Protecting Peer Review at NIH

• The National Institutes of Health is the most prominent, respected and trusted medical research agency in the world.

• More than 83 percent of NIH funding is awarded through almost 50,000 competitive, peer-reviewed grants and contracts to more than 350,000 researchers at over 3,000 universities, medical schools, teaching hospitals, and other research institutions in every state.

• Each year, 80,000 new applications are submitted to NIH and fewer than ten percent of them will receive NIH funding.

• The NIH Center for Scientific Review works with nearly 18,000 scientists from universities across the country to review the proposed projects for their scientific and technical merit.

• The applications are then assigned to one of the 27 Institutes and Centers at NIH. A second level of peer review is conducted by the individual NIH Institute Advisory Councils, which are composed of both scientists from the research community and public representatives.

• These councils consider the scientific merit, as well as the relevance to the Institute’s mission and the public health impact of the research.

• Congress has an oversight responsibility to ensure that proper policies and procedures are in place to determine the allocation of scarce federal research funds. By protecting the scientific peer review system, Congress ensures that only high quality research will be funded with public dollars.

Center for Scientific Review National Institutes of Health

Applicant — Grant Application Kit — Scientific Review Group — Summary Statement — Funding Institute/Center Advisory Council