The Locus of Review of Pain Applications at the NIH

In response to the Institute of Medicine Report “Relieving Pain in America: A Blueprint for Transforming Prevention, Care, Education and Research” Recommendation 5.1, the NIH is, “…publishing on the Pain Consortium website a list of study sections that review pain research.”

Grant applications on pain submitted to the NIH are reviewed either at the Center for Scientific Review (CSR) or at the individual Institutes and Centers (ICs) to which they are assigned. This division is based largely on whether they are solicited or unsolicited. The majority of unsolicited grant applications are reviewed at CSR, whereas most solicited grant applications are reviewed at ICs. Unsolicited grant applications are those that are submitted in response to a parent Program Announcement (PA). Solicited grant applications are generally in response to specific Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA), such as a Request for Applications (RFA), Program Announcements with Set Aside Funds (PAS), and Program Announcements Reviewed in an Institute (PAR). Fellowships, Career Development Awards, Training Grants, and other complex mechanisms (Cooperative Agreements, Centers, Program Projects) usually are reviewed at an IC; however CSR reviews some solicited grant applications.

Grant applications on pain are reviewed at a number of loci within CSR based upon their scientific content. CSR is organized into broad Integrated Review Groups (IRG), each of which contains a cluster of thematically related Scientific Review Groups (SRG). These SRGs, also known as study sections, review the majority of pain grant applications. Special Emphasis Panels (SEPs) also review some pain grant applications (e.g. those for which there is a member conflict in the SRG) as part of CSR or within the individual ICs.

Given that the majority of grant applications reviewed at CSR are unsolicited submissions, this list includes only study sections that review unsolicited applications. The list was determined by examining all of the unsolicited research applications (R01, R21, R03, R15, R36, R37) with the Research Condition and Disease Category (RCDC) code of ‘Pain-Chronic Condition’ that were submitted in 2010, 2011 and 2012. They were examined separately by year to determine the review location, including the IRG and the SRG. The percent of all of the RCDC Pain-Chronic Conditions applications assigned to each IRG and SRG was calculated for each year and then averaged over the three years. SRG calculations do not include applications reviewed in Special Emphasis Panels; however, these applications are included in the IRG calculations.

The likelihood that an unsolicited pain research application will be assigned to a given IRG or SRG is indicated below. They are organized in ‘groups,’ with the IRG and SRG receiving the highest percent of pain related applications in the first band. Within a band the IRGs and SRGs are organized alphabetically. The links to the CSR website include information about the IRG and SRG, which will help applicants in selecting the appropriate review locus.

**NIH Integrated Review Groups that Review Pain Research**

**Greater than 20%**
- IFCN
- *Integrative, Functional and Cognitive Neuroscience IRG*

**10-20%**
- MDCN
- *Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Neuroscience IRG*
- MOSS
- *Musculoskeletal, Oral and Skin Sciences IRG*

**5-10%**
BDCN
*Brain Disorders and Clinical Neuroscience IRG*

DKUS
*Digestive, Kidney and Urological Systems IRG*

HDM
*Healthcare Delivery and Methodologies IRG*

RPHB
*Risk, Prevention and Health Behavior IRG*

SBIB
*Surgical Sciences, Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering IRG*

**Less than 5%**

AARR
*AIDS and Related Research IRG*

BBBP
*Biobehavioral and Behavioral Processes IRG*

BCMB
* Biological Chemistry and Macromolecular Biophysics IRG*

BST
*Bioengineering Sciences and Technologies IRG*

CB
*Cell Biology IRG*

CVRS
*Cardiovascular and Respiratory Sciences IRG*

EMNR
*Endocrinology, Metabolism, Nutrition and Reproductive Sciences IRG*

ETTN
*Emerging Technologies and Training Neurosciences IRG*

IDM
*Infectious Diseases and Microbiology IRG*

IMM
*Immunology IRG*

OBT
*Oncology 1- Basic Translational IRG*

OTC
*Oncology 2 - Translational Clinical IRG*

PSE
*Population Sciences and Epidemiology IRG*

VH
*Vascular and Hematology IRG*

**NIH Scientific Review Groups that Review Pain Research**

**Greater than 20%**

SCS
*Somatosensory and Chemosensory Systems Study Section*

**2-10%**

BMIO
*Behavioral Medicine, Interventions and Outcomes Study Section*

CIMG
*Clinical, Integrative and Molecular Gastroenterology Study Section*

CNNT
*Clinical Neuroplasticity and Neurotransmitters*

MRS
Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation Sciences Study Section
NTRC
Neurotransporters, Receptors, and Calcium Signaling Study Section
SAT
Surgery, Anesthesiology and Trauma Study Section
SBSR
Skeletal Biology Structure and Regeneration Study Section
UKGD
Urologic and Kidney Development and Genitourinary Diseases Study Section

1-2%
ACTS
Arthritis, Connective Tissue and Skin Study Section
BPNS
Biophysics of Neural Systems
BRLE
Biobehavioral Regulation, Learning and Ethology
MNPS
Molecular Neuropharmacology and Signaling Study Section
NDPR
Neurodifferentiation, Plasticity, Regeneration and Rhythmicity Study Section
PRDP
Psychosocial Risk and Disease Prevention Study Section
TME
Tumor Microenvironment Study Section

Less than 1%
ANIE
Acute Neural Injury and Epilepsy Study Section
ASG
Aging Systems and Geriatrics Study Section
AUD
Auditory System Study Section
BCHI
Biomedical Computing and Health Informatics Study Section
CASE
Cardiovascular and Sleep Epidemiology Study Section
CMBG
Cellular and Molecular Biology of Glia Study Section
DBD
Developmental Brain Disorders Study Section
ESTA
Electrical Signaling, Ion Transport, and Arrhythmias Study Section
GDD
Gene and Drug Delivery Systems Study Section
HAI
Hypersensitivity, Autoimmune, and Immune-mediated Diseases Study Section
HSOD
Health Services Organization and Delivery Study Section
IRAP
Infectious Diseases, Reproductive Health, Asthma and Pulmonary Conditions Study Section
MFSR
Motor Function, Speech and Rehabilitation Study Section
MNG
Molecular Neurogenetics Study Section
MTE
Musculoskeletal Tissue Engineering Study Section
NAED  
**NeuroAIDS and other End-Organ Diseases Study Section**

NAL  
**Neurotoxicology and Alcohol Study Section**

NAME  
**Neurological, Aging and Musculoskeletal Epidemiology Study Section**

NMB  
**Neurobiology of Motivated Behavior Study Section**

NPAS  
**Neural Basis of Psychopathology, Addictions and Sleep Disorders Study Section**

NRCS  
**Nursing and Related Clinical Sciences Study Section**

PMDA  
**Pathophysiiological Basis of Mental Disorders and Addictions Study Section**

RIBT  
**Respiratory Integrative Biology and Translational Research Study Section**

RPIA  
**Risk, Prevention and Intervention for Addictions Study Section**

RTB  
**Radiation Therapeutics and Biology Study Section**

SBCB  
**Synthetic and Biological Chemistry B Study Section**

SPIP  
**Social Psychology, Personality and Interpersonal Processes Study Section**

XNDA  
**Xenobiotic and Nutrient Disposition and Action Study Section**