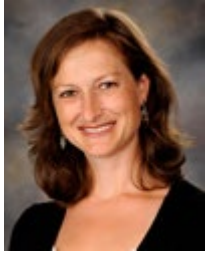




Funding Opportunities Webinar

Virtual Consortium for Translational/Transdisciplinary Environmental Research (ViCTER)

RFA-ES-21-007



Heather Henry



Varsha Shukla

Heather F. Henry, PhD, Program Officer, HSRB
Varsha Shukla, PhD, Scientific Review Officer, SRB
Jenny Greer, Chief, Grants Management Branch



Jenny Greer

RFA Webpage: <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/translational/victer/index.cfm>
Please bookmark and check for announcements related to this RFA (including today's slides).

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-ES-21-007.html>

Purpose of Webinar

- About ViCTER
 - History and Current Grantees
 - Goals and Definitions
 - Requirements / Eligibility
 - Sections of the Application
- Review Process
- Q and A

- Not discussing: nuances of submission (ASSIST) – please work with your institution’s business official for assistance. Failing in that, contact eRA Help Desk.

The screenshot shows the NIEHS website header with the logo and tagline. A search bar is visible in the top right. The navigation menu includes: Health & Education, Research, Funding Opportunities, Careers & Training, News & Events, and About NIEHS. The main content area is titled "Virtual Consortium for Translational/Transdisciplinary Environmental Research (ViCTER)".

Research


Funded by NIEHS Grants

- Translational Science, Outreach, and Education
- Community-Engaged Research and Citizen Science +
- Environmental Health Disparities and Environmental Justice
- Environmental Health Science Education +
- Implementation Science in Environmental Health
- Partnerships for Environmental Public Health (PEPH) +

Program Description

Partnerships among scientists who might not normally work together can quicken the pace at which research moves forward. The [Virtual Consortium for Translational/Transdisciplinary Environmental Research \(ViCTER\)](#) program brings together diverse research teams that may include scientists who develop technologies, conduct basic mechanistic or population-based studies, and those that are clinical and patient-oriented. Through collaboration and knowledge exchange, these teams, called consortiums, foster innovation and accelerate the translation of scientific research into meaningful improvements in human health.

Each consortium sets research goals in an area where environmental factors are known or expected to influence the development or progression of disease. The



History and Grantees

- Virtual Consortium for Translational/Transdisciplinary Environmental Research (ViCTER) initiated in 2010
 - Started as a supplement to existing grants
 - RFA 2018 shifted to R01 mechanism
 - anyone can apply (**not** limited to current NIEHS grantees)
- RFA ES-21-007 is continuation of prior RFAs

Grantees

Virtual Consortium for Translational/Transdisciplinary Environmental Research (ViCTER)

Principal Investigator (PI) ↕	Grant Number ↕	Title ↕	Institution ↕	Year ↕
Metayer, Catherine	R01ES032196	Exposure to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and Risk of Cancer in Children ↗	University of California Berkeley	2021
Pearson, Kevin Joseph	R01ES032176	Growth and Metabolic Programming From Prenatal PFAS Exposure: Examining the Roles of Placental Functional Genomics and Protection by Maternal Exercise ↗	University of Kentucky	2021
Margolis, Amy	R01ES030950	Environmental Bisphenol Exposure, Infant Brain and Behavior: Human and Animal Models ↗	Columbia University Health Sciences	2020
Cave, Matthew	R01ES032189	Exposome and Precision Medicine in NAFLD ↗	University of Louisville	2020
Gamble, Mary	R01ES030945	Interdisciplinary Approaches for Understanding the Metabolic Effects of Arsenic and Manganese ↗	Columbia University Health Sciences	2020
Meliker, Jaymie	R01ES030938	Metal-nutrient Mixtures in Epidemiologic and Toxicologic Studies of Cardiovascular Disease ↗	State University New York Stony Brook	2020
Pilsner, J. Richard	R01ES030942	Determining How Preconception Exposure to Phthalates Impacts Sperm Function, the Epigenome Fertility and Reproductive Outcomes in Mice and Men ↗	University of Massachusetts Amherst	2019
Tjalkens, Ronald	R01ES030937	Encephalitic Viral Infection and Susceptibility to Dopaminergic Neurotoxins ↗	Colorado State University	2019
Carbone, Michele	R01ES030948	Influence of Germline Mutations on Susceptibility to Environmental Carcinogens ↗	University of Hawaii at Manoa	2019
Rand, Matthew	R01ES030940	Microbial Mechanisms of Methylmercury Metabolism in Humans ↗	University of Rochester	2019

<https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/translational/victer/grantees/index.cfm>

Goal of ViCTER

- The primary goal for creating this ViCTER program is to support the exchange of knowledge among individuals from a **diverse set of disciplines** and **accelerate the translation of scientific research** into meaningful improvements in human health in those areas where environmental factors are known or suspected to influence the development or progression of disease.
- **Newly established collaborative team** is expected to **initiate research** in the development and application of **novel approaches** for understanding the etiology of environmentally-related disease and, where appropriate, explore clinical and public health implications for diagnosis, treatment and/or prevention.
- **Extend existing areas of research in new directions and/or develop novel lines of inquiry** through the creation of a virtual consortium that includes **new perspectives**.

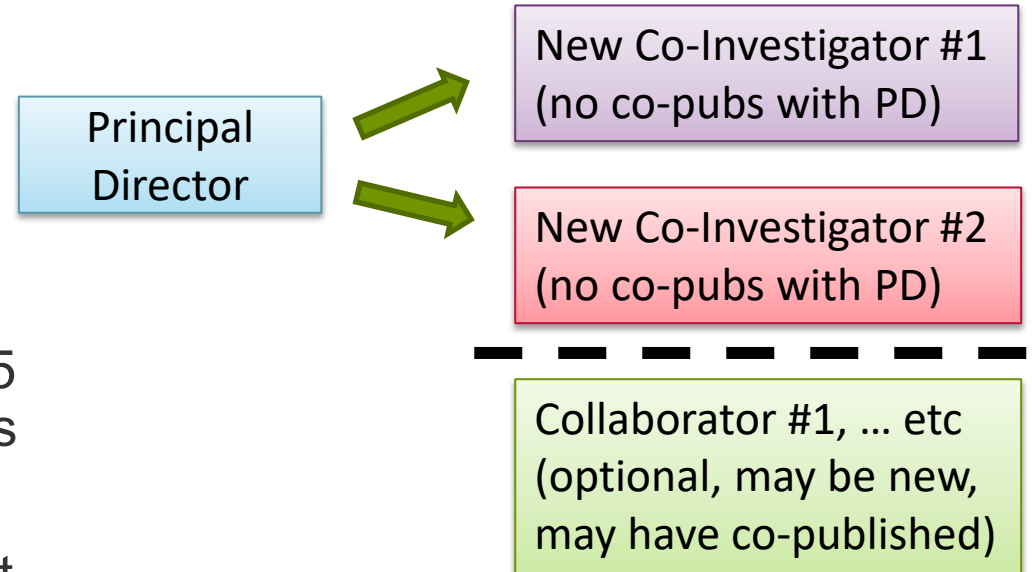
Definitions

- **Transdisciplinary research** is defined as research that involves scientists from multiple disciplines working interactively on a common problem to develop novel cross-disciplinary methods, insights and research approaches that would not have occurred with a traditional uni-disciplinary investigation.
- **Translational research** encompasses the evolution of an idea as it moves through the various phases of research with the goal of creating an impact on human health.
 - moving between different levels of biological organization – molecular, biochemical pathway, cellular, tissue, organ, model organism, human, and population
 - move fundamental science closer towards application, synthesis, implementation and adjustment

Elements of a ViCTER Consortium

- New Collaborative Team
 - At least **three key participants** (the PD/PI plus two "co-investigators")
 - **No co-authored original research publications** among the PD/PI and co-investigators within the last 5 years (excluding reviews, white papers, commentaries etc.)
 - Strongly recommend at least one co-investigator be at a **different institution** from the PD/PI
 - Encouraged to assemble teams that bring **diverse perspectives** to the theme of the consortium

- Virtual Element
 - The **PD/PI serves as the Director** of the consortium and is responsible for scheduling regular virtual (at least monthly) and in-person (at least yearly) meetings.
Note: Multi-PI scenario is also allowable.



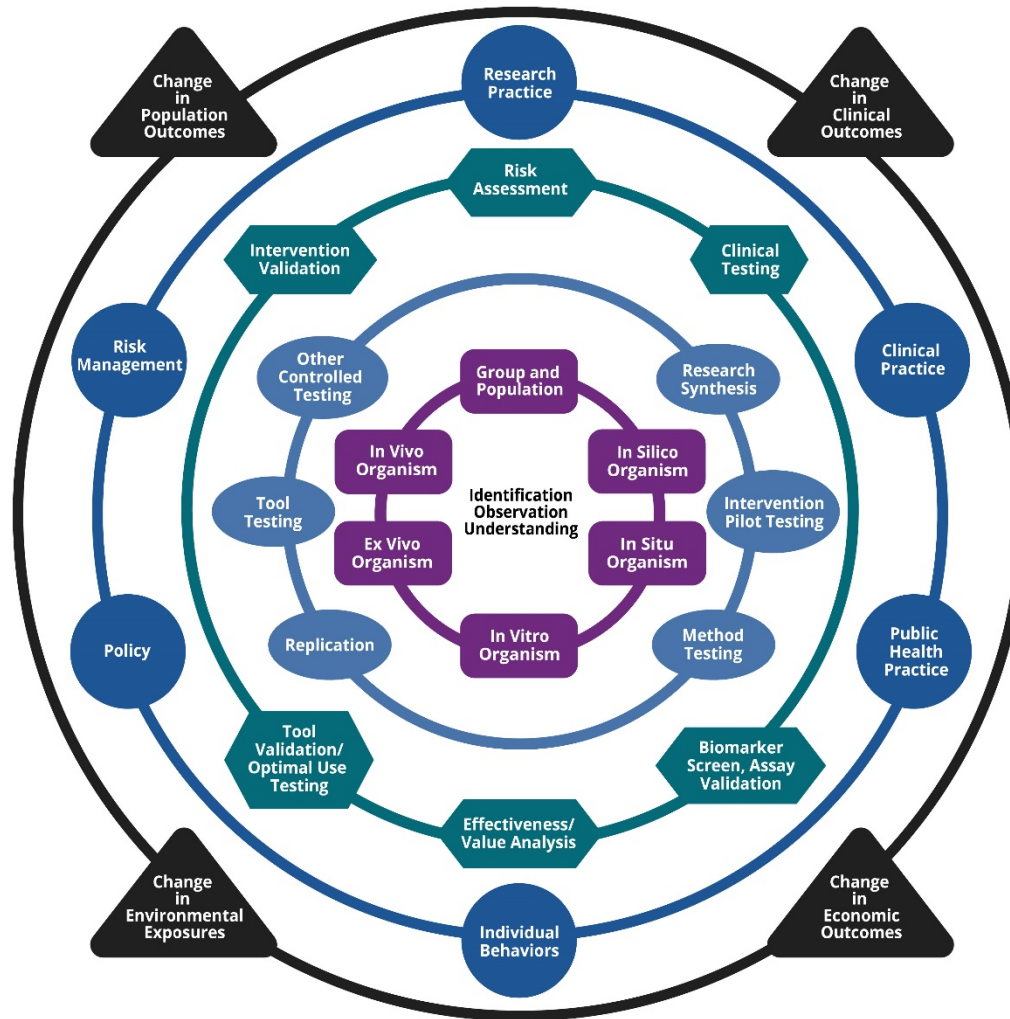
Key Elements of ViCTER: Specific Aims

- Applicants must propose a series of aims that are:
 - thematically related
 - foster collaboration among team members
 - reflect transdisciplinary/translational approaches to environmental health
- The PD/PI and co-investigators should each have a substantial and meaningful role in developing and conducting the overall ViCTER project
 - **each assume primary responsibility for leading one or more of the proposed Specific Aims**

Elements of a ViCTER Consortium

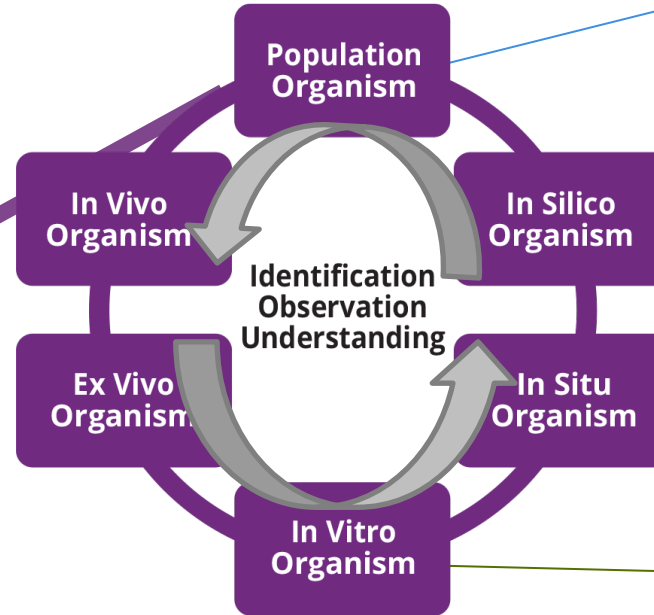
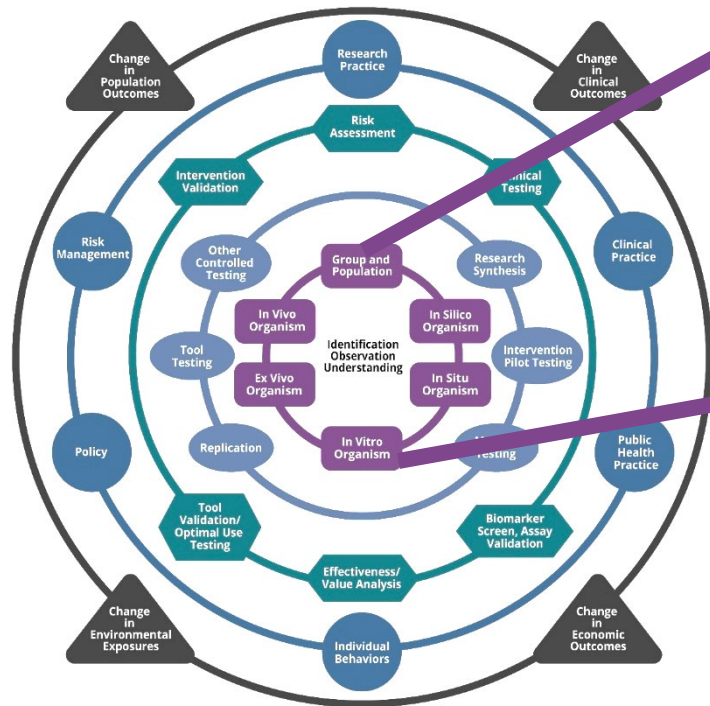
- High Risk – High Reward
 - Encouraged to propose **high risk/high reward** aims which, if successful, are likely to contribute significantly to one or more areas of environmental science and/or be the motivator of future collaborative research.
- Data Stewardship
 - Plan to preserve, share, and manage data to facilitate synthesis, integration, and translation of the individual aims (Please See: [NOT-OD-21-014](#))
 - Encouraged to include an expert in data stewardship when data integration, sharing, and reuse are critical to achieving the goal of the consortium
- Cross-Disciplinary Training
 - Encouraged to seek opportunities to enhance and broaden skills of students
- Synergistic, Translational and Transdisciplinary research
 - The whole is greater than the sum of its parts
 - Project that wouldn't be possible through typical R01 mechanism

Utilizing the NIEHS Research Translation Framework



NIEHS Translational Research Framework (TRF): fundamental questions, integration and synthesis, application and adjustment, practice, and impact (<https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/programs/translational/index.cfm>)

Research Translation at Fundamental Level



Specific Aim 1
Lead: PD

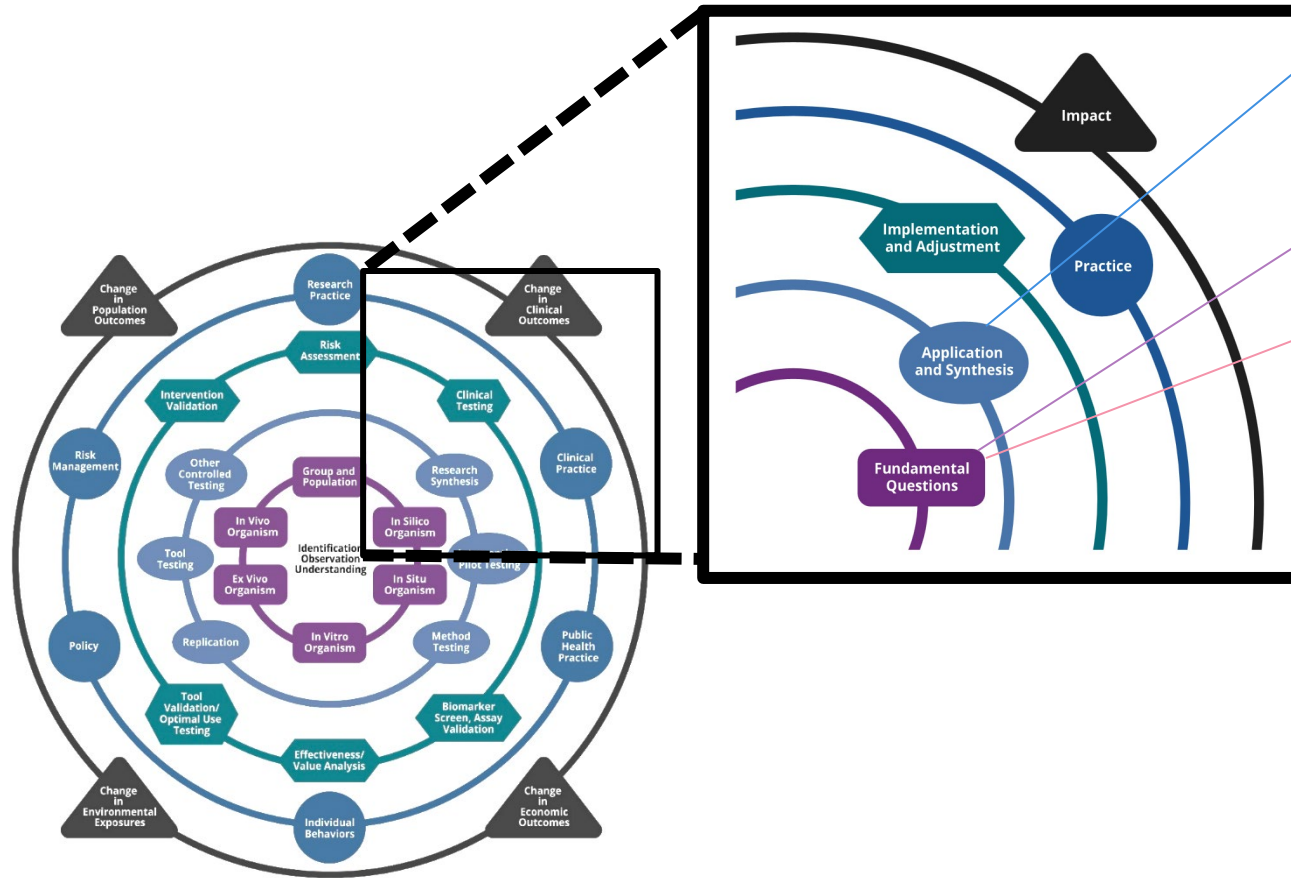
Specific Aim 2
Lead: New Co-I #1

Specific Aim 3
Lead: New Co-I #2

Specific Aim 4
(optional)
Lead: add'l collaborator
and/or any of the above

The aims may include several research approaches to address a fundamental research question (i.e. moving within the TRF “fundamental questions” level).

Research Translation Across Levels



Specific Aim 1
Lead: PD

Specific Aim 2
Lead: New Co-I #1

Specific Aim 3
Lead: New Co-I #2

Specific Aims may combine fundamental research questions with more intervention-, prevention-, and/or implementation-based approaches (i.e. moving from TRF “fundamental questions” towards “application and synthesis” and/or “implementation and adjustment”).

Note, at least one aim should address a fundamental question (as defined in Translational Research Framework as in silico organism, in situ organism, in vitro organism, ex vivo organism, in vivo organism, or group and population)

Scope: ViCTER Project must fall within the NIEHS mission

- Some examples of environmental exposures (includes but not limited to):
 - industrial chemicals or manufacturing byproducts;
 - byproducts of formal or informal resource extraction activities (e.g. mining, e-waste);
 - metals; pesticides; herbicides;
 - air pollutants and other inhaled toxicants (including indoor air pollutants);
 - particulates or fibers;
 - and fungal, bacterial or biologically derived toxins.

Exposure Scenarios of Interest:

- environmental health impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities;
- health disparities among environmental justice communities;
- informal electronic waste (e-Waste) or other mining operations;
- food-borne exposures to toxicants (including metals/metalloids in baby food, drinking water contaminants, pollutants in seafood);
- one-health frameworks (e.g. intersection of human, non-human, environment)

Note: Applications that propose laboratory-based studies using only model compounds (i.e., those without potential for human exposure) must provide a clear, reasonable and specific description as to how research on the model compound will lead to a better understanding of the mechanisms involved in response to specific environmental agents which are included in the mission responsibility of the NIEHS.

Scope: Opportunity to Integrate New Approaches

- Together with primary focus on NIEHS mission relevant exposures' impact on human health:
 - machine learning/artificial intelligence;
 - new approach methods (NAMs);
 - epigenomic-epitranscriptomic crosstalk; meta-proteomics;
 - fate, transport, and exposure modeling;
 - integration of geospatial/satellite data streams;
 - development and application of advanced sensor, imaging, or biomonitoring tools;
 - infectious disease; mental health;
 - mixed methods (qualitative and quantitative) or behavioral/social sciences; and implementation science.

ViCTER is an opportunity to bring broad expertise into Environmental Health Sciences. Often see new-to-NIEHS investigators in this program.

Specific Aims:

- State the overall transdisciplinary/translational objective of the ViCTER project and the proposed aims that will be used to meet the overall objective.
- **Identify which member of the collaborative team** will have primary responsibility for each aim and how each of the aims draws on unique expertise and skills of the PD/PI or co-investigator(s).
- Clearly identify any research aim(s) that are considered **exploratory high risk/high reward**.
- For each aim, summarize the methods to be used, the specific hypotheses to be pursued, expected outcomes and relation to the overall theme of the project.
- **Describe the interdependence** of the proposed collaborative aims and how each is needed to address the central problem and the potential scientific synergy to be achieved.

Note, **at least one aim should address a fundamental question** (as defined in Translational Research Framework as in silico organism, in situ organism, in vitro organism, ex vivo organism, in vivo organism, or group and population)



Research Strategy

- Significance
- Innovation
- Approach
 - Note, for applications involving significant interactions with communities, please describe community engagement best practices
- Investigators
- **Synergy and Structure of the ViCTER Consortium**

See RFA for Details: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-ES-21-007.html>

Research Strategy (Continued)

Synergy and Structure of the ViCTER Consortium

- Provide a succinct description of the organizational structure of the consortium including an administrative and management plan that will achieve an **integrated, coordinated and interdisciplinary research** consortium. Describe the **roles and responsibilities** of the PD/PI and designated members of the ViCTER collaborative team in the areas of leadership and oversight of the overall research efforts.
 - Indicate how the consortium's progress towards the expected scientific outcomes will be monitored and adjusted as needed.
 - Describe the **frequency and type (e.g., face-to-face, virtual, etc.) of meetings** for all ViCTER consortium participants.
 - Describe plans **for cross-disciplinary training** including how cross-laboratory interactions promote professional development for the individual and create synergy between the research team.
 - Describe plans to **synthesize research findings**, integrate data from separate aims, and to translate results to public health and/or follow-on studies. Highlight how data from one aim will feed into the other aims and how the study outcomes will move the field in a new direction or stimulate new collaborations.
 - Describe the **strength of synergy and integration** among the combined efforts of the various investigators within the overall project. Highlight how the virtual consortium would make a greater contribution to the central environmental health problem of focus than if each of the investigators conducted their projects alone.
 - Describe a timeline for proposed activities including plans for **synthesis of research from separate aims**.
- **Note, please see “Other Attachments” for accompanying diagram of consortium.**



Nuances for this RFA



- **Other Attachments: Consortium Diagram:** Provide an organizational diagram to show relationship between the components of the consortium.
 - Label aims based on NIEHS Translational Research Framework (www.niehs.nih.gov/research/programs/translational/index.cfm). (Note, at least one aim should address a fundamental question).
 - Identify which collaborator is the lead.
 - Identify any aims that are high risk / high reward.
 - Label roles for collaborators and other significant contributors (including administrative, data coordination, etc).
 - Denote points of integration (including cross-training).
- **Resource Sharing Plan:**
 - Data Sharing Plan (up to 2 pages) - should describe the approach for how the scientific data generated from the proposed research project and any accompanying metadata will be managed, preserved, and shared, taking into account any potential restrictions or limitations. Additional information on what to include are found in the RFA.

R&R or Modular Budget

- All instructions in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide must be followed.
- Applicants can request support for a variety of activities, including but not limited to, the sharing of tissues, assays, animals, and biosamples; coordination of bioinformatics for sample analysis; coordination of analyses; cross training of students, postdoctoral fellows and technicians among labs; research dissemination and community outreach activities; and regular in-person meetings.
- Budget requests should include appropriate costs to support **data management and sharing** for the project, including costs associated with curating data and developing supporting documentation, costs associated with providing local data management, and fees for preserving and sharing data through established data repositories.

Note: total direct cost may not exceed \$475K

R&R or Modular Budget

- Allocation of Funds among Collaborative team: While the budget allocations may be predicated by need, a **minimum of \$75,000 direct costs should be requested to support each aim.** In addition to the budget justification, include a brief statement indicating the direct costs for each aim.
 - Suggestion: please add the aims breakdown to the budget justification – at the beginning of the PD’s justification or at the end of the PD’s justification, right before their explanation of F&A.

Examples of Brief Statement Showing Budget Allocation Per Specific Aim (at least \$75K DC per aim)

Direct cost per Aim are as follows:
 Specific Aim 1: 150K/yr. (PD’s Uni X)
 Specific Aim 2: 125K/yr. (1st Co-I’s Uni Y)
 Specific Aim 3: 75K/yr. (2nd Co-I’s Uni Z)

Direct cost per Aim are as follows:
 Specific Aim 1: 150K/yr. (\$125K to PD’s Uni X; \$25K to 2nd Co-I’s Uni Z)
 Specific Aim 2: 125K/yr. (\$100K to 1st Co-I’s Uni Y)
 Specific Aim 3: 75K/yr. (2nd Co-I’s Uni Z)

Contacting Program Staff

- Potential applicants are encouraged to reach out to Program Staff in advance of submission for:
 - Questions about eligibility / responsiveness
 - Feedback on specific aims
 - Please reach out to Heather Henry, heather.henry@nih.gov, 984-287-3268

Are you new to NIH application Process – please take advantage of these Resources:

NIH Seminar

The NIH Seminar YouTube channel includes all sorts of trainings – may be helpful to address questions you have about the process and/or tips for applicants:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLW-WQiumfJwWZkqWt_6pcghw_EFP8zGg.

Sample Applications

NIAID posts sample applications, great way to see what goes in each section:

<https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/sample-applications>.



National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Your Environment. Your Health.

Virtual Consortium for Translational/Transdisciplinary
Environmental Research (ViCTER)
RFA-ES-21-007

Review Process

Varsha Shukla, PhD

Scientific Review Officer (SRO)

NIEHS

Ask questions via the Q&A box.
Post them at any time, but we'll save them to the end

Schedule and Deadline

- Letters of Intent: (optional yet recommended)
 - Deadline: January 01, 2022
 - Addressed to the SRO: Varsha Shukla
Email: varsha.shukla@nih.gov, Phone: 984-287-3288
 - Include:
 - Descriptive title of the proposed study
 - Details of PD/PI and other key personnel
 - Participating institution and FOA number

- Application Due: **February 01, 2022**
Due by 5:00 p.m. local time of application organization.

Electronic Submission via ASSIST

(Application Submission System & Interface For Submission Tracking)

Organizations need to register for both Grants.gov and eRA Commons

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

eRA Commons Home Logout Service Desk Contact Us

Application Submission System & Interface for Submission Tracking (ASSIST)
Sponsored by the National Institutes of Health

Username: IAMKIROK

Welcome

Welcome to the Application Submission System & Interface for Submission Tracking (ASSIST)

INITIATE APPLICATION
Funding Opportunity Announcement #
(Example: PA-XX-XXX or LITC-ABCD-XX-000)

The National Institutes of Health posts Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) in the [NIH Guide for Grants & Contracts](#) and in [Grants.gov's Search Grants](#). Each resource has robust search functionality to identify opportunities of interest. ASSIST can only be used to prepare and submit applications when explicitly stated in the FOA.

SEARCH FOR APPLICATION

Need Help?

Resources

- APPLICATION GUIDE
- ASSIST USER GUIDE
- ERA COMMONS

ASSIST

The Junction for NIEHS Staff x About the Online Help x +

era.nih.gov/erahelp/ASSIST/default.htm

Apps Peer Review Info Imported From IE GRB Platform : 1.2.1...

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Office of Extramural Research

Search

Contents

- Welcome to ASSIST Online Help!
- Application Structures in ASSIST
- Latest Updates
- ASSIST Essentials
- Prepare the Application
- Forms Data Entry
- Application Submission Status Workflow
- Generate a Preview of the Application
- Non-Research Amendments (for Non-Research)
- Non-Competing Continuation Overview
- Validate the Application
- Application Errors and Warnings Results
- Verify Senior Key Personnel
- Application Submission

You are here: Welcome to ASSIST Online Help!

Revised 7/22/2019

Welcome to the ASSIST Online Help

This collection of help topics provides online information about the ASSIST functionality. You can access the online help by selecting the Help icon from any of the screens within ASSIST.

Use the following options to navigate the online help:

Contents Tab

The **Contents** tab displays books and pages that represent the categories of information in the online help. Click a closed book to open it and display sub-books and pages. Click an open book to close it. Click on a page to view it in the right pane.

eRA Electronic Research Administration
A program of the National Institutes of Health

NIH National Institutes of Health
Office of Extramural Research

Search

Contents

- ASSIST
- Logging into the Application
- Manage Access
- Using ASSIST
- Prepare the Application
- Search for Application
- Adding Components
- Preview the Application
- Validate the Application

You are here: Using ASSIST

If you are having trouble viewing any of the information contained in this help topic, it can also be found in the *Application Submission System & Interface for Submission Tracking (ASSIST) User Guide* located online at http://era.nih.gov/files/ASSIST_user_guide.pdf. Refer to the User Guide's Table of Contents for your specific topic.

Using ASSIST

To navigate through the application in ASSIST, select any of the buttons in the **Actions** section, the links in the **Select Component Type** section of the left-side navigation area, or other links located on the ASSIST pages.

Start | [Taskbar icons] | 5:36 PM 11/12/2019

Electronic Submission and Timeline

- **Application Submission is only through ASSIST (via Grants.gov)**
-At least 5 Business Days prior to Deadline
- **Accepted by DHHS/NIH**
-Notification of Acceptance or Error (2-3 days)
- **Assigned to an Institute/Center**
-CSR: Receipt & Referral
-Assigned an Application #
- **Accepted by the Institute/Center (NIEHS)**
-Assigned to a Review Group

eRA Help Desk, Monday-Friday, 7am-8pm Eastern Time
301-402-7469; Toll Free: 866-504-9552
<http://grants.nih.gov/support/index.html>

Application Preparation (Pre-Submission Checklist):

- ✓ Read and follow instructions in the FOA: RFA-ES-21-007
- ✓ Key Personnel
- ✓ Font size, page numbering & page limitation
- ✓ Checkpoints for Budgets
- ✓ Other Attachments- consortium diagram

➤ **Page limit:**

As indicated in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide **must be followed**

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-and-write/page-limits.htm#train>

- ✓ Project Summary – 30 lines of text
- ✓ Project Narrative – 3 Sentences
- ✓ Specific Aims- 1 page
- ✓ Research Strategy- 12 pages
- ✓ Biosketches- 5 pages (NIH Format)

Appendix Material/Information:

NOT-OD-18-126:

Allowable- Blank data collection forms, blank survey forms and blank questionnaire forms.

“Reduce the burden on peer reviewers and to prevent applicants from submitting inappropriate or excessive materials in their application appendices”

Post Submission Material:

NOT- OD-19-083:

The allowable post-submission materials will be accepted only if **submitted 30 days before the study section meeting.**

Review Criteria:

(Section V. Application Review Information)

- **Scored Review Criteria**
 - Significance
 - Investigator(s)
 - Innovation
 - Approach
 - Environment

Additional Review Criteria : Reviewers will evaluate the following additional items while determining scientific and technical merit, and in providing an overall impact score.

- Translational and/or Transdisciplinary Nature
- Synergy*
- Study timeline (only for clinical trials)
- VA and/or HS (inclusion of women, minorities & individuals across lifespan)
- Biohazards
- Resubmissions

Additional Review Considerations :

- Select agents
- Resource sharing plans*
- Authentication of Key biological/chemical resources
- Budget

Review and Selection Process:

- Evaluation for scientific and technical merit by the Special Emphasis Panel (SEP).
- Applications deemed to have the highest scientific and technical merit will be discussed and assigned an overall impact score.
- All applications will receive written critiques.

RFA States: up to 3-4 applications (up to \$2,750,000, depending on appropriation and receipt of sufficient meritorious applications).

Schedule:

- Peer Review Meeting: June 2022
- Priority Scores: within 48 hours after Review Meeting ends
- SS Released in IMPAC: No later than end of August
- Council: October 2022
- Earliest Funding: December 2022

Note: there are receipt dates Feb 2023 and 2024 under current RFA

Submit Early!!





Thank you!

Scientific/Research Contact(s)

Heather Henry, Ph.D.

NIEHS

Telephone: 984-287-3268

Email: heather.henry@nih.gov

Peer Review Contact(s)

Varsha Shukla, Ph.D.

NIEHS

Telephone: 984-287-3288

Email: Varsha.shukla@nih.gov

Financial/Grants Management Contact(s)

Jenny Greer

NIEHS

Telephone: 984-287-3332

Email: jenny.greer@nih.gov

Application Submission Contacts

eRA Service Desk (Questions regarding ASSIST, eRA Commons, application errors and warnings, documenting system problems that threaten submission by the due date, and post-submission issues)

Finding Help Online: <http://grants.nih.gov/support/>

Telephone: 301-402-7469 or 866-504-9552 (Toll Free)

General Grants Information (Questions regarding application instructions, application processes, and NIH grant resources)

Email: GrantsInfo@nih.gov (preferred method of contact)

Telephone: 301-945-7573

Grants.gov Customer Support (Questions regarding Grants.gov registration and Workspace)

Contact Center Telephone: 800-518-4726

Email: support@grants.gov

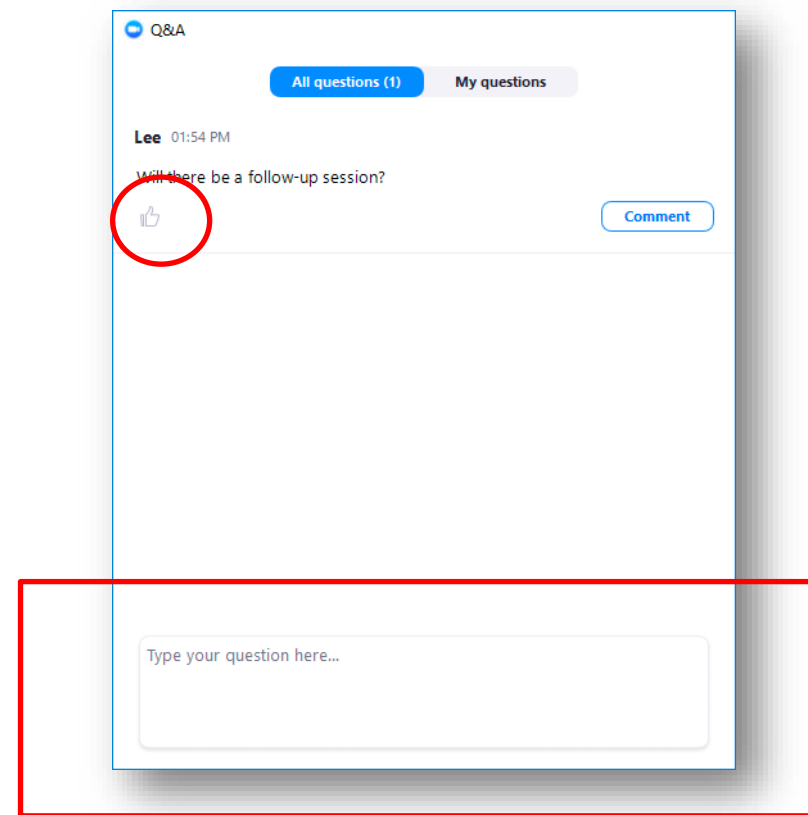
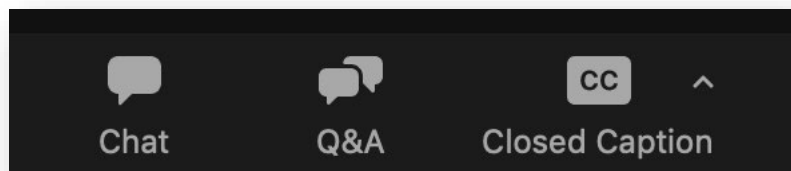
Questions?

How to access the Toolbar

(for attendees not panelists)

Most controls are found in the bottom Zoom toolbar of the desktop client
(you might have to hover mouse)

- **Q&A** – used for all comments and questions with “upvoting” allowed



- Please type all presentation-related questions and comments into the Q&A Pop Up Window
- Use the thumbs up icon to “like” a question asked by another attendee

FAQs

- My ViCTER team has an R03 together but have not yet published as a group. If we have not published at the time of proposal submission, is it permitted to publish after submission and still be eligible?
 - Yes. All applications will undergo an administrative review for responsiveness prior to being assigned to the peer review group. Co-publications between the PD and co-investigators published prior to the submission date would be cause to return the application.
 - Please keep in mind, the intent behind the ViCTER program is to establish new partnerships, so evidence of an existing collaboration in the application may not be viewed as favorable.

*As the RFA states, each ViCTER consortium must consist of at least three key participants (the PD/PI plus two scientists designated by the PD/PI as "co-investigators") that together represent **a newly collaborative team**. For the purposes of this FOA, a team is considered newly collaborative if there are no co-authored original research publications among the PD/PI and co-investigators within the last 5 years (excluding reviews, white papers, commentaries etc.).*

FAQs

- Can a member of the consortium be an investigator who is out of the US?
 - The RFA says: **Foreign Institutions**
 - *Non-domestic (non-U.S.) Entities (Foreign Institutions) are not eligible to apply.*
 - *Non-domestic (non-U.S.) components of U.S. Organizations are not eligible to apply.*
 - *Foreign components, as defined in the NIH Grants Policy Statement, **are allowed.***
 - Also Note: applicants will have opportunities to describe the nature of the foreign involvement for foreign involvement, the SF424 form has a section where you justify the collaboration
 - *“6. Does this project involve activities outside of the United States or partnerships with international collaborators?” If you have checked “Yes” to Question 6, you must include a “Foreign Justification” attachment in Field 12, Other Attachments. Describe special resources or characteristics of the research project (e.g., human subjects, animals, disease, equipment, and techniques), including the reasons why the facilities or other aspects of the proposed project are more appropriate than a domestic setting. In the body of the text, begin the section with a heading indicating “Foreign Justification” and name the file “Foreign Justification.”*
 - It is also advised to be very explicit in the Research Strategy about how the Virtual Consortium will be **successful despite the additional complexities** that might arise due to foreign collaborations.

FAQs

- I work with a Federal Agency – how can I find out if I would qualify for a ViCTER grant? Could I be the PD of the proposal? If not, we may still be able to work with an eligible collaborating partner to take advantage of this opportunity?
 - Check with your agency’s business office to determine if you are eligible (see excerpt below). In some cases, you may not be able to apply as the PD, but may be able to participate as a co-Investigator or, at the very least, a collaborator.
 - Information regarding federal eligibility for NIH grants and cooperative agreements is found in the NIH Grants Policy Statement section [17.2](#). Special requirements associated with awards to federal entities, including allowable and unallowable costs, etc. are available in section 17 [Grants to Federal Institutions and Payments to Federal Employees under Grants](#).

FAQs

- We submitted a proposal to ViCTER in December 2020 (R01 ES033472-01) and we are now working on a resubmission for the Feb 2022 deadline. Is an Introduction page addressing the prior reviews allowed?
 - Yes, this is a continuation of the prior RFA call, so your application would be an amended application (resubmission).
 - Resubmissions are allowed a one-page introduction explaining their response to the review.
 - The RFA States: *Application Types Allowed*
 - *New*
 - *Resubmission*

FAQs

- I currently have a ViCTER. If I were to form a new collaboration for a new project with different colleagues, am I eligible to apply for another ViCTER? Or does having one already disqualify me?
 - **A new project with new collaborators** would be eligible.

FAQs

- What if my project requires \$500K direct cost. Is this allowed?
 - In this case, it depends on whether consortia/sub-awards are included in the application. Even though Consortium F&A is a Direct Cost, you would exclude it in calculating the \$475K direct cost limitation. Hence, if your \$500K direct costs include \$25K or more of Consortium F&A, you would be compliant with the \$475K DC Limitation.
 - As indicated in the NIH Grants Policy Statement [2.3.7.1](#):
 - For FOAs that include a direct cost limit, NIH policy excludes consortium/contractual F&A when determining if an applicant is in compliance with the direct cost limitation. This policy extends to all solicited and investigator-initiated applications and to all active announcements (Request for Applications and Program Announcements), involving consortium/contractual F&A costs, regardless of budget amount or budget format (e.g., modular and non-modular). While consortium F&A costs may be requested and awarded, applicants should not consider these costs when determining if a budget exceeds a direct cost limit.
 - This policy impacts eligibility to submit a modular budget. The modular budget format is used for applications requesting \$250,000 or less in direct costs per year. Consortium/contractual F&A costs are not factored into this direct cost limit; however, they may be requested in addition to the \$250,000.
 - This policy also impacts applications requesting a budget of \$500,000 direct costs or more for any year. These applications require prior approval from Institute/Center staff; however, the limit is exclusive of any consortium F&A costs. It does not affect any specific FOA that includes a total cost limit.

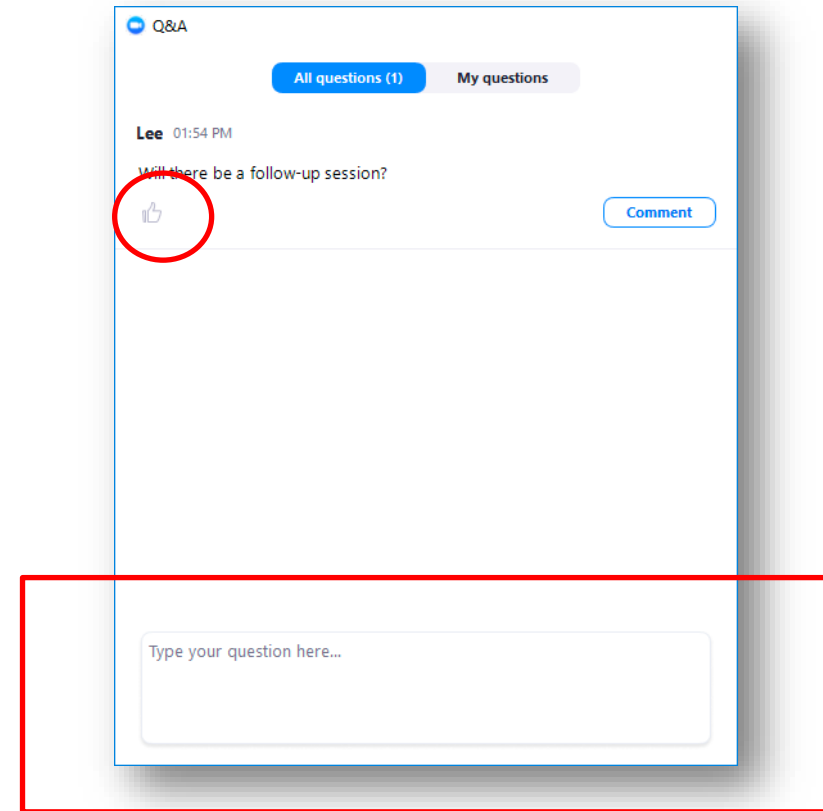
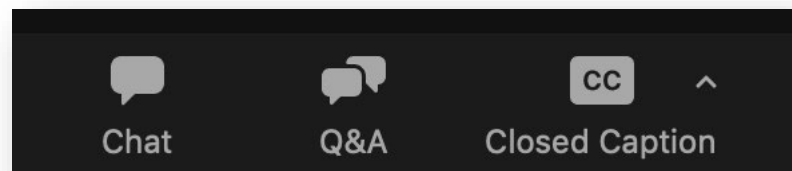
Additional Questions?

How to access the Toolbar

(for attendees not panelists)

Most controls are found in the bottom Zoom toolbar of the desktop client
(you might have to hover mouse)

- **Q&A** – used for all comments and questions with “upvoting” allowed



- Please type all presentation-related questions and comments into the Q&A Pop Up Window
- Use the thumbs up icon to “like” a question asked by another attendee