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# NIGMS Director's Update

Jon Lorsch, PhD

Director of the National Institute of General Medical  
Sciences



Association of  
American Medical Colleges

# Get Involved with GREAT and GRAND

Know someone not currently in GREAT or GRAND who might benefit from these conversations and networking? Tell them to email [GREAT@aamc.org](mailto:GREAT@aamc.org) or [GRAND@aamc.org](mailto:GRAND@aamc.org) and ask to join the group.

GREAT and GRAND weekly community calls bring group members together to discuss how their institutions are responding to the coronavirus. To be invited, email Sr. Administrative Associate Emily Outtarac at [eouttarac@aamc.org](mailto:eouttarac@aamc.org).

Next Community Forum on July 9 2:00 – 3:00 pm ET : NIMHD)  
Director's Update with Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, MD



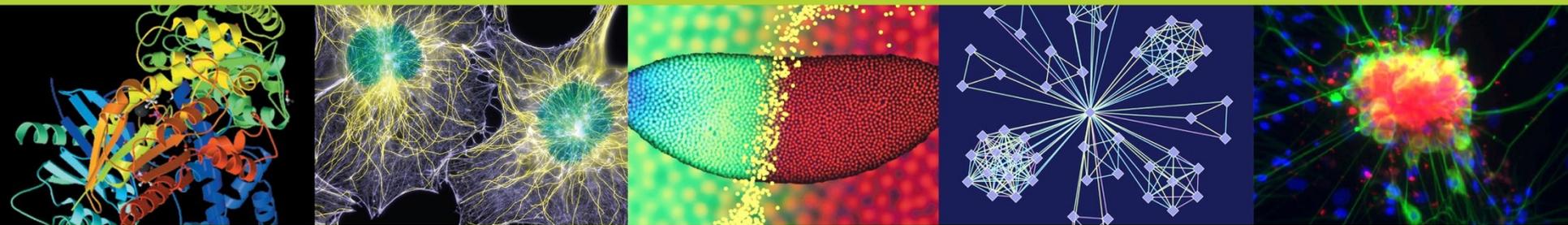
National Institute of  
General Medical Sciences

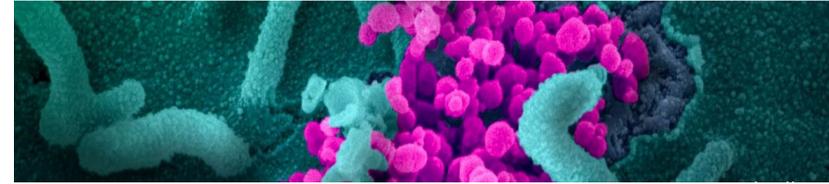


# NIGMS Director's Update



**Jon R. Lorsch, PhD, Director**  
**National Institute of General Medical Sciences**  
[jon.lorsch@nih.gov](mailto:jon.lorsch@nih.gov)





# NIH Has Announced a Variety of Administrative Flexibilities

- Can pay trainees and staff while in stay-at-home status
- Can donate PPE and other supplies
- Late applications accepted ([NOT-OD-20-09](#) and [NOT-GM-20-029](#))
- ESI, K99, fellowship eligibility can be extended – ask!
- Prior approval waivers & reporting extensions ([NOT-OD-20-086](#))
- More!

Visit this page and check back often for updates!

<https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus.htm>

# NIGMS Urgent Competitive Revision Supplements for COVID-19 Research

- Infectious disease modeling research
  - Including incorporation of modeling of economic impact
- Repurposing of developmental therapeutics or diagnostics originally targeted at other indications (SBIR/STTR only)

NOT-GM-20-025

NOT-GM-20-027

# MIDAS Coordination Center



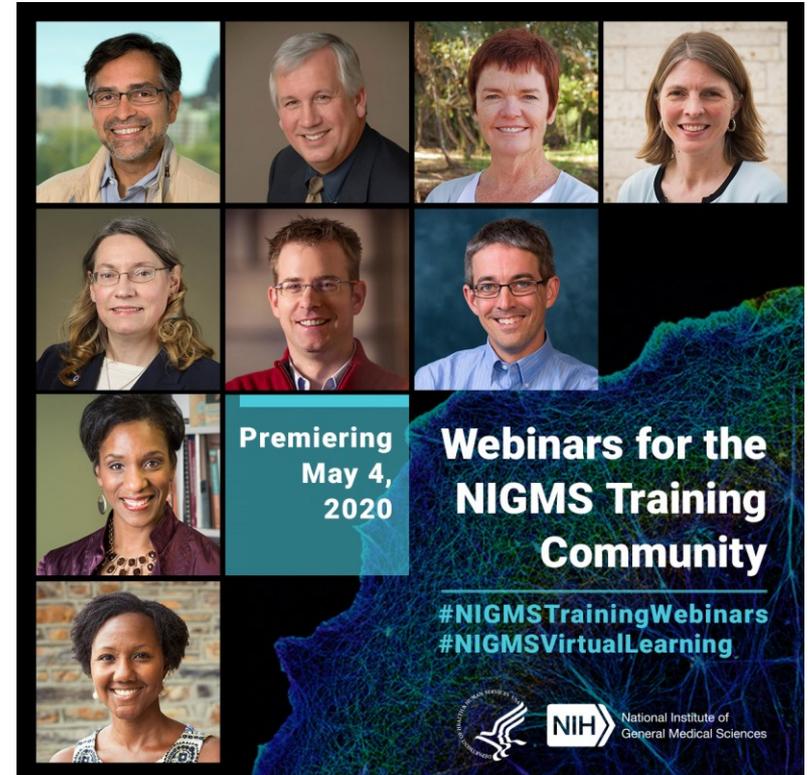
- Coordinates and facilitates infectious disease modeling research
- Provides access to curated data sets, models, algorithms, code, parameters, and cloud computing services
- Serves as point of contact for public health agencies
- MIDAS network currently has nearly 400 members funded by NIH, NSF and other U.S. and international organizations

# Critical Need for Modeling Research: Better Access to Data

- Individual-level data
- Also, e.g., policy, demographic, geographic, & mobility data
- Needs to be as close to real-time as possible
- These are the “known unknowns”
- There are also unknown unknowns, which is why modeling **research** is essential

# #NIGMSVirtualLearning: Trainee Webinars

- Series of 8 webinars held throughout May 2020 for students, postdocs, and faculty
- Range of biomedical and career development topics



<https://www.nigms.nih.gov/News/meetings/Pages/webinars-for-trainees.aspx>

# #NIGMSVirtualLearning: Training Resources

- **Training resources for scientists at all career stages (undergraduate through faculty)**



- NIGMS Resources

<https://www.nigms.nih.gov/research-training/resources>

- Lab safety and training (NEW!)

- Training modules on rigor and reproducibility

- iBiology, <https://www.ibiology.org>



- National Research Mentoring Network (NRMN),

<https://nrmnet.net>



- Postdoc Academy, <https://www.postdocacademy.org>



# #NIGMSVirtualLearning: STEM Resources

- **K-12 science education materials for parents, teachers, students, and others**

- NIGMS Science Education Materials

<https://www.nigms.nih.gov/science-education>

- *Pathways* (collaboration with Scholastic)

<https://www.nigms.nih.gov/education/pathways>

- NIGMS Pinterest Boards (NEW!)

<https://www.pinterest.com/nigms>

- SEPA Teaching Resources (Funded by NIGMS)

<https://www.nigms.nih.gov/education/sepa-teaching-resources>



# MIDAS Student Reporting Labs Video

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- PBS NewsHour student reporter Maddie Marks interviewed epidemiologist Dr. Wilbert Van Panhuis on the MIDAS network and infectious disease modeling
- Shared on social media as part of our #NIGMSVirtualLearning promotion

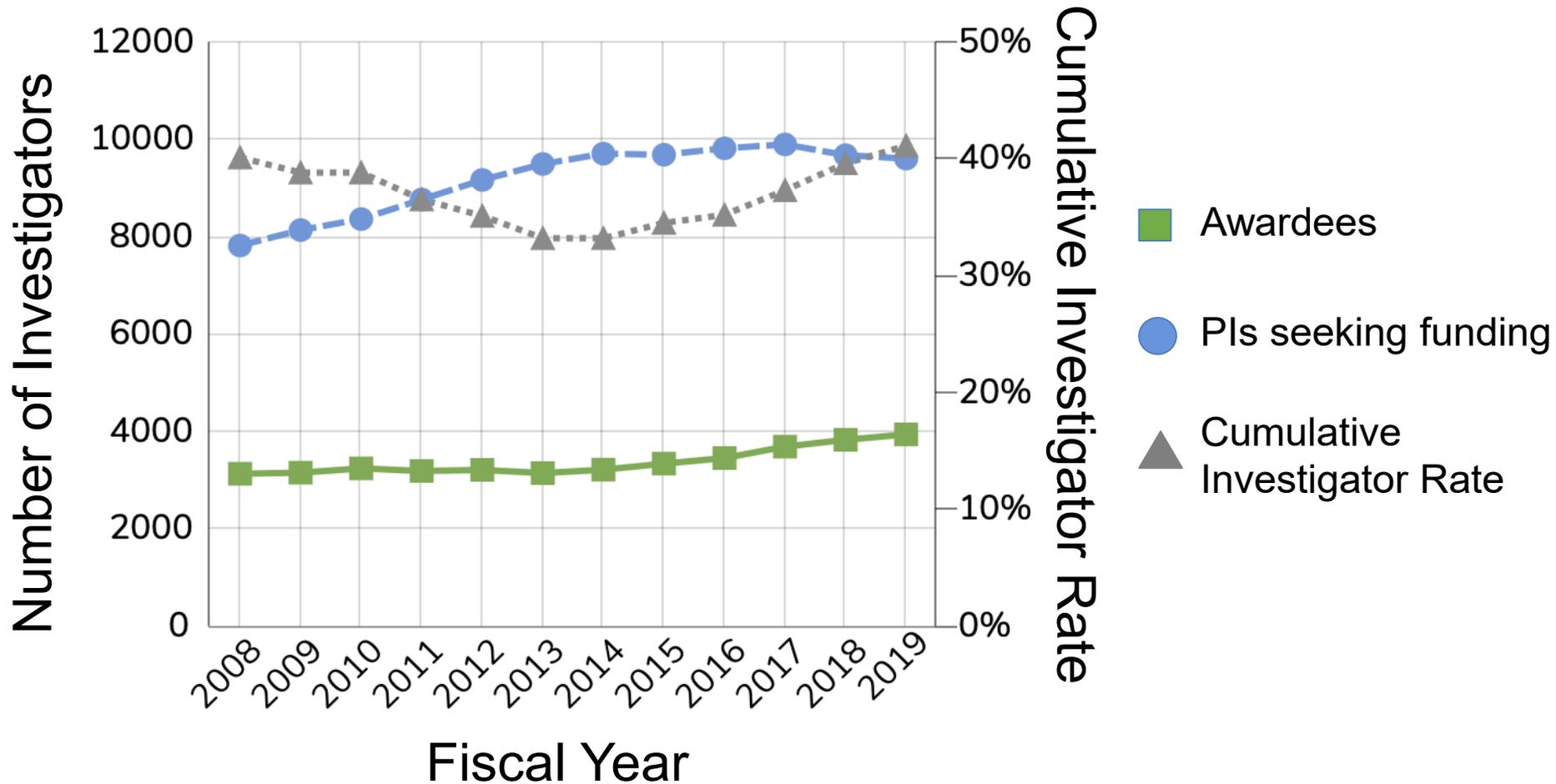


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p0kkcTDGSik>

# New MIRA FOAs

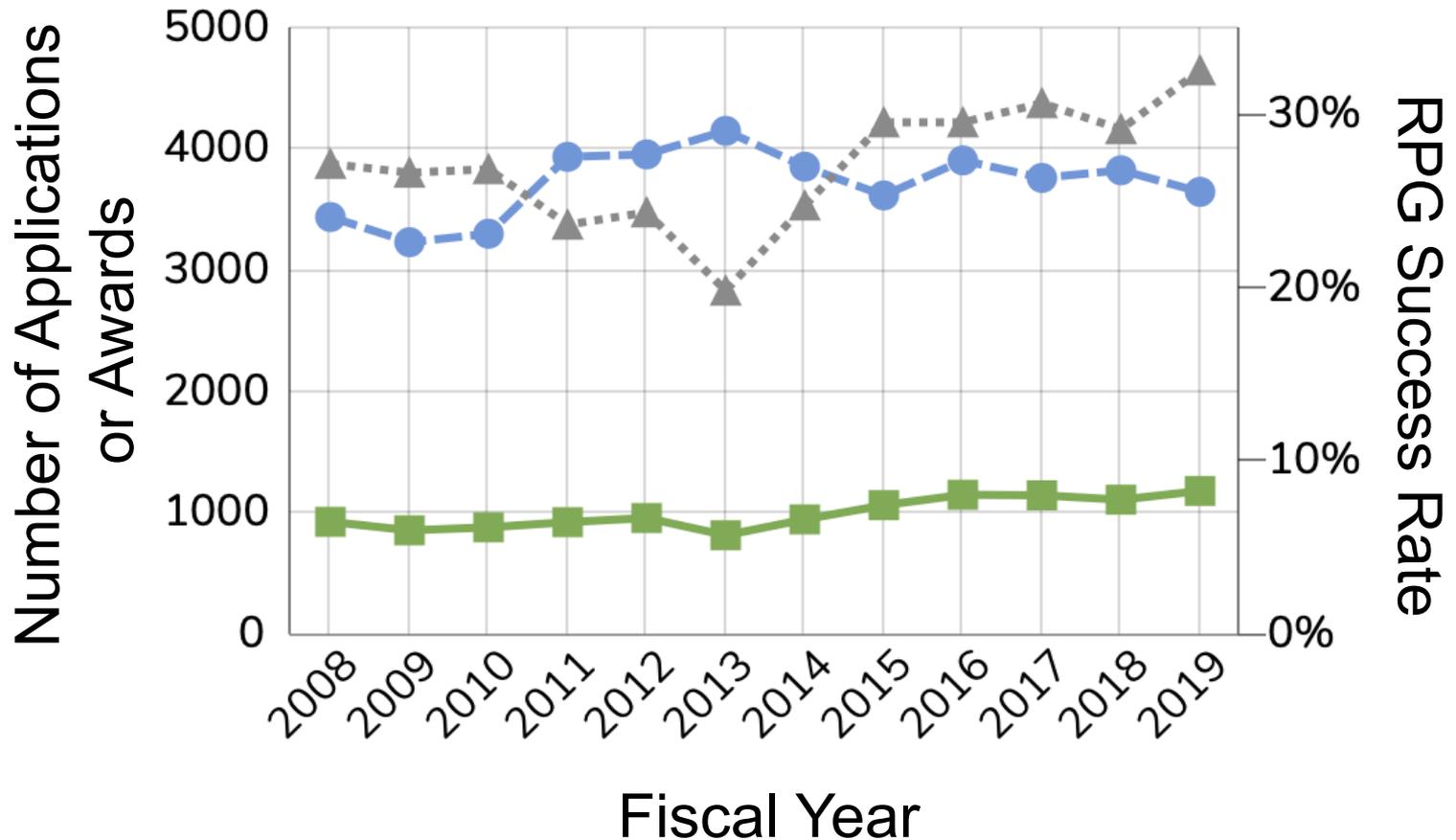
- Established Investigators: PAR-19-367
  - Allows renewal applications from current MIRA PIs
  - New applications from anyone with a single-PI NIGMS R01, R37, DP1, DP2, or SC1
  - First-renewal applicants will be clustered and evaluated relative to their career stage during review
- Early-Stage Investigators: PAR-20-117
  - Get ESIs funded earlier
  - Enable them to move into new areas of research
  - Deemphasize expectations for preliminary data or independent publications

# Increase in the Number of Funded PIs

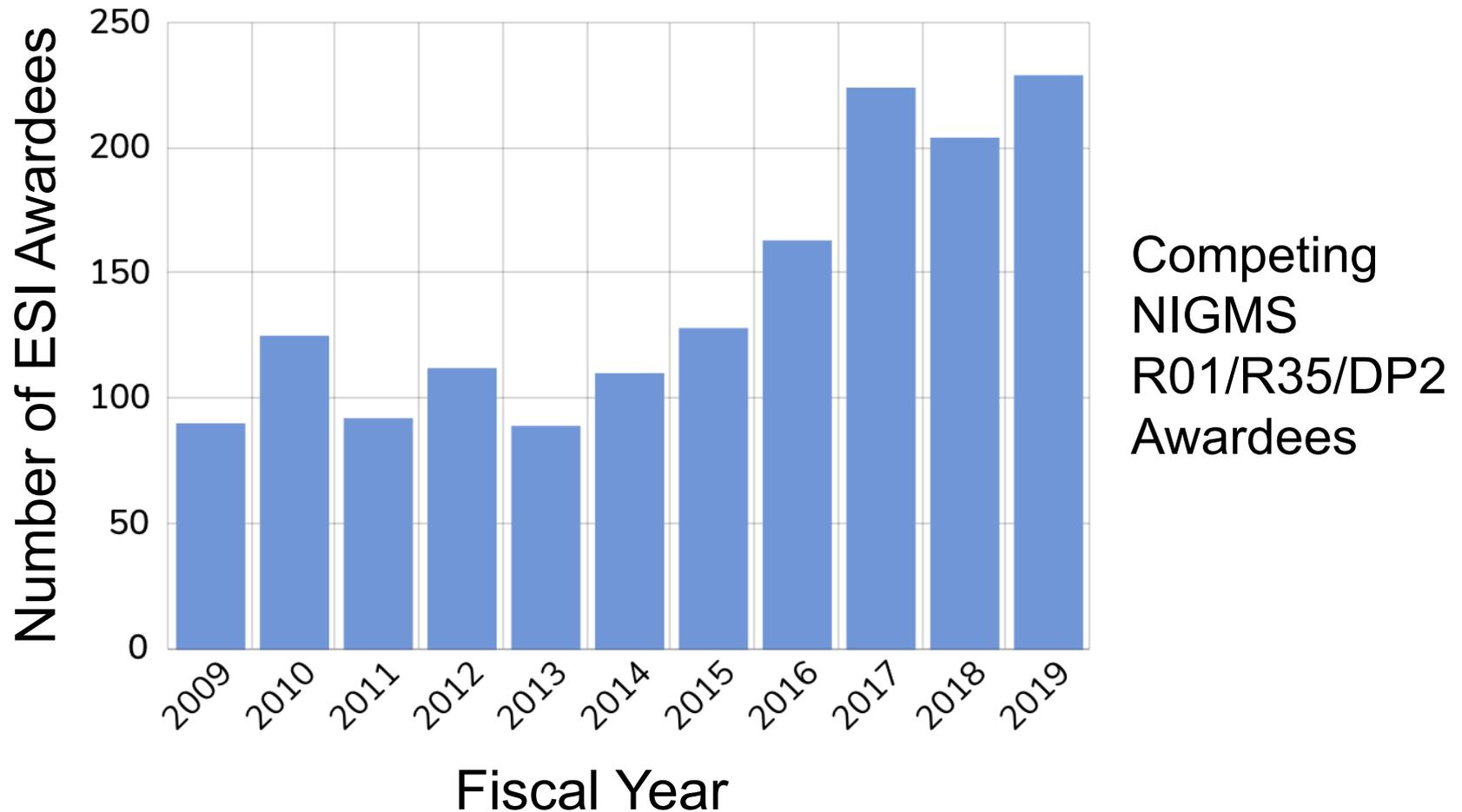


# NIGMS RPG Success Rate Was Over 30%

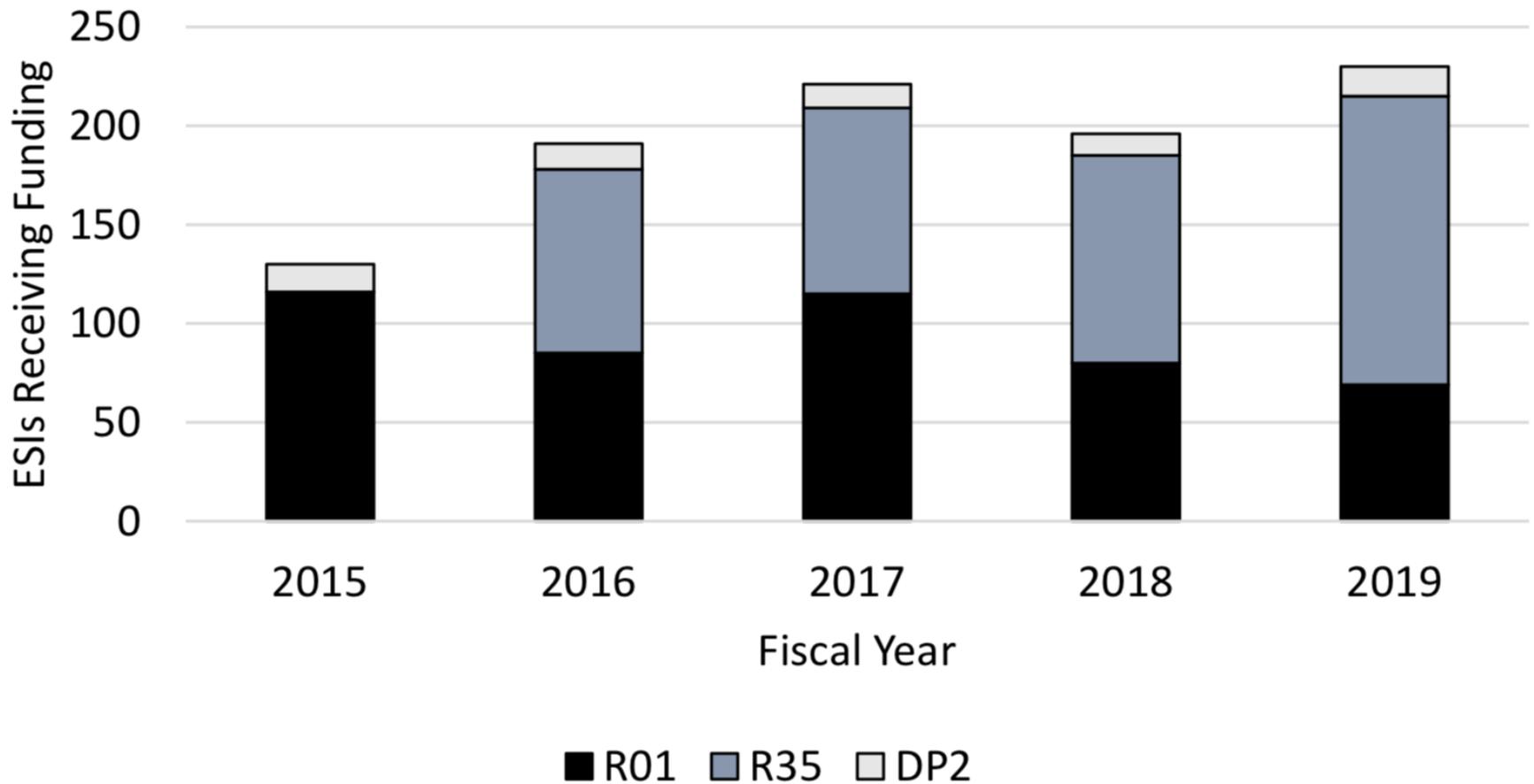
● RPG Applications   ■ Funded RPGs   ▲ RPG Success Rate



# Record Number of ESIs Funded



# The Majority of NIGMS ESIs Are Now Being Funded by MIRAs



# NIGMS Support for Research Resources

- Cryo-EM Centers will be at full capacity soon & virtual training resources are available
  - <https://commonfund.nih.gov/cryoem>
- Cryo-ET centers will be funded soon
- Funding the first set of National and Regional Resources soon (PAR-19-301)
  - Some applicants understood the goals, some did not:
    - Large national or regional userbase
    - Significantly increase access to high-end technologies
    - User service
    - Economies of scale and increased efficiency of operation

# Revised T32 FOA

- Continued emphasis on skills development, diversity, mentor training, evidenced-based teaching and mentoring, institutional commitment, and evaluation of outcomes
- Increased emphasis on:
  - Innovative and transformational approaches to teaching and mentoring
    - Curriculum redesign!
  - Safe and inclusive research and teaching environments and culture
    - Using highest standards of practice - e.g., industry safety standards
- Table 6A no longer required!

# New: MOSAIC Program

- Bridge the gap between postdoctoral research and independent faculty positions to promote faculty diversity at research-intensive institutions
- Diversity-focused K99/R00 (PAR-19-343)
- UE5 cooperative agreement awards to professional societies to provide mentoring, career development, skills building, and professional networking to cohorts of K99/R00 fellows (PAR-19-342)

# NIGMS Strategic Planning

- Summary of key outcomes from the 2015-2020 strategic plan available on NIGMS' website
  - <https://www.nigms.nih.gov/about/dima/Documents/NIGMS-Strategic-Plan-Outcomes-2015-2020.pdf>
- A Request for Information (RFI) has been issued: NOT-GM-20-034
- A draft framework for the 2021-2025 NIGMS strategic plan has been posted:
  - <https://www.nigms.nih.gov/about/dima/Documents/NIGMS-Strategic-Plan-Framework-2021-2025.pdf>
- Council input and RFI results will be used to refine the framework and develop a full draft of the strategic plan

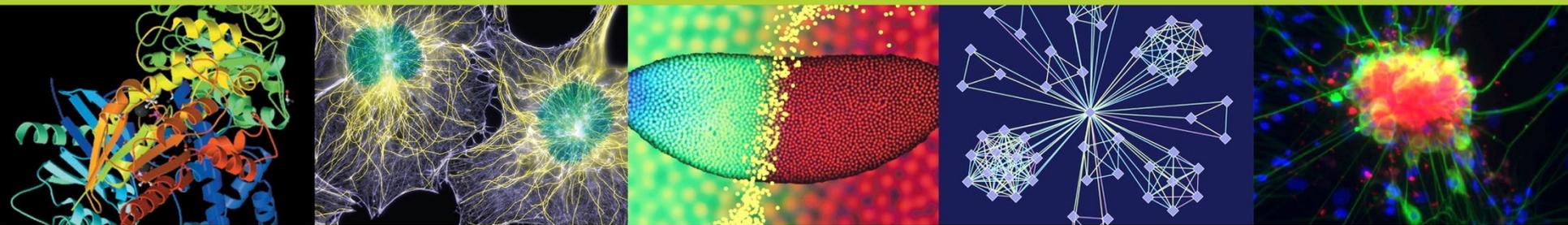
# Discussion



**Jon Lorsch, PhD**  
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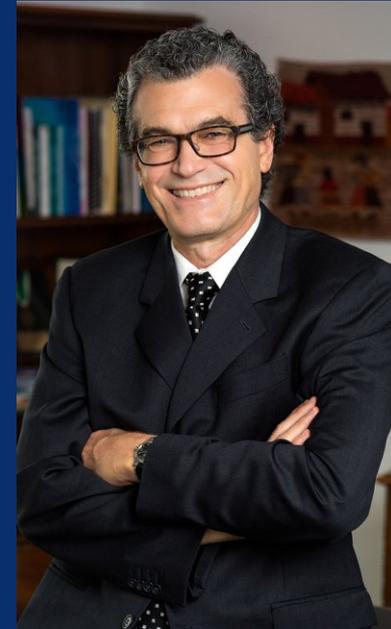
# Next GREAT/GRAND Community Forum

## NIMHD Director's Update

July 9 2:00 – 3:00 pm ET

Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, MD

Director of the National Institute on  
Minority Health and Health Disparities





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