PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN THIS EDITION

On October 25, 2021, NIH published updates to the instructions and review criteria language for grant applications due on or after January 25, 2022. This edition has been updated to comply with those instructions. You can access the instructions at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide.html. You will discover there a set of general instructions for the FORMS-G application package. Two formats are available: (1) HTML, and (2) PDF. The title of the former is, "GENERAL APPLICATION GUIDE FOR NIH AND OTHER PHS AGENCIES." The PDF version has a different title: "GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR NIH AND OTHER PHS AGENCIES." Despite the different titles, their content is the same.

In addition to the General Instructions, which you can use for all NIH and other PHS grant mechanisms, there are six sets of program-specific instructions: (1) Research (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-g/research-forms-g.pdf); (2) Career Development (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-g/career-forms-g.pdf); (3) Training (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-g/training-forms-g.pdf); (4) Fellowship (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-g/fellowship-forms-g.pdf); (5) Multi-Project (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-g/multi-project-forms-g.pdf); and (6) SBIR/STTR (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-g/sbir-sttr-forms-g.pdf). Each of them is available only as a PDF document, and each has a title that is a variant of the second one listed above for the General Instructions.

The set of instructions to which we refer in this *Workbook* is the research-specific set, which is titled, "RESEARCH INSTRUCTIONS FOR NIH AND OTHER PHS AGENCIES." It should be used in conjunction with the complementary and potentially superseding instructions in the Funding Opportunity Announcement to which you are responding.

An overview of recent changes, with hyperlinks to more specific information, can be found in NOT-OD-21-169 (see https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-21-169.html). The principal updates in this edition of *The Grant Application Writer's Workbook* (NIH) that are pertinent to preparation of your application include:

- Preface has been updated
- Updated format and content instructions for the NIH Biographical Sketch and included revised sample pages
- Provided comprehensive guidance on how to use the modernized NIH RePORTER database
- Amended guidance on how to formulate specific aim statements for research projects not involving hypotheses
- Information on the use of the Cover Letter Attachment has been updated
- Emphasized that Notices of Special Interest (NOSIs) are increasingly being used by NIH Institutes and Centers to highlight areas of scientific interest
- Added information throughout on limitations regarding the use of hyperlinks and URLs
- Updated information on the shortened review cycle for New/Early-Stage Investigators
- General information on the purpose of common grant mechanisms has been updated
- All URLs and screenshots have been updated