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Subject: Update on NIH GSI: Introducing the Next Generation Researchers Initiative
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At Thursday's meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) National Institutes of Health an update on the recently proposed grant weighting formula called the [Grant Support Index \(GSI\)](#) was provided. The NIH agreed with the tremendous feedback from the research community that much more work needs to be done on the GSI as it does not adequately capture the complexity of modern day science. The NIH remains dedicated to increasing support for early and mid-career investigators as directed by the [21st Century Cures Act](#), and as outlined in their strategic plan. It has thus launched the [Next Generation Research Initiative](#) to address this goal.

Beginning immediately, the NIH is committed to redistributing an estimated \$210M per year to support additional meritorious* early stage investigators (ESI) and mid-career investigators, reaching a steady-state of \$1.1B over the next 5 years. This new approach will rely on reprioritization of funds at the institute and center level. The NIH will also optimize approaches to measure and inform funding decisions, including the creation of a database of all ESI and mid-career investigators that fall within the fundable range to monitor their progress under this new mandate. More information can be found in the [NIH Director's Statement](#) and the [Presentation to the Advisory Committee to the NIH Director](#). The NIH and the ACD will continue to develop approaches to measure the influence of NIH funding and welcome any and all ideas about how this can be done. Feedback can be provided through the [Open Mike Blog](#) or send an email to publicinput@od.nih.gov.

We would like to thank all of you who provided thoughtful comments and constructive feedback. We strongly endorse the NIH's goal to increase support for early and mid-career investigators and recognize that these investigators are essential to the future of the research enterprise. We look forward to reports from the NIH on the progress of their efforts.

* meritorious = ESI those who have been PI \leq 10yrs and fall within the 25th percentile (or a priority score of \leq 35 from RFAs)