

# Review, Resubmissions, and Renewals – The Program Perspective

Michael Weinreich, PhD

Program Director

DNA and Chromosome Aberrations Branch

# Program Officer Responsibilities: Service Across the Grant Lifecycle

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- Before submission
  - Help in identifying FOAs, FOA special requirements, policies, updates
  - Scientific priorities; feedback on science of your proposed research
- After review
  - Interpret the summary statement
  - Provide advise on next steps
- Before the award
  - Issues that need to be addressed/DMS Plan/JIT
- After the award
  - Annual progress report monitoring (RPPR); changes to grant; carryover; transfers
  - Supplements
  - Scientific advances, trends; advocate for an area of science

# Areas where Program Officers can help

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- Interpreting the Review
- Advice on Resubmission
- Renewal vs New Application

## Goals

- Understand the role of a Program Officer as it pertains to application resubmission or renewal
- Understand the benefits and limitations of renewal applications

# Interpreting the Unfavorable Summary Statement:

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- Read it through and put it aside for a week
- Read it again, as objectively as possible. Talk to your Program Officer, mentors/colleagues, and key collaborators
- Identify patterns
  - List all the strengths made by the reviewers, organized by review criteria
    - Tells you what resonated positively with the reviewers
  - List all the weaknesses or concerns
    - Similar concerns – point towards needed revisions or clarifications
    - Distinct concerns – address as appropriate
  - General comments
- Plan your response

*AN IDEA IS WORTH NOTHING  
IF IT HAS NO CHAMPION*

That champion will be the reviewer(s) who will  
advocate for your application.  
Being adversarial to the reviewers will not help you.

# Composing the Introduction to the Resubmission:

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- Be direct, respectful and thoughtful about the scientific criticisms raised
- Summarize the strengths identified
  - Emphasize that these have been retained
- Carefully address the weaknesses, and summarize major changes
  - Take ownership of mistakes
  - Start with those mentioned in the Resume and Summary of discussion
  - Then address themes/issues common to the reviewers
  - Concisely describe how the issues were addressed, Whenever possible expand on how the changes specifically affect the application/team
    - e.g., added a statistician with relevant expertise for an aim. Replaced a particular model to allow better data collection and analysis.

# Introduction to the Resubmission: Dealing with Criticisms of the Approach

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- Rather than saying you deleted something – present why you proposed those experiments and that you can see the reviewer’s point
- Show thoughtfulness
  - Don’t just say yes or delete expts to appease the reviewers
  - Think it through. If reviewer suggestion will not work, propose an alternative
  - Don’t dismiss reviewer’s concern because you don’t agree with their solution. Understand why they suggested that and address the underlying concern.
- When it seems the reviewer doesn’t understand something, explain it without being condescending
  - What does the reviewer need to know?

# Planning the Resubmission:

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- Get input from program staff, trusted mentors/peers, collaborators
- Collect new preliminary data or literature
  - Ensure that new prelim data are supportive of what needs to be demonstrated
- Rethink and refine methods, clarify aims, state significance
  - Include new/revised materials to satisfy reviewers' concerns
- Delete accordingly
  - Mention what has been deleted if substantive, so reviewers will know and not ask for it back
- Don't add material that is irrelevant to reviewers' concerns
- Plan and set aside time to rewrite

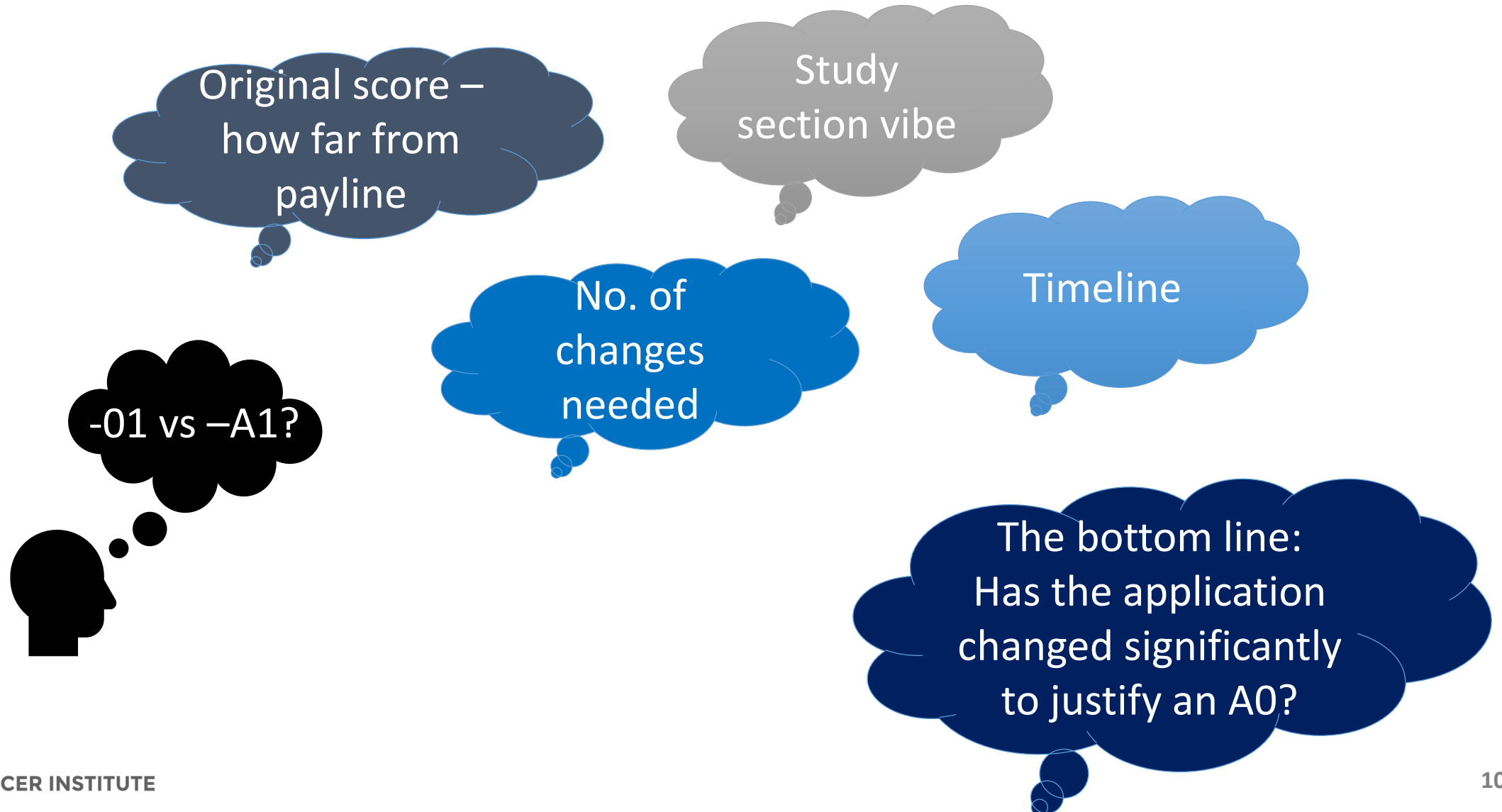


*Remember:*

*Reviewers review the application in front of them, not which application (-01 vs -01A1) is better.*

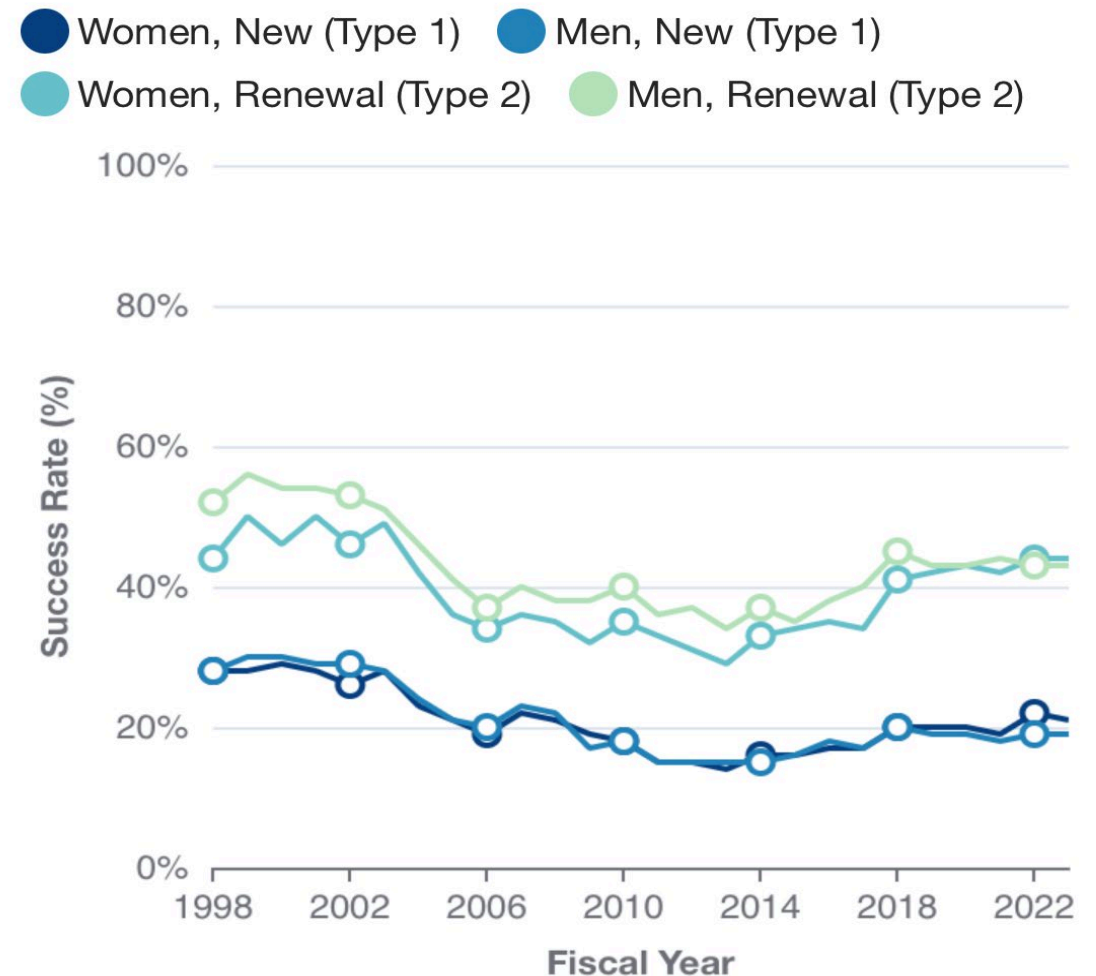
# Resubmit or New Application Considerations

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# Renewal vs new application considerations

- Productivity
  - Completed aims
  - Publications
- Direction of science
  - Extension
  - New
- Budget
- Success rates
- Departmental requirements



FY 2009 and 2010 exclude awards made under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and all ARRA solicited applications and awards.

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*Congratulations on your award*  
*Wish you success in future applications*

