

Requirements for a “New” NIBIB P41 Center Following Funding Period Limitations

NIBIB supports a large network of Biomedical Technology Resource Centers through the P41 grant mechanism. These Centers create critical and unique technology and methods at the forefront of their respective fields and apply them to a broad range of basic, translational and clinical research. These Centers have been highly creative and productive, and constitute a significant element in NIBIB's technology development portfolio. As responsible stewards of our mission and budget, NIBIB must balance the conflicting demands of nurturing new scientific areas, while providing for sustained development in established areas.

As part of maintaining this balance, NIBIB announced in 2010 (PAR-10-153) that funding for a P41 Center would be limited to 15 years. Centers that were already funded at the time were integrated into the new policy, by allowing for one competitive renewal under NIBIB funding. After reaching the funding period limits, a P41 center cannot receive continued funding from the NIBIB. This is intended to allow for a careful examination of each Center's productivity, potential for new technology development and alignment with NIBIB programmatic priorities.

Investigators may submit a new P41 application that demonstrates substantial changes to the focus of technology development efforts. Although it is not possible to fully describe the features that would constitute a new center application within the diverse P41 portfolio, the following guidelines were developed in an attempt to describe the minimum degree of novelty that would be expected in a new P41 application under the current policy:

1. The overall goal must be of high programmatic priority to NIBIB and central to its mission.
2. Shifting the focus to different biological/medical target(s) is not sufficient; the new Center must include new technology development. The overall goal of the Center can be in the same basic technical field as the previous Center.
3. It is expected that no more than one of the prior TR&Ds will be present in the new Center application; although the technology development focus can be in the same general field as the prior center, all TR&Ds should have substantially different technology development emphases from the prior Center.
4. It is expected that at least 7 of the 10 featured Collaborative Projects (CPs) will have a different technology development focus from the CPs in the prior Center.
5. It is expected that at least 7 of the 10 featured Service Projects (SPs) will have a different technology development focus from the SPs in the prior Center.

Prospective applications will be first considered on a case-by-case basis by NIBIB in the form of a white paper. As part of the white paper, applicants will be required to describe, in

one page, the differences between the prior center and the newly proposed center, and compliance with the aforementioned minimal guidelines. Compliance with the minimal guidelines does not guarantee acceptance of the white paper. NIBIB will be the final arbiter of whether a full application will be accepted and allowed to move forward to review.