

Program Insights Newsletter

This newsletter includes:

- A 'challenge' to help NIH efforts to address possible biases in the NIH peer review process
- The announcement of a new partnership looking to replicate the success of the Meyerhoff Program at other institutions
- Plus, a look at some NIH resources available for diversity networking and research

Peer Review Challenge

The Enhancing the Diversity of the NIH-Funded Workforce program is one of several NIH activities addressing diversity. One of these additional activities is a review of the peer review system. The [ACD Diversity Working Group Subcommittee on Peer Review](#) is charged with examining all hypotheses, including the role of unconscious bias, related to disparities in research awards at the NIH.

To further their work, the NIH Center for Scientific Review, in collaboration with the Subcommittee, has announced two America COMPETES Act Challenges. These contests solicit input from the scientific community and other stakeholders to aid our efforts to address the problem of racial disparities in NIH R01 grant funding.

New Methods to Detect Bias in Peer Review: Contestants are asked to submit their ideas for strategies to detect possible bias in the NIH peer review process. Submissions can include approaches, strategies, methodologies, and/or measures that would be sensitive to detecting bias among reviewers due to gender, race/ethnicity, institutional affiliation, area of science, and amount of research experience. First Place (\$10,000) and Second Place (\$5,000) prizes will be awarded in two categories, best empirically based idea and most creative idea.

Strategies to Strengthen Fairness and Impartiality in Peer Review: Contestants are asked to submit ideas for reviewer training methods aimed at enhancing fairness and impartiality in NIH peer review. The submission does not require full development of training materials. However, ideas should be provided in sufficient detail to assess their ability to address fairness and impartiality in review with regards to gender, race/ethnicity, institutional affiliation, area of science, and amount of research experience. First Place (\$10,000) and Second Place (\$5,000) prizes will be awarded for the best overall idea.

The contest closes **June 30, 2014** and winners will be announced September 2, 2014. Details regarding the rules and submission procedures for these two Challenges can be found on the [CSR Challenge website](#) or at www.challenge.gov. We appreciate your assistance in sharing this announcement with your colleagues.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Three Universities Unite to Replicate and Spread Successful STEM Program

The University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), the Pennsylvania State University (Penn State), the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill, and Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) are working together to learn how to adapt the highly successful Meyerhoff Scholars Program at more universities. The program is regarded as a national powerhouse when it comes to fostering diversity in the sciences. However, despite the program's success and national stature, it has never been replicated at another university. UMBC, HHMI, Penn State and UNC are launching a collaborative project to learn

whether elements of the Meyerhoff Program can be adapted at Penn State and UNC. The partners plan to document, assess, and share information about what they learn so other universities might follow.

Find more information about the partnership here: <http://www.hhmi.org/news/three-universities-unite-replicate-and-spread-successful-stem-program>.

NETWORKING RESOURCE: NIH Women of Color Research Network

The NIH Women of Color Network is an online community that is addressing the challenges faced by all women and minorities entering and advancing in scientific careers. The network is open to everyone who values diversity in the scientific workplace. Its website (<http://www.wocrn.nih.gov/>) includes links to forums, blogs, resources, and upcoming events. WOCRN is a free and open to the community, but requires a login account. All members can connect or communicate through the site. Advertisers are not permitted to register.

RESEARCH RESOURCE: NIH Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH)

Looking for resources for basic or clinical research opportunities related to women's health or sex differences research? Check out the NIH Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH): <http://orwh.od.nih.gov/resources/research.asp>. This site includes current funding opportunities, mentoring resources, and additional resources for researchers of all levels.

The [Enhancing the Diversity of the NIH-Funded Workforce](#) Program is funded through the NIH Common Fund, and managed by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities in partnership with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.