

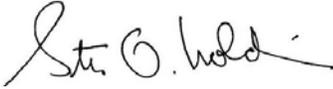


MEMORANDUM

Office of the Provost

Office of Research
Advancement

Steven O. Moldin, Ph.D.
Executive Director

To: Randolph Hall
From: Steven O. Moldin 
Date: November 30, 2007
Subject: NIH Funding Opportunities – Young Investigators

This memo is to follow up on the discussion we had at the Provost Research Council meeting on November 28th. I have had recent discussions with several program staff at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and learned that NIH is extremely interested in stimulating research by investigators who have not had previous support through its standard research program (the R01 mechanism). The NIH Director feels that this is such a strong priority he is providing each of the NIH institutes and centers with additional funds to explicitly support research by young investigators.

I have been told that availability of these additional funds has resulted in the funding of R01 applications from young investigators with scores that fall as high as the 25th – 30th percentile. The likelihood of successful funding is thus substantially increased, given that the Institute paylines for applications received from established investigators are at the 15th percentile or worse.

This presents an opportunity for USC junior faculty who have not had an R01 funded by NIH. Given that each of the NIH's 27 institutes and centers are being encouraged to support young investigators, a broad area of research is affected. Furthermore, this is not tied to any specific Request for Applications (RFA) or Program Announcement (PA); rather, any unsolicited research project would be suitable.

I encourage faculty who have not received NIH R01 funding to apply. My Office is willing to provide assistance in any way that we can.