

Additional Funding Opportunities

Sharmi Ghosh-Janjigian
Cancer Cell Biology Branch
Division of Cancer Biology

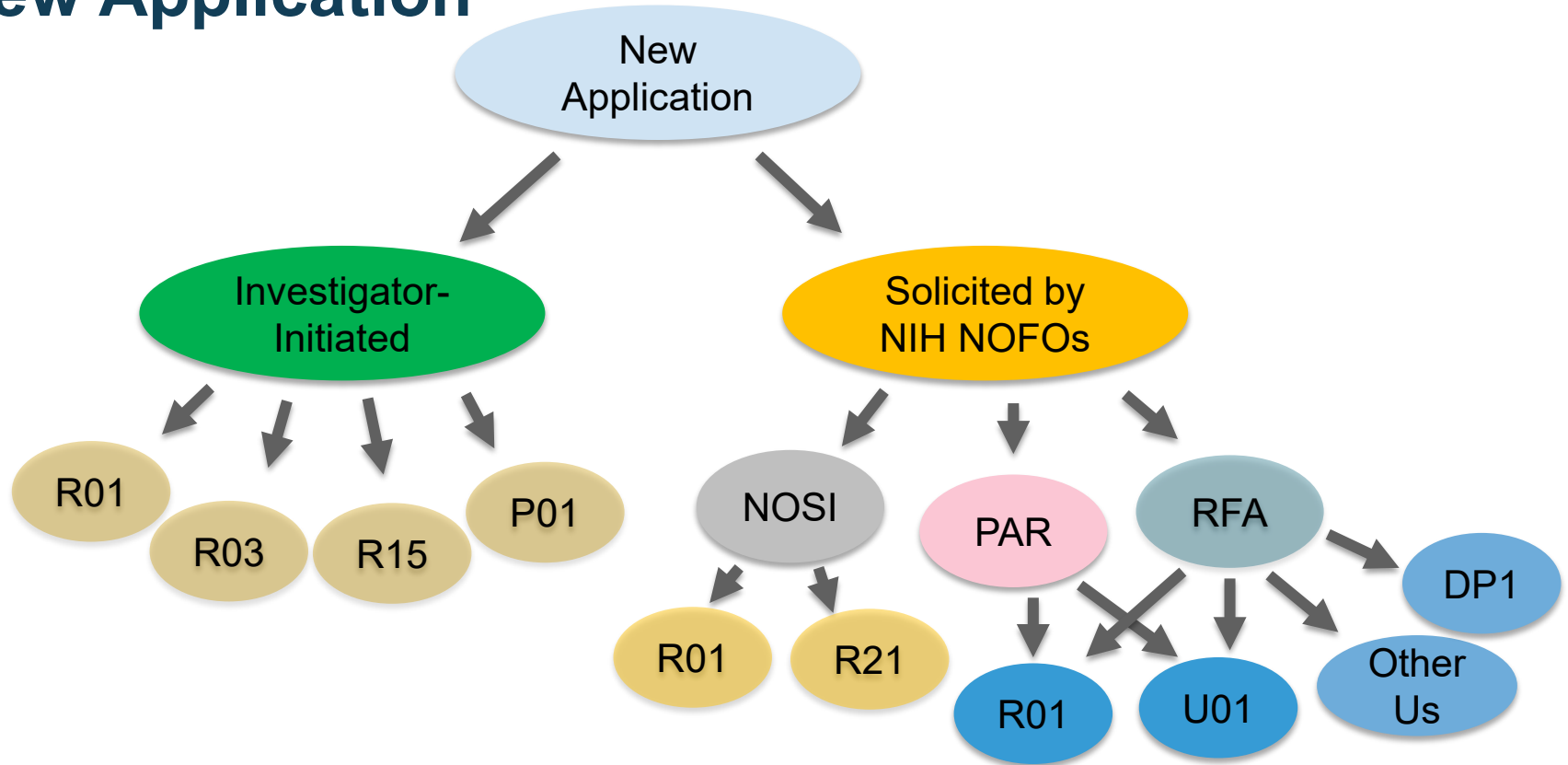
Objectives

- To explain the various types of funding opportunities you might be considering applying for
- To demystify how the NIH solicits grant applications through NOSIs, PARs, and RFAs
- To provide some pointers about where to look for NIH funding initiatives of interest

Type 2: Renewal (a.k.a. Competing Continuation)

- Productivity is important
- Talk to staff in your organization's Office of Sponsored Research or equivalent
- Check the latest NCI grants policies
- Pay attention to cost principles
- Reach out to your program officer

New Application



NOSI = Notice of Special Interest;

PAR = Program Announcement with Special Receipt, Referral, or Review;

RFA = Request for Applications.

Investigator-Initiated vs. NOFO-Solicited

Investigator-Initiated

- Submitted in response to a **Parent Program Announcement** or **omnibus announcement**
 - [PA-25-301](#) (Parent R01)
 - [PAR-25-078](#) (NCI Omnibus R03)
 - [PAR-23-059](#) (NCI P01 announcement)
- Often broad announcements with multiple ICs participating

NOFO-Solicited

- Submitted in response to Specific **Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs)**
 - Notice of Special Interest (NOSI)
 - Program Announcement with Special Receipt, Referral, or Review (PAR)
 - Request for Applications (RFA)

What is a NOSI?

- NOSI = Notice of Special Interest
- Describes special interest in a research area
- You can't apply directly to a NOSI, but it points the applicant to the right NOFO (often a Parent Announcement)

NOSI: An Example

Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): RNA Modifications in Cancer Biology

Notice Number:

NOT-CA-23-060

Key Dates

Release Date:

April 17, 2023

First Available Due Date:

June 13, 2023

Expiration Date:

January 08, 2026

Related Announcements

[NOT-CA-23-074](#) - Notice of Correction to Agency Routing Identifier for NOT-CA-23-060 "Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): RNA Modifications in Cancer Biology".

[PA-20-195](#) - NIH Exploratory/Development Research Grant Program (Parent R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

[PAR-23-058](#) - NCI Small Grants Program for Cancer Research for Years 2020, 2021, and 2022 (NCI Omnibus R03 Clinical Trial Optional)

[RFA-CA-23-002](#) - Innovative Molecular and Cellular Analysis Technologies for Basic and Clinical Cancer Research (R61 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

[RFA-CA-23-003](#) - Advanced Development and Validation of Emerging Molecular and Cellular Analysis Technologies for Basic and Clinical Cancer Research (R33 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

[RFA-CA-23-014](#) - Development of Innovative Informatics Methods and Algorithms for Cancer Research and Management (R21 Clinical Trial Optional)

[RFA-CA-23-015](#) - Early-Stage Development of Informatics Technologies for Cancer Research and Management (U01 Clinical Trial Optional)

What is a PAR?

- PAR = Program Announcement with Special Receipt, Referral, or Review
- Identifies areas of enhanced priority or emphasis by NIH or an IC
- Active for multiple years; usually 3 receipt dates/year
- Can be reviewed in regular study sections or can be directed to a specialized panel based on NOFO requirement
- Sometimes (but not always) given a percentile in addition to an impact score
- Does not have specific set-aside funds

PAR: An Example

Department of Health and Human Services

Part 1. Overview Information

Participating Organization(s)	National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Components of Participating Organizations	National Cancer Institute (NCI)
Funding Opportunity Title	Mechanistic links between diet, lipid metabolism, and tumor growth and progression (U01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
Activity Code	U01 Research Project – Cooperative Agreements
Announcement Type	Reissue of PAR-23-051
Related Notices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• April 4, 2024 - Overview of Grant Application and Review Changes for Due Dates on or after January 25, 2025. See Notice NOT-OD-24-084.• August 31, 2022- Implementation Changes for Genomic Data Sharing Plans Included with Applications Due on or after January 25, 2023. See Notice NOT-OD-22-198.• August 5, 2022- Implementation Details for the NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy. See Notice NOT-OD-22-189.
Funding Opportunity Number (FON)	PAR-25-119

What is an RFA?

- RFA = Request for Applications
- Generally, a one-time call for applications in a specific area of high programmatic interest
- Reviewed in a Special Emphasis Panel (SEP)
- No payline
- Funding using set-aside funds and via program-developed funding plan

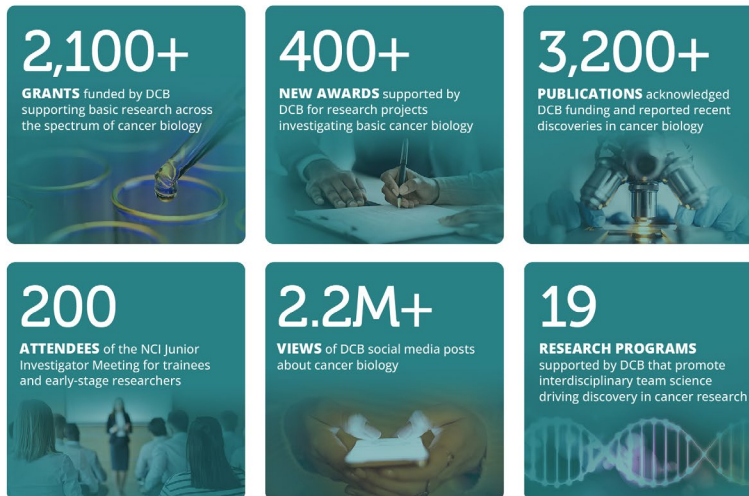
RFA: An Example

Department of Health and Human Services

Part 1. Overview Information

Participating Organization(s)	National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Funding Opportunity Title	Human Tumor Atlas (HTA) Research Centers (U01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
Activity Code	U01 Research Project Cooperative Agreements
Announcement Type	Reissue of RFA-CA-17-034
Components of Participating Organizations	National Cancer Institute (NCI)
Related Notices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• October 6, 2023- Notice of Pre-Application Webinar for RFA-CA-23-039 and RFA-CA-23-040 for the National Cancer Institute "Human Tumor Atlas Network (HTAN)" Program. See Notice NOT-CA-23-095.• August 31, 2022- Implementation Changes for Genomic Data Sharing Plans Included with Applications Due on or after January 25, 2023. See Notice NOT-OD-22-198.• August 5, 2022- Implementation Details for the NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy. See Notice NOT-OD-22-189.
Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Number	RFA-CA-23-039

DCB: Advancing Basic Cancer Research



DCB supports basic cancer researchers, including new and early-stage investigators

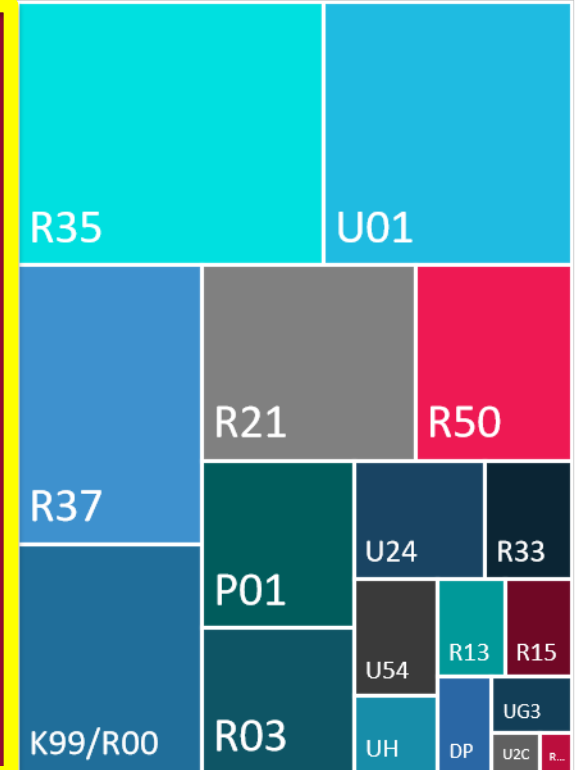


Factoid Credit: Dr. Claire McCarthy

DCB: Funding Mechanisms

- Usually 5 years of funding
- \$250k or more Direct Cost per year
- Can be investigator-initiated or submitted in response to a NOFO
- Requires substantial preliminary data

R01



Don't Forget About Smaller Grants

R21 Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant

- 2-year grants; combined budget for both years capped at \$275K direct costs
- For NCI, only in response to NOFO
- Often high-risk high reward
- Preliminary data optional, but desired
- Not renewable

Myths about R21 Grants

- They are designed for new investigators
- They are easier to get funded than R01s
- They are a good way to develop preliminary data

R03 NIH Small Grant

- Up to 2 years; up to \$50K direct costs per year
- For NCI, usually in response to an omnibus R03 NOFO
- Designed for small, self-contained research projects, pilot or feasibility studies, secondary analysis of existing data, or development of research methodology or new technology
- Not renewable

Assessing Suitability for a P01 Application

- **P01 Research Program Project Grant**
- Usually, 3 or 4 research projects on a common theme and contributing to overall research objectives; synergy is the key
- Has an Admin Core plus usually one or more Shared Resource Cores
- Investigator-initiated, and submitted in response to an NCI-specific NOFO calling for P01s
- Requires permission of NIH Program staff to submit
- Budget can be ~\$1.5M Direct Cost per year
- PIs, Project Leaders, and Core Leaders all expected to have independent research funding and a track record of leadership
- No payline
- Reach out to a program officer for guidance

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-23-059.html>

Cooperative Agreements (U Series Awards)

A cooperative agreement (U) is a support mechanism we frequently use for high-priority research areas that require substantial involvement from NIH program or scientific staff.

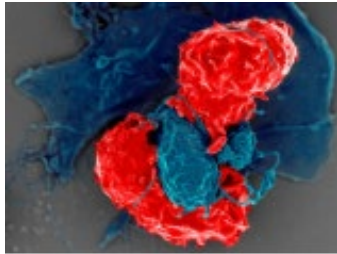
- Significant collaborative aspects (i.e., forming a consortium, regular meetings, sharing of data, protocols, ideas, etc.)
- Requires a substantial time commitment from investigators beyond research time
- Generally, a team science approach

DCB-Supported Cooperative Agreement Programs

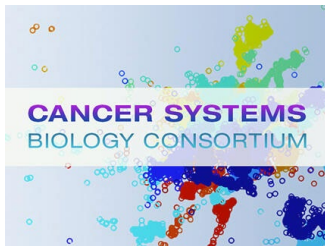
Some Examples



Human Tumor Atlas Network (HTAN): Constructing 3D atlases of the cellular, morphological, molecular, and spatial features of human cancers (and their surrounding microenvironments) over time.



Cancer Immunoprevention Network (CIP-Net): Advancing the understanding and development of immunoprevention strategies..



Cancer Systems Biology Consortium (CSBC): Using systems biology approaches to advance the understanding of mechanisms that underlie fundamental processes in cancer

<https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/dcb/research-programs>

The NIH Common Fund Programs/Opportunities

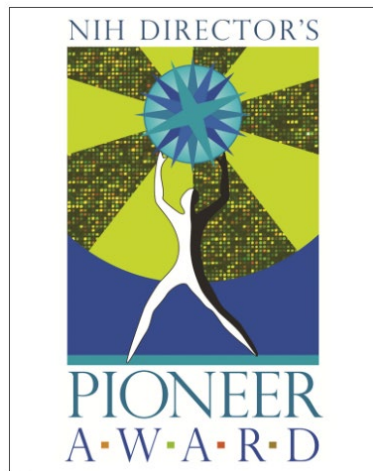


High-Risk High Reward Initiatives:

[RFA-RM-24-002](#): NIH Director's Pioneer Award Program (DP1 Clinical Trial Optional)

Expired

<https://commonfund.nih.gov/>




Where to Find NOFO Announcements

NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts

The NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts is NIH's official publication of notices of grant policies, guidelines, and funding opportunities. We publish daily and issue a [Weekly Table of Contents](#).

[Subscribe](#) to receive updates!

Explore the search features in a [quick video](#) .

<https://grants.nih.gov/funding/nih-guide-for-grants-and-contracts>

<https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/dcb/funding/opportunities>

Where to Get a Glimpse of Upcoming Initiatives?

- *Concepts* are initiatives that are developed by the NIH staff
- NCI concepts are presented to the NCI leadership and then to the Board of Scientific Advisors for approval at public meetings
- Archived concepts can be viewed at the NCI DEA website <https://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/advisory/bsa/bsameetings.htm>
- Approved concepts will likely be released shortly as NOFOs
- Keep an eye out for Notices as a heads up for upcoming NOFOs: they are called Notices of Intent to Publish

Many Options: How to Decide?

- Let the science dictate the mechanism
 - How big is the project?
 - What resources does it require — funds, equipment, collaborations, new technologies
 - How long will it take to complete the project?
 - Adequacy of strong preliminary data
- Look into currently active NOFOs
- Reach out to program officers for help



**NATIONAL
CANCER
INSTITUTE**

www.cancer.gov

www.cancer.gov/espanol