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20852-4995

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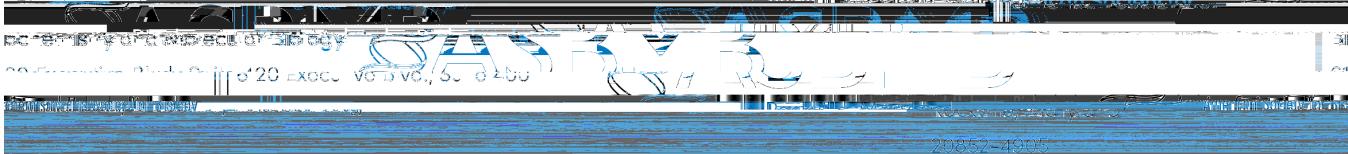
Dr. Elizabeth Villa

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RE: National Institutes of Health Office of Extramural Research Request for Information on Recommendations for Improving NRSA Fellowship Review

Perspectives on proposed changes to NRSA fellowship review criteria

The ASBMB supports the proposed reorganization of “Institutional Environment and Commitment to Training” and “Sponsors, Collaborators, and Consultants” into “Science and Scientific Resources” and “Training Plan and Training Resources.” With this change, we are optimistic that positive bias for highly resourced institutions and highly experienced sponsors will be reduced. Reviewers will be directed to focus their evaluations on applicant’s research and training potential with less influence from factors (e.g., sponsor and institution) that are largely outside of their control.

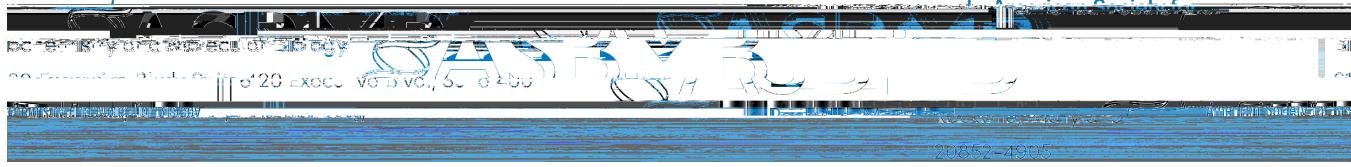


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The proposed changes to NRSA fellowship review aim to reduce bias and increase fairness to facilitate the identification of the strongest, highest impact research across institutions, sponsors and applicants. With any significant change to peer review criteria and/or process, the ASBMB strongly supports continued evaluation of the efficacy postimplementation. Continued evaluation of these changes will ensure that the scoring of an applicant's 'delta' is having the intended outcome and not creating more subjective scoring that allows bias to persist.

In combination with updated review criteria, the Fellowship Working Group recommended that CSR tailor its "Peer review bias awareness and mitigation training" for use in fellowship review by including more fellowship-specific examples. The ASBMB agrees that this would be helpful to continue combatting bias in peer review and encourages CSR to additionally consider (1) adding an implicit bias module, (2) requiring that reviewers complete the full training module and (3) encouraging reviewers to review the bias training materials (conduct a quick refresher module) prior to review.

As the CSR begins to roll out changes to fellowship peer review, the ASBMB urges the Fellowship Working Group in requesting additional outreach to low-sourced institutions. 3.56 0 TdSi I-3 (M)-con.0 T5.4r-6 (c -6)



The ASBMB applauds the inclusions made in "Fellowship Qualifications" and other applicant statements that direct the applicant to detail both professional and ~~experiences~~ further detail. By encouraging the applicant to detail the activities and/or experiences that ~~shape~~ approach to being a scientist and also how they plan to grow as a scientist, reviewers will