

# Early Investigator Advancement Program



## OVERVIEW

The Early Investigator Advancement Program (EIAP) is designed to assist eligible and qualified early stage investigators (ESIs) and new investigators (NIs) from institutions across the country in their professional and career development. EIAP was established and is supported by the NCI Equity Council. Its goal is to facilitate the transition of junior investigators to independent investigators while advancing NCI's dedication to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. Through targeted support to enhance professional skills, construct an R01 grant application, and connect Scholars to mentors and a peer network, EIAP fosters a diverse community of emerging independent investigators.



EIAP aims to enhance the diversity of the cancer research workforce and strongly encourages the participation of individuals from groups that are underrepresented in the cancer research enterprise (see the Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity: NOT-OD-20-031).

The program can only accept 20–25 EIAP Scholars in each cohort. However, qualified applicants who were not selected as an EIAP Scholar are invited to be EIAP Associates.

## WHAT DOES EIAP OFFER?

### **Scholars are expected to participate in the following virtual program components:**

- » A Grant Writing Workshop (2 half days with free copy of Grantsmanship Workbook)
- » Individual consultations with a nationally renowned NIH grants expert
- » Mentored Mock Review (MMR) session
- » Engagement with a volunteer mentor
- » Individualized consultation with EIAP team members
- » Engagement with a grant writing expert to review and help refine the Scholar's R01 in preparation for submission in October/November
- » Career development workshops and webinars
- » Continued engagement with EIAP team members beyond the Scholar's program period to provide support in the Scholar's path to success

### **Associates are expected to:**

- » Attend a Grant Writing Workshop (2 half days with free copy of Grantsmanship Workbook)
- » Observe MMR session
- » Participate in career development workshops and webinars

## AM I ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible, candidates:

- » Must be an ESI or NI
- » Must be a citizen, non-citizen national, or legal permanent resident of the United States
- » Must hold a current position at an institution that is eligible for an R01 application and is supportive of the applicant's plan to submit an R01 application by October/November 2024

## APPLICATION MATERIALS

- » Cover letter
- » Draft R01 application that complies with NIH standards, including:
  - » Project Summary/Abstract (1 page)
  - » Specific Aims (1 page)
  - » Research Strategy (no more than 12 pages, to include the significance, innovation, approach, research design, justification, expected outcomes, and/or impact)
- » Institution letter
- » Two letters of reference
- » Biosketch

Please see the EIAP webpage for detailed requirements.

## EIAP APPLICATION TIMELINE



## BECOMING AN EIAP SCHOLAR

Applicants must apply with a draft R01 (that is not currently under review) to be considered for EIAP. Once the application has been submitted, it will be reviewed by EIAP program staff.

## EIAP SELECTION CRITERIA

Individuals considered for the Scholar position are chosen based on their junior investigator status and the quality of their application materials. Applications are scored on a 1-9 scale (EIAP reviewers use the standard NIH Scoring Guidelines for Trainees) and the scores are compiled across reviewers. Those scoring in the highest tier are invited to be Scholars, and those scoring in the next highest tier are invited to be Associates (if they have not previously been an Associate). Those not scoring in the two highest tiers are welcome to apply again for the next cohort. The scoring criteria are:




- » Research Experience and Accomplishments
- » Training and Professional Accomplishments
- » Institution Support
- » Draft R01 Proposal
- » Letters of Reference

## WHERE DO I LEARN MORE?



For more information about EIAP, eligibility, and how to apply, please visit <https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/crchd/diversity-training/eiap>.

Prospective candidates are strongly encouraged to contact Maria Jamela Revilla, Ph.D., M.Sc., at [EIAP@nih.gov](mailto:EIAP@nih.gov).

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