utility of the NIH Website in identifying appropriate study sections, Institutes, and grant mechanisms, as well as searching the grant database for identification of projects with similar foci.

We will discuss the special handling of new investigators, criteria for successful (and unsuccessful) applications, and your rights as an applicant. Appropriate interactions with NIH review staff and program directors will be illustrated.

This presentation will focus on navigating through a system that receives some 40,000 applications per year. Many of the strategies suggested are not necessarily described in official documents.