

NIH DIRECTOR'S PIONEER AWARD PROGRAM

NIH Deadline: October 18, 2013 by 5:00PM

Award Amount: \$500,000 per year for 5 years, plus applicable F&A

Target Disciplines: Biomedical and behavioral research, defined broadly as encompassing scientific investigations in the biological, behavioral, clinical, social, physical, chemical, computational, engineering, and mathematical sciences.

Pioneer Awards are designed to support individual scientists of exceptional creativity who propose pioneering – and possibly transforming approaches – to major challenges in biomedical and behavioral research. The proposed project must reflect a fundamental new insight into the potential solution of a problem, which may derive from the development of exceptionally innovative approaches and/or from the posing of radically unconventional hypotheses. While the research direction may have as its foundation the applicant's prior work and expertise, the proposed research must reflect ideas substantially different from those already being pursued in the investigator's laboratory or elsewhere.

Eligibility (partial list):

- Any individual with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research as the Program Director/Principal Investigator may apply.
- Pioneer awardees are required to commit at least 51% of their research effort to activities supported by the Pioneer Award research project.

Review Criteria (partial list):

Reviewers will emphasize the following in their consideration of proposals:

- The significance and innovation of the proposed project;
- The investigator (evidence for past innovation; and the PD/PI's demonstrated ability to devote 51% or more research effort to the project); and
- The suitability of the proposed project for the Pioneer Award mechanism, which includes evidence that the proposed research is of sufficient risk/potential impact that it is more suitable for the Pioneer Award program than for a traditional grant mechanism, and that the proposed research represents a new research direction for the PD/PI(s). A new research direction is defined as a significant departure from the direction of ongoing or previously funded research in the PD/PI's laboratory.

Application:

Applications must be submitted to the NIH by October 18, 2013 by 5pm.

Pioneer Award applications do not require preliminary data, scientific aims, or a detailed research plan. For detailed application and submission information, see [here](#).

Prior to submitting an application to the sponsor the full application must be submitted for review to the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) at least five business days prior to the sponsor deadline.

Additional Information:

More information on the NIH Pioneer Award can be found at <https://commonfund.nih.gov/pioneer/>.

Recent Harvard FAS recipients include Florian Engert (MCB, 2011), Sharad Ramanathan (MCB, 2011), and Charles Lieber (CCB, 2008).

Please direct any questions regarding this announcement or proposal submission to Erin Cromack (496-9448, cromack@fas.harvard.edu) or Susan Gomes (496-9448, susan_gomes@harvard.edu).

Deadlines:

OSP Full Proposal Deadline:

October 10, 2013, 5PM

NIH Full Proposal Deadline:

October 18, 2013, 5PM